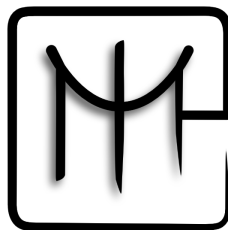

Mathematics Support Initiative

CONSTITUTION OF “MATHEMATICS SUPPORT
INITIATIVE”

HANFU GONG

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENT ORGANIZATION



EDITED BY

HANFU GONG (JULY 16, 2026)



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Part 0

Land Acknowledgement



WE wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.



WE do not acknowledge the land in hope of justifying settler colonialism or understate the traumatic horror it has brought to the land. Instead, we recognize that the claim of institutions or persons “owning” the land as “private property” is fallacious, and that we are privileged to have the opportunity to work on this land.



IN our work, we strive not only for advancements in our fields of expertise but also for diversity, equity, inclusion, and evolving human rights that we are trying to better understand every day. It is through these efforts that we could have some hope of honoring the land and all that it represents.

Part 1

Name and Purpose of Group

§1.1 Article One — Name of the group

§1.1.1 official name

The official name of the recognized student group is “Mathematics Support Initiative.”

§1.1.2 official abbreviations

The official abbreviations of the recognized student group are “MSI” and “Math ψ ” where the Greek letter ψ would represent the letters “SI.”

§1.2 Article Two — Purpose of the group

§1.2.1 general purpose

The most general purpose of Mathematics Support Initiative is to support undergraduate students at the University of Toronto (tri-campus) in their learning of or related to mathematics.

§1.2.2 specialized purpose, “math help sessions”

A specialized and specific purpose of Mathematics Support Initiative is to act as the organizing body of regular “math help sessions” through which it provides direct help to any student who requires help with studies related to mathematics at the undergraduate level.

Part 2

Membership of Group

§2.1 Article Three — Membership eligibility

§2.1.1 voting membership

Voting membership is open to, and only open to, all registered students of the University of Toronto.

Non-voting members who are eligible for voting membership may convert the status of their membership to voting membership by notifying the Director or a Co-Director¹.

§2.1.2 non-voting membership

Non-voting membership is open to University of Toronto students, staff, faculty, and alumni. In circumstances approved by the Director², persons from outside the University may be granted non-voting membership as “external experts.”

Registered students of the University of Toronto who become members³ of Mathematics Support Initiative through participating in its “math help sessions” are by default granted non-voting membership.

Unless otherwise stated, non-voting members do not hold any rights awarded to voting members.

§2.1.3 membership fee

No membership fee is required or accepted.

§2.2 Article Four — Rights of members

§2.2.1 refund of fees

All members may apply for a full refund⁴ of their membership fee within one (1) month of becoming a member.

§2.2.2 attending general meetings

All members have a right to attend all general meetings of members.

§2.2.3 voting in general meetings

All voting members have a right to cast votes at all general meetings of members.

¹Cf. [Executive Body of Group](#).

²Cf. [Executive Body of Group](#).

³Membership as defined in the University’s [Policy on the Recognition of Student Groups](#).

⁴Since no membership fee is required or accepted, the refund issued will be \$0.00.

§2.2.4 requesting meeting minutes

All members have a right to request minutes from all general meetings that have been held, including meetings held outside of the duration of their membership.

§2.2.5 standing for elections

All voting members have a right to stand for elections unless otherwise stated.

§2.2.6 voting in elections

All voting members have a right to cast votes in all group elections.

§2.2.7 proposing and voting on amendments

All voting members have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.

Part 3

Executive Body of Group

§3.1 Article Five — Executive positions

§3.1.1 composition

The executive body is comprised of three (3) or more voting members who will hold executive positions.

The executive positions include Director, Co-Director for Organization, and Co-Director for Academics. No voting member can hold multiple positions. Whereas one (1) Director position is open, multiple (≥ 2) positions are open for the Co-Director roles (combined).

All executives positions will be filled through elections¹.

§3.1.2 Director

The Director is the sole signing and financial authority of the group. They serve as the spokesperson of the group and are responsible for the operations and management of the group. They are also *ex officio* the returning officer responsible for all elections, *unless* they run as candidates in the given election.

