



FOR INFORMATION

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TO: University Affairs Board

SPONSOR: Professor Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students
CONTACT INFO: Phone: 416-978-3870 / Email: vp.students@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: See Sponsor
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: May 18, 2021 for May 25, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 5 (a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: Recognized Student Groups, University of Toronto Mississauga

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 5.6 of the University Affairs Board Terms of Reference states:
The Board receives annually, from the appropriate administrators, reports on services within its areas of responsibility, including but not limited to multi-campus services and offices, Campus Police, Human Resources and Equity, crisis response, and campus organizations.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. UTM Campus Affairs Committee [For Information] (April 27, 2021)
2. **University Affairs Board [For Information] (May 25, 2021)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The report is presented annually to the Board.

HIGHLIGHTS:

A student group seeking University recognition must submit an annual application and constitution to the UTM Centre for Student Engagement. As of April 4, 2021, for the 2020-2021 academic year, there were 120 groups recognized (76 renewing, 44 new); none were refused. In addition, UTM recognizes 17 academic societies associated with academic departments and 10 affiliated organizations that offer services to students who subsidize them (such as student governments and student-run media, whose membership is automatic based on students' registration).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications for the University's operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

The report is presented for information only.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

UTM Recognized Student Groups, 2020-2021



To: Members of the University Affairs Board

From: Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs & Assistant Principal, Student Services

Date: May 4, 2021

Subject: UTM Recognized Student Groups, 2020-2021

The size and diversity of the student community at the University of Toronto Mississauga provides an extraordinary number of opportunities for students to participate in a vast array of activities undertaken by student groups. Participation in these groups forms an integral part of the student experience. Student groups contribute in a variety of ways to the educational, intellectual, recreational, social, and cultural life of the University community. For many students, involvement in voluntary student groups is not only a traditional part of campus life; it forms a significant component of their learning while at the University.

Many recognized student groups engage in co-curricular activities that enrich the participation of their members in their own academic programs. Involvement in a student group can also provide significant learning opportunities for students with respect to leadership, civic and community engagement, and organizational capacity. Since many student groups address the complex issues of the world around us, engagement in a student group can often provide important opportunities to be exposed to different ideas and perspectives. This helps the University provide meaningful opportunities for debate and dissent, and fosters the development of students' understanding of difference. Finally, participation in student groups provides one means by which students integrate and engage with small communities within the University of Toronto.

During the 2020-2021 academic term, students were faced with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic which prevented the majority of in person events. Student groups thrive on community building, fun activities, and packed rooms and foyers, which led to a precipitous decrease in the number of student-organized in-person community development opportunities throughout the year. *Many groups continued to seek re-recognition, and some existing groups took the challenges of the pandemic, adapted their programming by delivering virtual events, and succeeded in building a virtual community. While the in-person activities were sorely missed, our numbers indicate more than 120 student groups continued to operate, compared to 143 recognized student groups from the previous year.*

During the spring of 2020, an updated [Policy on the Recognition of Student Groups](#) was introduced. Coordinated by the Office of the Vice-President Students, the policy consultations took place throughout the 2019-2020 academic term, with a final version complete by the end of the term. Below are some highlighted changes within the *Policy*:

STUDENT AFFAIRS & SERVICES

1. Each group must provide the names and emails of a minimum of five current University of Toronto students;
2. A financial officer cannot be a financial officer for more than one student group;
3. Student groups using the University of Toronto name must clearly indicate they are a student group within their group title;
4. Relationships with external organizations must be disclosed within the application for recognition;
5. A clearly articulated and outlined complaint process for hearing and processing student group complaints;

Groups who did not meet the minimum requirements set within the revised policy were contacted, and all student groups complied with the requested changes.

In accordance with the University's [*Policy on the Recognition of Student Groups*](#), this is a report on administrative decisions to grant, deny, or withdraw recognition for groups based at the University of Toronto Mississauga in this academic year. The student groups listed below have been granted recognition until September 30, 2021. All groups that have been granted recognition for the 2020-2021 academic year are listed in this memorandum.

Recognition of student groups by the University provides several benefits and opportunities:

1. the right to use the name of the University in the name of the group and in conjunction with group activities;
2. eligibility to use University facilities and meeting spaces at no cost or at a lower cost compared to external organizations;
3. eligibility to apply for temporary office space;
4. listings in select University directories as a University-recognized student group;
5. verification letters confirming recognition status (sometimes required by banks and other external organizations);
6. access to other University services and resources made available from time to time
7. Access to funding through the Ian Orchard Student Initiatives Fund and the Ulife Student Initiatives Funds;
8. Support for the preparation and submission of COVID-19 General Assessment Tools (GAT), Event Assessment Tools (EAT) and Student Society Assessment Acknowledgement Tool (SAT), and;
9. Eligibility to apply for student group awards.

