

# Constitution of the University of Alberta Debate Society

Updated April 2024

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## I. The Society

1. The University of Alberta Debate Society (UADS), or l'Association de Débat à l'Université de l'Alberta (ADUA), is a non-profit, non-partisan student organization dedicated to the promotion of debate as an educational and worthwhile endeavour.
2. The Society respectfully acknowledges that we are located in Amiskwaciwâskahikan on the land of the Papaschase Cree, and that we are on Treaty 6 territory, the traditional land of diverse Indigenous peoples including the Nehiyaw/Cree, Niitsitapi/Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Anishinaabe, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.
3. The Society's mandate and goals are as follows:
  - (a) to provide a structure and a friendly atmosphere for competitive debate in both French and English at the University of Alberta;
  - (b) to educate members in the art of debate;
  - (c) to promote debate among the student body of the University of Alberta;
  - (d) to represent the University of Alberta at off-campus debate tournaments and activities;
  - (e) to promote debate in the community;
  - (f) to facilitate intellectual discourse and discussion on campus, while maintaining a non-partisan stance;
  - (g) to facilitate the development of a democratic student group wherein discussion and a friendly atmosphere are encouraged and all persons are respected regardless of factors including but not limited to race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, age, language, mental or physical disability, and political beliefs as long as those beliefs do not encourage discrimination based on the aforementioned factors.

## II. Membership

1. Any person may apply for membership, subject to the University of Alberta and Students' Union regulations currently in force concerning eligibility for membership in student groups.
2. A person becomes a member of the Society, having tendered the prescribed membership fee to the officer of the Society designated by the Executive Committee, upon the officer's subsequent registration of the person as a member. A person whose membership is refused by the designated officer may appeal to the Executive Committee or subsequently to a Convention of the Society.
3. A person may resign membership in the Society by tendering their resignation in writing to the officer of the Society designated by the Executive Committee, and such resignation is effective upon receipt.
4. The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Equity Officers, has the power to bar any individual from attending Society activities or meetings, but not Conventions, for a period of up to 1 week. This power may only be used at most thrice per barred individual per school semester. To instantiate such a ban, all the equity officers must agree, and at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Executive Committee, rounded up, must agree.
5. A person may be expelled from membership in the Society upon a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote at a Convention of the Society, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
6. Membership in the Society extends until the September 30th that is not less than one month and not more than one year and one month after the date of commencement of the membership.
7. The Society's membership fee shall be set from time to time by a Convention.

### **III. Conventions of the Society**

1. The Society shall hold exactly three Regular Conventions each year at the University of Alberta North Campus, one in September, one in January, and one in March. Only these three Regular Conventions shall be competent to amend this Constitution or to invoke Article VIII of this Constitution.
2. The Executive Committee shall give notice of the time, place, and provisional agenda of a Regular Convention to the members of the Society no less than fourteen days prior to the meeting, by sending electronic mail to the last known address of each member, by announcing the meeting in the UADS Facebook group, and by announcing the meeting at each event held by the Society. If the Executive Committee fails to convene a Regular Convention in each of the three months specified in Section 1 then a Regular Convention will automatically be convened at the University of Alberta North Campus on the last Wednesday of that month at 5:00pm MST.
3. A Convention may act in place of the Executive Committee in any of the Executive's duties. Where a Convention's resolution conflicts with that of the Executive Committee, the Convention's resolution will be implemented.
4. An amendment to this Constitution may only be enacted at a Regular Convention if the full text of the proposed amendment is made available to the members of the Society not less than fourteen days prior to that Convention. Any other business of a Convention, including amendments to proposed Constitutional amendments, may be proposed by a member of the Society at the Convention itself.
5. The quorum for a Convention shall be no less than one third of the membership of the society, rounded up.
6. Absolutely no proxy votes shall be permitted at any Convention of the Society.
7. Subject to a Convention's overriding authority the President of the Society shall, if present, preside over the Conventions of the Society. If the President is not present, the Convention shall select a Chair pro tem to preside. The Society shall adopt such procedures as it sees fit to operate at a Convention, provided that the agenda is determined by majority voting, unless specified otherwise in this Constitution or in motions adopted by the Convention.
8. The default process for deliberating resolutions at a Convention shall be an open discussion moderated by the Chair presiding over that Convention. However, the Chair

