

# **Constitution**

**Acadia Students' Union  
Amended in October 2017**

# Article I: Acadia Students' Union

## 1. Name

- (a) This constitution is established as By-Laws One (1) of the Acadia Students' Union, hereinafter referred to as the "Union" in accordance with Chapter 129 of the Acts of the Legislative Assembly for Nova Scotia (1967), "An act to incorporate the Acadia Students' Union."

## 2. Mission

- (a) Acadia Students' Union is a student governed organization dedicated to serving its members through effective representation and communications. The Students' Union offers innovative and quality services while providing a variety of opportunities which enhance the overall University experience of the students of Acadia.
- (b) Acadia Students' Union believes in and upholds the values of integrity, excellence, and respect, while recognizing the importance of fun, community spirit, and the tradition upon which the Union was founded.

## 3. Membership

- (a) There shall be three classes of membership in the Union which are:
  - i. Ordinary members, who shall consist of every student who is registered at Acadia University as a full-time student and has paid the prevailing regular membership fees for full-time students. Ordinary members defined: Any student registered in 3 or more courses.
  - ii. Associate members, who shall be all students who are registered at Acadia University as part-time students and have paid the prevailing membership fee for part-time student. Associate members defined: Any student registered in fewer than 3 courses.
  - iii. Honorary members, who shall be non-student and include the Chancellor, President, Faculty, Administrative Staff, Alumni of Acadia University, the Administrative Staff of the Union, and those individuals who are granted Honorary Membership by the Students' Representative Council.

## 4. Rights and Responsibilities

- (a) There shall be a council of students designated as the "Students' Representative Council," hereinafter referred to as the "S.R.C.," which shall be elected by the members of the Union in accordance with this Constitution.

- (b) Subject to this constitution all powers of the Union are vested in the S. R. C.
- (c) All regular meetings of the S.R.C. shall be open to all members of the Union, subject to the discussion of the council while discussing confidential business.
- (d) A general meeting of the Union may be called by the President as they consider it necessary; or shall be called by the Chairperson of the S.R.C. on receipt of petition signed by the majority of the S.R.C., or by 10% of the student members of the Union setting forth the reasons for the proposed meeting. At least 10 days notice will be given of such a meeting, but it shall be held within 15 days of receipt of such a request.
- (e) A general meeting of the Union shall have all powers inherent in the Union granted by the Act of Incorporation including the power to revoke any decision of the S.R.C. or the Executive.
- (f) The general meeting of the Union shall be convened and presided over by the Chairperson of the S.R.C.
- (g) The Executive and the S.R.C. are bound by any and all votes of the general meeting of the Union.
- (h) A quorum for a general meeting of the Union shall be 25% of the student members of the Union.
- (i) Notice of all motions to be considered by the general meeting of the Union shall be presented to the Chairperson of the S.R.C. at least 3 days before the date of the general meeting, and shall be signed by the mover, seconder, and 10 other student members of the Union.

## **Article II: Students' Representative Council**

### **1. Membership**

- (a) The S.R.C. shall be composed of the following members. All subsections have the right to move and second motions:
  - i. The President of the Union,
  - ii. The Vice President Student Life,
  - iii. The Vice President Events & Promotions,
  - iv. The Vice President Academic & External,

- v. The Vice President Finance & Operations,
- vi. One member as Faculty of Arts Senator,
- vii. One member as Faculty of Professional Studies Senator,
- viii. One member as Faculty of Pure and Applied Science Senator,
- ix. One member as Faculty of Theology Senator,
- x. One member as the Graduate Students' Senator
- xi. One member as Student Board of Governors Representative,
- xii. Four members as Councillors,
- xiii. One member as First Year Officer,
- xiv. One member as Community Relations Officer,
- xv. One member as Equity Officer,
- xvi. One member as Sustainability Officer,
- xvii. One coordinator of an Internal Organization of the Union (non-voting),
- xviii. One member of the Acadia University Faculty (non-voting),
- xix. One member of the Acadia University Administration (non-voting),
- xx. One member of the Acadia Board of Governors (non-voting).

