



**FOR INFORMATION**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**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

**DATE:** May 24, 2023 for May 31, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM:** 7 (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 that “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”.

Section 5.9 of the UTM Campus Affairs Committee *Terms of Reference* states that “The Committee receives annually, from the appropriate administrators, reports on services within its areas of responsibility, including but not limited to campus police and campus organizations. These reports are submitted to the University Affairs Board for information”.

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. UTM Campus Affairs Committee [For Information] (May 8, 2023)
2. **University Affairs Board [For Information] (May 31, 2023)**

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The report is presented annually to the Board.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

A student group seeking University recognition must submit an annual application and a copy of its constitution to the UTM Centre for Student Engagement. As of April 14,

2023, there were 107 student groups recognized for the 2022-23 academic year; 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.

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**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

University of Toronto Mississauga Recognized Student Groups, 2022-23



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the UTM Campus Affairs Committee

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

Date: May 1, 2023

Subject: University of Toronto Mississauga Recognized Student Groups, 2022-23

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The size and diversity of the student community on the University of Toronto Mississauga campus provides an extraordinary number of opportunities for students to participate in a vast array of activities undertaken by student organizations. 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 organizations is not only a traditional part of campus life; it forms a significant component of their learning while at the University.

Many recognized student organizations engage in co-curricular activities that enrich the participation of their members in their own academic programs. Involvement in a student organization can also provide significant learning opportunities for students with respect to leadership, civic and community engagement, and organizational capacity. Since many student organizations 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.

The 2022-23 academic year has been a unique student experience, as students returned to a fully in-person campus with a host of opportunities and experiences. From a student group recognition perspective, this year has posed challenges towards recognition. Compared to 2021-22, this academic year saw 19 less recognized student groups, as well as a decrease in estimated number of student members participating in student groups. There was confusion between the UTMSU recognition and the Student Organization Portal recognition, which resulted in many groups thinking they were Student Organization Portal recognized when they were only UTMSU recognized. This resulted in many of the more established UTMSU recognized groups not seeking re-recognition and only seeking recognition later in the academic year when they tried to access table bookings, room bookings, and/or the Centre for Student Engagement (CSE) funding application. A key piece of information that was repeatedly heard was that previous executives had not left transition notes for new executives, and they were unaware of the steps and deadlines their groups faced. A positive from these experiences is that these challenges have provided strong direction for the CSE on the areas and goals to target for supporting and

continuing to foster student groups. Despite these challenges, our students demonstrated strong resilience and still found their way towards developing their own pockets of community and path roads into the larger UTM community, as more than one hundred groups gained recognition.

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 on the UTM campus in this academic year. The student groups listed below have been granted recognition until September 30, 2023.

All groups that have been granted recognition for the 2022-23 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); and
6. access to other University services and resources made available from time to time.

A student organization seeking recognition must submit an annual application to the Centre for Student Engagement along with a copy of 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 organizations and generally non-profit in nature. A recognized student group cannot be controlled by any external body. However, many organizations are affiliated with provincial, national, or international bodies and other external groups.

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 April 14, 2023, recognition has been granted by the Centre for Student Engagement to the following **107 student groups** for the 2022-23 academic year. More information about these organizations is available online at [sop.utoronto.ca](http://sop.utoronto.ca):

1. A Better Day Tomorrow (ABDT)
2. ACE UTM
3. Acts of Kindness
4. ADHD Awareness Club
5. African Students Association
6. Ahmadiyya Muslim Student Association (AMSA)
7. Anime Comics Gaming Culture Research Society
8. Avad Adventist Christian Fellowship
9. Baptist Student Ministries UTM
10. Believer's LoveWorld UTM Christian Fellowship
11. Black Future Lawyer's Club (BFL UTM)
12. Black Literature and Arts Club
13. Boss Women UTM
14. Brazilian Student Association University of Toronto Mississauga (BRASA UTM)
15. Cancer Awareness Student Organisation
16. Caribbean Connections (CC)
17. Champions of Change UTM (COCUTM)
18. Channel6ix Film Club
19. Chinese Students and Scholars Association at University of Toronto Mississauga (UTMCSSA)
20. Creatives For Change (C4C)
21. Digital Enterprise Management Association (DEMA)
22. Diversity Business League
23. Egyptian Student Association
24. Erindale Punjabi Association (EPA)
25. Etcetera (ETC)
26. Formula 1 Paddock Club
27. Google Developers Student Clubs UTM

