



NEW DSU CONSTITUTION

WHY CHANGE THE DSU'S CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS?

The DSU's current Constitution and By-laws have not been revised for time now and have grown to become outdated and even flawed in certain areas. It was important for the DSU to provide its members with a more effective constitution that will ensure transparency, accountability, and functionality. Here are some of the major changes that this new document will bring if ratified in the referendum:

1. A consolidation of both the Constitution and By-laws into one all-encompassing document. *(Article 21.5 of the New Constitution)*
2. A transfer of decisional and administrative powers of the Union from the executive to the Student Council. This is to ensure that executives are kept accountable for their decisions on things such as spending. The Student Council will become the new Board of Directors of the Union rather than it being an executive-only board of directors as it is the case under the current by-laws. Only 2 voting members of the new Board of Directors (Student Council) shall be executives while the rest of the executive shall be non-voting members. *(Article 7 of the New Constitution)*
3. Reduction of the size of the executive from 9 officers to 7. This is to ensure better functionality as often; some positions were repetitive and stepped over each other's mandates. All roles were revised to ensure a fair and adequate distribution of tasks amongst the officers of the executive. *(Article 9 of the New Constitution)*
4. Transfer of the powers of the chairperson to "chair" meetings of the Student Council to an external devoting chair that will be hired on a per mandate basis to execute all procedural tasks. This is to ensure that these powers are held by an unbiased person who shall not be a student or member of the Union. *(Article 7.10 of the New Constitution)*
5. Addition of a cap on expenses greater than 10 000\$ without approval from the Student Council. This is to ensure that spending on major expenses is regulated by the Student Council after the passing of the budget at the start of the mandate. *(Article 16.5 of the New Constitution)*
6. Abolishment and redistribution of tasks of the Deputy-Chairperson to other officers. All corporate secretarial duties such as minute taking, record keeping, and government filings shall now be filled by a permanent employee. This is to ensure better continuity and consistency in the secretarial tasks required by law. *(Article 1.1, 7.11, and 9.11 of the New Constitution)*
7. Enshrined procedure for the appointment of the Chief Returning Officer and Student Representatives. Greater clarity on the mandate of the Chief Electoral Officer and transfer of powers for setting the elections timeline from the Executive to the Chief Returning Officer. *(Article 10.3 of the New Constitution)*

8. Creation of the position of Accountability Officer which shall be held by a legal professional. This position shall be tasked with adjudicating on disputes between executives, student councillors, student groups that relate to the governance of the Union. This officer shall act independently from the Executive Officers and shall be a resource for whistleblowers within the union. *(Article 12 of the New Constitution)*
9. Modification of the quorum and frequency for General Assemblies (Regular and Special). There shall only be one annual general Assembly in the Winter semester for all procedural matters with a reduced quorum to ensure that corporate obligations are always met. Special General Assemblies shall have a reduced quorum to meet more regular levels found in other student unions. *(Article 9 of the New Constitution)*
10. Simplification of the process to ratify By-Law amendments. Such amendments will only need to be ratified in a referendum. It is very uncommon to have such amendments require two consecutive ratification votes of the members. This will also make it easier for members to make amendments when needed. *(Article 20 of the New Constitution)*
11. Addition of quorums for elections and referendums which did not exist in the current by-laws. *(Articles 10 and 11 of the New Constitution)*

For any questions on the transition between the previous by-laws and the new Constitution, please refer to Article 23.2 of the new Constitution.

If you have any questions, feel free to visit www.dawsonstudentunion.com or write to us on Facebook, Instagram, twitter, LinkedIn or by email at general@dawsonstudentunion.com .