

Jan 2016

## CASA Constitution

### Article I: Scope and Definition

1. The name of the union shall be the 'Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence Student Association', abbreviated as 'CASA'. A 'member' is any person who is a member of CASA, as outlined in Article III. The 'E.C.' is CASA's Executive Committee, as outlined in Article IV.
2. The Arts Science Students' Union shall be referred to as 'ASSU'. In the case of of conflicts between the ASSU Constitution and the CASA Constitution, the ASSU Constitution takes precedence.
3. The Cognitive Science Program of the University of Toronto shall be referred to as 'the Program'.

### Article II: Purposes

1. The purposes of CASA shall be as follows:
  - a) to act as a representative and liaison body for its members in dealing with the Program and with the larger university community;
  - b) to arrange for dissemination of information related to Cognitive Science.
  - c) to provide an open forum for both students and faculty to discuss topics of mutual concern and to foster, through academic and social exchange, an increased level of community consciousness within the Program;
  - d) to host events on the current status of research in Cognitive Science and its associated disciplines.

### Article III: Membership

1. Members of CASA shall consist of:
  - a) Students enrolled full-time in Arts and Science and the University of Toronto or ASSU fee-paying members, and
  - b) Either be enrolled in a POST from the Program, or taking at least a 0.5 credits of courses offered by the Program.
2. Members have the right to:
  - a) Run for election for the E.C.
  - b) Request for the E.C. to call a general meeting for some issue. Unless the request is considered unreasonable, the E.C. shall call a general meeting to occur within four (4) weeks of the request during the fall and winter terms.
  - c) Propose amendments to this constitution.
  - d) Vote at general meetings.

### Article IV: Executive

1. Any person shall run for a position on the E.C. provided they satisfy the membership requirements of CASA during the time they will hold the position.
2. The E.C. shall include at least the Co-Presidents, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. If those positions are vacant at any point, they shall be filled as soon as possible by the process described in Article VI.
3. The E.C. shall consist of the at least five (5) of the following roles:
  - a) The two (2) Co-Presidents shall:
    1. Be responsible for and oversee the activities of CASA and of the E.C.
    2. Divide the responsibilities of club Presidents, including those of ASSU and Ulife, between them.
    3. Be signing officers for CASA's bank account.
  - b) The Treasurer shall:
    1. Prepare a yearly budget in cooperation with the rest of the E.C.

2. Keep track of the funds in CASA's budget.
3. Keep records of all of CASA's receipts and expenses.
4. Write cheques or otherwise refund members for purchases made for CASA activities.
5. Be a signing officer for CASA's bank account.
- c) The Secretary shall:
  1. Maintain CASA's files.
  2. Take minutes at general and executive meetings.
  3. Manage internal communications with the E.C..
  4. Manage the office, including ensuring the office is kept clean and office hours are being held.
- d) The Communications Director shall:
  1. Oversee all aspects of promotion including class announcements, posters, email, CASA's website, and social media,
- e) The Events Coordinator shall:
  1. Be responsible for the organization of events.
  2. Ensure that events are first posted in advance of their occurrence.
  3. Give receipts to the Treasurer for expenses for events.
- f) The Conference Coordinator shall:
  1. Be the main organizer for UTism, as described in Article VII, in terms in which it is held.
  2. Be the main organizer for any other conferences held by CASA.
  3. Create at least two (2) proposals for UTism in the following term, including a topic and ten (10) possible speakers, to assist with the planning of UTism in the following terms. Provided that these proposals are created, they shall be recognized as a co-organizer of the following UTism, even if a different topic is chosen.
- g) The COG250 Representative shall:
  1. Act as a liaison between students in COG250 and CASA.
  2. Organize at least one event per semester oriented towards students in COG250.
4. All executives shall:
  - a) Assist each other with their duties and delegate them when needed.
  - b) Divide among themselves their attendance at ASSU meetings along with President.
  - c) Attend any other meetings related to CASA or to Cognitive Science when necessary.
  - d) Be expected to hold office hours.
5. CASA shall hold at least one (1) executive meeting each month during the fall and winter semesters.
6. Executive meetings shall be advertised to the executive at least one week in advance.
7. The quorum for executive meetings shall be more than half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of elected members of the E.C.
8. Any member of the E.C. who, without reasonable cause, misses two (2) executive meetings in a row or three (3) executive meetings during their term, shall have their position declared vacant and may be replaced.
9. Members of the E.C. may be removed by an affirmative vote of more than two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of those present and voting at a general meeting as described in Article V.

