

Policy Document for Student Societies at The University of St. Michael's College

Introduction

The University of St. Michael's College (USMC) affirms the valuable service that student societies perform in contributing to the development of student life on campus. USMC also affirms the significant educational benefits that are available to those who participate in the governance of a student society, as well as those who enjoy their program offerings.

Definition

The term "student societies" applies to all student organizations on whose behalf USMC collects compulsory non-academic incidental fees from students of USMC. The three student societies at USMC are:

- The St. Michael's College Student Union (SMCSU)
- The St. Michael's Residence Council (SMRC)
- The Mike Newspaper

Although these organizations vary widely in size, mandate and level of activity, they all have three things in common: (a) they represent and are accountable to given "constituencies"; (b) membership is automatic with a student's registration in an academic division or through their residence affiliation; and (c) all members are charged a compulsory fee as part of their total payment to the University of Toronto.

Mission & Values

USMC, as a Catholic institution, seeks to provide an environment that fosters the intellectual, moral and spiritual development of its students. It encourages an understanding of and respect for, the values of the Gospel and of our faith. It invites and supports a confident application of these values for individual and community life. We invite SMCSU and SMRC to share in this undertaking and expect that all SMCSU and SMRC sponsored programs, activities and clubs will support the mission of USMC, for the greater good of our students.

Reputational Harm

Student societies at USMC are not legal entities unto themselves rather, their status is derived from their affiliation with USMC. As a result, the actions of student societies have the potential of reflecting, both positively and negatively, on the name and reputation of USMC. This possibility is especially important given USMC's identity as a Catholic institution. Although USMC affirms that student societies are self-governing, it also recognizes that it has an ethical obligation to hold these societies accountable for the activities they seek to hold in USMC's name.

Fiduciary Responsibility

The USMC affirms that it is responding to the will of students, expressed through their elected bodies, in collecting and disbursing student society fees. USMC is also acutely aware, particularly in view of the sums involved, that it has an ethical obligation to the students who support these groups, to ensure their funds are properly accounted for and the societies operate in an open, transparent and democratic fashion.

Training & Guidance

As part of USMC's commitment to nurturing the development of student leaders, the Office of the Dean of Students will provide training and guidance to help USMC's student societies succeed in fulfilling their mandate and accomplishing their goals. In like manner, the Office of the Bursar will provide training and guidance on financial literacy, to ensure the fees with which student societies have been entrusted are being managed responsibly.

Furthermore, to ensure that programs and activities are carried out to the highest standards of organizational integrity, particularly in regards to governance and financial accountability and in ways that reflect and contribute to our mission, the following Administrative Advisors will be assigned to USMC's Student Society executives:

- SMCSU – Assistant Dean, Campus Life
- SMRC – Assistant Dean, Residence Life
- The Mike Newspaper – Principal