

**The University of British Columbia**



## **Constitution**

Amended April 2025

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# Constitution

## Article 1. Definition of the Society

### Section 1.1 Organization Name

The name of the organization shall be "The Forestry Undergraduate Society of the University of British Columbia".

### Section 1.2 Mission

The mission of the organization is to support the academic, professional, and social needs of Forestry students, encourage excellence in all aspects of student life, and celebrate the accomplishments of its members.

## Article 2. Objectives

The objectives of the organizations shall be:

- I. To maintain communication between student groups within the Forestry community.
- II. To support the initiatives of student groups within the Forestry community.
- III. To support the social needs of its members by organizing and promoting social events and services.
- IV. To support the academic needs of its members through representation to relevant groups and development and promotion of academic services and events.
- V. To support the professional development of its members through representation to relevant groups and development and promotion of professional services and events.
- VI. To support the external community by organizing and promoting events in cooperation with external groups, including events in support of charities.
- VII. To act as a liaison between Forestry undergraduate students and the Faculty of Forestry.

## Bylaws

### Bylaw 1: Interpretation and Definitions

No part of this Constitution may be interpreted in a sense contrary to the AMS Constitution, Bylaws, and Code. Further definitions and guidelines are detailed in the FUS Binder. In this constitution, unless otherwise specified:

- I. "UBC" shall hereafter refer to "the University of British Columbia, Vancouver".
- II. "The Society" shall hereafter refer to "the Forestry Undergraduate Society of UBC".
- III. "FUS" shall be the equivalent of "The Society"
- IV. "FUS Binder" shall hereafter refer to "Policy Manual of the FUS"
- V. "Council" shall mean the governing body of the Society comprised of Executive members and General members
- VI. "Grand Council Meeting" shall include members of both Executive and General Council
- VII. "Senate" shall hereafter refer to "the Senate of UBC Vancouver"
- VIII. "Executives" shall be the equivalent of "Executive Council of the Society"
- IX. "AMS" shall hereafter refer to "the Alma Mater Society of UBC"
- X. "Constitution" shall hereafter refer to "Constitution of the FUS"
- XI. "Appointed Volunteers" shall hereafter refer to "Directors, Managers and Representatives of the FUS"
- XII. "Quorum" shall mean the minimum number of members required to be present at a meeting to be valid.
- XIII. "Voting Members" shall also be referred to as Representatives who represent the interest of the general student body and assist in the execution of the Council's agenda, thus are able to vote on decisions within the Council and are elected.
- XIV. "Non-Voting members" shall also be referred to as Coordinators, Liaison and Managers of Council who do not directly represent the interest of the general student body, thus are not able to vote on decisions within the Council and are appointed by the Vice-President whose portfolio they fall under, as outlined in the Bylaw 5.

### Bylaw 2: Membership

Members shall include the following:

- I. Active
  - A. Active members of the Society shall be all undergraduate students enrolled in the UBC Faculty of Forestry and have paid their FUS student fees for the academic year.

#### Section 2.1 Rights of membership

- I. Each member of the FUS shall have the right to:

- A. Bring forward ideas to the FUS Council Executives
- B. Be informed of FUS Council decisions
- C. Be informed about liaisons between council and faculty/ staff
- D. Attend any FUS Council meeting
- E. Have access to all Council meeting minutes

### **Bylaw 3: Executive and General Meetings**

- I. All members of the Society have the right to attend, speak and vote in Society referenda at Grand Council Meetings.
- II. Executive Council should meet once a week, unless otherwise dictated by the President.
- III. Grand Council meetings shall be hosted at least one time per term. Term 1 (September to December) and Term 2 (January- April).
- IV. Between May and August, communication shall be continued through the Executive Council.
- V. The President shall call more meetings if necessary provided there is forty-eight (48) hours notice for a Grand Council meeting and twenty-four (24) hours notice for an Executive meeting.
- VI. Minutes shall be recorded, distributed and archived in the FUS website by the VP Administration.
- VII. The Council and Executive meetings require that  $\frac{2}{3}$  of elected officials are present for quorum to be met. If quorum is not met, then decisions made by the Council or Executive voting shall not be binding.

Further details surrounding the various meetings shall be set out in the FUS Binder.

### **Bylaw 4: Referenda**

This is the process by which a suggestion to amend policy is voted on by the active members of the society. A referendum shall be held when there is a suggestion to amend one or more bylaws in this constitution. The Executives shall have the ability to amend code to fix errors of cross referencing and spelling or grammar errors. Errors may be fixed as long as the spirit or meaning of a code section is not altered, but made more clear. The following guidelines shall be followed for any referendum

- I. There should be an announcement regarding the change for 2 full weeks and the voting when the Council deems fit.
- II. The Council must make clear whether and when the referendum will be binding and the question must be clear such that the students may answer only Yes or No.
- III. The voting must be done through the AMS online voting system under the instructions of the VP Administration and an appointed Elections Coordinator.
- IV. A referendum to alter bylaws must meet a quorum of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of society membership for it to be considered binding.