- (b) All members of Council must be ordinary or associate members of the Union, with the exception of the Board of Governors, Faculty, and Administration Representatives.
- (c) All members of Council shall attend all regular and special meetings of Council.
- (d) Members of Council shall attend all meetings of standing or special committees of the S.R.C. of which they are members, unless they are excused on reasonable grounds by the Chairperson of such a committee.
- (e) All student members of Council shall have a sessional GPA of 2.0 at the time of election, and shall maintain a sessional GPA of 2.0 throughout their term of office. If a student member of Council does not maintain a sessional GPA of 2.0, they will be asked to resign.

## 2. Rights and Responsibilities

- (a) The legislative authority of the Union is vested in Council.
- (b) Subject to this constitution all powers of the Union are vested in Council.
- (c) All authority of Council is delegated to the Executive Board during:
  - i. The winter break; and
  - ii. From the last day of exams until the first day of the academic year, unless Council passes a motion to the contrary, or a special meeting is called during the summer break.

## 3. Meetings

- (a) All meetings of Council are open to the public unless closed by a two-thirds majority to discuss sensitive matters.
- (b) All members of the Union and guests invited by Council shall have the right to speak to Council upon recognition by the Chairperson. All individuals who are neither Union members nor invited guests may speak to Council upon recognition by a simple majority of Council.
- (c) Meetings of Council shall be convened and chaired by the Chairperson.
- (d) Regular meetings of Council shall be held at a time to be decided upon by Council at the beginning of each academic term.
- (e) Special meetings of Council shall be held under the following circumstances:
  - i. At the request of the President;
  - ii. At the discretion of the Chairperson;
  - iii. When a majority vote of Council calls one; or
  - iv. Upon receipt by the Chairperson of a written or electronic request signed by at least 50 ordinary members of the Union. Such a request must contain the reason for the special meeting.
- (f) Special meetings called by the President or a majority vote of Council shall deal with no more than three items on the agenda;

- (g) A quorum of Council shall consist of a majority of Council (50% plus one), including at least two members of the Executive Board.
- (h) Unfilled positions shall not be included in the number of voting members.
- (i) Meetings of Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as adapted by Council, and as outlined by the Chairperson.

#### 4. Proxy Statements

- (a) Each voting member of Council may give a proxy statement to any other voting member of that body.
- (b) Proxy Statements shall:
  - i. Be submitted, in written or electronic form, to the Chairperson's Office no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting where said statement is to be used, except in emergency situations where the Chairperson may use his/her discretion to shorten the notice period;
  - ii. Be given in writing to the member who is to hold said proxy no later than 24 hours prior to that meeting unless permission to shorten the notice period has been given by the Chairperson;
  - iii. Mandate the holder of the proxy as to how they should vote on specific resolutions;
  - iv. Not apply to votes of procedure;
  - v. Not apply to votes for which no mandate was given (amendments etc.); and
  - vi. Not apply to quorum calculations.

#### 5. Officials of the S.R.C.

- (a) The Officials of Council are:
  - i. The Chairperson
  - ii. The Deputy Chairperson

#### 6. Standing Committees of the S.R.C

- (a) Council has certain Standing Committees as outlined in Policy and Procedures, By-Laws 2 of this Constitution.

- (b) Council retains the right to not accept, in whole or in part, any recommendation made to it by its Standing Committees, or any other Committee of Council.
- (c) Committees other than the Standing Committees of Council may be constituted by the Council at any time for any purpose, but these Committees shall be given explicit terms of reference, office and membership by the Council motion which creates them. Otherwise, they have no authority and their appointments are void.

## **Article III: Amendments**

1. The Constitution of the Acadia Students' Union may be amended by the S.R.C. after the following conditions have been met:
  - (a) Notice of the exact terms of the proposed amendment shall be given to the S.R.C. at a regular meeting.
  - (b) The proposed amendment shall be given wide publicity beyond the minutes of the S.R.C.
  - (c) A two-thirds majority of the S.R.C., at a regular meeting subsequent to the meeting at which notice was given, must agree to the amendment.
2. Notwithstanding passage of an amendment by the S.R.C., the S.R.C. shall determine whether the amendment in question should be subjected to referendum.
3. The S.R.C. may not Amend Article 1 and Article III of the Constitution. They may only be amended by a referendum taken to the ordinary members of the Union at which a majority of 2/3 of those voting is achieved.
4. Copies of amendments shall be given to the Deputy Chairperson and the Chairperson at the meeting at which notice is given, and those officers shall publicize them through the campus media.