All voting members are eligible to run for the position of the Director. However, it is *strongly recommended* that a voting member should satisfy all the following requirements:

- The member must be in good academic standing (have a cumulative grade point average of 1.50).
- The member must have completed 2.5 credits from courses with the “MAT” three-letter designator, at least 1.0 of which must be from courses listed under the “Mathematics Fundamentals” category of the Mathematics Specialist program (ASSPE1165).
- The member must have completed 1.0 credits from courses² that have a substantial focus on mathematical logic and/or techniques. The courses already used to satisfy the previous requirement cannot be used to satisfy this requirement.

The Director has the following rights:

- The Director may schedule and hold general meetings to the discretion of the Director.
- The Director may suggest that another executive voluntarily terminate their own terms.
- The Director may determine the number of positions for each of the Co-Director position.

¹Cf. [Elections](#).

²As examples, the courses MAT237, PHYx5x, APM346, and PHL245 satisfy this requirement.

- The Director may grant non-voting membership to persons from outside the University as “external experts” who would aid the operation of “math help sessions.”
- The Director may appoint any individual satisfying the respective requirements to an executive position given that it would be the first time that the executive position is filled.
- The Director may decide that a proposal of amendments to this constitution is frivolous and discard the proposal.

§3.1.3 Co-Director for Organization

The Co-Director for Organization is responsible for organizing, with the Director, all general meetings and “math help sessions.” They are also responsible for keeping a list of all members of the group.

All voting members are eligible to run for the position of the Co-Director for organization. However, it is *strongly recommended* that a voting member should satisfy all the following requirements:

- The member must be in good academic standing (have a cumulative grade point average of 1.50).
- The member must have completed or will be completing³ 2.5 credits from courses with the “MAT” three-letter designator, at least 1.0 of which must be from courses listed under the “Mathematics Fundamentals” category of the Mathematics Specialist program (ASSPE1165).
- The member must have completed or will be completing⁴ 1.0 credits from courses⁵ that have a substantial focus on mathematical logic and/or techniques. The courses already used to satisfy the previous requirement cannot be used to satisfy this requirement.

§3.1.4 Co-Director for Academics

The Co-Director for Academics is responsible for providing training to volunteer tutors and acts as a lead tutor in “math help sessions.”

All voting members are eligible to run for the position of the Co-Director for Academics. However, it is *strongly recommended* that a voting member should satisfy all the following requirements:

- The member must be in excellent academic standing (have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50).
- The member must have completed or will be completing⁶ 5 credits from courses with the “MAT” three-letter designator.

³By the end of the current fall-winter sessions or the current summer session.

⁴By the end of the current fall-winter sessions or the current summer session.

⁵As examples, the courses MAT237, PHYx5x, APM346, and PHL245 satisfy this requirement.

⁶By the end of the current fall-winter sessions or the current summer session.

§3.2 Article Six — Terms for positions

§3.2.1 term length

The regular term for all positions within the Executive Body is from the date of appointment to August 31th in the calendar year after the date of appointment unless otherwise stated in the appointment or in subsequent clauses of this article.

§3.2.2 termination of term

The term for all positions within the Executive Body may be updated such that it terminates in advance to the regular end date in any of the following situations:

- The person holding the position wishes to resign from the position. In this case, the updated term will end on the fifth (5) calendar day since the submission of the resignation to the Director (not inclusive of the day of submission) or the regular end date, whichever comes first.
- The Director decides that the person holding the position is no longer qualified for the position by losing their status as a voting member. In this case, the person holding the position may appeal the decision to a committee comprised of three professors and/or administrators in the department of mathematics and/or the department of physics selected by the entire membership of Mathematics Support Initiative. In the case that the appeal is rejected, the updated term will end immediately on the day of this decision.

Part 4

Elections

§4.1 Article Seven — Election for executive positions

§4.1.1 calling an election

When an executive position is empty or will become empty in five (5) calendar days (not inclusive of the current day) and the executive position has been filled at least once, the Director¹ is obligated to call an election for this position that will take place within fourteen (14) calendar days. In the case that the Director is running in an election, the returning officer will be one of the other voting members not on the executive committee who will not be running in the election.

When an executive position is empty and the executive position has not been filled before, the returning officer may choose to call an election for this position that will take place within fourteen (14) calendar days.

Each election will be for only one executive position, but multiple elections may happen concurrently.

§4.1.2 nomination eligibility

All voting members may nominate any number of voting members including themselves in an election.

An “external expert” may nominate any number of voting members in an election.

Nominations can be submitted during the election in the form of a vote advocating the nominee.

§4.1.3 election procedure

When called by the returning officer, an election will take place in a 2-hour window scheduled by the returning officer. The votes in the election will be named. Further, the election will be open upon request submitted by any voting member prior to the election.

Each voting members may submit one (1) vote advocating only one (1) nominee in this election during this window.

Immediately after this window, the returning officer will calculate the number of votes received by each nominee in this election. In the case that a unique nominee wins the plurality or simple majority (highest number of votes received) of votes will be determined the winner and appointed to the position.

In the case that multiple nominees share the highest number of votes received, this election is deemed void and another election for this position will be called by the same returning officer that will take place within seven (7) calendar days.

¹The Director is appointed returning officer for the election, *unless* they are running in the election.

§4.2 Article Eight — Failed elections

§4.2.1 determining a failed election

An election for an executive position is determined to be failed if no votes are casted in the election, either because no one has been nominated or no one has casted a vote for the nominees.

§4.2.2 failed election for positions other than Director

In the case of a failed election for a position other than Directors, another election for this position that will take place within seven (7) calendar days will be called by the same returning officer.

§4.2.3 failed election for Director

In the case of a failed election for the position of Director, another election for this position that will take place within one (1) calendar day will be called by the same returning officer.

Part 5

Amendments

§5.1 Article Nine — Amendments

§5.1.1 proposing amendments

All voting members have the right to propose amendments to this constitution. Once a proposal is accepted by the Director, a vote on the proposal will be scheduled in the next general meeting.

§5.1.2 voting on amendments

All voting members have the right to vote on amendments in general meetings. The votes will be anonymous.

§5.1.3 passing an amendment

An amendment to this constitution is passed if and only if the proposal receives a simple majority of no less than 50% of votes casted. 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.

§5.2 Article Ten — Approved amendments

This article records all amendments that have been passed.

§5.2.1 2025-06-14

An article on approved amendments is added. A chapter recognizing the contributions of members is added. The role of Co-Director for Communications has been replaced by Co-Director for Academics, reflecting the actual structure of Mathematics Support Initiative. The number of voting members serving in the executive body has been edited, reflecting the actual structure of Mathematics Support Initiative. The right of the Director has been reviewed to include the power of adding or removing the numbers of Co-Directors, in coordination with the change to the size of the executive body.

§5.2.2 2026-06-25

Removed a clause on first-time appointments such that all executive positions are filled through (annual) elections. Note however that historically the first executives of Mathematics Support Initiative were the founding members. Modified clauses on the Director's duties and election procedures such that no individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election. Modified a clause on termination of term such that the person in discussion has a chance to appeal the decision.

§5.2.3 2026-07-16

Fixed wording in Article Seven to better reflect the role of the returning officer. Updated termination of term item such that the appeals committee is independent from Mathematics Support Initiative.

Part 6

Recognition

We hereby recognize the individuals who have served for Mathematics Support Initiative with the hope of bringing some comfort to the community.

- Hanfu Gong
(**Director**, 2024–25, 2026–27; Co-Director for Organization, 2025–26)
- Tianyuan Ning
(Co-Director for Organization, 2024–26)
- Hannah Liu
(Co-Director for Academics, 2024–25; Co-Director for Organization, 2025–26)
- Betty Tang
(Co-Director for Academics, 2024–25)
- Zhiqi William Zhang
(volunteer tutor, 2024–25; Director, 2025–26)
- Wanjia Xu
(volunteer tutor, 2024)
- Pengzhen Lin
(**Co-Director for Organization**, 2026–27)
- Jessica Su
(**Co-Director for Academics**, 2026–27)
- Deling Hou
(**Co-Director for Organization**, 2026–27)
- Jerry Zhou
(**Co-Director for Academics**, 2026–27)
- Emily Bujor
(**Co-Director for Academics**, 2026–27)
- Emily Tran
(**Co-Director for Academics**, 2026–27)
- Shriya Subramanian
(**Co-Director for Academics**, 2026–27)