#### Article V: General Meetings

1. CASA shall hold at least three (3) general meetings per year, excluding the summer semester, with at least one (1) in each of the fall and winter semesters while classes are in session.
2. General meetings shall be advertised at least two (2) weeks in advance.
3. Only current members of CASA may vote at general meetings, and each member shall have one (1) vote.

4. The quorum for a general meeting shall be four (4) members, not including members of the E.C.
5. The following business shall be decided only at a general meeting, and require an affirmative vote of more than two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of those present and voting:
  - a) Amending this constitution.
  - b) Ratifying an elections officer.
  - c) Removing a sitting executive from their position.
6. All other business at a general meeting shall be decided on an affirmative vote of more than one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of those present and voting.

#### Article VI: Elections

1. A term shall begin on September 1<sup>st</sup> and end on August 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. A general election for next term's E.C. shall be held towards the end of the winter session. The two (2) Co-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and at least one (1) other executive positions (and not the COG250 Representative) shall be up for election for a general election.
3. The general election shall be conducted according to the following procedures:
  - a) The election shall be advertised at least two (2) weeks in advance of the first day of voting. The beginning and ending of the nomination period shall be advertised at such a time.
  - b) The nomination period shall begin at least two (2) weeks in advance of the first day of voting and end no earlier than three days, not including weekends and holidays, prior to the first day of voting.
  - c) The elections shall be run by an elections officer. The elections officer shall not be a current member of the E.C., nor a member running for election for next year's E.C..
  - d) The elections officer shall be appointed by the E.C. and ratified by a vote at a general meeting of more than two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of those present and voting, as described in Article V.
  - e) Members, provided that they will be a member in the following term, shall be nominated for a position upon being nominated by another member so long as the nominee agrees to be nominated.
  - f) No one shall be nominated for more than one (1) positions on the E.C..
  - g) Each candidate shall have the opportunity to submit a statement, for which all candidates will have the same word limit. The statements shall be made available on the internet through CASA's website and social media and shall be made available to voters.
  - h) The voting period shall occur over at least three (3) days in which classes are in session. These dates and the times in which voting will be available shall be advertised at least one (1) week in advance of the beginning of the voting period.
  - i) The voting process shall be administered by an elections officer and at least one (1) assistant elections officer.
  - j) Assistant elections officers shall be appointed by the elections officer and ratified by an affirmative vote of more than half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the E.C.. Assistant elections officers shall not be running for a position for next term's E.C..
  - k) Voting shall occur by paper ballot in the CASA office.
  - l) Each position with only one nominated candidate shall have a Yes/No vote. In addition, if there are two (2) candidates for the Co-President position there shall be two No options as well.
  - m) Except for the Co-President, the candidate with the most votes shall win the election for that position. The two (2) candidates for Co-President with the most votes shall win the election for those positions.
  - n) If the No option wins, that position shall remain vacant in the following term until it is filled.

4. Vacant positions shall be filled by one of the following procedures:
  - a) A by-election following the procedures of a general election, except that instead of an elections officer being appointed at a general meeting as in d), the elections officer shall instead be appointed vote of more than two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the E.C.
  - b) A by-election at a general meeting which shall not include a No option when only one candidate is running. The candidate who receives the most votes for a position shall be declared the winner.
  - c) An appointment of the executive requiring an affirmative vote of more than half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the executive. This appointment shall only be on an interim basis, and a by-election for this position shall be held as soon as is reasonably possible.
5. The COG250 Representative shall be elected no later than one (1) month after the first class of COG250 in a term.

#### Article VII: UTism

1. The E.C. shall organize the University of Toronto Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Mind (UTism) at least every two (2) terms.
2. The symposium shall address current research in the field of Cognitive Science and feature speakers from a wide range of disciplines.
3. The symposium shall provide an opportunity for undergraduate students in Cognitive Science and related disciplines to engage with material outside of the classroom.

#### Article VIII: Constitution

1. Amendments to this constitution shall be approved by a vote of more than two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of those present and voting at a general meeting, as described in Article V.
2. Amendments to this constitution shall not come into force before the end of the meeting at which they are approved.
3. The constitution of ASSU takes precedence whenever that constitution and this constitution are in contradiction.