

Constitution of the UTM New Democrats

Article I: Campus Group Name

The official name of this UTMSU-recognized campus group will be the “UTM New Democrats.”

The acronym/abbreviation of this group is: UTM NDP.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to work in collaboration with the Canadian and Ontario New Democratic Parties. It will serve as a gateway for students to interact with, learn, and debate ongoing political issues within Canada and internationally. This organization will also advocate for and champion progressive policies and work to establish a safer and equitable campus for all UTM students.

Article III: Membership

Membership is open to all UTMSU members (UTM undergraduate students).

UTMSU members are also permitted to run and nominate in elections and vote in constitutional amendments. All members must register with an executive by submitting their name and valid UTM credentials. Associate members may also join the organization; however, do not receive voting or candidacy rights.

The membership cost of this organization is \$0

Article IV: Executives

The executive branch of this organization will be made up of five (5) elected members. The roles and their respective responsibilities are listed below:

The President (1) shall:

- Oversee the general operations, maintenance, and functionality of the group
- Act as the designated spokesperson for the group unless otherwise specified
- Organize and preside over executive and general meetings
- Work with incoming executives in power transitions
- Manage a team of presidential associates, if necessary

The Vice-President External (1) shall:

- Manage communications with the organization and off-campus political affiliates
- Act as the primary external spokesperson, unless specified otherwise
- Assume presidential responsibilities for an indefinite period when the president is unable to
- Manage a team of associates, if necessary

The Secretary (1) shall:

- Create and maintain membership lists for the organization

- Preside over the internal and external documentation of the group
- Record notes and motions presented at general and executive meetings
- Align all executives of the organization on the present tasks and responsibilities
- Manage a team of secretariat associates, if necessary

The Treasurer (1) shall:

- Oversee financial affairs of the organization, both internally and externally
- Coordinate with other executives to determine the cost of events and other expenses
- Work alongside the UTMSU and other financial institutions when needed for financial audits
- Manage a team of financial associates, if necessary

The Events Director (1) shall:

- Manage, plan, and coordinate upcoming events for organization members
- Work alongside UTMSU campus groups on collaborative events
- Coordinate and work with off-campus organizations to plan events
- Manage a team of events associates, if necessary

Article V: Meetings

This organization will hold two (2) annual general meetings (AGM) during the academic year. The dates for these meetings will be announced two weeks prior to the meeting. The meeting will discuss the health and activity plan of the organization. Members of the organization are also allowed to bring forward motions and constitutional amendments. If a motion receives a 2/3 majority at the meeting, the motion will be passed and considered. Additionally, financial reporting may occur at AGMs if requested.

There will also be executive meetings that will take place within the executive branch. The details of these meetings, such as the frequency, dates, times, and others, will be determined by the first day of October of the academic year.

Article VI: Elections

Campus Groups must follow set election dates and procedures, including the procedure of nomination, majority vote and eligibility of vote. Students may create additional positions in September, particularly for first-year students, in an effort to encourage first-year student involvement. If election procedures are deemed to be unfair by reasonable standards by the Clubs Committee or the Academic Societies Affairs Committee, these results will be subject to a petition by a member, and re-election will be held under the supervision of the UTMSU Campus Groups Coordinator.

Election Procedures:

- All registered groups must hold an election in the Winter Semester, following the timeline set by the UTMSU
- A Chief Returning Officer (CRO) must be appointed to supervise the elections. The CRO must be an unbiased third party to the election and must be approved by the outgoing executives and the Campus Groups Coordinator. The CRO must not be running for a position on the incoming executive team.

- Elections must open to all interested candidates who are UTMSU registered members of the group.

Election Timeline:

- Advertising Period: Advertising for elections is required and is to take place for a minimum of one week. Mass emails should be sent to all UTMSU-registered members of the group
- Nomination Period: All members who are interested in running for an executive position can self-nominate during this time. This will be overseen and managed by the CRO.
- All Candidates Meeting: A meeting with all the candidates must be held to go over the election rules. This meeting is mandatory for all future candidates, and if unable to attend, they must send a representative.
- Campaign Period: During this time, candidates can campaign themselves to the Campus Groups' membership.
- Voting Period: Registered UTMSU members will be able to vote for their incoming executives during this time. The CRO will organize the voting platform.

Election Policies:

Any complaints that arise during elections or as a result of elections must be brought to the attention of the Campus Groups Coordinator in a written format within 72 hours of the election.

The Clubs Committee and ASAC withhold the right to nullify any group's election results if evidence of gross misconduct has been found in the operation of the election.

Non-occurrence of elections will result in the immediate effect of cancellation of a group's status. Non-submission of election results will result in a later loss of group recognition status through the Club's Committee or ASAC. If undemocratic election procedures are suspected, the election results or even the group status may be put forward to the Clubs Committee/ASAC by the VP Campus Life or VP University Affairs.

In the case of a tie, an additional run-off election may occur. If multiple candidates receive the same number of votes in the second round of voting, the outgoing executive branch will convene to discuss and delegate the position based on a merit-based analysis of the candidates. The vote for this must be a majority, and the votes of each voting executive shall be made known.

Article VII: Removal from office

Removal from office can occur at any time by notice from the UTMSU in case of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination (refer to UTMSU's Procedural Policies). The UTMSU will conduct an investigation and notify the individual of sanctions. Such sanctions could be, but aren't limited to:

- Permanent/Temporary ban from campus group activities
- Mandatory consent/Anti-oppression trainings
- Permanent/Temporary ban from UTMSU spaces

- Permanent/Temporary ban from campus group events

If you need to file a formal complaint with the UTMSU, please send a written notice to the Campus Groups Coordinator.

1) General Member Removal

If a complaint regarding the behaviour of a general member is brought forward to the executive branch, membership can be terminated via the following process:

- A formal warning is given to the member
- If the offence is to occur again, the membership of the individual, including voting and other rights given to them, will be terminated
- The termination will occur with an executive vote, and will pass with a majority of the executives voting in favour of the termination

2) Executive Member Removal

- Executive members can be removed from their position if a complaint is brought forth
- Two formal warnings will be given to the individual regarding their actions
- If a third warning is issued, the individual and their position, alongside all other benefits of it, will be terminated
- The president will work alongside the UTMSU to terminate the individual's position, alongside their membership
 - a. If the president is impeached, this process will occur through the VP External
- The termination will occur via an executive vote, which will require a 2/3 vote to pass
- An exec must work with the UTMSU to plan and organize a byelection for the open position as soon as possible.

Article VIII: Amendments to the Constitution

The constitution of a campus group must be subject to an amendment procedure that prevents arbitrary alterations to it.

All amendments must be approved by the group's membership via their General Meetings.

All amendments must be approved by UTMSU before they are formalized.