# McMaster Philosophers’ Society – 2023-2024 Constitution

McMaster Philosophers’ Society,

McMaster University1280 Main St. WHamilton, Ontario, L8S 4L8

1. **Name and Definition**
   1. The club shall be known as: McMaster Philosophers’ Society (Philsoc), a McMaster Humanities Society (here out referred to as the MHS) ratified club.

# Purpose and Objectives

# Our goal is to bring philosophy in a friendly and accessible way to undergraduate students, as well as to promote awareness and discourse around philosophy and philosophical issues. We hold recurring meetings to discuss philosophy with students from all academic fields.

1. **Membership**
   1. Membership to the club is limited to the following:
      1. All full-time undergraduate students who support the Purpose of the club/society and are enrolled in the Faculty of Humanities
      2. Part-time undergraduate students who support the Purpose of the club/society and have paid the MHS fee
   2. Membership in the club shall be open to all members of the MHS who support the purpose of the club.
   3. Honorary Membership shall be granted to an interested party (non-MHS members) upon approval by an executive or membership committee of the club.
   4. Honorary Members may not hold executive positions, expend funds, or have voting status at meetings.
   5. Membership in the club is granted to those who maintain an interest in Philsoc, whether through attending meetings, the mailing list, or social media.

# Executive

# The club executive shall consist of: President or Co-Presidents, Vice-President (if applicable), Vice-President (VP) of Finance, VP of Socials, VP of Communications, Executive Advisor, and External Affairs Officer(s).

# Membership to the Philsoc executive is restricted to full-time undergraduate students.

* 1. The **President** or **Co-Presidents** shall:
     1. Consist of only 2 officers in the case of a Co-Presidency.
     2. Preside over all meetings of the club and shall be an ex-officio member or ex- officio members of all committees within the club. If no former club members choose to accept a nomination for president, any member may then run for president.
     3. Call all executive meetings and general meetings.
     4. Handle the day-to-day operations of the club.
     5. Ensure the club’s adherence to MHS policies.
     6. Lead philosophy discussions with general members when requested
  2. There shall be a **Vice-President** if there is no **Co-Presidency**.
  3. The **Vice-President** shall:
     1. Perform the duties of the President in the latter’s absence and shall assist the President where required.
     2. Perform other such duties that are occasionally assigned by the President, executive, or general membership.
     3. Lead philosophy discussions with general members when requested.
  4. The **Vice-President of Finance** shall:
     1. Keep the account books of the club, arranging for the custody and

distribution of funds pursuant to the executive and general membership’s

direction.

* + 1. Give a report of the finances of the club at each executive meeting and have the books available upon the request of any member of the club.
    2. Perform such other duties that are occasionally assigned by the President (or Co-Presidents), executive, or general membership.
    3. Lead philosophy discussions with general members when requested.
  1. The **Vice-President of Communications** shall:
     1. Keep the minutes of all official meetings and be responsible for all correspondence of the association.
     2. Maintain the club’s membership list and archival documents.
     3. Update club members through all forms of media adopted by the club in collaboration with VP Social.
     4. Perform such other duties that are occasionally assigned by the President (or Co-Presidents), executive, or general membership.
     5. Promote society events and functions. Actions such as maintenance and messaging of the email list shall fall under the purview of VP Communications.
     6. Lead philosophy discussions with general members when requested.
  2. The **Vice-President of Socials** shall:
     1. Theorize and present logistics for events to the executive.
     2. Execute plans for events in collaboration with other executive members.
     3. Manage all forms of social media adopted by the club.
     4. Update club members through all forms of media adopted by the club in collaboration with VP Communications.
     5. Create advertisements for events and club meetings to be distributed via various media forms and posted on campus.
     6. Perform such other duties that are occasionally assigned by the President (or Co-Presidents), executive, or general membership.
     7. Promote society events and functions including but not limited to society game nights, movie nights, group events, and staff appointments as well as creation of relevant promotional materials shall fall under the purview of this

position.

* + 1. Lead philosophy discussions with general members when requested.
  1. The **Executive Advisor** Shall:
     1. Primarily provide assistance to other executive members in performing their assigned duties.
     2. Perform such other duties that are occasionally assigned by the President (or Co-Presidents), executive, or general membership.
     3. Lead philosophy discussions with general members when requested.
  2. The **External Affairs Officer** Shall:
     1. Perform tasks related to outreach in collaboration with VP Social and/or VP Communications.
     2. Organize the booking of venues and meeting rooms for club events.
        1. Outreach tasks may include:
           1. Contacting and/or following up with guest speakers regarding club events.
           2. Creating and maintaining professional relationships with any guest speakers, professors, or other external parties on behalf of Philsoc
     3. Aid other executive members in performing their assigned duties.
     4. Perform such other duties that are occasionally assigned by the President (or Co-Presidents), executive, or general membership.
     5. Lead philosophy discussions with general members when requested.
     6. This position can be granted to more than one person if necessary.

# Finances

* 1. Philsoc is eligible for allocated funding from MHS.
  2. Philsoc may use the allocated funding for means pertaining to the Purpose and Objectives outlined in the constitution.
     1. Philsoc be prepared to present proof of purchase to the MHS and proof of funding allocation as granted by the MHS Vice President of Internal Affairs.
  3. Philsoc may use any reasonable means consonant with the constitutional purpose to raise funds for its program.
  4. Financial plans will be divulged in monthly executive meetings held throughout the academic term (except during the examination period) at the discretion of the President(s). The VP Finance must present a budget based on executive requests put forth to the VP Finance with absolute transparency and reasonable specificity. Following the presentation of budgets, the executive will decide on the budget by means of a simple majority vote.
  5. The Vice-President may assume this duty from the President in the President’s absence.

