Constitution of the University of Toronto Algorithmic Trading Student Association (UTATSA)

1. Article One – Name and Purpose

1.1. The official name of the recognized student group is the "University of Toronto Algorithmic Trading Student Association".

1.2. The official acronym or abbreviation of the group is "UTATSA".

1.3. The purpose, objectives, mission, and mandate of the organization are to educate students about quantitative finance, algorithmic trading, market microstructure, and financial systems engineering through respectful and strictly simulated collaborative learning, technical projects, workshops, competitions, and research initiatives.

1.4. The organization seeks to create a community where students can explore the intersection of:

- computer science,
- mathematics,
- statistics,
- machine learning,
- software engineering,
- and modern electronic financial markets.

1.5. The organization may organize:

- workshops,
- technical seminars,
- simulated trading competitions,
- project teams,
- guest speaker events,
- research sessions,
- and collaborative engineering initiatives related to quantitative finance and financial technology.

2. Article Two – Membership and Membership Fee

2.1. The group shall maintain a list of group members.

2.2. Voting membership shall be open to all registered students of the University of Toronto.

2.3. Non-voting membership shall be open to University of Toronto faculty, staff, alumni, and persons external to the University.

2.4. Unless otherwise stated, non-voting members shall not possess voting rights or eligibility for elected executive positions.

2.5. The membership fee shall be $0 per year.

3. Article Three – Rights of Members

3.1. All voting members shall have the right to attend general meetings of members.

3.2. All voting members shall have the right to cast votes at general meetings.

3.3. All voting members have a right to stand for election unless otherwise stated in this document.

3.4. All voting members shall have the right to vote in executive elections and constitutional referenda.

3.5. All voting members shall have the right to propose amendments to this constitution.

3.6. Non-voting members shall not possess the rights outlined in this Article unless otherwise stated.

4. Article Four – Executive Committee

4.1. The term for all Executive Committee positions shall run from May 1st to April 30th.

4.2. The Executive Committee shall consist of four (4) voting members:

- President
- Vice President, Engineering
- Vice President, Finance and Sponsorships
- Vice President, Events

4.3. All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students at the University of Toronto.

4.4. Executive Committee positions may not be shared unless approved unanimously by the Executive Committee.

4.5. The Executive Committee may appoint Directors, Coordinators, or Committee Leads as necessary. Such individuals shall not possess executive voting authority unless otherwise stated.

4.6. The Executive Committee shall collectively oversee the operations, governance, and long-term direction of the organization.

5. Article Five – Executive Committee Composition and Duties

5.1. The President shall:

5.1.1. Oversee the operations, management, and strategic direction of the organization.

5.1.2. Serve as the primary spokesperson and representative of the organization.

5.1.3. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and general membership.

5.1.4. Coordinate long-term organizational planning and executive transition.

5.1.5. Hold signing and financial authority jointly with the Vice President, Finance and Sponsorships.

5.1.6. Be eligible to cast votes at Executive Committee meetings.

5.2. The Vice President, Engineering shall:

5.2.1. Oversee the organization’s technical initiatives and engineering projects.

5.2.2. Coordinate technical workshops, infrastructure development, and collaborative systems-building initiatives.

5.2.3. Manage technical resources including repositories, software infrastructure, and development standards.

5.2.4. Assist in organizing competitions and technical project teams.

5.2.5. Be eligible to cast votes at Executive Committee meetings.

5.3. The Vice President, Finance and Sponsorships shall:

5.3.1. Maintain records of all financial transactions of the organization.

5.3.2. Prepare and maintain budgets and financial reports.

5.3.3. Coordinate sponsorship outreach and external partnership initiatives.

5.3.4. Advise the Executive Committee on the financial position of the organization.

5.3.5. Hold signing and financial authority jointly with the President.

5.3.6. Be eligible to cast votes at Executive Committee meetings.

5.4. The Vice President, Events shall:

5.4.1. Plan and coordinate workshops, competitions, speaker events, and other organizational activities.

5.4.2. Manage event logistics including scheduling, venue coordination, and communications.

5.4.3. Collaborate with other Executive Committee members to ensure successful event execution.

5.4.4. Coordinate event timelines and member engagement initiatives.

5.4.5. Be eligible to cast votes at Executive Committee meetings.

6. Article Six – Elections

6.1. Voting Executive Committee positions shall ordinarily be filled through annual elections.

6.2. All voting members shall be eligible to seek nomination for elected positions and cast ballots in elections.

6.3. The Executive Committee may appoint interim executives where necessary until elections are conducted.

6.4. The nominee receiving the greatest number of votes for a position shall be deemed elected.

6.5. Elections must be conducted in a fair and unbiased manner.

6.6. Individuals seeking election may not administer or supervise the election process.

6.7. Any vacant executive position may be filled through appointment by majority vote of the Executive Committee until a by-election or regular election is held.

7. Article Seven – Finances

7.1. The Vice President, Finance and Sponsorships shall maintain an active record of organizational income and expenditures.

7.2. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures exceeding $100.00 through a majority vote.

7.3. The organization shall not engage in activities primarily commercial in nature.

7.4. The organization shall not operate as an investment fund, pooled investment vehicle, or commercial trading entity.

7.5. Any educational trading simulations, research activities, or technical demonstrations conducted by the organization shall be for educational purposes only.

7.6. The organization shall not distribute profits or financial returns to members or executives.

7.7. No executive officer shall receive a salary from the organization.

8. Article Eight – Meetings

8.1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once per month during the academic year.

8.2. Quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be a simple majority (50% + 1) of Executive Committee voting members.

8.3. The organization shall hold at least two general meetings annually.

8.4. General meetings shall provide members an opportunity to:

- review organizational activities,
- discuss future initiatives,
- review finances,
- and vote on constitutional amendments where applicable.

8.5. Notice of a general meeting shall be provided to members at least two (2) weeks in advance.

9. Article Nine – Termination of Membership

9.1. The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of any member whose conduct negatively affects the interests, operations, or reputation of the organization.

9.2. Grounds for termination may include:

- harassment,
- discrimination,
- misconduct,
- violation of University policies,
- or conduct inconsistent with the mission of the organization.

9.3. A motion to revoke membership shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee.

9.4. Any member facing termination shall have the right to appeal the decision before the general membership.

9.5. A simple majority vote of members present at a general meeting shall be sufficient to uphold the revocation.

10. Article Ten – Amendments

10.1. Amendments to this constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote at a general meeting.

10.2. All voting members shall have the right to propose and vote on constitutional amendments.

10.3. The Executive Committee shall submit revised constitutional documents to the appropriate University of Toronto administrative office within two (2) weeks of amendment approval.

10.4. Constitutional amendments shall take effect only after approval by the appropriate University authority where required.

11. Article Eleven – Dissolution

11.1. Upon dissolution of the organization, any remaining assets or funds shall be distributed in accordance with University of Toronto student organization policies.

11.2. No member or executive shall personally benefit financially from the dissolution of the organization.