

Course Union Constitution

Philosophy Students' Union

Article One (1)

Objectives of the Course Union

The objective of this Course Union is to promote the interests and engagement of the students in the Philosophy program, to plan and execute events and initiatives in the best interest of the students in the program, and to foster a stronger sense of community within the program in order to provide opportunities for the students' professional, social, and academic prosperity.

Article Two (2)

Relationship to the Ryerson Students' Union (RSU)

- 2.1 The RSU does not interfere with the activities or operations of the Course Union provided that the Course Union is adhering to the constitution.
- 2.2 The Course Union will abide by the RSU by-laws at all times.
- 2.3 The Course Union will abide by the RSU policy manual at all times.
- 2.4 The Course Union will abide by any and all applicable laws at all times.
- 2.5 The RSU has the power to investigate and take action as they see fit concerning alleged violation of this constitution.

Article Three (3)

Membership of the Course Union

- 3.1 All full-time undergraduate and all graduate students registered within the course are automatically a part of the membership.
- 3.2 The Course Union may not charge levies or membership fees to RSU members

Article Four (4)

Meetings of the Course Union

- 4.1 Executive meetings are open to all members of a Course Union, however only the Course Union executive will be eligible vote.
- 4.2 Meetings of the membership are open to all members of the Course Union, and all members of the Course Union are eligible vote.
- 4.3 Two weeks notice will be given for a meeting of the membership in the form of posters and if possible, email.
- 4.4 Quorum for meetings both of the Executive as well as meetings of the membership is 50%.

Article Five (5)

Executive Roles and Responsibilities

- 5.1 The Executive has the power to make binding decisions on behalf of the membership with a majority vote of the executive. All binding decisions must adhere to the articles within this constitution.
- 5.2 The Executive position terms will end on April 30th of each calendar year.

5.3 No faculty, staff, non-RSU, or non-Course Union members may hold an Executive position.

5.4 Should an Executive position become vacant for any reason, the remaining Executive may appoint someone from within the membership to fill the vacancy by a majority vote.

5.5 The Executive positions and responsibilities are as listed below:

President

- 1) The President shall chair all meetings, both Executive and of the membership
- 2) The President shall be responsible for liaison with the RSU
- 3) The President shall be a signing officer of the Course Union
- 4) The President shall be responsible for advising the Campus Groups Coordinator of any changes in the Executive, signing officers, or other important business of the Course Union
- 5) The President shall work with Vice-Presidents to ensure that all duties, tasks, and preparations are up to par
- 6) The President shall be responsible for the overseeing of the recruitment of new Union members in the fall semester, ensuring that individuals chosen to fulfill vacant positions are fit for duty, and will work to achieve the objectives set out by the constitution.

Vice-President of Student Life & Events

- 1) The Vice President Student Life and Events is responsible for planning and coordinating social and informational events;
- 2) Liaising with the Vice President Logistics to secure appropriate venues for events;
- 3) Promoting the Course Union's activities and events on social media;
- 4) Liaising with other event committees and groups;
- 5) Reporting to the President, the Executive Committee and, as required, to the membership about the Course Unions' events

Vice-President of Operations

- 1) The Vice President Logistics will liaise with responsible authorities to secure room bookings for Students' Association meetings and events;
- 2) Work with the Vice President Student Life and Events, tracks participation in Students' Association events
- 3) Report to the President, the Executive Committee and, as required, to the membership on logistical considerations; and
- 4) Assume such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Executive Committee.

Vice-President of Finances

- 1) The Vice-President of Finances is responsible for all issues related to funds;
- 2) Records of all receipts and expenditures and balances the two;
- 3) Maintaining bank accounts and records thereof;

- 4) Maintaining all financial records, including receipts, ledgers, and bank records and, in collaboration with the Secretary, ensures that all financial records are kept as a permanent record that can be transferred to successor Officers;
- 5) Reporting to the President, the Executive Committee, and the membership on financial matters.

Article Six (6)

Removal From Office and Vacancies

6.1 An Executive may be removed from office should they be found guilty of breaching the articles within this constitution after an investigation from the RSU. In the event that they are found guilty, the Executive position will be deemed vacant. The RSU Vice-President Student Life and Events and the RSU Campus Groups Coordinator shall conduct the investigation to determine if there has been a breach of the constitution.

6.2 An Executive may be removed from office should 30% of the membership sign a petition requesting their removal from office. The petition must be ratified and accepted by the Executive. Following the ratification and acceptance of a valid petition, the Executive position will be deemed vacant.

6.3 Removal from office will only be considered an option and/or attempted after having consulted with the RSU Vice-President Student Life and Events as well as the RSU Campus Groups Coordinator in attempt to rectify the situation leading to this serious matter.

6.4 An Executive position may also become vacant upon written notice of resignation from the Executive holding the position.

Article Seven (7)

Election Rules and Procedures

7.1 The Course Union is responsible for holding a general election to elect the next Executive of the Course Union.

7.2 The Course Union election is to be held in the second semester of each academic year no later than the last Friday in March.

7.3 The Course Union election is open to all members of the Course Union, meaning that every member is eligible to vote.

7.4 Notice for the Course Union election will be given two weeks or ten business days prior to nominations closing.

7.5 Advertisement of the election including voting days and how to vote must be done in the form of posters, in addition to social media and email where possible.

7.6 Nominations will be open for a minimum of two weeks or ten business days, and will be collected by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).

7.7 Nominations will be accepted by email or by written notice to the CRO. In order for a potential candidate to be nominated, they must nominate themselves with support of five additional members of the Course Union. Support can be in the form of an email nominating the potential candidate, or by written notice.

7.8 Only RSU members who are also members of the Course Union will be eligible to run for an Executive position.

7.9 The CRO for the election will be chosen by the President unless the President is running for re-election. In the case that the President is running for re-election, the responsibility of choosing the CRO will be delegated to Vice-President Internal Affairs unless they are running for re-election as well. In the case that both the President and Vice-President Internal Affairs are running for re-election, the CRO will be decided by another executive. Regardless of who chooses the CRO, the decision must be ratified by the Executive by a majority vote.

7.10 The CRO must keep all personal information of nominees/candidates strictly confidential, and must not interfere with or tamper election results in any way. If the CRO is found to be interfering with or tampering with election results by the RSU Vice-President Student Life and Events and the RSU Campus Groups Coordinator, it may result in the disqualification of candidates or other disciplinary measures as prescribed by the RSU.

Article Eight (8)

Amendments and Review of the Constitution

8.1 This constitution will be in effect until a new constitution is submitted to the RSU.

8.2 A new constitution will be submitted by September 30th each year.

8.3 Red text in the constitution can be amended at a meeting of the membership by a majority vote.

8.4 Black text in the constitution can only be amended with approval from the RSU Vice-President Student Life and Events and the RSU Campus Groups Coordinator, and then must be approved at a meeting of the membership by a majority vote.