### **Bylaw 5: Council Members and Their Duties.**

- I. Executive Councilors shall consist of:
  - A. The voting Executive Members as elected by the Society:

1. **The President;**
2. **The Vice-President Internal;**
3. **The Vice-President External;**
4. **The Vice-President Finance;**
5. **The Vice-President Media;**
6. **The Vice-President Academic;**
7. **The Vice-President Student Life (2);**
8. **The Vice President Administration;**
9. **First Year President.**
10. **Forestry Student Senator**

B. Further details on responsibilities shall be outlined in the FUS Binder.

II. The General Council shall consist of:

A. The voting members who shall consist of:

1. The Natural Resources Conservation Representatives (2)
2. The Urban Forestry Representative
3. The Forest Operations Representative
4. The Forest Sciences Representative
5. The Wood Products Processing Representative
6. The Forest Resource Management Representative
7. The 2+2|3+2 Program Representative
8. The Bioeconomy Sciences and Technology Program Representative
9. Indigenous Land Stewardship Program Representative
10. First Year Representatives (4)

\* Duties for all Program and Year Representatives shall include:

- a) Represent the interests of your constituents in votes and advocacy and promote the Society to both the FUS Members and the community-at-large,
- b) Being an active member of the society during the period they are serving,
- c) Attending all General FUS meetings and receiving directions from the VP Student Life and VP Academic to plan and coordinate events.
- d) Represent the interests of your constituents in votes and advocacy
- e) Regularly report their activities to the VP Academic to which they are assigned.

B. The non-voting members shall be as defined in code within the FUS Binder.

C. Further details on responsibilities shall be outlined in the FUS Binder.

## **Bylaw 6: Terms of Office and Elections**

- I. The term of Executives Council and General Council, shall be from May 1 to April 30 of the following year.
- II. The term of Student Senator shall be from April 1 until March 31 of the following year and thereafter until replaced, as stipulated by the University Act.
- III. Executive and General elections shall take place in the first 2 weeks of March and the voting system should be open for 4-5 consecutive days. No elections shall be held during the exam period in April or statutory holidays.
- IV. Call for nominations must last for at least 2 weeks and conclude the Friday prior to election

- week.
- V. To be nominated to run for any Executive or General Council position, a Forestry student must send a short introduction — including a photo of themselves — to the FUS Elections Coordinator by the end of the nomination period.
  - VI. The Executives shall be elected by and from the active members of the Society in a general election.
  - VII. The Elections Coordinator shall be a liaison between the AMS Elections Coordinator and the FUS. They must coordinate elections according to the procedures outlined in the FUS Binder. They shall be appointed by the Executives prior to the nomination period. This appointed position cannot be a member who is running for a position but can be any active member of the Society.
  - VIII. All current members of Forestry Undergraduate Society are eligible to vote for all positions, excluding program and year representative positions for programs or years that they are not members of.
  - IX. If only one individual runs for a position, their name shall be placed on the ballot and students will be allowed to vote for or against the individual's acclamation.
  - X. If at the end of the election there is a tie between candidates, the winner shall be decided by the president through a coin toss while having  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Executives as witnesses.
  - XI. Given there is a vacancy in any voting member position, it shall be temporarily filled by a member appointed with  $\frac{2}{3}$  Executive Council support, as they see fit, until it is permanently filled through a by-election.
    - A. Given vacancies in any voting member position during the March election period, there shall be a by-election held no later than the 2nd week of October of the corresponding year. In this case, the same procedures listed above shall be followed again.
  - XII. All non-voting member positions shall be filled by appointment by the respective vice-president whose portfolio the position falls under.
  - XIII. A member of the Council can only hold only one voting-member position at a given time. There are no limitations on the number of non-voting-member positions held.
  - XIV. Two individuals may occupy the position of Vice President Student Life.
  - XV. Any voting or non-voting member may be removed from council in accordance with the FUS Binder procedure.
  - XVI. Any Executive Council member not physically present on campus for more than one month (excluding reading and holiday) of their elected academic term (September-April) shall be automatically removed.

## **Bylaw 7: Changes of Policy and Constitution Amendments**

- I. The Grand Council shall dictate the policies of the FUS through their decisions and followings of the Constitution.
- II. If there are suggested changes to the constitution, the person of interest should prepare the amendment with the FUS template in the FUS Binder and attend one of the Executive weekly meetings. The changes can then be reviewed by the Executives for approval.
- III. Time limit for the approval or denial of the amendment should be no longer than 2 weeks. Approval needs to be supported by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Executive Council. Any changes to the amendment should be posted to the public no longer than 1 week after the approval.
- IV. If one section under a bylaw is suggested to change, added or deleted then a referendum is not needed. If one or more bylaws are changed, added or deleted then a referendum is needed to approve the change (see Bylaw 4 for referendum).
- V. The Executives shall have the ability to change policy within the FUS Binder following approval supported by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Executive Council.

- VI. The Executives shall have the ability to amend code to fix errors of cross referencing and spelling or grammar errors
  - a) Errors may be fixed as long as the spirit or meaning of a code section is not altered, but made more clear.

## **Bylaw 8: Liabilities**

- I. The FUS shall assume no liability for damages suffered, be the bodily harm, property damage and/or property loss, by any participant in any of the events sponsored by or sanctioned by the Society.
- II. The Society shall assume no responsibility for any damages incurred directly or indirectly by the actions of a member of the Society unless such action has been approved by the Society.