

**ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**

**THE CONSTITUTION**



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**Dean Schmidt, Chairperson of the STMSU Annual General Meeting  
(Confirmed the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2011)**

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**ARTICLE 1  
PREAMBLE**

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**A. IN ORDER TO SECURE THEIR COMMUNITY**

1. Be it heretofore known that on March 15, 1994, the students of St. Thomas More College (hereafter referred to as STM) have freely joined in a union known as the St. Thomas More Students' Union (hereafter referred to STMSU), which replaces the St. Thomas More Students' Association (STMSA). The STMSU will consist of an elected Executive Committee, Students-at-Large, and the STM Student Body.

**B. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. And that they expect this union to provide an atmosphere in which all students will be welcome. This atmosphere should promote friendly relations and foster a spirit of mutual understanding among students of different disciplines, beliefs, or history. Let this atmosphere also provide, through political, academic and other activities, the opportunity for members of the STMSU to develop community, including faith community, which will enhance their human potential and thereby contribute to the good of STM and of society as a whole. And, through this atmosphere, let members of the STMSU feel empowered to become leaders in their diverse communities, and develop a community-oriented spirit which can be spread throughout STM, the campus, and society as a whole. Let this spirit also be carried over into the other facets of STM such as recreational, religious, cultural, and social activities. Finally, given the diverse and ecumenical nature of its membership, STMSU shall exist for the benefit of its entire student membership regardless of religious, ethnic, or social orientation. Given this, the STMSU shall not be considered a Catholic student organization or Catholic student movement. The STM Students' Union will, however, recognize the importance of its function by recognizing the need for legitimate representation and by embracing the Catholic principles of justice, equality, and the dignity of the individual.

**C. LEGALITY**

1. And that they have surrendered to these democratic organs such of their rightful powers as are needed to achieve their object, notwithstanding other contracts. And that they desire that their affairs in STM should be regulated according to this document, which is the Constitution.

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**ARTICLE 2  
NAME**

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- A.** The name of this organization shall be the St. Thomas More College Students' Union.

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**ARTICLE 3  
MEMBERSHIP**

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- A.** Members of the STMSU must be enrolled in the University of Saskatchewan's College of Arts and Sciences through STM.

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**ARTICLE 4  
RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

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All members of the STMSU:

- A.** Have the right to attend all meetings of the STMSU Executive Committee if they abide by the ruling of the Chairperson.
- B.** Have the right to address these meetings and introduce motions, if the Chairperson rules their motion admissible. Only STMSU Executive Committee members can vote at STMSU Executive Committee meetings.
  - 1.** Have the right to:  
Run for Executive Committee positions, and
  - 2.** Apply for Student-At-Large positions;

Provided the member meets the qualifications that apply to the position sought. The member running for or applying for a position on the STMSU must be in agreement with the Aims and Objectives as outlined in Article 1B. Disagreement with the stated Aims and Objectives can be used as grounds for both denial of a position or dismissal of any appointed or elected member.

- C.** Have the right to vote in all referenda, general elections, or by-elections held by the STMSU.
- D.** Have the right to speak at any general meetings of the union.
- E.** Have the right to submit proposed amendments for the constitution prior to the STMSU Annual General Meeting.

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**ARTICLE 5  
DIVISION OF POWER**

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- A.** The Executive Committee shall hold all legislative power of the Union.
- B.** The Executive Committee shall hold all judicial power to interpret the Constitution and bylaws.
- C.** Each Executive member shall hold executive power over the responsibilities of and in accordance with their respective office; but shall be responsible to the Executive Committee.

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**ARTICLE 6  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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The affairs of the STMSU shall be governed by an elected Executive Committee, which shall be composed of:

- A.** President
- B.** Vice President Academic
- C.** Vice President Communications
- D.** Vice President Operations
- E.** Director of Finance
- F.** Internal Director
- G.** Director of Promotions

- H. Director of Publications
- I. Members of Student Council (2)
- J. Member of University Council
- K. Director of Technologies
- L. First Year Representative

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**ARTICLE 7**  
**POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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- A. Act in the best interests of the STMSU in dealing with the regulatory bodies and committees whose decisions may directly or indirectly affect the academic, social, or faith life of the members of the STMSU.
- B. Have the power to create and dismiss STMSU committees.
- C. Be held responsible for the control of monies.
- D. Collectively determine all other policies of the Union, beyond those listed in this document.
- E. Support all activities sponsored by STM students insofar as it is possible and feasible to do so.
- F. Have the power to move censure of individual members or demand their resignation according to the dismissal procedure where such action is warranted (Article 10).
- G. Have the power to create new Executive Committee positions of STMSU to serve the needs of the student body on consent of the STMSU.
- H. Respect the opinions and views of all STMSU members.
- I. Assist all STMSU Executive Committee and Student-At-Large members in the cooperative planning and execution of STMSU-approved activities.
- J. Appoint Student-At-Large members to their applied positions.
- K. Time shall be made for one executive committee meeting per week.
- L. Ensure that the constitution is followed by all STMSU members.
- M. Empower the President and members of the executive committee to temporarily exercise legislative power when the Executive Committee is unable to meet.

