

CONSTITUTION



SOCIETY
OF ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES
& HUMANITIES

Amended on November 5th 2024

Table of Contents

Article 1.0: The Society

Article 2.0: Membership

Article 3.0: Mandate

Article 4.0: The Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement

Article 5.0: The Board of Governors

Article 6.0: Membership Fees

Article 7.0: The Board of Directors

Article 8.0: Immunity of the Directors

Article 9.0: General Meetings

Article 10.0: Finances

Article 11.0: Elections

Article 12.0: Amendments to the Constitution

Article 13.0: Dissolution of the SASSH

Article 14.0: By-Laws

Article 15.0: Violations

Society of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (SASSH) Constitution

Amended: November 5th, 2024

PREAMBLE

Students in the Faculty of Arts at Toronto Metropolitan University came together in the Summer and Fall of 2015 to finalize and plan a society to help connect and bring Arts students together in a professional and academic manner. A group of students were able to gain enough support to fully launch a campaign to secure the Society of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities. The SASSH is a student-led group that was formed to promote community within the Faculty of Arts, to create an environment where arts students can thrive in their field of study as well to give them a voice in Toronto Metropolitan University and the Greater Toronto Area.

Article 1.0: The Society

1.1 The association of students enrolled in Faculty of Arts Undergraduate programs at Toronto Metropolitan University shall be called the Society of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities. Hereafter referred to as the “SASSH.”

1.2 The Board of Governors of Toronto Metropolitan University shall hereafter be referred to as the “Board of Governors.”

1.3 Toronto Metropolitan University shall hereafter be referred to as the “University.”

1.4 The SASSH Board is all the Executives and Directors of the SASSH and shall hereafter be referred to individually as “Director” and collectively as “the Board of Directors.”

Article 2.0: Membership

2.1 All students registered in full-time Undergraduate programs within the Faculty of Arts as defined by the University shall become members of SASSH, hereafter referred to as the “membership.”

2.2 All members must have paid, in full, the compulsory membership fee as defined in Article 6.

2.3 Membership terminates upon the graduation, withdrawal, suspension, or expulsion of a member from the Faculty of Arts.

Article 3.0: Mandate

3.1 The mandate of the SASSH shall be to represent, promote, and enhance the Faculty of Arts and all respective programs and to strive to protect the best interests of its members.

The following subnets of values are meant to compliment the mandate:

-
- I. To encourage activities and events that will enhance the educational, professional, and co-curricular experience to its members and contribute to the educational values of the University;
 - II. To encourage all members to become active participants in SASSH and the University affairs and to afford opportunity and a forum for the expression of opinions upon all questions bearing on or affecting their educational and co-curricular interests;
 - III. To encourage equity and fairness for all members within the Faculty of Arts, as well as within the University and to ensure all members' rights are protected as individuals in their education and co-curricular activities.

Article 4.0: The Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement

4.1 The Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement, on behalf of the Board of Governors and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, shall advise the SASSH, monitor its publications, supervise its Board of Directors' elections and ensure its financial accountability. The programs of SASSH shall be subject to the approval of the Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement.

4.2 The Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement may view and freeze SASSH funds and resources in situations of gross misconduct by any Director with signing authority over these assets.

Article 5.0: The Board of Governors

5.1 Amendments to this Constitution, described in Article 13, are subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

5.2 The Board of Governors may dissolve SASSH following a favourable student referendum on dissolution as described in [Article 14](#).

Article 6.0: Membership Fees

6.1 The Board of Governors shall collect on behalf of the SASSH the compulsory fee of \$47.49 per academic year, starting from the 2019-2020 academic year, from all eligible members as indicated in Article 2.1. This fee shall then increase every year thereafter based on the Toronto Canadian Price Index (CPI), and change as the government indicates and/or Toronto Metropolitan University indicates. The fee is not refundable.

