

Women and Gender Studies Student Association (WGSSA) Club Constitution

The purpose of the Women and Gender Studies Student Association is to provide and promote a welcoming space for the students in, or interested in, Women's Studies programs. We seek to build bridges between undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as with the professors. We are an inclusive group and hope to facilitate a safe and fun space for students regardless of race, gender, sex, class, sexual orientation, religion, etc.

Article 1. Name and Purpose

1.1.1 Women's and Gender Studies Student's Association

1.01.1 The mission of the organization is to bring together like minded students either enrolled in Women's Studies or not, with the goal of growing a supportive community.

1.01.2 The mission of the organization will follow the proper club guidelines provided by the Lakehead University Student's Union.

Article 2. Membership

2.0 The executive team is preferred to consist of folks in either a Women's Studies program or with a Women's Studies concentration/minor at Lakehead University. Full time or part time students welcome.

2.01 Membership is free to all executive team and general members.

2.02 General membership is open to all students regardless of program.

2.03 While decisions relating to the association are an inclusive decision making process, final say remains within the discretion of the executive team, where the President may make final say in times of controversy.

Article 3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.0 All executive team members will receive a copy of the WGSSA handbook that will outline their roles and responsibilities.

3.01 Will be made available to any members, LUSU representatives or others who request the document.

Article 4. Member Termination

4.0 WGSSA is an inclusive environment that does not tolerate harassment or inappropriate behaviour under any circumstances.

4.01 As a response to our zero tolerance harassment policy, WGSSA implements a three strike policy that will not only protect executive team members, but members at large as well.

4.02 Folks who do not respect our code of conduct will 1) Meet with the President and Vice President to discuss their actions, 2) Meet with the President, Vice President and Vice President of Advocacy should the behaviour continue and finally 3) will be asked to step down should they continue to act inappropriately.

4.03 While WGSSA works towards ensuring the success of all members, should we find ourselves in a situation that does not merit a second chance or problem solving meeting, the member will be asked to leave in order to protect all members. In other words, member termination will be taken on a case by case basis depending on the severity, with hopes of providing remedies to potential conflict.

Article 5. Finances

5.0 WGSSA's financial report may be seen upon request through the President, Vice President or Treasurer.

5.1 Should the Treasurer receive a request for financial documents, approval from the President and Vice President must be acquired.

Article 6. Decision Making and Meetings

6.0 Meetings will be chaired by the President.

6.1 In order to pass a movement or decision, there must be a majority of 51% or higher to reach consensus.

Article 7. Elections

7.0 WGSSA will not follow a traditional election campaign but will however have the current President and Vice President administer an application and interview process.

Article 8. Safety

8.0 As advised by the Women's Studies faculty, our team may find ourselves dealing with unwanted harassment pertaining to our organization from outside members. This may take form of aggressive emails, cyber bullying or in person threats. Actions to remedy this will be taken in conjunction with the Women's Studies department and LUSU.