

Preamble

The CUFA Council appointed a committee in charge of pursuing the job of revising the constitution and proposing By-Laws started by the previous committee.

The first part of the work of this committee has been to focus on **“urgent” constitutional amendments**, that is amendments that were required to allow us to keep on functioning without being unconstitutional. These new constitutional amendments cover four key issues:

[1] Speaker: For the past year, there have been multiple discussions about the value of having a neutral Speaker to chair and facilitate discussions in Council Meetings and the General Meetings. Currently, the constitution states that the President shall act as speaker, which creates unnecessary complexity as the President is also the person who has the most information to report in meetings. Council has thus decided to conduct a pilot trial of recruiting an internal speaker to chair some of the remaining meetings of Council this year, and a call for nomination has been issued. The proposed constitutional amendments are simply to create a disconnection between the roles of President and that of Speaker. They do not address who shall be a Speaker, the selection/election of a speaker, etc. These will be part of procedural By-Laws developed later this year (after the trial period). None of these changes make it impossible for the President to act as Speaker. They simply allow for other Speakers.

[2] Representation: The constitution limited the number of seats in Council to 30. As this limit had been reached, it made it impossible for new and evolving constituencies to be represented at Council (this was the case for some sectors in Engineering). The proposed constitutional amendment is to increase this maximum number to 40.

[3] Election Timeline: The constitution discussed executive election in terms of even (President, the Treasurer, and two Members-at-large) and odd years (Vice-President, the Secretary, and one Member-at-large). As we skipped one cycle during the pandemic, elections have not been following this sequence (we are one year off) since then. The proposed constitutional amendment simply seeks to resolve this issue, and to prevent similar issues to happen in the future.

[4] Fiscal Year: Since a previous change to governmental policies, the University Fiscal Year has changed, while the CUFA fiscal year (outlined in the constitution) has not. The proposed constitutional amendment simply seeks to resolve this discrepancies.

The proposed amendments were endorsed by a unanimous Vote of Council on 24 November 2025, and now need to be endorsed by 60% of voting members (25% of all members need to vote).

We note that the mandate of our committee has just started. More comprehensive changes to the Constitutions are likely to be presented later this year or early next year, as well as a set of procedural By-Laws. For the moment, the vote is only about these urgent changes. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Constitution Revision Committee:

- Alexandre Morin, Executive
- Elena Razlogova, Executive
- June Chaikelson, Councillor
- Miranda Crowdus, Councillor
- Loretta Hung, Councillor
- Aiman Hanna, Councillor
- Ketra Schmitt, Councillor

Original	Modified	Reasoning
9.3 Members of the Executive shall be voting members of Council and shall be counted in the quorum. The President shall chair the meetings of Council, but will vote only in the case of a tie.	9.3 Members of the Executive shall be voting members of Council and shall be counted in the quorum. The President shall chair the meetings of Council, but will vote only in the case of a tie.	To allow us to have a Speaker who is not President, without forcing us to.
12.10 Council shall normally be chaired by the President of the Association and shall meet on at least two (2) occasions during each fall and winter term, at a time and place designated by the Secretary of the Association at least one (1) week in advance of each meeting.	12.10 Council shall normally be chaired by the President of the Association and shall meet on at least two (2) occasions during each fall and winter term, at a time and place designated by the Secretary of the Association at least one (1) week in advance of each meeting.	To allow us to have a Speaker who is not President, without forcing us to.
13.2 The President of the Association shall preside at each regularly scheduled General Meeting and at any special General Meeting, and shall report to the membership on the state of the Association and on specific matters of topical importance.	13.2 <u>a</u> The <u>Speaker</u> President of the Association shall preside at each regularly scheduled General Meeting and at any special General Meeting <u>meetings of the Association in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.</u> <u>13.2 b</u> <u>At each</u> General Meeting <u>of the Association, the President,</u> and shall report to the membership on the state of the Association and on specific matters of topical importance.	To allow us to have a Speaker who is not President, without forcing us to. The original article was also divided, to preserve the reporting role of the President. Clarification that meetings should be chaired according to Robert's Rules of Order.
18.1 Responsibility for interpreting the terms and provisions of the Constitution and By-laws of the Association shall rest with the President, or in the absence of the President, the Chairperson of the Council.	18.1 <u>a</u> Responsibility for interpreting the terms and provisions of the Constitution and By- L aws of the Association <u>as they pertain specifically to Council meetings and General Assemblies shall rest with the Speaker, or in the absence of the appointed Speaker, with the President</u> shall rest with the President, or in the absence of the President, the Chairperson of the Council. <u>18.1 b</u> Responsibility for interpreting <u>all other</u> terms and provisions of the Constitution and By- L aws of the Association shall rest with the President or in the	To allow us to have a Speaker who is not President, without forcing us to. The original article was also divided, to preserve the interpreting role of the President for all things, save the chairing of meetings (allocated to the Speaker). Important: Procedural By-Laws will be developed and proposed later to define who can act as speaker, the role of the speaker, the selection of a speaker, etc.

	absence of the President, the Chairperson of the Council.	
11.1 With a view to guaranteeing the full participation of the members of the Association in the making of policy, they shall be represented by a Council elected by the membership from academic constituencies of approximately equal size and affinity within the University. The Council shall comprise no more than thirty elected Councillors, plus the Executive.	11.1 With a view to guaranteeing the full participation of the members of the Association in the making of policy, they shall be represented by a Council elected by the membership from academic constituencies of approximately equal size and affinity within the University. The Council shall comprise no more than <u>forty (40)</u> thirty elected Councillors, plus the Executive.	To better reflect the evolving composition of constituencies , including underrepresented sectors in engineering.
6.1 The members of the Executive of the Association shall be: President, Vice-President, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Members-at-large. Apart from the Past President, these members of the Executive shall be elected for two-year terms as follows: the President, the Treasurer, and two (2) Members-at-large shall be elected in even-numbered years; the Vice-President, the Secretary, and one (1) Member-at-large shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The position of Past President will normally be filled by the person holding the position of President when he or she comes to the end of his or her term, be that two or four years as the case may be. The term of the Past President will normally continue until replaced by the outgoing president.	6.1 The members of the Executive of the Association shall be: President, Vice-President, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Members-at-large. Apart from the Past President, these members of the Executive shall be elected for two-year terms. <u>Elections should be staggered, following a two-year cycle, where -as follows-</u> the President, the Treasurer, and two (2) Members-at- L large shall be elected <u>together in a specific year, and in even-numbered years;</u> the Vice-President, the Secretary, and one (1) Member-at- L large shall be elected in <u>the following year</u> odd-numbered years . The position of Past President will normally be filled by the person holding the position of President when he or she comes to the end of his or her term, be that two or four years as the case may be. The term of the Past President will normally continue until replaced by the outgoing president.	Elections. As a result of a one-year suspension happening during COVID, we are currently unconstitutional (even vs odd years). The reformulation simply seeks to resolve this specific issue.
5.1 The fiscal year of the Association shall be from 1 June to 31 May of the following year.	5.1 The fiscal year of the Association shall be from 1 June <u>May</u> to 30 1 <u>May</u> April of the following year.	Fiscal year was out of line with the university.