6.2 Increase in Fees

6.2.1 Any increase in fees must be sanctioned by a referendum of the SASSH membership conducted by the University's Election Procedures Committee;

6.2.2 The referendum question must be approved by the Board of Governors. The referendum question and the implications of a favourable referendum must be submitted to the Board of Governors after consultation with the President of the University, or his/her nominee, in order that the Board of Governors may be fully cognizant of the implications of the outcome prior to the referendum being held.

6.2.3 The referendum must be conducted in the fall by November 15 to be applicable for the following academic year commencing in September.

6.2.4 The cost of the referendum shall be borne by SASSH except for the salary and employee related costs of any employee who participates in holding the referendum.

6.2.5 A "Favourable referendum" shall mean an affirmative vote by the majority of members voting.

Article 7.0: The Board of Directors

7.1 There shall be a total of twenty (20) Directors:

7.1.1 Eight (8) Directors who shall be the Executive Officers of SASSH shall be elected at large by the members of the SASSH;

President, Vice-President of Corporate Relations, Vice-President of Events, Vice-President of Finance, Vice-President of Marketing, Vice-President of Operations, Vice-President of Community Relations, and Vice-President, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA)

7.1.2 Twelve (12) Directors representing each of the Faculty of Arts programs - Arts and Contemporary Studies, Criminology, English, Environmental and Urban Sustainability, Geographic Analysis, History, International Economics and Finance, Language and Intercultural Relations, Philosophy, Politics and Governance, Psychology, and Sociology who shall be selected by the students in each of the individual programs. These Directors, at the time of the elections, must not be in their last year of attendance at the University.

7.1.3 The Board of Directors will fill vacant positions on the Board by, at their discretion, either appointing a new Director from the SASSH membership or by holding an election.

7.1.4 The Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

7.2 Terms of Office

7.2.1 The term of office of each elected or appointed Director shall be one (1) year, May 1st to April 30, or may continue until a successor is elected or appointed.

7.2.2 Directors can be elected for a maximum of three (3) subsequent terms.

7.2.3 The term limit for the Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement shall be directly tied to their employment contract with the University.

7.2.4 The eligibility for the President position of SASSH is limited to candidates with at least one (1) year of prior experience on the Board of Directors. In the case that a former Director does not choose to propose candidacy for the position, the President may thereafter be elected from the general membership.

7.2.5 No Executive Officer of SASSH may simultaneously hold an executive position in a Toronto Metropolitan University Student Group or Course Union, affiliated directly with the SASSH; including but not limited to SASSH Student Groups, Course Unions under SASSH, the Toronto Metropolitan Students' Union (TMSU) or the TMU Residence Council.

7.2.6 All elected Directors shall be students enrolled in a Faculty of Arts program and who have paid the SASSH levy. They are required to have either a clear academic standing, or a conditional academic standing with a cumulative Grade Point Average greater than or equal to 2.0. The academic standing of the Directors shall be reviewed by the Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement, who will inform the Directors that he/she is removed from the position if that Director fails to meet these requirements.

Article 8.0: Immunity of the Directors

8.1 Directors shall not be held jointly or individually responsible for actions taken and decisions made in good faith within the scope of their authority. Directors can be held jointly or individually responsible for actions taken and decisions made regarding misappropriation of SASSH financial resources or assets.

8.2 Members of SASSH by virtue of their membership shall automatically waive the rights to take legal action against the Board of Directors or any Director as a result of actions and decisions taken by Directors individually or jointly for the benefit and in the best interests of the SASSH as defined in Article 3.

Article 9.0: General Meetings

9.1 The SASSH Annual General Meeting, hereafter referred to as the “AGM,” shall normally be held during the winter term of the academic year. The Executive Officers of SASSH shall convene it.

9.2 The notice convening the AGM and the agenda of the meeting shall be publicized in the campus media at least two full weeks in advance of the meeting.

9.3 There shall be at least two general meetings each year – the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the winter term and a Semi Annual General Meeting (SAGM) in the fall term.

