

The document serves as a constitution template for clubs seeking certification or recertification with CUSA Clubs. To use this template in your own constitution, make a copy of the document and remove all italicized text. Make edits to all articles as needed.

CONSTITUTION OF [INSERT OFFICIAL NAME]

Article I

Name of the Organization

The Organization shall be known as “INSERT OFFICIAL NAME”, and herein be referred to as “INSERT ACRONYM WHERE DESIRED.” No other name shall be used in the advertisement or representation of the club.

Article II

Purpose of the Organization

The purpose of the organization, otherwise known as the club mandate, must demonstrate the primary function, purpose, and objective(s) of the club. The activities of your club must reflect your mandate. Be careful not to define the purpose too narrowly or too broadly.

The organization shall work towards:

1. List your club’s missions.
2. List your club’s vision.
3. List your club’s objectives and goals.

Article III

Structure

The structure of the organization refers to the different levels of membership. If your club has levels of membership beyond general members and executives, detail this here.

1. The General Membership shall be the legislative body of the organization and shall be composed of all members.
2. The Executive shall be the administrative body of the organization and shall be composed of members elected by the General Membership.

Article IV

Membership

This section outlines the eligibility and rules for members in the organization.

1. The Organization's General Membership shall be open to all undergraduate students at Carleton University. The club's membership cannot be exclusive towards any group of students at Carleton University.
2. The Organization may grant graduate students at Carleton University and others in the community membership in the Organization, however they must not have voting rights in elections and must have a membership classification in Article III - Structure.
3. Membership in the organization shall be valid from May to April each academic year.
4. Only undergraduate students enrolled at Carleton University may serve on the Executive. Graduate students may only serve a non-voting, advisory capacity.

Article V

Executive

A club is required to have at least two executives: a President and a Vice-President Finance/Treasurer. Clubs often choose to add executive positions to suit organizational needs. Common executive positions include: VP Internal or Secretary, VP Communications or Social Media, VP Events, VP Advocacy, VP Membership, and more. Titles and responsibilities are chosen to suit each club.

1. The President shall:
 - a. Oversee the other executives in the performance of their duties.
 - b. Provide updates to executive members and general members about the state of the club and recommend to their consideration such measures they shall judge necessary and expedient.
 - c. Represent the Organization in dealings with other organizations, including, but not limited to, other clubs, Carleton University, and the Carleton University Students' Association.
2. The Vice-President Finance/Treasurer shall:
 - a. Manage the finances and assets of the club.
 - b. Prepare a budget for the Organization each year, or more frequently as events require, and keep records of the financial transactions of the Organization.
 - c. Arrange the funding of social events of the Organization.
 - d. Have signing authority for the Organization.

Article VI

Meetings

Meetings of the General Membership, sometimes known as Annual General Meetings (AGMs), are necessary to accomplish important club business including elections and constitutional

amendments. Meetings of the Executive Committee are necessary for day-to-day operations and to accomplish the objectives/goals of the club.

Meetings of the General Membership

1. Meetings of the General Membership can be called:
 - a. At the request of the President, for a meeting to be held not less than one week from the date of publication of the notice;
 - b. At the request of the Executive, for a meeting to be held not less than one week from the date of publication of the notice; or
 - c. At the request of any five members of the Organization.
2. A minimum of one meeting of the General Membership must occur per year in the spring for the purpose of elections.
3. Quorum of the General Membership
 - The presence of at least five members or the majority of members, whichever is less, shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of General Membership for the exercise of its powers

Meetings of the Executive Committee

1. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall
 - a. Be held at regular intervals and are for the purpose of running the club.
 - b. Votes by the Executive Committee on club business shall be declared by a simple majority.

Article VII

Leadership Succession

There are many methods of leadership succession approved by the Clubs Oversight Commission. Most clubs use elections however other approved methods of leadership succession can be found [here](#).

Elections

The Organization has chosen to run elections for its Leadership Succession. The following are the steps necessary to be taken to run elections.