A student group seeking recognition must submit an annual application to the Centre for Student Engagement along with a copy of the group's constitution. The constitution outlines the group's purpose, objectives, and procedures. It addresses organizational structure, membership, meetings, the election or appointment of members in leadership positions, amendments to the constitution, and rules of conduct. A commitment to democracy and accountability to members should also be reflected.

Full membership in a recognized student group (including eligibility to vote and serve in a leadership position) must be open to any currently registered University of Toronto student from any division. While discriminatory membership practices are not allowed, it is acknowledged that certain groups could well be homogeneous in nature without being discriminatory. Status as non-voting members

may be extended to other University community members or interested persons from outside the University.

Groups seeking recognition by the University must be genuine student groups and generally non-profit in nature. A recognized student group cannot be controlled by any external body. However, many groups are affiliated with provincial, national, or international bodies and other external organizations.

Under the terms of the *Policy*, the University will not attempt to censor, control or interfere with any group on the basis of its philosophy, beliefs, interests or opinions expressed unless and until these lead to activities which are illegal or which infringe the rights and freedoms of others within the community. By the same token, recognition as a student group implies neither endorsement of a group's beliefs or philosophy, nor the assumption of legal liability for the group's activities.

Please note that pursuant to the *Policy*, the recognition of student groups which draw their membership from only one academic division is delegated to the governance body of that division.

It is important to note that there are hundreds of additional clubs, many athletics and recreation activities, Hart House clubs and committees, as well as recognized student groups based on other campuses which, while not listed here, add significantly to the educational, intellectual, recreational, social, and cultural life of the U of T community. In addition, many students are involved in student governments, college and faculty student societies, course unions, and departmental student associations.

Recognition Granted

As of March 22, 2021, recognition has been granted by the Centre for Student Engagement to the following 120 student groups for this academic year. More information about these groups is available online at ulife.utoronto.ca and at <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/utm-engage/student-groups>.

1. Accounting Association
2. Direct Action and Art Society
3. UTM Book Discovery
4. UTM Rotaract Club
5. Animal Rights Club
6. For the People
7. Global Kitchen
8. Mind Matters
9. Product Management Club
10. Restorative Justice Student Network
11. Society and Economics Student Association of the U of T (SEAUT)
12. The Bhakti Yoga Club
13. The Gentle Eagles
14. University of Toronto Game Development Club
15. University of Toronto Mississauga Pixels Club
16. UTM Science Careers Committee - Student Group
17. Young Leaders of Public Health and Medicine

18. Developer Student Club
19. Mississauga Christian Ministry
20. University of Toronto-Mississauga Mooting and Law Association
21. (U)TH WITHOUT BORDERS
22. Association of Palestinian Students
23. Champions of Change UTM
24. Free the Children at UTM
25. University of Toronto Mississauga Black Students Association
26. UTM Students for life
27. UTM Visual Art Club
28. Teaching And Education Studies Association
29. Big Spoon Lil' Spoon
30. Cancer Awareness Society
31. Paws for a Cause
32. Socialist Literature Club
33. The Citizens Foundation
34. Digital Enterprise Management Association
35. Biomedical Physics Club
36. Food Project
37. Project Sunshine UTM
38. Center for Student Aid - Student Group
39. Christian Students at U of T
40. UTM HOSA (Health Organization)
41. UTM Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association Lajna
42. UTM Dance Team
43. Best Buddies
44. Indonesian Student Association at University of Toronto
45. UTM Fashion Club
46. Enactus, University of Toronto, Mississauga
47. UTM Liberals
48. Cases over Coffee UTM
49. UTM Stem Fellowship - Student Chapter
50. Bangladeshi Students' Association
51. Diversity Business League
52. Albanian Society of University of Toronto Mississauga
53. University of Toronto Mississauga Sikh Student Association
54. Young Greens
55. Physics Club
56. Gospel Choir
57. Indian Students Association
58. University of Toronto Mississauga Global Brigades
59. Urban Design Association of the University of Toronto (UDAUT)
60. Acts of Kindness
61. UTM Mandarin International-student Christian Fellowship
62. Believer's LoveWorld UTM