may decide to initiate a Formal Debate on any resolution, or the Convention may vote by a one-third (1/3) minority to initiate a Formal Debate on any resolution. At the start of a Formal Debate the member who proposed the resolution at hand shall answer any questions from the Convention about the resolution. Following this, each person who wishes to speak shall be allotted an equal amount of speaking time, not less than one minute, to explain their position on the resolution. Persons shall be allowed to speak in the order that they indicate their desire to speak by raising their hand. A Convention may determine by a majority vote to limit the number of speeches, as long as at least one speaker in favour of the resolution and one speaker opposed to the resolution has been allowed to speak. The Chair may, between speeches, give any one speaker the opportunity to deliver a rebuttal speech of not less than one minute. The member who proposed the resolution at hand is entitled to give at least one rebuttal speech.

9. The Executive Committee may convene Special Conventions of the Society, giving no less than seven day's notice of the time, place, and provisional agenda of the Special Convention to the members of the Society. The Executive Committee shall convene a Special Convention to be held no later than twenty-one days after the receipt of a petition bearing the names and signatures of at least ten (10) members. Special Conventions may not amend this Constitution or invoke Article VIII of this Constitution, but otherwise hold the same powers as a Regular Convention.

## IV. Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall, subject to this Constitution, applicable University of Alberta or Students' Union policies, and directions given to it by majority vote at a Convention, have full control and management of the affairs of the Society. The Executive Committee shall decide the procedure of any given executive meeting by a majority vote of those physically present. The Executive shall pass resolutions by a majority vote of the entire Executive Committee. Executives not physically present may vote on resolutions using electronic telecommunications technology.
2. The members of the Executive Committee and Officers of the Society are:
  - (a) a voting President, who shall act as a representative of the Society at the direction of the Society or of the Executive Committee; ensure that this Constitution and any other pertinent regulations are complied with; conduct urgent business of the Society in consultation with as many members of the Executive as are available if there is insufficient time to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee or a Convention, but all such action shall be subject to ratification at the next meeting of the Executive Committee or the next Convention; act as a liaison between the Society, the University of Alberta, and the Students' Union; oversee the operations of the Society; complete the Group Leader Orientation course provided by the Students' Union; complete the Event Organizer Training Course provided by the Dean of Students; and carry out any other duties assigned by the Society or the Executive Committee, and possess signing authority on the UADS bank account(s);
  - (b) a voting Vice-President (Executive), who shall assist the President in execution of the President's duties; act in lieu of the President in case of the President's absence or inability to act; undertake special projects at the direction of the Executive Committee or a Convention; coordinate fundraising activities of the Society; carry out any other duties assigned by the Society or the Executive Committee; complete the Group Leader Orientation course provided by the Students' Union; and possess signing authority on the UADS bank account(s);
  - (c) a voting Vice-President (Finance), who shall maintain the accounts and monies of the Society; be responsible for the allocation of funds and payment of all bills, debts, and reimbursements; collect all accounts, fees, and monies of the Society; present an annual review on the state of the Society's finances at the March Regular Convention; carry out any other duties assigned by the Society or the Executive Committee; complete the Group Leader Orientation course provided by

the Students' Union; and possess signing authority on the UADS bank account(s);