9.4 The President of SASSH may call other General Meetings as often as the Board of Directors may deem necessary.

9.5 Special general meetings shall be called by the Vice-President Operations on receipt of a written request signed by a minimum of fifty (50) members. The written request shall include a statement setting out the purpose of the special meeting.

Article 10.0: Finances

10.1 The fiscal year of the SASSH shall be from May 1 to April 30.

10.2 The Vice-President, Finance with the President shall present an annual financial budget to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and the Board of Directors no later than June 30.

10.3 The Vice-President, Finance must give final, written authorization for all financial matters concerning SASSH. All financial matters shall be approved and bear the signature of the Vice-President, Finance as well as one of either the President or the Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement.

10.4 The Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement must give final, written authorization for all contractual matters concerning SASSH.

10.5 The Manager, Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement shall assist the Vice-President, Finance to create and meet financial targets and oversee the financial statements of the SASSH.

10.6 An annual financial audit must be conducted.

Article 11.0: Elections

11.1 Elections to the Board of Directors shall take place by secret ballot.

11.2 A Chief Returning Officer shall be appointed from outside the membership by the Manager,

Student and Alumni Experience and Engagement to oversee the conduct of the election of the Board of Directors.

11.3 The election procedure shall coincide with the normal practices of the University as established by the Election Procedures Committee.

Article 12.0: Amendments to the Constitution

12.1 Amendments which affect the basic constitutional structure of SASSH or change its mandate, membership or relation to the Board of Governors must first be approved by the Board of Governors.

12.2 Amendments to the Constitution or proposed amendments shall normally be approved by the Board of Directors and ratified at the AGM.

12.3 Amendments initiated by the membership must include a written notice of the proposed amendment signed by not less than ten (10) members from each Faculty of Arts program with names and student numbers printed next to their signature. The written notice shall be received by the Vice-President Operations not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the AGM.

12.4 Proposed amendments must be publicized and posted with the agenda of the AGM.

12.5 Amendments shall require an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at the AGM.

Article 13.0: Dissolution of the SASSH

13.1 To dissolve the SASSH, the following steps must be followed:

13.1.1 A petition requesting a referendum on the dissolution of the SASSH shall be signed by 15% of all students in a Faculty of Arts program within the SASSH membership and presented to the SASSH President.

13.1.2 The President shall communicate the request for a referendum on dissolution to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts within ten (10) working days after receiving the petition.

13.1.3 The Dean of the Faculty of Arts shall consult with the President of the University, or his/her nominee, who will communicate the request for a referendum to the Board of Governors.

13.1.4 The Elections Procedures Committee will conduct the referendum. The referendum will be held in the fall or winter semesters.

13.2 A “favourable referendum” shall mean an affirmative vote by two-thirds (2/3) of the members voting.

13.3 The Dean of the Faculty of Arts shall communicate the results of the referendum to the Faculty of Arts student body and to the President of the University. If the request to dissolve SASSH is successful, the Dean will request that the Board of Governors dissolve SASSH.

Article 14.0: By-Laws

14.1 SASSH may establish By-Laws for the conduct of its business and may specify how they shall be amended.

14.2 By-Laws are enacted by the Directors and approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

14.3 The By-Laws will be consistent with the SASSH Constitution. In the event of disagreement between the two documents, the Constitution has primacy.

Article 15.0: Violations

15.1 Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by any Director against any other Director on any of the following grounds and may result in the impeachment of any Director by motion brought before all Directors:

15.1.1 Gross violation of the SASSH Constitution, By-Laws, platforms, policies, regulations, or Board of Directors decisions.

15.1.2 Behaviour unbecoming of a member; that which brings discredit to the SASSH or University.

15.1.3 Any and all malicious acts as defined by statute.

15.1.4 Repetitive and unexcused absences at scheduled Board Meetings or non-performance of duties.

15.1.5 Misappropriation, falsifying or forgery of any monetary record or negligence of SASSH funds and resources.

15.1.6 Other serious actions not in conformance with the best ethical interests of the organization.

15.2 Any Director may be removed from office by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors.