

## CONSTITUTION OF CUSID

### NAME

1. The name of this organization in English shall be the Canadian University Society for Intercollegiate Debate ("CUSID"). The name of this organization in French shall be la Société universitaire canadienne pour le débat intercollégial ("SUCDI").

### PURPOSE

2. CUSID is a federation of Canadian post-secondary debating societies.

3. CUSID exists to:

- a. provide a forum for post-secondary students to exchange ideas through debate and public speech,
- b. establish standards concerning debate and public speech, and the formal adjudication thereof; tournament organization; member eligibility; member conduct; and other related topics,
- c. provide collective resources to its members,
- d. assist in the development of post-secondary debating societies across Canada,
- e. represent the interests of Canadian debaters internationally.

### CUSID YEAR

4. For the purposes of this constitution and the CUSID bylaws, the CUSID year begins on April 1st and ends on March 31st of the following calendar year.

### REGIONS

5. CUSID shall be regionally organized into:

- a. the Eastern Region, comprised of Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island;
- b. the Central Region, comprised of Ontario and Quebec;
- c. the Western Region, comprised of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Territories, and Alaska.

### MEMBERSHIP:

6: The members of CUSID shall be those organizations listed in Schedule A of this constitution.

### GAINING MEMBERSHIP:

7. Applications for membership shall be made to the CUSID Executive. Such applications shall include a letter of recognition from the applicant's student government or university administration, a list of the applicant's executive members, and a copy of the applicant's

constitution. Upon the receipt of these documents, the CUSID Executive shall:

- a. inform the CUSID membership of the application,
- b. schedule a vote to approve or deny the application at the next CUSID General Meeting.

8. At the discretion of the CUSID Executive, the application process may be expedited by directly contacting the CUSID membership for approval of the applicant. If a majority of the membership votes in favour, and there are no objections within a reasonable period of time to be specified by the CUSID Executive, the applicant shall be granted immediate membership. In the event of objections, the application shall be voted on at the next CUSID General Meeting.

9. Organizations whose application for membership is accepted shall be immediately added to Schedule A.

#### LOSING MEMBERSHIP:

10. The CUSID Executive shall remove an organization from Schedule A, thus voiding its membership:

- a. when that organization fails to pay its membership fees for two consecutive years, or
- b. when that organization is not represented by one of its members at any tournament hosted by a CUSID member for two consecutive years, or
- c. when that organization, or the institution that it represents, submits a formal request to the executive to be removed from Schedule A

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES AND STANDING:

11. Membership fees for each year shall be established prior at least two weeks prior to the first general meeting of the year by the Executive. The Treasurer shall communicate the fee to the membership.

12. The membership fee shall be subject to modification by majority vote of the membership at the first general meeting of the year.

13. Upon payment of the membership fee for the year, CUSID members shall become members in good standing for the duration of that year.

14. Only members in good standing have the right to vote, and each such member shall have one vote. Notwithstanding explicit reference in this constitution or any by-laws to the membership at large, only members in good standing shall be permitted to vote.

#### MEETINGS

15. There shall be three types of CUSID meeting:

- a. general meetings,

- b. regional meetings,
- c. informal meetings.

16. Minutes shall be kept of each meeting, and must be filed with the Executive and made available to the membership in a timely fashion.

17. The rules of order for each meeting shall be established by the chair of that meeting prior to the start of the meeting, subject to modification by majority vote of the members attending the meeting.

18. [PLACEHOLDER]

19. In cases where additional information or deliberation is required, a vote by the majority of the membership in attendance at a meeting shall be sufficient to defer a voting matter raised at that meeting to electronic communication. The chair of the meeting shall be responsible for setting a deadline, verifying the votes, and informing the membership of the result.

20. Notice shall have been given of a meeting when those entitled to attend have been informed, at least two weeks in advance, of the time, place, and expected agenda of such a meeting. Notwithstanding this, in cases of pressing and substantial concern, by vote of the executive, meetings may be called without advance notification, provided that quorum is still met. In all cases, members shall be informed of any changes to the agenda as soon as possible.

## GENERAL MEETINGS

21. General meetings are the final governing body of CUSID. The membership and the Executive are bound by decisions taken at general meetings.

22. General meetings shall be called by the Executive, and chaired by the President or an appointed representative of the President.

23. A general meeting must be called if the Executive receives a petition signed in the number of twenty-five percent of the membership. Only members in good standing may sign such a petition.

24. All members are entitled to attend general meetings, and are entitled to notice thereof.

25. Quorum for a general meeting shall be fifty percent of the members in good standing, and must include at least one such member from each region in which there is a member in good standing.

26. As far as is possible, at least one general meeting must be held between September and December inclusive, and between January and March inclusive.

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

27. Regional meetings exist to discuss the governance of each CUSID region. Resolutions adopted at a regional meeting shall be binding only on the CUSID members within that region.
28. Regional meetings shall be called by the regional Vice-President, and chaired by the regional Vice-President or an appointed representative of the regional Vice-President.
29. A regional meeting must be called if the regional Vice-President receives a petition signed in the number of twenty-five percent of the CUSID members within the region. Only members in good standing may sign such a petition.
30. The members within a given region are entitled to attend regional meetings, and are entitled to notice thereof.
31. Quorum for a regional meeting shall be fifty percent of the members in good standing in that region.
32. As far as is possible, at least one regional meeting must be held between September and December inclusive, and between January and March inclusive.

## INFORMAL MEETINGS

33. Informal meetings shall be used for the conveyance of information and for discussion. Resolutions adopted at an informal meeting are non-binding, with the exception of the election of the Director of French Language Debate at the French National Championships.
34. Informal meetings may be called by the Executive, or by any CUSID member. In addition, any general or regional meeting which fails to reach quorum shall become an informal meeting. Where possible, informal meetings shall be chaired by a member of the Executive. The informal meeting at the French National Championships shall be chaired by the Director of French Language Debate.
35. Informal meetings have no quorum or notice requirements.

## EXECUTIVE

36. The Executive shall be composed of
  - a. the President,
  - b. the Executive Director,
  - c. the Treasurer,

- d. the Director of French Language Debate,
- e. the Western Vice-President,
- f. the Central Vice-President, and
- g. the Eastern Vice-President

37. Members of the executive shall serve one-year terms, from April 1st of one year until March 31st of the next.

38. The Executive shall have the power to fill, by appointment, any vacancies in its composition. Such appointments shall be interim only. Any vacancy should be filled by an election held at the next general meeting.

#### DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE

39. The President shall be responsible for

- a. overseeing the general welfare and overall functioning of CUSID;
- b. promoting CUSID within its membership and to outside interests;
- c. representing Canada at Worlds Council and any other international debate events, or appointing a representative to do so on CUSID's behalf;
- d. maintaining communication with the Vice-Presidents;
- e. serving as the official spokesperson of CUSID;
- f. monitoring and authorizing all financial transactions, jointly with the Treasurer, involving CUSID funds;
- g. serving as Chair of the Executive and of general meetings;
- h. coordinating the schedule of CUSID member events with the assistance of the regional Vice-Presidents;
- i. reviewing and updating Schedule A, jointly with the regional Vice-Presidents, at the end of the year;
- j. compiling a formal report for the final general meeting of the year; and
- k. compiling a transition report, no later than two months after their term's end, to be given to the incoming President.

40. The Executive Director shall be responsible for

- a. maintaining and moderating the CUSIDnet discussion forum;
- b. maintaining and updating the CUSID website;
- c. maintaining and updating the CUSID Constitution, the CUSID By-Laws, and the other official documents of CUSID;
- d. compiling and distributing a schedule of CUSID-member events;
- e. recording CUSID meeting minutes;
- f. acting in the absence of the President;
- g. adhering to the CUSIDnet Statement of Principles bylaw;
- h. maintaining an archive of the constitutions of member clubs;
- i. compiling a formal report for the final general meeting of the year; and

j. compiling a transition report, no later than two months after their term's end, to be given to the incoming Executive Director

41. The Treasurer shall be responsible for

- a. monitoring and authorizing all financial transactions, jointly with the President, involving CUSID funds;
- b. preparing the annual budget;
- c. maintaining up-to-date financial records of CUSID, and making them available to the membership upon request;
- d. processing reimbursement claims;
- e. filing any tax forms concerning CUSID;
- f. coordinating any fund-raising projects;
- g. compiling a formal report for the final general meeting of the year, including a complete set of financial statements; and
- h. compiling a transition report, no later than two months after their term's end, to be given to the incoming Treasurer

42. The Vice-Presidents shall be responsible for

- a. overseeing the general welfare and overall functioning of their regions;
- b. representing their regions to the Executive;
- c. assisting the President in coordinating the schedule of CUSID member events in their regions;
- d. promoting and representing CUSID within their regions and to outside interests;
- e. serving as Chair of regional meetings;
- f. compiling a formal report for the final general meeting of the year; and
- g. compiling a transition report, no later than two months after their term's end, to be given to the incoming Vice-President

43. The Director of French Language Debate shall be responsible for

- a. overseeing the general welfare and overall functioning of French debate;
- b. promoting and representing CUSID to CEGEPs and other post-secondary institutions with bilingual and francophone students;
- c. relaying the concerns of bilingual and francophone members to the Executive;
- d. overseeing the organization of the French National Championship, and aiding in its promotion;
- e. serving as Chair of the informal meeting at the French National Championship;
- f. compiling a formal report for the final general meeting of the year; and
- g. compiling a transition report, no later than two months after his/her term's end, to be given to the incoming Director

#### ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE

44. The President, Executive Director, and Treasurer shall be elected each year at a general meeting called for such a purpose. In the absence of significant reasons to the contrary, this election shall be held at the National Championship.

45. The Director of French Language Debate shall be elected each year at an informal meeting called for such a purpose at the French National Championship.