- (d) a voting Vice-President (External), who shall act as a liaison between the Society, the media, and other debate clubs and associations; organize off-campus, external intercollegiate, and community debating activities; and carry out any other duties assigned by the Society or the Executive Committee;
- (a) a voting Vice-President (Internal), who shall facilitate communication within the Society; publish an official newsletter of the Society on a regular basis; maintain permanent records, membership lists, and minutes of the Society; undertake the administrative and clerical duties of the Society; ensure that the Points System is updated regularly and always kept available for inspection by all members of the Society; complete the Event Organizer Training Course provided by the Dean of Students; and carry out any other duties assigned by the Society or the Executive Committee;
- (b) a voting Vice-President (Training), who shall oversee the co-ordination of training of members in the Society; coordinate the activities for the weekly meetings; maintain and update the Society's online training resources; and carry out any other duties assigned by the Society or the Executive Committee;
- (c) a voting Vice-President (Bilingual), who shall oversee the coordination of training of new Bilingual members to the society; act as a liaison between the Society and other French or Bilingual debate clubs and associations; ensure that French translations of all Society documents can be made available when requested; and carry out any other duties assigned by the Society or the Executive Committee. The VP (Bilingual) must be fluent in both French and English;
- (d) a voting Vice-President (Outreach), who shall oversee the Society's involvement in the High School circuit; advocate on the behalf of the Outreach Committee to the Executive Committee; be responsible for liaising with the High School debate community at the beginning of their term of office; liaising with the ADSA and other important stakeholders; bidding for ADSA tournaments; supporting French and Bilingual High School debate; complete the Event Organizer Training Course provided by the Dean of Students; and carry out any other duties assigned by the Society or the Executive Committee;
- (e) three voting Members-at-Large, who shall assist all other members of the Executive Committee with the functioning of the Society and carry out any other duties assigned by the Society or the Executive Committee;

- (f) three non-voting Equity Officers, who shall facilitate equity within the UADS throughout the course of the year. The Equity Officers are responsible for ensuring that the Society is free of arbitrary discrimination and of offensive commentary or harassment of verbal, physical, sexual or other nature, and for ensuring that every member is treated fairly and is comfortable attending all functions of the Society.
3. No person may simultaneously hold more than one position on the Executive Committee, nor may any position on the Executive Committee be simultaneously held by more than one person except for the position of Vice-President (Training), which two persons may hold pursuant to the following regulations:
    - (a) elections shall be held in a manner consistent with the elections of all other positions, with the exception that the two candidates determined to be winner and runner-up shall hold the positions of co-Vice-Presidents (Training) of equal power and authority;
    - (b) for the purposes of Executive Committee meetings, both Vice-Presidents (Training) may cast independent votes but shall be counted as only one person for the purposes of quorum;
    - (c) co-Vice-Presidents (Training) shall be impeached separately under Article V (9).
  4. The Executive Committee may from time to time appoint persons to assist the Executive in the execution of the duties of any member of the Executive.
  5. Each member of the executive committee shall create a report for their successor that contains all information necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office no later than 14 days before the conclusion of their term.
  6. Executives may not vote on any issue in which an average member of the Society would have reasonable doubts about the executive's ability to make impartial decisions. Grounds for a conflict of interest include personal relationships with involved parties that would prevent impartial decision-making or potential personal gain from the decision. Any member of the Society may make a complaint about violations of this policy to the Equity Officers, who shall conduct an investigation into the alleged violation. The officers may stipulate remedies, but the executive committee may also independently vote to censure the offending executive and findings by the Equity Officers of misconduct are valid grounds for impeachment under Article V (9).



7. The executive committee shall maintain a set of Operating Policies that shall be made publicly available and will govern the conduct of the executive. The Operating Policy of the executive must include regulations pertaining to:
  - (a) the meetings of the executive committee, including proxies, quorum, and voting procedures;
  - (b) the purview powers and limitations on powers for each executive member;
  - (c) a financial policy stipulating the use, collection, disbursement, and tracking of the Society's finances.