63. Mutual Cultural Clothing Club
64. Operation Smile
65. University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) Black Literature Club
66. The Institution of Health Living- Student Association
67. University of Toronto Mississauga Charity Fashion Show
68. Singaporean Malaysian Student Association
69. The University of Toronto Mental Health Student Association
70. J. Tuzo Wilson Geology Club
71. Boss Women UTM
72. Chinese Undergraduate Association
73. Ping Pong Club
74. UTM Archery
75. UTM Ukrainian Students' Club
76. UTM Psych Talks
77. Erindale Punjabi Association
78. Humanitarian Club
79. UTM Campus Conservatives
80. Warmworkers UTM
81. UTM Virtual Mock Trial Club
82. NuMonic Dance Team
83. UTM Boxing Club
84. UTM Campus Christian Fellowship - Student Group
85. UTM Pre Dental Club
86. Against Dragons
87. Christian Unity Association
88. DECA UTM (Distributive Education Clubs of America)
89. Syrian Students' Association
90. ROCSAUT (Republic of China Student Association at University of Toronto)
91. UTM Photography Club
92. Robotics Club
93. African Student Association
94. University of Toronto Erindale Hong Kong Student Association
95. UTM Vietnamese Student Association
96. Etudiants Francophones de UTM
97. Paleontology Club
98. UTM Capital Management
99. UTM Italian Students Association
100. UTM Squash Club
101. Canadian Asian Student Society
102. UTM Badminton Club
103. Chinese Students and Scholars Association
104. Social Justice Club
105. Filipino Student Association
106. Tennis Players Association
107. UNICEF UTM (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)

108. Zero Waste University of Toronto Mississauga
109. UTM Anime Club
110. UTM Catholic Students Club
111. Erindale Gaming Organization
112. Pre-Law Organization
113. Women in Science and Computing
114. Women in Science and Computing
115. eSports
116. UTM Scribes
117. Muslim Students' Association
118. Pre-Medical Club
119. CHANNEL 6ix
120. UTM Student Society for Algorithmic Modelling

Recognition Denied

As of March 22, 2021, no student groups have been denied recognition.

Recognition Withdrawn

As of March 22, 2021, four student groups have had recognition withdrawn due to a duplicate group already recognized.

Recognition Statistics for University of Toronto Mississauga (as of March 22, 2021)

Summary of the applications for recognition received this year:

Total Number of Applications: **124**

Recognition Granted: **120**

Recognition Denied: **0**

Recognition Withdrawn: **0**

Application Terminated: **0**

Application Withdrawn by Student Group: **4**

Applications under Review: **0**

Applications from New Student Groups: **44**

Applications from Student Groups Seeking Renewal of Recognition: **76**

Membership Data¹:

Cumulative Total Number of Members of All UTM Recognized Student Groups: **8,873**

Average Number of Members per UTM Student Group: **74**

Number of UTM Student Groups with Fewer than 20 Members: **51**

Number of UTM Groups with 20 to 100 Members: **41**

Number of UTM Groups with Greater than 100 Members: **28**

Other Campus Student Organizations

UTM has additional student organizations that are not required to renew each year. The organizations are academic in nature, uniting students within a specific program or field of study. Though these groups do not fall within the purview of the *Policy on Recognition of Campus Groups*, they are student run with collaboration between the academic department and the elected student leaders.

The Undergraduate Commerce Society (UCS) and the Student Management Association (SMA) held a referendum amongst the membership. Members voted to merge the two groups, with the new group named IMI Business Association (IBA). The change in the number of academic societies is reflected below.

All students are represented by each of the academic societies, depending on their program of study. The list of all academic societies are listed below:

- Department of Visual Studies Student Society
- English & Drama Students Society
- Erindale Biology Society
- Erindale Society of Chemical & Physical Sciences
- Forensics Society
- Historical Studies Society at UTM
- IMI Business Association
- ICCIT Council
- Mathematical and Computational Sciences Society (MCSS)
- MMPA Course Union
- Philosophy Academic Society
- Political Science & Pre-Law Association (PSLA)
- Psychology Association of Undergrad Students at Erindale (PAUSE)
- Sociology & Criminology Society (SCS)
- Student Association of Geography and Environment (SAGE)
- Undergraduate Economics Council (UEC)

¹ Membership figures are provided by the groups at the time of application and are not verified. Membership numbers include U of T students, staff, faculty, and alumni, and external community members. Student membership numbers are not reported separately.

UTM Anthropology Society

Total number of Academic Societies: **17**

Recognized UTM Affiliates

UTM affiliates are groups, subsidized by students, which offer a campus service. Many students participate actively or passively with many of the services during their studies at UTM. Though these groups do not fall within the purview of the *Policy on Recognition of Groups*, they do offer a vital service to students and the broader UTM community. Members, staff, and volunteers of these organizations are students (though some professional staff are hired within the organizations as well).

The list of UTM affiliates are listed below:

Sexual Education & Peer Support Centre
Erindale College Special Response Team (ECSpeRT)
Women's Centre
CFRE Radio 91.9FM
Medical Society
UTM Association of Graduate Students (UTMAGS)
The Medium
UTM Athletic Council (UTMAC)
UTM Residence Council (UTMRC)
UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
Total number of Recognized UTM Affiliates: **10**