



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 4 terms, each lasting 1 year. For normal circumstances, a new President will be recommended by the outgoing President and approved by a simple majority of the Union members. Should a nominee be rejected by Union members, the process may be repeated. If a President is impeached or unable to disclose their nomination, the replacement will be decided by the Executive Council and confirmed by a majority of Union Members. 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. If the President is unable to carry on their duties for a given amount of time, an Acting President will be decided upon by other Union Executives.

The President will be responsible for managing the Union and the various sections of the Union. They will be required to set a direction for Union operations and must manage other Executives, Committee Leaders, and Ambassadors.

Apart from the President, the Union Executive Council will consist of 3 different executives: the Development Officer, the Operations Officer and the Information Officer. The Development Officer will be placed responsible for Union growth and expansion, the Operations Officer will be made in charge of the production of policy and will coordinate with the Committee Chairs in the pursuit of this responsibility and the Information Officer will be placed responsible for the coordination of the Union with relevant external organizations and for information collection. All executives will be subject to guidance by the President and all decisions must go through the President before being implemented. Executives will be appointed by the President and will serve for no more than 2 terms, each lasting 2 years.

The Union will also have a Technology Officer 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 a term of 2 years that may be renewed 4 times.

Section 3 - The Committees

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

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) will be responsible for analyzing problems and creating policy relevant to the issues of businesses, poverty, infrastructure and other domestic issues dealing with economics.

The Legal Issues Committee (LIC) 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 the law and the pursuit of justice.

The Climate Issues Committee (CIC) will be responsible for analyzing problems and creating policy relevant to the issues of climate change, natural disasters, non-renewable energy and other domestic issues relevant to the environment, the earth and energy.

The Education and Mental Health Committee (EMHC) will be responsible for analyzing problems and creating policy relevant to the issues of student life, local curriculums, mental care and other domestic issues relating to education and mental health (including that of non-students).

The Foreign Policy Committee (FPC) will be responsible for analyzing problems and publishing relevant information and guidance relevant to the issues of international relations and social, economic and political issues abroad.

The Science, Technology and Healthcare Committee (STHC) will be responsible for analyzing problems and creating policy relevant to the issues of research and development and other domestic issues relating to science, technology and healthcare.

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.

Committee Chairs will respond to the Union President who reserves the right to veto their decisions.

Section 4 - The Ambassadors

To every school where the Union looks to grow, the Union will ensure that there is an Ambassador 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.

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

Ambassador 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 policy 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. On issues of internal structural issues, the Governor will be responsible for all public liaisons and addressing these issues.

The Governor will be appointed by the preceding Governor and approved by the Executive Council and will serve no more than 4 terms, each lasting 2 years, in the middle of which the Executive Council 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.

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 President, the member may directly be removed with a vote.

Should the Governor be thought to have committed 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 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 all Executives and the 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

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

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.

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.