## **V. Elections and Terms of Office**

1. Subject to a Convention's overriding authority the Executive Committee shall appoint a Chief Returning Officer and a Deputy Chief Returning Officer, who are ineligible to run for office, to organize and co-ordinate elections as well as count vote totals. If either office lacks an incumbent when an election is required, the Convention shall appoint persons to the vacant offices. If there is more than one candidate in a given race elections shall be carried out using a secret ranked ballot. Subject to a Convention's overriding authority, the Executive may set rules for elections.
2. Each member of the Society, subject to the University of Alberta and Students' Union regulations concerning executive composition and election for student groups, may stand as a candidate for office and may, if present at the election, vote.
3. Each member of the Executive Committee of the Society holds office for a term of up to one year, starting not earlier than 1 May and ending on 30 April.
4. The President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President (Finance), Vice-President (External), Vice-President (Internal), Vice- President (Training), Vice-President (Bilingual), and Vice-President (Outreach) shall be elected at the March Regular Convention.
5. The Member-at-Large (MAL), Novice Member-at-Large (NMAL), and Member-at-Large for Women and Gender Minority Affairs (MAL-WGM) shall be elected at the September Regular Convention. All Member-at-Large positions terms shall last until the January Regular Convention of the same Academic year, whereupon the positions shall be vacated, and elections held for a term lasting until April 30. The NMAL must be in their first year of membership in the Society. The MAL-WGM must identify as a female or gender minority.
6. The Equity Officers shall be appointed by the Executive no more than three weeks after the Executive Committee elections by application for a term ending on April 30 of the following calendar year. If the office of Equity Officer becomes vacant then the executive shall appoint members by application to fill the vacancies no later than three weeks after the position becomes vacant. The Executive may not dismiss an Equity Officer from office, however the Executive may initiate impeachment proceedings against an Equity Officer pursuant to Section 9 of this Article.
7. If an Officer or member of the Executive of the Society is no longer a member of the Society, the Executive Committee shall declare the position vacant as soon as practicable.

If the position of any member of the Executive Committee becomes vacant for any reason then the Executive shall convene a Convention for the purpose of holding an election to fill the vacancy as soon as is reasonable.

8. A Regular or Special Convention may remove an Officer or member of the Executive of the Society from office and may appoint members to fill vacancies, pursuant to the impeachment procedures outlined in Section 9 of this Article.
9. Any member of the Executive Committee or an Equity Officer may be subject to an impeachment complaint, which may be put forward by any member of the Society to the Executive Committee, to the Equity Officers, or to a Convention.
  - (a) Such an impeachment complaint may be anonymous, but must include substantive reasons as to the desired impeachment. An anonymous complaint must be made in a one-on-two meeting with equity officers of their choice, who must hold that complaint in confidence.
  - (b) If the complaint is put forward to the Executive Committee or to the Equity Officers, then at the first meeting of the Executive Committee immediately after receipt of such a complaint the Executive Committee, excluding the accused, must vote on whether to allow impeachment proceedings to begin. At least half of the Executive Committee rounded up, excluding the accused, must agree with a paper ballot vote. The equity officers in clause (a) will be counting the votes. If an executive officer is making the complaint, the equity officer would exclude the vote of the complainant. If the complaint is put forward to a Convention, impeachment proceedings shall begin following a majority vote of that Convention.
  - (c) If the Executive Committee votes and the vote passes, a trial or hearing must be held within 2 weeks of the vote, unless that date is within 2 weeks of the end of classes. In that case, a trial or hearing must be held at the beginning of the next semester. If a Convention votes and the vote passes then an impeachment trial or hearing shall begin immediately.
  - (d) At the end of the trial or hearing (which may be held in any balanced and fair format, including but not limited to cross-ex debate or Canadian Parliamentary), a 2/3 vote, rounded up, of the members in attendance must be attained in order for the defendant to be impeached.

- (e) Once impeached, the defendant is immediately stripped of their formal duties and powers.
- (f) If the vote fails, impeachment proceedings cannot be initiated against the defendant for at least another 2 months.

## **VI. Meetings and Records**

1. Upon request, all official UADS documents will be translated into French.
2. Each member of the Society has the inalienable right to attend and vote at every Convention, notwithstanding anything in this Constitution or elsewhere. All minutes of Conventions are to be open to inspection by the members of the Society.
3. The person presiding over a Convention or a meeting of the Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring that minutes, including a listing of those in attendance at the meeting, each item of business and motion considered, and the voting totals (if applicable), are recorded and promptly deposited with the Society, in accordance with this Constitution and any procedures adopted by the Society or the Executive Committee for the operation of the meeting.
4. Each meeting of the Executive Committee or of a body other than a Convention will be open to the members of the Society unless declared by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those eligible to vote at the meeting to be in closed session for the purposes of discussing sensitive personal or financial matters. The records of a closed session of a meeting are themselves closed.
5. The Executive Committee will determine reasonable times, places, and conditions or regulations for the inspection of the accounts and books of the Society by non-Executive members. The Executive Committee or a Convention may, by two-thirds (2/3) supermajority declare any document of the Society, excepting this Constitution, any policies and the financial statements of the Society and any other item required to be available by law, applicable University of Alberta or Students' Union regulations, or this Constitution, to be closed if it contains sensitive personal or financial data.
6. Closed records shall not be made available to any person except the Executive Committee; the person auditing the books, accounts, and records of the Society; those present at the closed session to which the records refer; or persons granted access to those closed records by the Executive Committee or a Convention. The Executive Committee or a Convention may open any closed record except those required to remain closed by law, applicable University of Alberta or Students' Union regulations, or this Constitution.
7. The Executive Committee will see that all books and records required by this Constitution or other policies of the Society or any other applicable law or regulation are regularly and properly kept at such a place in Alberta as determined from time to time by the Executive Committee, and are at all reasonable times open to inspection by the

members of the Executive Committee and the person auditing the books, accounts, and records of the Society, including:

- (a) a copy of this Constitution and other policies and objects of the Society and any special resolutions altering or adding thereto;
  - (b) copies or originals of all documents, registers, and resolutions required by law;
  - (c) minutes of the proceedings of all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee;
  - (d) all sums of money received and expended by the Society, and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure takes place; all revenue and purchases of the Society; all assets and liabilities of the Society; all transactions affecting the financial position of the Society.
8. The master copy of this Constitution is to be labelled as such, dated on the front page, and made available to all Society members on the UADS website in PDF format.

## **VII. Finances, Audits, and Seal**

1. The fiscal year of the Society is from 1 May to 30 April.
2. The books, accounts, and records of the Society will be audited at least once yearly by an individual elected for that purpose at a Convention. A complete and proper statement of the standing of the books for the previous year will be submitted by the auditor at the September Regular Convention subsequent to the close of the fiscal year.
3. The Society may borrow money or enter into contracts only with the approval of the Executive Committee or a Convention.
4. The Executive Committee will govern the adoption and use of the seal of the Society, which shall be in the custody of a member or members of the Society designated by the Executive Committee.

## **VIII. Dissolution**

1. The Society may be dissolved by a 2/3 majority vote at a Regular Convention designated for that purpose, of which 90 days notice must have been given in writing to all members. The Society is automatically dissolved upon membership dropping below 10 members, pursuant to Student Group Services regulations. Upon dissolution, the Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring that any remaining financial resources are donated to [charity or cause] and the bank account is closed down within 30 days of dissolution, or as soon as is reasonably possible. Any resources or Society assets will be donated to [charity or cause] where appropriate, and the rest (i.e. legacy items such as photo albums) will be distributed at the discretion of the Executive Committee, as long as they have no significant monetary value.