# Hiring and Elections

* 1. The President (or Co-Presidents) shall be elected by the general club membership by March 1 and be in office by April 1.
     1. To be nominated for the position of President or Co-President, one must have already served as member of the executive for one full year.
        1. If and only if exactly two executive members are nominated for president, can there be an option to serve a co-presidency and be acclimated.
        2. If only one executive member is nominated, they shall be acclimated as president.
        3. If no executive members are nominated, then any member may run for president or co-president.
  2. All executive members shall be hired by September 1 through interviews.
     1. All executives, except the President (or Co-Presidents), shall be selected through an application and interview process to affirm they are respectively capable for the applied role.
     2. The application, interview and selection process will be set at the discretion of the President (or Co-Presidents) and Vice-President (when applicable).
     3. Candidates will be selected for interviews based on the merits of their application.
     4. The application process must commence by May 1st latest and must be available for at least 4 weeks to Candidates.
     5. Selected members will have their interviews conducted by the incoming President (or Co-Presidents), and Vice-President (when applicable).
  3. Election of the President shall be by secret ballot and require a simple majority vote. In the case of a tie, the current President shall cast the deciding vote except when the current President is seeking re-election to office, in which case the Vice- President shall cast the deciding vote.
     1. Co-Presidents shall cast their deciding vote as only one vote.
  4. Presidential elections shall occur at a general meeting held in mid-February to mid-March each year. Meetings may be moved, due to exceptional circumstances, at the discretion by a vote of confidence consisting of at least 1/3rd of the executive.
  5. Term of office for the President (or Co-Presidents) shall be one year commencing the day after elections and ending on the day the new officer’s or officers’ term begins.
     1. Term of office for all officers except for the President (or Co-Presidents) shall be one year commencing the day after an offer is accepted and ending on the day the new officer’s or officers’ term begins.
  6. Notice will be given to all club members and MHS’ Vice President of Internal Affairs of all executive changes.
  7. There will be no campaigning for presidential elections. Candidates will be given maximum 3 minutes to present to the membership of the club their statement of intent during the electoral club meeting. A maximum 5-minute Q&A period will ensue where members may ask the presidential candidates questions.
  8. Any executive member can put forth a movement to hold a disciplinary hearing for the removal of another executive member after informal attempts to remedy the problem have failed.
     1. An executive may be removed from their seat following a unanimous decision by the rest of the executive.
     2. In the disciplinary hearing, executive members will be given an opportunity to air their concerns about the executive in question. A remedy or solution will be proposed in collaboration with all executive members.
     3. A discretionary period of 14 days will follow in which the executive member in question is evaluated for improvement
     4. Following this, a final meeting will be held to vote for either the removal or non-removal of the executive member.

# Meetings

* 1. General
     1. General meetings shall be open to all club members and honorary members or those interested in attending.
     2. At least one general meeting shall be called by the President (or Co-Presidents) per academic term.
     3. Upon the receipt of five signatures by the President (or Co-Presidents) from club members requesting a general meeting, a meeting shall be called by the President (or Co-Presidents) at the earliest possible date.
     4. Voting procedure for regular business at a general meeting shall be by simple majority.
  2. Executive
     1. Executive meetings shall be held biweekly to discuss event planning and financial budgets.
     2. All executive members shall attend executive meetings.
     3. Voting procedure for regular business at executive meetings shall be by simple majority.
  3. Quorum
     1. A quorum of 2/3 of the executive is required for an executive meeting.

1. **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**
   1. Philsoc acknowledges that as a McMaster affiliated society/club, the club/society benefits from the University’s location on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the “Dish with One Spoon” wampum agreement.
   2. Philsoc recognizes and works to reflect McMaster University’s commitments to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, to cultivate a community that respects the human rights, integrity, and dignity of all members.
   3. Philsoc does not condone any harassment, violence, and discrimination.
   4. Philsoc shall not attempt to exclude, discriminate, or repudiate in any manner that suggests prejudice against an individual.
   5. Any failure to adhere to these conditions will result in immediate review and possible recall from the MHS

# Bylaws & Amendments

* 1. Passage of bylaws shall be by a simple majority. In the event of a tie the existing policy will take precedence and override a proposal.
  2. All members of the Philsoc are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful matter during meetings and events.
     1. There will be no tolerance for defamation of character or personal attacks.
     2. In the case where this bylaw is violated, a two-strike punitive system will be applied.
     3. For one offence, the member will be asked to leave the meeting.
     4. After a second offence, the member will be asked to leave the meeting and not return indefinitely.
  3. Passage of amendments to the constitution shall be 2/3 affirmative vote at a quorum meeting. Executive members eligible for quorum shall be those with a history of regular attendance, attending at least 2/3 of regular **or** executive meetings. Members without such a history may still attend and are in no way withheld of any of their abilities as an executive, including voting rights. Those without a history of attendance who do not attend are not counted towards the total quorum vote.
  4. All bylaws and amendments shall be referred to the MHS Vice President of Internal Affairs and the MHS President for approval.

1. **Recall**
   1. Philsoc shall make every reasonable attempt to fulfill the duties and responsibilities, and to reflect the policies and beliefs of the club as outlined in this constitution.
   2. Philsoc shall make every reasonable attempt to reflect and obey the policies as outlined in the MHS Constitution.
   3. The members of Philsoc shall not use their position in contravention of the legitimate rights and interests of the members’ constituents.
   4. The members of Philsoc shall recognize that any failure to respect the conditions stated in this section will result in immediate review and possible recall from the MHS.
2. **Enabling Clause**
   1. This Constitution shall take effect April 1, 2023