46. The vice-presidents shall be elected every year at respective regional meetings called for such a purpose. In the absence of significant reasons to the contrary, these elections shall be held at the respective Regional Championships.

47. Candidates should only stand for election if they anticipate continuing involvement in CUSID for the duration of their term. In cases where a candidate will not be both a representative of a CUSID member and a registered student at the academic institution represented by that CUSID member, candidates will be expected to justify their candidacy to the voters.

48. Candidates shall be nominated at the time of the election.

a. Candidates may nominate themselves.

b. Nominations must be seconded.

c. Candidates are strongly encouraged to post platforms in advance.

49. Newly elected officers shall take their respective offices on April 1st. The period of time between the election and the beginning of the new year should be used to transfer all necessary articles, effects, legal authorities, etc. from the departing Executive to the incoming Executive.

## IMPEACHMENT

50. Members of the Executive shall be subject to impeachment if they are negligent, incompetent, or remiss in the performance of their duties.

51. Impeachment proceedings shall commence by petition to the Executive. A petition to impeach the President, Executive Director, Treasurer, or the Director of French Language Debate requires signatures in the number of twenty-five percent of the CUSID membership. A petition to impeach a Vice-President requires signatures in the number of twenty-five percent of the CUSID membership in the respective region. Only members in good standing can sign such a petition.

52. Upon presentation of a petition to impeach the President, Executive Director, Treasurer, or the Director of French Language Debate, the Executive shall hold a general meeting, called for the purposes of impeachment, as soon as possible. Upon presentation of a petition to impeach a Vice-President, the Executive shall hold a regional meeting for the respective region, called for the purpose of impeachment, as soon as possible. In either case, a resolution to impeach must pass by a two-thirds vote.

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

53. The Executive shall have the power to appoint officers and committees beyond those listed in official CUSID documents to perform specified responsibilities. In any case where these agents are granted powers or authority beyond the ability to make recommendations to the membership, these powers shall be ratified at an appropriate meeting.

#### EQUALITY

54. CUSID and its members shall not discriminate against any member or individual on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, race, creed, colour, religion, age, political affiliation or physical or mental handicap.

#### BY-LAWS

55. The membership has the power to enact, amend, or repeal by-laws, by majority vote. This power can only be exercised at a general meeting, where the by-law affects CUSID as a whole, or at a regional meeting, where the by-law affects a single region. Such a meeting must have been called for the purpose of considering such an amendment and the full text of the amendment must be provided to the membership at least seven days in advance of the meeting.

#### AMENDING FORMULA

56. This constitution shall only be amended by a two-thirds vote at a general meeting. Such a meeting must have been called for the purpose of considering such an amendment and the full text of the amendment must be provided to the membership two weeks in advance of the meeting.

#### WHOLE DOCUMENT

57. This document, including Schedule A, shall be the entire constitution of CUSID. Any and all previous constitutions of CUSID shall be of no force and effect.

#### INTERPRETATION

58. If any questions of interpretation or omission are raised by this constitution, common sense shall govern. Where the Executive differs in its interpretation, the view of the membership shall prevail.

#### ADOPTION

59. This Constitution was adopted by CUSID on October 14, 1990 at the University of Western Ontario, and most recently amended by CUSID on [DATE] at [LOCATION].

#### SCHEDULE A



CUSID West:

Seawolf Speech and Debate (University of Alaska, Anchorage)  
University of Alberta Debate Society  
Brandon University Debating Society  
University of British Columbia Debating Society  
University of Calgary Speech and Debate Society  
University of Manitoba Debate Union  
University of Regina Debating Society  
University of Saskatchewan Debating Society  
Simon Fraser University Debating Society  
University of Winnipeg Debating Association  
University of Fraser Valley Debating Society  
University of Northern British Columbia Debating Society

CUSID Central:

Bishop's University Debating Society  
Carleton Debating Society  
Concordia University Debating Society  
Dawson Debating Union  
John Molson School of Business (Concordia University)  
Lakehead University Debating Society  
Marianopolis College Debating Society  
McGill University Debating Union  
MacDebate Society (McMaster University)  
English Debating Society (University of Ottawa)  
Club de débats UQÀM (Université du Québec à Montréal)  
Queen's University Debating Union  
Société de Débat Étudiant de Polytechnique  
Royal Military College Debating Society  
Société de débat de l'Université de Sherbrooke  
Hart House Debating Club (University of Toronto)  
Trinity College Literary Society (University of Toronto)  
University of Guelph Debating Society  
University of Waterloo Debating Society  
University of Western Ontario Debating Union  
Wilfrid Laurier University Debating Club  
Debating Society at York  
Brock University Debating Society

CUSID East:

Paul Tom Debating Society (Acadia University)  
Atlantic Baptist University Debating Club

University College of Cape Breton Debating Society  
Sodales, the Dalhousie University Debating Society  
Memorial Debating Society  
University of New Brunswick (Fredericton) Debating Union  
St. Francis Xavier University Debating Society