## **IX. Amendment of this Constitution and the Points System**

1. This Constitution may be amended only by special resolution of a Regular Convention competent to amend this Constitution, pursuant to the Societies Act.
2. All amendments shall be collated in an appendix to this Constitution, containing the date of the amendment, the original text of this Constitution subject to the amendment, and the amendment made.
3. Where a team cap or a limited number of funding spots exists for a tournament the Executive Committee shall allocate competitive slots entirely on the basis of a Points System. The Executive Committee may by three-quarters (3/4) supermajority vote to change the number of points awarded for each category of tournaments in the Points System or to add tournaments to the Points System. All other changes to the Points System shall be determined by majority voting at a Convention.

## **Appendix A: Collated Amendments**

### **March 30, 2012 – Carried Unanimously at AGM 2012**

Amendment to Article IV “Board of Directors”

*Addition of new section (f): A Vice-President (Training), who shall organize and facilitate training, seminars and motion setting for novice members and weekly meetings.*

### **March 28, 2013 – Carried Unanimously at AGM 2013**

Amendments to Article V “Elections and Terms of Office”

*Amendment of Clause 4: Remove term specifications for Members-at-Large from clause 4*

*Addition of a new Clause 5: The Members-at-Large (MAL and NMAL), at least one of whom shall be in his or her first year of membership in the Society, shall be elected at a General Meeting called for the purpose held during the month of September. Both MAL and NMAL terms last until January of the same Academic year; whereupon a General Meeting, called no later than January 31st for this purpose, shall take place to elect new Members-at-Large for a term lasting until April 30. The MAL and NMAL of the previous semester may stand for re-election.*

*Amendment of Order: The previous Clause 5 becomes Clause 6, and previous Clause 6 is now Clause 7*

### **March 26, 2014 – Carried Unanimously at AGM 2014**

Amendments to Article IV “Board of Directors”

*Addition of Clause 2(h): “(a) Two Equity Officers, who shall facilitate equity within the UADS throughout the course of the year and shall not be voting members of the Board.”*

*Amendment of Clause 3: AMENDMENT REPEALED*

Amendment to Article IV “Board of Directors”

*Addition of Clause 6: The Equity Officers shall be appointed by the executive no more than three weeks after the Board of Directors election by application.*

*Amendment of Order: The previous Clause 6 becomes Clause 7 and the previous Clause 7 becomes Clause 8*

**March 28, 2015 – Carried Unanimously at AGM 2015**

Amendment to Article IV “Board of Directors”

*Addition of clause 2(i): One non-voting High School Outreach Coordinator whose responsibilities will be as follows:*

- *Lead and Chair the High School Outreach Committee for the UADS;*
- *Recruit Committee members and develop through applications and upon consultation with the Executive the basic operating structure for the High School Outreach Committee;*
- *Serve as liaison between the Board of Directors, teachers/coaches, as well as high school students;*
- *Organize whatever events take place at high schools in the area, including workshops and demo rounds;*
- *Develop resources which will be distributed to high school clubs;*
- *Encourage teachers to found new high school debate clubs throughout the region;*
- *Connect UADS members who are interested in coaching with teachers seeking assistance.*

Amendment to Article IV “Board of Directors”

*Amendment to clause 3: No person may simultaneously hold more than one position on the Board of Directors, nor may any position on the Board of Directors be simultaneously held by more than one*

*person, excepting the position of Equity Officer and High School Outreach Coordinator, which may be held in addition to any other Executive position.*

Amendment to Article V “Elections and Terms of Office”

*Addition of clause 7: A High School Outreach Coordinator will be appointed for the term of the 2015-2016 academic year by the incoming executive by application no longer than fourteen days after the winter AGM. Following this period, the position will lapse pending renewal by a General Meeting.*

*Amendment of Order: previous clause 7 becomes clause 8, and previous clause 8 becomes clause 9.*

**March 21, 2018 – Carried by Majority Vote at AGM 2018**

Amendment to Article IV “Executive Committee”

