Constitution of "Women in Political Science"

1. Article One – Name and Purpose

1.1. The official name of the recognized student group is "Women in Political Science"
1.2. The official acronym or abbreviation of the group is "WiPS"
1.3. The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of the organization is to empower and uplift women and gender-diverse students within the field of political science. Our mission is to build an inclusive and supportive community that encourages academic exploration, political engagement, and leadership development. Through a mentorship program that connects students with peers, TAs, and faculty members, we aim to foster guidance and growth. Each semester, we would like to host a guest speaker panel that highlights diverse voices in politics and academia. Additionally, our monthly "Coffee & Politics" sessions with professors will create space for open, informal conversations about current issues, theory, and lived experience. By bridging academic, professional, and personal development, WiPS is committed to challenging gender-based barriers in political science and amplifying the contributions of marginalized voices in the discipline.

2. Article Two – Membership and Membership Fee

2.1. The group shall maintain a list of group members.
2.2. Voting membership is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto.
2.3. Voting membership is open only to registered students of the University of Toronto.
2.4. Non-voting membership is open to University of Toronto staff, faculty, alumni, and to persons from outside the University. Unless otherwise stated, non-voting members do not hold any rights awarded to voting members.
2.5. The membership fee will be $0 per year.

3. Article Three – Rights of Members

3.1. All members may apply for a full refund of their membership fee within one (1) month of becoming a member.
3.2. All voting members have a right to attend all general meetings of members.
3.3. All voting members have a right to cast votes at all general meetings of members.
3.4. All voting members have a right to stand for election unless otherwise stated in this document.
3.5. All voting members have a right to cast votes in all group elections and referenda.
3.6. All voting members have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.
3.7. The rights prescribed in Article Three are not awarded to non-voting members as described in Article Two.

4. Article Four - Executive Committee

4.1. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from May 1st to April 30th.
4.2. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of 7 voting members.

4.3. All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
4.4. Non-voting members may hold only non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
4.5. The maximum amount of non-voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be one (1) position or ten per cent (10%) of the positions on the Executive Committee, whichever is greatest.
4.6. Persons holding non-voting positions on the Executive Committee cannot serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.
4.7. No person may serve as a financial authority or signing authority for the group if they are currently serving as a financial authority or signing authority for another recognized student group at the University of Toronto.
4.8. The Executive may appoint Directors or Coordinators for various committees who do not hold executive decision-making authority and are not eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee.

5. Article Five - Executive Committee Composition and Duties

5.1. **The Co-Presidents (2) (Laila Patel & Karen Slade) shall:**
- 5.1.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.1.2. Oversee and coordinate the work of all other executive members,
- 5.1.3. Serve as spokesperson for the group,
- 5.1.4. Hold signing and financial authority along with the Treasurer,
- 5.1.5. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members,
- 5.1.6. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next,
- 5.1.7. Provide leadership, vision, and direction for the club's activities and initiatives,

5.2. **The Secretary (Shayla Matteis) shall:**
- 5.2.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.2.2. Maintain accurate records of all meetings, including agendas and minutes,
- 5.2.3. Ensure activities of the club comply with policies of the University of Toronto,
- 5.2.4. Manage internal communications within the executive team and membership,
- 5.2.5. Keep an updated membership list and oversee administrative documents,
- 5.2.6. Assist with scheduling and coordinating logistics for meetings and events.

5.3. **The Communications & Media Officer (Elif Alibachev) shall:**
- 5.3.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.3.2. Manage all club communications, including social media platforms, newsletters, and email updates,
- 5.3.3. Create promotional materials for events and initiatives.
- 5.3.4. Maintain consistent branding and messaging to reflect the club's identity,
- 5.3.5. Engage members through online platforms and ensure strong visibility across campus.

5.4. **The Outreach & Partnership Officer (Ella Hoffmann) shall:**
- 5.4.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.4.2. Establish and maintain relationships with faculty, alumni, professional associations, and community partners,
- 5.4.3. Develop collaborations with other student groups and campus organizations,
- 5.4.4. Maintain consistent branding and messaging to reflect the club's identity,
- 5.4.5. Promote mentorship, networking, and professional development opportunities for members,

5.4.6. Represent the club in outreach initiatives and external meetings.

5.5. **The Events Coordinator (Iman Shirin) shall:**

5.5.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,

5.5.2. Plan, organize, and oversee the execution of academic, professional, and social events,

5.5.3. Coordinate logistics such as venues, speakers, catering, and supplies,

5.5.4. Work closely with the Co-Presidents to align events with the club's mission,

5.5.5. Collect feedback from participants to improve future programming.

5.6. **The Treasurer (Eishaal Khan) shall:**

5.6.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,

5.6.2. Manage the club's finances responsibly and transparently,

5.6.3. Prepare and maintain an annual budget, tracking income and expenditures,

5.6.4. Apply for student union, faculty, or external funding opportunities,

5.6.5. Ensure proper documentation of all financial transactions and provide financial reports when requested.

6. Article Six – Elections

6.1. All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.

6.2. All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.

6.3. All non-voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination only for non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.

6.4. Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.

6.5. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.

6.6. On the condition that multiple candidates are to be elected for a single position, the nominees winning the largest share of the votes cast shall be deemed the winners until all positions are filled.

6.7. The elections must be held in a nonbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.

6.8. For all unfilled positions, the remaining officers will share the duties and responsibilities until someone can be found to fulfill the positions(s) through a by-election and vote of simple majority (50% + 1)

7. Article Seven – Finances

7.1. The Treasurer shall keep an active record of income and expenses.

7.2. The Treasurer shall present the group's updates on the group's financial position at annual general meetings.

7.3. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over $100.00 through a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

7.4. The group may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.

7.5. The group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.

7.6. The group will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.

7.7. The group will not pay salaries to any of its officers.

8. Article Eight – Meetings

8.1. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting members of the Executive Committee.
8.2. The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year to provide the general membership an opportunity to review the group's annual activity plan, financial health, and propose or vote on constitutional amendments.
8.3. The Executive Committee must announce the date of a general meeting to the general membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

9. Article Nine - Termination of Membership

9.1. The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of 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.
9.2. A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
9.3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.
9.4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.
9.5. In the case of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a meeting of the general membership shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.
9.6. Following a termination of membership, the member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.
9.7. Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.

10. Article Ten – Amendments

10.1. All constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote to be passed at a general meeting.
10.2. All voting members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.
10.3. The Executive Committee shall submit the revised constitution to staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto within two (2) weeks.
10.4. Amendments to the constitution shall take effect only once the revised constitution has been approved by staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto.