Constitution of "The University of Toronto New Democratic Party Club" (UofT NDP)

1. NAME

1.1 The official name of this recognized student group is "The University of Toronto New Democratic Party Club", hereafter referred to as the Club.

1.2 The official acronym or abbreviation of the Club is "UofT NDP".

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of the Club shall be to:

a. Promote the New Democratic Party and the virtues of democratic socialism at the University of Toronto and electoral ridings within Toronto;

b. Promote the concerns of the UofT NDP's club members within the New Democratic Party at the federal and provincial levels;

c. Host events and provide networking opportunities for our membership;

d. Provide a forum to discuss policy and political happenings;

e. Work for the election of campus, municipal, provincial, and federal New Democrats (or ideological equivalents); and

f. Function as an official Ontario New Democratic Youth (ONDY) affiliated campus club.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership in the Club is open to all members of the University of Toronto community, including undergraduate and graduate students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

3.2 Only Club members who are students at the University of Toronto may become an executive, nominate others for an executive position, propose constitutional amendments, and vote in elections or on constitutional amendments.

3.3 Individuals not affiliated with the University of Toronto may join the Club, but are subject to the same restrictions as non-students.

3.4 The following people have automatic *ex officio* speaking rights at any meeting:

a. Any member of the Executive Committee of the University of Toronto Students' Union, or a representative delegated on their behalf;

b. Any representative of the University of Toronto;

c. Any representative of University of Toronto Student Life;

d. Any representative from the New Democratic Party of Canada or the Ontario New Democratic Party, including elected representatives; and

e. Any member of the ONDY executive.

3.5 Membership in the Club may be terminated for:

a. Actively and openly supporting another political party in opposition of the purposes of this Club; or

b. Non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest; or

c. Gross misconduct of another sort.

3.6 Termination of a membership requires a two-thirds majority vote by the Executive in attendance at the specific meeting of the Executive where such matter is on the agenda.

3.6.1 The member to be terminated shall have the right to defend their membership to the Executive.

3.6.2 If the membership in question belongs to a sitting member of the Executive, that member cannot vote on the resolution.

3.6.3 If approved, the decision to terminate a membership applies immediately, and any privileges associated with Club membership cease immediately.

3.6.4 The Executive must inform any member of the termination of their membership as soon as possible by both email and telephone, and a record must be kept of this communication.

3.7 Anyone whose membership is terminated may appeal the decision at one of the two next Club meetings following the decision.

3.7.1 A two-thirds majority vote at the meeting is required to uphold the decision to terminate a membership.

3.7.2 The appellant is granted speaking rights without voting privileges at this meeting.

3.7.3 If quorum is not met at the meeting, another General Meeting must be called for no later than three (3) weeks from that date, whereupon debate on the termination decision may recommence.

4. EXECUTIVE

4.1 The Executive of the Club shall be comprised of the following positions:

a. two (2) Co-Chairs

b. Treasury-Fundraising Chair

c. Campus Outreach Chair

d. Social Media Chair

f. Policy Chair

4.2 The Executive shall manage the Club between regular meetings.

4.3 The Officers of the Club include the two Co-Chairs and the Treasury-Fundraising Chair.

4.4 All members of the Executive are expected to:

a. Attend meetings or inform the Executive if they are unable to attend a meeting;

b. Assist with projects of the Club, including recruitment, events, and campaigns; and

c. Remain committed to promoting progressive, New Democratic dialogue at the University of Toronto

4.6 The duties of the two Co-Chairs are to:

a. Oversee the operations, management and success of the Club;

b. Hold financial signing officer authority along with the Treasury-Fundraising Chair for financial purposes, where the Co-Chairs shall decide among themselves which of the two will be the second signing officer (including the use of a coin toss if no decision can be made);

c. Be the spokesperson and main representative for the Club;

d. Ensure transition of office to the future Executive;

e. Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts;

f. Organize and exercise leadership at all functions;

g. Act as the liaison to other clubs at the University of Toronto; and

h. Schedule, plan, and chair regular meetings of the Executive to set the direction of the Club.

4.7 The duties of the Treasury-Fundraising Chair are to:

a. Record and maintain all financial transactions of the group;
b. Prepare and present the Club budget and financial statements;

c. Manage the Club's bank account;

d. Hold signing officer authority along with one of the Co-Chairs for financial purposes;

e. Ensure that all the activities of the club meet regulations and policies of the University of Toronto;

f. Maintain relationships with riding associations and the ONDY for external party funding; and

j. Develop a fundraising strategy and work alongside the Director of Engagement to pursue fundraising opportunities and plan fundraising events.

4.8 The duties of the Social Media Chair are to:

a. Research, write, edit, and proofread all social media content posted by the club;

b. Create and schedule regular social media posts for the UofT NDP's various social media accounts (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, etc…);

c. Advertise events and recruit new members with an engaging media strategy; and

d. Work with the other members of the Executive to advertise events, share policy and advocacy initiatives, and promote the values of the Club to the University of Toronto community.

4.10 The duties of the Community Outreach Chair are to:

a. Develop strategies to improve community engagement and strengthen the Club's presence on campus;

b. Encourage participation and awareness within the Club and its events, campaigns, and volunteer/work opportunities;

c. Organize community events and programs for the public;

d. Plan social events, community engagement events, events featuring representatives from the NDP, volunteering events, and any other event to promote engagement with the values of the Club; and

e. Work with the Treasurer-Fundraiser to plan budgets for any Club events.

4.11 The duties of the Policy Chair are to:

a. Organize policy meetings in advance of provincial, federal, and youth NDP conventions;

b. Collaborate with the Outreach Director to lead policy campaigns and create progressive change;

c. Run policy-writing events to encourage grassroots participation;

d. Develop awareness campaigns to highlight how the NDP's policies will benefit

students and community members; and

e. Advocate for the adoption of policies that support students and Club members within the NDP.

4.12 The Executive may, through a simple majority vote, appoint various Directors or Coordinators for committees (such as an equity committee or a tabling committee).

4.12.1 Positions created by the Executive have speaking privileges at any meeting of the Executive, but do not have voting rights or decision-making authority.

5. ELECTIONS

5.1 The executive committee shall create an Elections Committee by appointing one (1) Chief Returning Officer (CRO) to conduct and hold elections at the end of the Winter term.

5.2 All members of the Elections Committee shall remain unbiased towards the results of the election and are required to disclose any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

5.3 All members of the Elections Committee shall remain unbiased towards the results of the election and are required to disclose any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

5.4 The CRO shall accept nominations only from Club members who are registered University of Toronto students for Executive positions.

5.5 Any candidate for a position on the Executive must be a member in good standing for at least thirty (30) days prior to the nomination period.

5.6 The CRO shall select an election date that falls on a weekday between April 1st and May 15th, and shall announce this date to the Club membership with at least fourteen (14) days' advance notice.

5.7 Voting shall be conducted electronically over a twenty-four hour period.

5.7.1 The CRO shall create a digital voting form for the election.

5.7.2 The CRO shall ensure the integrity, anonymity, and accurate results of this form.

5.8 Elections shall be conducted with a ranked-choice ballot, where the lowest-scoring candidate will be removed from consideration and have their subsequent-choice votes redistributed to other candidates, until a candidate receives a majority of legal votes cast.

5.9 After the election is over, the CRO shall verify the integrity of the results and report the results of the elections to the Executive and Club membership.

5.10 Voting in the election is open to any member of the Club in good standing.

5.10.1 University of Toronto students who are not members of the Club may not vote in

the election.

5.10.2 Proxy votes on behalf of a member in good standing are prohibited.

5.11 The term of the Executive shall begin on the day following the election and end on the day of the following election.

6. FINANCES

6.1 The Treasury-Fundraising Chair shall keep records of all income and expenses.

6.2 The Treasury-Fundraising Chair shall present the group's financial health at the annual general meetings.

6.3 The Executive must vote to authorize any expenditures of over $100.00 with a simple majority at any meeting of the Executive.

6.4 The Club Executive or membership may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.

6.4.1 This does not preclude the collection of membership fees, fundraising, donations, or charges to cover expenses.

6.4.2 The Club 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 Club, and will not pay salaries to some or all of its officers.

7. AFFILIATION

7.1 The Club is a youth club of the Ontario New Democratic Youth (ONDY).

7.2 Neither the Club's constitution and bylaws, nor its views and actions, shall conflict with the ONDY's constitution or bylaws.

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8. MEETINGS

8.1 General Meetings

8.1.1 The Club shall hold general meetings at least once per term, i.e. two (2) times per academic year.

8.1.2 The Executive Committee must announce to the membership the date of a general meeting at least seven (7) days prior to that meeting.

8.1.3 General meetings are intended to go over the group's annual activity plan, financial health and propose or vote on constitutional amendments, if any.

8.1.4 Motions require a simple majority of votes to pass.

8.2 Executive Meetings

8.2.1 The Executive shall meet regularly where dates and times are to be set by the executive

8.2.2. Quorum for an Executive meeting is one-half of the total number of Executives, rounded up.

9. AMENDMENTS

9.1 Any Club member who is a student at the University of Toronto may propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.

9.2 The Executive Committee will administer the amendments discussion and voting process at general meetings.

9.3 Amendments to the constitution require a two-thirds majority vote by all eligible voting members in attendance at a general meeting to pass.

9.4 The Executive Committee shall formally adopt the new constitution and submit the revised constitution to the respective University offices (the Office of Student Life, the University of Toronto Students' Union, etc) within two (2) weeks of its approval at a general meeting.