*Addition of item 2 (g): A Vice-President (Bilingual), who shall oversee the co-ordination of training of new Bilingual members to the society; act as a liaison between the Society and other French or Bilingual debate clubs and associations; ensure that French translations of all Society documents can be made available when requested; and carry out any other duties assigned by the Society or the Board of Directors. The VP (Bilingual) must be fluent in both French and English. This position will be subject to review at the March 2019 Regular Convention to determine if it should remain a voting position.*

Amendment to Article IV “Executive Committee”

*Amendment to clause 2 (i) Three non-voting Equity Officers, who shall facilitate equity within the UADS throughout the course of the year. The Equity Officers are responsible for ensuring that the Society is free of arbitrary discrimination and of offensive commentary or harassment of verbal, physical, sexual or other nature, and for ensuring that every member is treated fairly and is*

*comfortable attending all functions of the Society. At least one of the equity officers must be fluent in French.*

Amendment to Article IV “Executive Committee”

*Amendment to clause 2 (j): Two non-voting High School Outreach Coordinators: one of which will coordinate the French Bilingual circuit and the other who will coordinate the Anglophone circuit. They shall lead and chair the High School Outreach Committee for the UADS; recruit Outreach Committee members and develop through applications and upon consultation with the Executive the basic operating structure for the High School Outreach Committee; serve as liaison between the Executive Committee, teachers/coaches, as well as high school students; organize whatever events take place at high schools in the area, including workshops and demo rounds; develop resources which will be distributed to high school clubs; encourage teachers to found new high school debate clubs throughout the region; and connect UADS members who are interested in coaching with teachers seeking assistance.*

**March 28, 2019 – Carried by Majority Vote at AGM 2019**

Amendment to Article IV “Executive Committee”

*Amendment to clause 2 (g): strike “This position will be subject to review at the March 2019 Regular Convention to determine if it should remain a voting position.”*

Amendments to Article IV “Executive Committee”

*Addition of clause 2 (h): A voting Vice-President (Outreach), who shall oversee the Society’s involvement in the High School circuit; advocate on the behalf of the Outreach Committee to the Executive Committee; be responsible for liaising with the High School debate community at the beginning of their term of office; liaising with the ADSA and other important stakeholders; bidding for ADSA tournaments; supporting French and Bilingual High School debate; and carries out any other duties assigned by the*

*Society or the Executive Committee. Additionally, the VP (Outreach) liaises with the ADSA on SCiP, creates an application process for prospective coaches and allocates SCiP grants to Society coaches [In the event that the VP (Outreach) has applied to receive a SCiP grant, these responsibilities will fall to the President. In the event that the VP (Outreach) and the President have both applied to receive a SCiP grant, this duty will pass to the VP (exec) or to a subsequent VP in order of seniority that is able to complete this allocation]. The VP (outreach) shall oversee the creation of the Outreach Committee; including the appointment of members; coordination of roles; and ensuring that meeting minutes are recorded at Outreach Committee meetings.*

*Addition of clause 5: Each year, the VP Outreach shall oversee the creation of an outreach committee including the appointment of members, coordination of roles, and ensuring that meeting minutes are recorded at Outreach Committee meetings. The Outreach Committee will be responsible for the coordination of Society events in the High School circuit, working towards the creation of new High School clubs in Edmonton, developing resources for use by coaches if needed, maintaining a reserve of documents pertaining to the Society's role in the High School circuit, and ensuring that bilingual High School debate is supported. All members of UADS that have been awarded SCiP grants will be members of The Outreach Committee.*

*Amendment to clause 2 (a): insert "shall attend Outreach Committee meetings;" after "operations of the Society;"*

## **January 31, 2023 – Carried Unanimously at January AGM 2023**

### **Amendment to Article V "Elections and Terms of Office"**

*Amendment to clause 5: strike the entirety of the clause and insert "The Member-at-Large (MAL), Novice Member-at-Large (NMAL), and Member-at-Large for Women and Gender Minority Affairs (MAL-WGM) shall be elected at the September Regular Convention. All Member-at-Large positions terms shall last until the January Regular Convention of the same Academic year,*

