



Constitution of the Rideau Students' Union

Discipuli enim meliorem cras

December 3, 2020

For the service of all the Students of Canada and in their name with no issue of race, religion, sex, gender, sexuality, political affiliation, or class, we, the members of the Rideau Students' Union, declare its creation under the following methods, practices and organizational structure.

Section 1 - The Union

The Rideau Students' Union will operate with the goal in mind to represent the diverse opinions of students by presenting pragmatic policy to relevant governing bodies. The issues of this policy will include, but are not limited to, issues of student life and issues that students are passionate about. The Union may also organize events in order to rally support, foster discussion, and spread important messages.

The Union will operate in a non-partisan and unbiased manner, encouraging discussion of those with a variety of political perspectives. However, the Union will not tolerate bigotry or discrimination within its ranks. All members are to be treated in an equitable manner.

The Union will not take the side of one group, party or organization or another, but will instead root for the pragmatic policy developed. The Union will never be in favour of and must always stay vigilant towards Populism, Partisanship and Polarization.

Union members must be tolerant of others regardless of race, religion, sex, gender, sexuality, political opinions, class, or any other personal attribute. Union members must also refrain from actively practising partisanship or other forms of tribal behaviour that would discourage discussion.

The motto of the Rideau Students' Union will be 'Discipuli enim meliorem cras', which in English translates to 'Students for a better tomorrow', indicating the objective of the Union. This motto shall serve as a guiding policy for Union operations. Members ought to be reminded that the goal is not infighting or hatred, but to help society in whatever ways possible.

The Union's organizational body will consist of 3 sections: Executives, Committees and Committee Leaders, and Union Ambassadors.

Section 2 - The Executives

The Rideau Students' Union will be led by a President who will serve for no longer than 2 terms of 1 year. The President will be elected by a majority of Union members in a Single Transferable Vote or Exhaustive Ballot election. If a President is impeached or resigns, the interim replacement will be a Vice-President previously appointed by the President. The Governor of the Union will be required to call an election to replace the President immediately. All such elections must be preceded by at least 1 week of time dedicated to campaigning and at the start of which all Union members must be informed of the elections. The term of service after a snap election

will not be 1 year, but will instead be until August of the next school year. If the President is unable to carry on their duties for a given amount of time, the Vice-President will serve as Acting President.

The President will be made responsible for guiding Committee Chairs and Ambassadors in their operations, working with the Governor to make time-sensitive decisions, leading the planning of the general Union agenda in cooperation with Committee Chairs, Executives and the Governor. They will also be responsible for chairing Executive and General meetings unless the task is delegated to the Governor or Vice President, delegating executive tasks and delivering monthly updates to the Union on the status of operations. The President and Vice President will hold access to Union membership lists and a primary email for operations.

Apart from the President, the Union Directory will consist of 3 different executives: the Director of Recruitment, the Director of Public Liaison, and the Director of Logistics. The Director of Recruitment will be responsible for planning Union growth and expansion and the Director of Logistics will be responsible for oversight of the Committees and manage the Union bureaucracy. The Director of Public Liaison will be responsible for collecting information and the coordination of operations with external organizations, working in collaboration with the Union Governor. All executives will be subject to guidance by the President.

The Union will also have a Director of Media and Technology that will be responsible for managing all online media platforms. This officer will not be considered an Executive or a member of the Executive Council but will nonetheless sit in on meetings for ensuring communication. The Technology Officer will be appointed by the President with no fixed term.

Executives will be appointed by the President upon election with the unanimous approval of the Committee Chairs, Ambassadors, Governor and other sitting Executives. The President reserves the right to dismiss executives at will given proper reasoning and replace them with a suitable candidate, again with the unanimous approval of the leadership. Executives will not hold a term limit but may only hold a position for a maximum of 2 years.

Section 3 - The Committees

The Rideau Students' Union will be formed of 6 Committees, each with relevant Committee Leaders/Chairs.

The Social Issues Committee (SIC) will be responsible for analyzing problems and creating policy relevant to issues of crime, rehabilitation, the judicial and executive process, government organization and other issues dealing with justice and social sustainability.

The Education and Curriculum Committee (ECC) will be responsible for analyzing problems and creating policy relevant to the issues of student life, local curriculums and other domestic issues relating to education.

The Mental Health Committee (MHC) will be responsible for analyzing problems and creating policy relevant to the issues of addiction, depression, bullying and other domestic issues relating to mental health.

The Union will also have 3 variant committees separate from the permanent committees listed above. The topics that concern these variant committees will be democratically agreed upon by active Union members and may continue to operate until members of said Committee vote in favour of disbanding, after which the process may occur at the will of the Union members to create a new Committee in its place. The proposal of committee topics can be made by any Union member to the Union Governor who will be responsible for organizing efforts to form new Committees.

Committees operate and will operate in the matter of organization independently from the executive branch of the Union.

Committee Chairs will be responsible for leading the Committee meetings, discussions, policy works and other committee practices under direction from the Union President and in collaboration with the Union Operations Officer. They will be elected by Committee members in a process of Single Transferable Vote for a term of not more than 1 year ending in the first week of August after the date of their election. The outgoing Committee Chair may appoint an interim Chair for a period of not more than 1 month in the absence of the original Chair. If the outgoing chair is unable to do this, this responsibility should be taken on by the Governor and President assembled. Committee Chairs should also appoint Representatives for each region to manage regional operations at the direction of the Superintendent.

