

Constitution of “UTM Students for Amnesty International”

1. Name

The official name of this recognized campus group is “UTM Students for Amnesty International”

The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: UTM Amnesty

2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of organization is outlined here:

The UTM Students for Amnesty International is committed to supporting Amnesty International, a Nobel Peace Prize-winning global human rights organization in its mission to advocate for human rights, dignity, freedom, and equality. As a student-led chapter, our goal is to inspire and empower members of the UTM community to educate themselves and others, advocate for justice, and take meaningful action on critical human rights issues.

To achieve these objectives, we will organize a variety of events and initiatives in collaboration with Amnesty International. These include interactive workshops to enhance understanding of global and local human rights issues, seminars with experts and advocates, fundraising efforts to support Amnesty International’s projects, and community engagement through social media outreach. By providing students with the tools and opportunities to learn, connect, and take action, UTM Students for Amnesty International seeks to foster a campus culture of awareness, activism, and meaningful change.

3. Membership

Membership to the group is open to all the University of Toronto members (students, staff, faculty and alumni).

U of T members are permitted to run, nominate, and vote in elections and constitutional amendments. The group is open to non-U of T members. However, these members do not hold the aforementioned rights. Members must register with a designated executive by submitting their full name and a valid email address.

There will be no membership fee.

Any member of the club may apply for a refund within one (1) month of becoming a member. No refunds are permitted 30 days after the election periods.

4. Executive List and Duties

The executive committee shall be comprised of five (5) elected officers. These include two Co-Presidents, a Vice President of Internal Affairs, a Vice President of External Affairs, a Vice President of Media and Marketing, and a Treasurer.

The Co-President shall:

- Oversee the operations, management and success of the group
- Be the spokesperson for the group
- Hold signing officer authority along with the Treasurer for financial purposes
- Preside over board meetings as well as general meetings
- Ensure transition of office to the future Executives
- Act as a direct liaison with Amnesty International
- Plan, organize, and coordinate events in collaboration with other Executives

The of Vice President of External Affairs:

- Acts as the main liaison between the club and external organizations, groups, or partners
- Reaches out to potential guest speakers, activists, or professionals to present or collaborate on events that promote the club's mission
- Oversees outreach efforts outside and within the university community
- Researches and establishes connections with other community organizations and NGOs with similar goals to strengthen the club's network
- Collaborates with other Executives in planning and organizing events, ensuring coordination with external partners and the university administration

The of Vice President of Internal Affairs:

- Make a list of all registered members, including their contact information
- Record notes and motions for meetings
- Notify all members of meetings
- Handle official correspondence of the organization
- Maintain a well-organized digital archive of all club documents
- Assist in event planning and coordination with the other Executives by managing logistics, including booking spaces and coordinating with university administration

The Treasurer shall:

- Record all financial transactions of the group
- Hold signing officer authority along with the President for financial purposes
- Maintain a budget of income and expenses along with receipts
- Advise members on financial position of the group
- Prepare an annual budget for the group as well as budgets for specific events

The Vice President of Media and Marketing:

- Manage the club's social media accounts
- Create visual content, including graphics, photographs, and videos for events and campaigns
- Develop marketing strategies to promote attendance and participation at events, and recruit new members

- Send emails to general members and the UTM community about upcoming events, opportunities, and initiatives

The group may appoint Directors or Coordinators for various committees such as social committee, publicity committee, and so on; however, such positions do not hold executive decision making authority.

Termination of Executives or General Members:

Any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the club and its members, including non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest, may be given notice of removal.

The member up for removal shall have the right to defend his/her actions.

A two-thirds majority vote of the current members present in favor of removal is required. The member must have the right to an appeal before the general membership, and the majority vote of the general membership will have the final say on the matter.

The member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.

Executive members are subject to the same termination or impeachment process and, as determined by the vote, may lose their executive position along with their membership to the group.

5. Elections

The executive committee shall strike the Elections Committee and appoint one (1) Senior Election Officer (SEO) from the general members on the committee to conduct and hold elections in March. All members of the Elections Committee shall be non-biased in the results of the election and shall be required to disclose any and all conflicts of interest in the election.

The SEO Election Officer shall accept nominations only from group members that are also registered U of T members (staff, faculty, students and alumni) for candidacy of executive positions from the general membership before the **beginning of March**. Candidates have to be members in good standing and be part of the group for at least one month prior to the nomination period.

The SEO shall select **three (3) election dates before March 30th for the voting period**. These dates will be announced in a **minimum of two (2) weeks prior to elections dates** and must fall on weekdays.

The SEO shall provide each U of T member with a paper ballot on the voting dates and ask the member to place their ballot in an enclosed box.

In preparation for a tie, the SEO shall select an executive from amongst the executive committee, to cast their ballot and seal it in an envelope. In the event of a tie for an executive position, one of the two Scrutinizers shall break the seal and count the ballot in order to break the tie.

After the election is over, the SEO shall count the ballots. The candidate with the most votes shall be elected to the position. The SEO shall submit a report of the results of the elections to the Executive Committee and general members.

Registered U of T members may not vote by proxy. Non-U of T members may not nominate or vote in elections.

Only U of T members who have paid any applicable membership fees and have been a member in good standing for 30 days prior to election dates are eligible for voting.

Term of executive positions shall be from May 1st to April 30th.

6. Finances

The Treasurer shall keep records of all income and expenses. The Treasurer shall present the group's financial health at the annual general meetings. The Executive Committee will vote on expenditures of over \$100.00 by majority vote at an executive meeting.

The group's executive or members may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature. This is not intended to preclude the collection of membership fees to cover the expenses of the group, or of charges for specific activities, programs or events, or to prohibit groups from engaging in legitimate fundraising. However, the group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus part of a commercial organization, will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the organization, and will not pay salaries to some or all of its officers.

7. Meetings

A) Annual General Meetings (AGMs):

The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year, i.e. once per academic term.

The Executive Committee will announce these dates two (2) weeks prior to holding the meetings. These meetings are intended to go over the group's annual activity plan, financial health and propose or vote on constitutional amendments, if any. Motions will require 2/3 majority of registered members in attendance for a vote to be cast. The motion with the most votes will be passed.

b) Executive Meetings:

The executive committee shall meet on a monthly basis where date and times are to be set by an executive. The quorum of executive meetings shall be 50%+1 of executives.

8. Amendments

Any registered U of T members may propose and vote on amendments to this constitution. The Executive Committee will administer the process of having amendments discussed at general meetings.

Constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority to be passed at Annual General Meetings by registered U of T members in attendance.

The Executive Committee shall formally adopt the new constitution and submit the revised constitution to the respective University offices (i.e. Centre for Student Engagement, etc) within two (2) weeks of its approval by general members.