*whereupon the positions shall be vacated, and elections held for a term lasting until April 30. The NAML must be in their first year of membership in the Society. The MAL-WGM must identify as a female or gender minority.”*

*Amendment to clause 2 (h): strike “two” and insert “three”.*

### **March 30, 2023 – Carried by Majority Vote at January AGM 2023**

#### **Amendments to Article IV “Executive Committee”**

*Amendment to clause 5: clause struck in its entirety*

*Amendment to clause 2 (h): strike clause from “Additionally” to end inclusive and amend Article IV clause 2 (a) by removing “shall attend Outreach Committee meetings;”.*

*Amendment to clause 2 (c): insert “present an annual review on the state of the Society’s finances at the March Regular Convention;” after “Society;”.*

*Addition of clause 5: Each member of the executive committee shall create a report for their successor that contains all information necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office no later than 14 days before the conclusion of their term.*

*Addition of clause 6: Executives may not vote on any issue in which an average member of the Society would have reasonable doubts about the executive’s ability to make impartial decisions. Grounds for a conflict of interest include personal relationships with involved parties that would prevent impartial decision-making or potential personal gain from the decision. Any member of the Society may make a complaint about violations of this policy to the Equity Officers, who shall conduct an investigation into the alleged violation. The officers may stipulate remedies, but the executive committee may also independently vote to censure the offending executive and findings by the Equity Officers of misconduct are valid grounds for impeachment under Article V (9).*

*Addition of clause 7: The executive committee shall maintain a set of Operating Policies that shall be made publicly available and will govern the conduct of the executive. The Operating Policy of the executive must include regulations pertaining to:*

- (a) the meetings of the executive committee, including proxies, quorum, and voting procedures;*
- (b) the purview powers and limitations on powers for each executive member;*
- (c) a financial policy stipulating the use, collection, disbursement, and tracking of the Society's finances.*

*Amendment to clause 3: insert at the end of the clause “except for the position of Vice-President (Training), which two persons may hold pursuant to the following regulations:*

- (a) to hold the position of co-Vice-Presidents (Training), two individuals must be nominated as co-candidates and both must accept the nomination. The co-candidates shall not be given any additional speaking time during the election and, while both names must appear together on the ballot, they shall be voted on as if they were a single person*
- (b) for the purposes of executive meetings, both Vice-Presidents (Training) may cast independent votes but shall be counted as only one person for the purposes of quorum*
- (c) co-Vice-Presidents (Training) must each be impeached separately under Section V (9)”.*

### **September 27, 2023 – Carried Unanimously at September AGM 2023**

#### Amendments to Article III “Conventions of the Society”

*Amendment to clause 5: strike clause 5 in its entirety and replace it with “5. The quorum for a Convention shall be no less than one third of the membership of the society, rounded up.”*

#### Amendments to Article IV “Executive Committee”



*Amendment to clause 2: addition of “ complete the Group Leader Orientation Course provided by the Students’ Union;” to subclauses (a), (b) and (c).*

*Amendment to clause 2: addition of “complete the Event Organizer Training Course provided by the Dean of Students;” to subclauses (a), (e) and (h).*

**April 3, 2024 – Carried Unanimously at April AGM 2024**

Amendments to Article IV “Executive Committee”

*Amendment to clause 2: removal of “At least one of the equity officers must be fluent in French” from subclause (f)*

Amendments to Article IX “Amendment of this Constitution and the Points System”

*Correction from “ $\frac{2}{3}$ ” to “ $\frac{3}{4}$ ” in clause 3*

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This document is the official constitution of the Society, replacing all previous versions and taking precedent over any other versions. The signature below is the certification made by the chair of the Convention at which this version of the constitution was ratified by the membership.



*Vice-President Executive;  
Chair of the 115th Spring Annual General Meeting — April 3, 2024*