1. The Club executives will appoint a Succession Officer to run elections for the Club.
 - a. A Succession Officer may be any one (1) of the following individuals:
 - i. A neutral party to all elections being held within the club.
 - ii. A member of the Clubs Oversight Committee.
 - iii. A member of the CUSA Clubs Office.
 - iv. A club member or an external student non-member.

- b. All efforts should be made for a Succession Officer to be appointed on a consensus basis in the Executive Committee. When that is not possible, a recorded vote in a first past the post majority or plurality vote winner will be appointed Succession Officer.
 - c. The Organization will work with the Succession Officer to set the date of final voting membership purchase, campaign start, campaign end, voting start, and voting end.
 - d. Students-at-large will have the opportunity to join the club before the start of voting.
 - e. Every voter has the right to cast their ballot in private.
 - f. During counting, candidates may select an individual who is not a candidate to be present for counting and scrutinizing.
 - g. Appeals, complaints, or conflict may be made to the Clubs Oversight Committee by way of emailing the Student Groups Administrator.
 - h. Timeline:
 - i. Day 1 - Announcement of campaign, voting, and results announcement dates
 - ii. Day 7 - Start of campaign
 - iii. Day 10 - last day to buy voting memberships for the club
 - iv. Day 14 - end of campaign
 - v. Day 15 - start of voting
 - vi. Day 16 - end of voting
 - vii. Day 17 - Results announced
2. The Club will run a first past the post-style election to elect the executive positions of [insert executive positions]
- a. Candidates on the ballot shall be organized alphabetically by last name, with a box to be filled, marked, or checked for a single option/candidate.
 - b. A final “no-confidence” option will be offered at the bottom of the ballot.
 - c. Any ballot with multiple boxes clearly marked will be discarded as “spoiled.”
 - d. Upon counting of the vote, the candidate with the most votes will be considered elected to the position.

Article VIII

Impeachment

Impeachment refers to the formal process of removing a club member or executive. In an impeachment procedure, the grounds and process for impeachment must be outlined.

Impeachment

1. To remove a member, our Club will first consult the CUSA Clubs Membership Removal Committee (MRC)
2. The CUSA Clubs Membership Removal Committee (MRC) will advise on the next steps for the club
3. Should the CUSA Clubs Membership Removal Committee (MRC) advises that the club proceed with membership removal, the following steps will take place:
4. Impeachment for Removing an Executive Role:
 - a. Grounds for impeachment of a club member include any violation of the constitution, the governing documents of CUSA, committing an act (or acts) which negatively affects and/or harms the interests of the clubs and its members, and/or failure to fulfill executive duties.
 - b. Any member can bring forward a request for impeachment to any executive. Within 10 days of receiving this request, the executive will host a meeting with the general membership. At this meeting, the complaint will be reviewed. The member bringing forward the complaint and the accused executive shall be given time to speak.
 - c. A vote for impeachment with the general membership will be conducted. The accused executive shall not be permitted to vote. A simple majority will be needed to impeach the executive. Impeachment of an executive results in their removal from office and as a member of the club.
5. Membership Impeachment:
 - a. Grounds for impeachment of a club member include any violation of the constitution, the governing documents of CUSA, and committing an act (or acts) which negatively affects and/or harms the interests of the clubs and its members.
 - b. Any member can bring forward a request for impeachment to any executive. Within 10 days of receiving this request, the executive will host a meeting. At this meeting, the complaint will be reviewed. The individual bringing forward the complaint and the person accused shall be given time to speak.
 - c. A vote for impeachment within the executive will be conducted. A simple majority of executives will be needed to impeach the member. Impeachment of a member results in their removal as a member of the club.

Article IX

Amendments

This section details the formal process to update your constitution.

1. Any member can propose an amendment to the constitution. This amendment will be presented at the annual general meeting and a vote will take place with the general membership to adopt the new amendment.
2. A simple majority will be required to adopt the new amendment.

Article X

Dissolution

This section is necessary in case of the dissolution of your club. Your club may choose an organization such as a non-profit or charity to donate assets upon dissolution.

Upon dissolution of the Organization, all assets gained through CUSA shall be returned to CUSA and all other assets shall be given to the Ottawa Food Bank.