

Constitution of Women Leaders of Afrika (WOLA)

Article I: Name of Organization

1.1 The official name of the organization will be “Women Leaders of Afrika” (WOLA).

1.2 The organization may be referred to by the acronym “WOLA”.

Article II: Purpose

2.1 The purpose of “WOLA” is to empower African women through a structured three-tier framework, aiming to combat brain drain and redirect the talents of young African women toward building and strengthening the African continent, even while abroad.

2.2 WOLA enhances the educational, social, and cultural environment by providing a safe space, fostering leadership development, and supporting community development within and beyond the university environment.

2.3 WOLA fundamentally serves a non-profit function and does not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.

2.4 WOLA operates as a society affiliated with the University of Nottingham, with branches at other institutions, including the University of Toronto Scarborough, following the values and policies of each university community.

Article III: Membership

3.1 Membership in WOLA is open to all students, staff, faculty, and alumni of the University of Toronto Scarborough.

3.2 Membership in WOLA is open year-round, allowing new members to join at any time.

3.3 Members have rights including participating in discussions and organizing lawful activities aligned with WOLA's goals.

3.4 Members are expected to support WOLA's purpose, attend meetings, respect peers, and adhere to both WOLA's constitution and university policies.

3.5 A membership fee, if required, will be proposed annually and approved at a general meeting. This is not a requirement but rather a benefit for individuals who would like access to additional resources.

3.6 WOLA respects the privacy of its members and secures their information.

Article IV: Executive Team

4.1 The executives of WOLA include the President, Vice President, General Secretary, Chief Editor, Finance Officer, Events Officer, Projects Manager, and Main Publicity Officer.

4.2 The responsibilities of each executive role:

- President: Leads the organization and represents WOLA externally.
- Vice President (VP): Supports the President, co-leads initiatives, and coordinates cross-departmental work.
- General Secretary: Manages records and ensures smooth operations.
- Chief Editor: Oversees publishing and editorial standards.
- Finance Officer: Manages financial planning and budgeting.
- Events Officer: Plans and manages events aligned with WOLA's mission.
- Projects Manager: Oversees project execution and alignment with goals.
- Main Publicity Officer: Leads publicity, including social media.

4.3 Only student members may hold executive positions.

4.4 The executives form the primary decision-making committee.

4.5 Executives serve from the beginning to end of the school year.

4.6 Resignations must be submitted in writing, and vacancies will be filled through the application process led by the President.

Article V: Selection of Executives

5.1 Executive positions within WOLA are filled through an application process overseen by the President.

5.2 The President reviews applications and selects candidates based on qualifications, skills, and alignment with WOLA's mission and goals.

5.3 An internal committee, formed by the President if necessary, may assist in evaluating applicants.

Article VI: Finances

6.1 WOLA's budget, managed by the Finance Officer, is approved by the general membership.

6.2 Expenditures over \$100 require general membership approval.

6.3 Proper financial records will be maintained and transferred to incoming executives each year.

Article VII: General Meetings

7.1 General meetings are held monthly for reports, policy-making, and feedback.

7.2 A Chairperson will facilitate meetings and distribute agendas.

7.3 Quorum is a majority of both executives and non-executive members.

7.4 Minutes are recorded and maintained for reference.

7.5 Members may add items to the agenda with 48 hours' notice.

Article VIII: Executive Meetings

8.1 Executive meetings occur bi-weekly from September to April, with flexible scheduling in the summer.

8.2 The President facilitates meetings, ensuring efficient decision-making.

8.3 Executive meetings are for day-to-day matters affecting WOLA.

Article IX: Emergency Meetings

9.1 Emergency meetings may be called in urgent circumstances with at least 24 hours' notice.

9.2 These meetings follow the same protocols as general and executive meetings.

Article X: Amendments

10.1 Amendments to the constitution require a two-thirds majority at a general meeting.

10.2 Members receive notice of proposed amendments at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

Article XI: Transition

11.1 Outgoing executives must provide resources and reports to incoming executives.

11.2 Transition training will occur by the end of April each year.

Article XII: Emergency Powers

12.1 The executive committee may act without general member direction in extenuating circumstances.

12.2 Emergency powers are limited to the duration of the extenuating circumstance.

Article XIII: Food Handling on Campus

13.1 WOLA will comply with Provincial and Municipal Health Regulations for any food events.

Article XIV: Precedence of University Policies

14.1 WOLA will abide by all University of Toronto policies, which take precedence over WOLA policies where conflicts arise.

Article XV: Legal Liability

15.1 The University of Toronto Scarborough does not endorse WOLA's beliefs or assume liability for its activities.

Article XVI: Banking

16.1 WOLA will provide banking information to the Department of Student Life, University of Toronto Scarborough.