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**ARTICLE 8**  
**POWERS AND DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

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- A. Read and understand the Constitution and bylaws of the STMSU.
- B. Have term of office from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.
- C. Act as representatives of the STMSU while in term of office.
- D. Be the voice of STM students in matters of political, academic and social interest.
- E. Submit written reports at scheduled meetings of STMSU.
- F. Submit final reviews of his/her position, along with recommendations for the incoming member, by April 1st following their term in office.
- G. Partake in a midyear review process, carried out by the Review Committee.
- H. Be entitled to one vote per member at Executive Committee meetings; proxy votes are not allowed.
- I. Be responsible to attend all meetings of the STMSU, or send regrets if unable to do so. Attendance at meetings will be optional during the months of Intersession and Summer Session.
- J. Have the right as a member of the STMSU to apply for Student-At-Large positions.
- K. Provide leadership to the STM Student Body and act as ambassadors of the STMSU and STM.

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**ARTICLE 9  
STUDENT-AT-LARGE POSTIONS**

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- A. Refer to Bylaw No. 3 Article 2 for specifics.
- B. Any member of the STMSU may apply for and hold multiple Student-At-Large positions.

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**ARTICLE 10  
POWERS AND DUTIES OF STUDENT-AT LARGE POSTIONS**

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- A. Act in the best interests of the STMSU in dealing with the regulatory bodies and committees whose decisions may directly or indirectly affect the academic, social, or faith life of the members of the STMSU.
- B. Support all activities sponsored by STM students insofar as it is possible and feasible to do so.
- C. Attend STMSU Executive Committee meetings, if desired, though attendance is highly recommended.
- D. Submit written reports at scheduled meetings of STMSU when necessary.
- E. Respect the opinions and views of all STMSU members.
- F. Provide leadership to the STM Student Body and act as ambassadors of the STMSU and STM.
- G. Assist all STMSU Executive Committee and Student-At-Large members in the cooperative planning and execution of STMSU-approved activities.

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**ARTICLE 11  
ELECTIONS**

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**A. Timing of Elections**

- 1. There shall be an election in each year between the 1<sup>st</sup> of March and the 1<sup>st</sup> of April for all positions on the Executive Committee.

**B. Eligibility of Office**

- 1. All STMSU members, as defined by Article 3, shall have the right to be eligible to be elected for all positions on the Executive Committee.

**C. Eligibility of Voting**

- 1. Any STMSU member, as defined in Article 3, may cast a vote for candidates nominated for Executive Committee.

**D. General**

- 1. The Executive Committee may pass a bylaw that governs the administration of elections, election voting procedures, and rules respecting by-elections and terms of office for elected members.

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**ARTICLE 12  
DISMISSAL**

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- A. Any Executive member is subject to a motion of dismissal by a two-thirds majority of the STMSU Executive.
- B. Disagreement with the stated Aims and Objectives (Article 1B) can be used as grounds for both denial of a position or dismissal of any appointed or elected member.
- C. Written notice of intention of dismissal must be given to the Executive member in question at least 72 hours prior to the STMSU meeting.
- D. If the student has been notified of the STMSU's intention, and will not attend the meeting, dismissal is valid.
- E. If in attendance, a vote of non-confidence is required for dismissal to pass.

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**ARTICLE 13  
GENERAL MEETING**

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- A. An Annual General Meeting shall be held during the academic year for all members of the STMSU.
- B. Fifteen days notice must be given for meeting.
- C. Special general meetings may be held at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- D. General meetings shall be open to all STM faculty and STM staff.

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**ARTICLE 14  
REFERENDUM**

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- A. Any student of STM can demand a referendum on any topic by presenting a petition signed by at least 5% of the members of the STMSU.
- B. As well, any student may demand the resignation of any STMSU Executive Committee member by presenting a petition signed by at least 10% of the members of the STMSU.
- C. In case of a petition demanding a resignation, at least one of the members demanding the resignation must be prepared to run for the position in question.

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**ARTICLE 15  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMEDEMEMENTS**

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- A. This constitution may only be amended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the membership of the STMSU in favour of the amendment present at the Annual General Meeting.
- B. Amendments must be submitted to the Chairperson one week prior to the scheduled general meeting.
- C. Chair shall publish and post the proposed changes at least five days prior before the general meeting.

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**ARTICLE 16  
BYLAWS**

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- A. Subject to this constitution, the STMSU Executive Committee shall have the power to pass, amend, or repeal any bylaws providing for the operation and better functioning of the STMSU.

- B. Any bylaw passed by the Executive Committee shall be subject to approval and ratification by the membership at the next Annual general meeting.

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**ARTICLE 17**  
**DISSOLUTION OF UNION**

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- A. Upon dissolution of the STMSU, all assets of the union shall be placed into an STM restricted funds account controlled by STM, entitled STMSU. This will remain in effect until such time as funds and assets can be passed onto a democratic organization of student representatives of all undergraduate students of STM. This body's main responsibility shall be the governing of student affairs at STM, as soon as such an organization comes into existence.