28. Harmonix
29. Health, Law and Business Association at UTM
30. Indian Students Association
31. Jewish Student Association
32. KJH Dance Club (KJHDC)
33. Latin American Students' Association (LASA)
34. Lebanese Student Association
35. Lehra Ke
36. Let's Get Together UTM (LGTxUTM)
37. LIFT Church
38. Mandarin International Student Christian Fellowship (MICF)
39. Mending Minds
40. Menstruation Redefined
41. Middle Eastern Students' Association
42. Mood Psychology@UTM
43. Muslim Students' Association
44. NuMonic Dance Team
45. OUT@UTM
46. Project Sunshine UTM
47. Ready Our Youth (ROY)
48. Regenesi UTM
49. Right to Play UTM (RTP UTM)
50. ROCSAUT
51. Sending Sunshine Chapter
52. Skills & Thrills Association
53. Students for Medical Humanities UTM (SMH UTM)
54. Teaching & Education Studies Association (TESA)
55. Thaḡalayn Muslim Association UTM
56. The Bamboo Life (UTM BLife)
57. The Bhakti Yoga Club
58. The Citizens Foundation
59. The Energy Network
60. The Indonesian Student Association at the University of Toronto Mississauga (ISA UTM)
61. The University of Toronto Mississauga Pre-Law Organization (UTMPLO)
62. UNICEF UTM
63. University of Toronto 021 Chinese Entrepreneurs Group
64. University of Toronto Erindale Hong Kong Students' Association (UTEHKSA)
65. University of Toronto Mississauga Anime, Comic, Game
66. University of Toronto Mississauga Black Students Association (UTM BSA or BSA)
67. University of Toronto Mississauga Global Brigades
68. University of Toronto Mississauga Global Health Organization (UTMGHO)
69. University of Toronto Mississauga Korean Students' Association (UTMKRSA)
70. University of Toronto Mississauga Mental Health Student Association (UTM MHSA)

71. University of Toronto Mississauga Poker Club
72. University of Toronto Mississauga Sikh Student Association
73. University of Toronto Mississauga Socialist Club (UTMSC)
74. University of Toronto Mississauga Student Society for Algorithmic Modelling
75. University of Toronto Mississauga Young Liberals
76. University of Toronto Undergraduate Neuroscience Journal (UNJ)
77. University of Toronto-Mississauga Mooting and Law Association
78. UofT Software Engineering Club
79. UofTea Party - Mississauga (UTeaM)
80. UTM Amateur Arts (UAA)
81. UTM Archery Club
82. UTM Campus Christian Fellowship
83. UTM Catholic Students Club
84. UTM Charity Fashion Show
85. UTM Chess Club
86. UTM Correctional Service Volunteers (UTMCSV)
87. UTM Dance Team
88. UTM Esports
89. UTM Fight for Hope (UTMFFH)
90. UTM Film Club (UTMFC)
91. UTM Humanitarian Club (UTMHC)
92. UTM Italian Students Association
93. UTM Mature Students Society (UTM MSS)
94. UTM MedLife
95. UTM Miscarriages of Justice (UTMMJ)
96. UTM Mock Trial Club
97. UTM New Democratic Party (UTM NDP)
98. UTM Paleontology Club (UPC)
99. UTM Regenerative Medicine Club
100. UTM STEM Fellowship
101. UTM Students For Life (UTMSFL)
102. UTM Students for SickKids (SFS)
103. UTM Studio X
104. UTM Taylor Swift Society
105. UTM Vietnamese Student Association
106. Women in Law
107. Women in Science and Computing

## Recognition Denied

As of April 14, 2023, 0 student groups have been denied recognition.

## Recognition Withdrawn

As of April 14, 2023, 0 student groups have had recognition withdrawn.

## Recognition Statistics for the University of Toronto Mississauga (as of April 14, 2023)

Summary of the applications for recognition received this year:

Total Number of Applications: 125

Recognition Granted: 107

Recognition Withdrawn: 0

Recognition Denied: 0

Application Withdrawn by Student Group: 1

Application Terminated by the University: 0

Applications under Review: 17<sup>1</sup>

Membership Data<sup>2</sup>:

Cumulative Total Number of Members of All UTM Recognized Student Groups: 7,425

Average Number of Members per UTM Student Group: 69

Number of UTM Student Groups with Fewer than 20 Members: 38

Number of UTM Groups with 20 to 100 Members: 52

Number of UTM Groups with Greater than 100 Members: 17

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<sup>1</sup> Applications under review are contacted two times for recognition completion during their initial application period. After this, outstanding applications are contacted again once in early November, and/or once in Early January, and/or once in Mid-March to complete their recognition application.

<sup>2</sup> 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.



## 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.

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

1. Department of Visual Studies and Student Society
2. English & Drama Students Society
3. Erindale Biology Society
4. Erindale Society of Chemical & Physical Sciences
5. Forensics Society
6. Historical Studies Society at UTM
7. ICCIT Council
8. IMI Business Association (IBA)
9. Language Studies Academic Society
10. Mathematical and Computational Sciences Society (MCSS)
11. Philosophy Academic Society
12. Political Science & Pre-Law Association (PSLA)
13. Psychology Assoc of Undergrad Students at Erindale (PAUSE)
14. Sociology & Criminology Society (SCS)
15. Student Association of Geography and Environment (SAGE)
16. Undergraduate Economics Council (ECS)
17. UTM Anthropology Society (UTMAS)

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). UTM affiliates are listed below:

1. Erindale College Special Response Team (ECSpeRT)
2. CFRE Radio 91.9M
3. Medical Society
4. Sexual Education & Peer Support Centre
5. The Medium
6. UTM Athletic Council (UTMAC)
7. UTM Association of Graduate Students (UTMAGS)
8. UTM Residence Council (UTMRC)
9. UTM Students' Union (UTMSU)
10. Women and Gender Equity Centre

Total number of UTM Affiliates: 10