



ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

GOVERNING POLICIES MANUAL

May, 2014

The Saint Mary's University Students' Association has developed and ratified this policy in order to define its organizational values and guarantee its membership that all aspects of the Association will be managed in an ethically responsible fashion.

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 The Saint Mary's University Students' Association (herein after referred to as "the Association") believes that it is important to embrace the traditions of our society that aspire to overcome inequality and promote social progress.
- 1.2 The Association will strive to foster a campus community that upholds an atmosphere where all students will feel respected and safe so that they are able to make effective use of their time at Saint Mary's University (herein after referred to as "the University").

2.0 UNIVERSITY

- 2.1 In the absence of any formal institutional relationship with the University, the Association commits in good faith to recognize and adhere to the following University policies:
 - 2.1.1 The Discipline Code (Student Code of Conduct);
 - 2.1.2 Policy on the Prevention and Resolution of Harassment and Discrimination;
 - 2.1.3 Sexual Assault Policy and Procedures;
 - 2.1.4 Violence in the Workplace: Prevention and Response Policy;
 - 2.1.5 Liquor Policy;
 - 2.1.6 Poster Policy;
 - 2.1.7 Tobacco-Free Campus Policy.

3.0 ASSOCIATION

- 3.1 The Association will advocate on behalf of students so that they can look forward to studying and living unhindered of any discriminatory practices.
- 3.2 The Association will represent the unique interests of the students of the University, paying specific consideration to celebrating diversity, gender equality, gender parity, equity and inclusion.
- 3.3 The Association will ensure that itself as well as any plebiscite, society or member organization does not exclude or discriminate on the basis of race, ancestry, colour, ethnic origin, place of origin, citizenship, creed/religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family status or receipt of public assistance.

- 3.4 The Association will ensure that all official proceedings are recorded and transparent and that each employed member of the Association will be held to account by their superiors, colleagues and peers.
- 3.5 The BOARD OF DIRECTORS, through the PRESIDENT, will ensure the proper and timely publication of minutes from all official meetings of the BOARD.
- 3.6 The BOARD OF DIRECTORS, through the PRESIDENT, will ensure that a list of up-to-date Association policies is made freely accessible to any interested party. This list should include the following Association policies:
- 3.6.1 The Act of Incorporation;
 - 3.6.2 The Constitution;
 - 3.6.3 Organizational Values Policy;
 - 3.6.4 Governance Policy;
 - 3.6.5 Elections Policy;
 - 3.6.6 Society Policy;
 - 3.6.7 Poster Policy;
 - 3.6.8 Sustainability Policy;
 - 3.6.9 Social Media Policy;
 - 3.6.10 External Political Representation Policy;
 - 3.6.11 The Women's Centre Society Constitution;
 - 3.6.12 The Journal Publishing Society Constitution;
 - 3.6.13 Students Nova Scotia By-Laws;
 - 3.6.14 Canadian Alliance of Student Associations By-Laws.

4.0 ENDS

- 4.1 The Association exists so that Saint Mary's students have access to a positive and beneficial student experience at a justifiable cost.
- 4.2 The Association will assist students in accomplishing their academic goals by ensuring the following:
- 4.2.1 Students will have access to assistance in solving individual academic problems
 - 4.2.2 Students will benefit from a learning environment that is comfortable, inclusive and conducive to student success
 - 4.2.3 Students will have adequate access to study spaces, labs and classrooms on campus

- 4.3 The Association will advocate on behalf of students to establish public policy that positively impacts student life and the student experience.
- 4.4 The Association will ensure that students have access to extracurricular and socially interactive activities.
- 4.5 The Association will defend the rights of students in order to ensure that individuals being treated fairly and equally in a safe environment.
- 4.6 The Association will endeavour to reduce financial barriers facing students by providing opportunities for employment.
- 4.7 The Association will advocate on behalf of students to ensure the freedom of access to a variety of affordable, local, ethical and organic food options on campus. If another party is responsible for food service on campus, the Association will actively lobby this party for a direct fulfillment of student requests and concerns.
- 4.8 The Association will provide students access to relevant information surrounding the unique needs of the student population. This information should include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - 4.8.1 Scholarships
 - 4.8.2 Government programs for student and employment assistance
 - 4.8.3 Saint Mary's Athletics
 - 4.8.4 Get Out The Vote initiatives
 - 4.8.5 Campus events
 - 4.8.6 Student societies
 - 4.8.7 University procedures regarding complaints and appeals
 - 4.8.8 University services
 - 4.8.9 Housing and residence opportunities