Section 4 - The Ambassadors

To every school where the Union looks to grow, the Union will ensure that there is a Representative who will be responsible for managing school actions, organizing and leading Union meetings within the school and reporting information on Union operations within the school to the Executive Council. The local chapter which a Representative leads may engage in small-scale projects of service or advocacy within their school or locality.

Representatives will be appointed by the President of the Union for every school and must be approved by other Executives and the Governor.

Representatives will be able to organize sub-level organizations at their school with the approval of the President and the Executive Council with a structure that must be approved by the Governor and School Union Members.

Section 5 - The Governor

The Union will also have one individual serve as the Union Governor, who will be responsible for auditing all Union processes. The Governor will have access to all records and will be required to be notified of all actions taken by the President and the Executives and all policies being presented so that they can effectively scrutinize Union operations. The Governor will also act as an advisor to the President on their decisions and will have weekly meetings with the President to ensure transparency. The Governor must manage Union budgeting in collaboration with their Deputy and allocate resources to the Union's needs. On internal structural issues, the Governor will be responsible for all public liaisons and addressing these issues and the Governor will also work, in cooperation with the Director of Public Liaison, on liaison for issues pertaining to Union general operations and policy pursuits. The Governor and Deputy Governor will hold access to the Union membership list with which they will hold responsibility for verification of members and managing and auditing all voting processes. The Governor and Deputy Governor, and only these characters, will also have access to a Union email for record-keeping, outreach and for expressing important communique relating to internal operations to members, including voting.

The Governor will be appointed by the preceding Governor and approved by the majority of Union Members and will serve no more than 4 terms, each lasting 1 year, in the middle of which the Committee Chairs will be required to review the Governor and ensure they meet all their duties.

The Governor will appoint a Deputy Governor to help them in their endeavours to whom they may delegate certain responsibilities. Should the Governor be impeached or unable to carry out their responsibilities, the Deputy Governor will operate as the Acting Governor. The Deputy Governor will have the authority to veto any of the actions of the Governor if they feel it is contrary to the goals of the Union.

Section 6 - Impeachment and Appeals

If at any point in time, the actions of any members are called into speculation and may warrant their replacement, for failure to properly carry out the responsibilities of their role or preserving the goals for which the RSU operates, the Governor must initiate a process of review. An investigation will be conducted in an unbiased manner on the issue, looking into past actions, intent, outcomes and misconduct.

If enough wrongdoing is found, at the discretion of the Governor, relevant action may be taken. The Governor may choose to give a warning to the member in question if the wrongdoing is found to be minor, but may also take further action. For Union Executives or Committee Chairs, the Governor may call for a referendum of impeachment (a vote of confidence) from the relevant Union Members. For Ambassadors and lower level Union staff, with the permission of the Governor, the member may directly be removed with a vote of the leadership.

Should the Governor be thought to have committed severe wrongdoing, the joint Committee Chairs may initiate an investigation into the Governor. If wrongdoing is found, the Chairs must call for a referendum of impeachment among all Union members. If the Governor is believed to have committed wrongdoing that does not necessitate the removal of office, the joint Committee Chairs and Governor may audit the process and take relevant action based on the majority vote.

If an action is taken by a Union member which is thought to be wrong, the Governor, the Executives or the Committee Chairs may overturn the action in a certain number of manners. Should a Committee Chair, a majority of Executives and the Governor believe an action was wrong, it may be overturned. Should all Committee Chairs and the Governor believe an action was wrong, it may be overturned. Should all Executives and all Committee Chairs believe an action was wrong, it may be overturned. Should the Governor and Deputy Governor believe that an action was wrong, it may be overturned.

No member will run for multiple Union positions at the same time or be able to hold multiple official Union positions at any given time. Only members of the Union will be able to run for or hold a given Union position.

Section 7 - Amendments and Elections

This Constitution may be amended if a proposition is created by the Union President and/or a majority of Union Committee Chairs, approved by the Governor and a referendum is called to ensure that the constitutional reform is agreed upon by at least 66% of Union Members.

All elections will be Single Transferable Vote, requiring at least 1 week of campaigning and will be audited by the Governor and Deputy Governor.

Section 8 - Proposita

Never should the Rideau Students' Union operate in a manner that may prove contrary to the dignity of any individual. The Rideau Students' Union will not stand for any diminishing or impeding of the rights of any individuals and will strive to work continuously to ensure that all students and citizens are not denied of the fundamental rights we recognize; life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, education, expression, speech, press and economic participation.

Should the Union ever dissolve or become obsolete, all funds from the Union budget will be donated to charity.

It is in these manners that the Rideau Students' Union will operate and strive to achieve its goal of working for students to give them a voice and to push for pragmatic common-sense policy in an effort to make a better tomorrow.

This Constitution and all its clauses were approved by the Rideau Students' Union Members on December 7, 2020, and revisited on February 10, 2021, February 23, 2021, March 22, 2021 and April 18, 2021.