

CONSTITUTION OF THE TORCH ALLIANCE

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be The Torch Alliance, hereafter referred to as “Torch Alliance” or “Torch.”

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this group is to provide support services, resources, advocacy, training, education, and consultation to members of the Stevens community, as well as host events, social gatherings, and opportunities to form friendships in a safe and affirming atmosphere. Torch exists to create a campus environment that is inclusive and supportive of student diversity and intersectionality in the areas of sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression.

Article III – Membership

Section 1 - General Membership

Any student enrolled at Stevens Institute of Technology, graduate or undergraduate, shall be eligible for membership. Members are able to attend meetings and events, voice their concerns, contribute to discussion, and help with event organization.

Section 2 - Voting Membership

Any undergraduate member that has attended at least 2 meetings and 1 event; or at least 4 meetings in the current academic year shall be considered a voting member. Voting members are eligible for Executive Board positions and to vote at any voting meeting. Voting membership shall be carried over from the previous academic year until 4 meetings have been held in the current academic year.

Article IV – Officers

To direct the activities of the RSO, the following Executive Board officers shall serve for elected terms to coincide with the Academic Year. These positions shall be the positions of Chair of the Board, Vice President, Treasurer, Wordsmith, and Master of Ceremonies.

Those running for Executive Board positions must hold voting membership, as described in Article III.

Article V – Election of Officers

Election of officers (listed in Article IV) for the following Academic Year shall take place in accordance with the Standing Rules defined in Article VI of the Torch Constitution during the designated SGA Unified Election period.

Elections will take place over the course of 2 weeks. The first week will consist of nominations from Torch Alliance members for the positions on the Executive Board. Torch Alliance members may self-nominate or be nominated by fellow members for Executive Board positions. In order to be an official nominee, the member nominated must accept their nomination before the nomination deadline. Furthermore, each individual's nomination must be submitted for approval in parance with the rules and regulations of the Unified Nominations Period.

The second week will consist of the election of those members nominated in accordance with the Standing Rules defined in Article VI of the Torch Constitution. Results of the election shall be e-mailed out to the membership no more than 24 hours after polls have closed. The SGA will be notified of the results of elections in accordance with SGA policy.

Any officer vacancies that may occur during the course of the school year shall be filled by a member appointed through democratic voting process by the Torch Alliance Executive Board.

In the event that an officer elected during this process is found by Student Life to be ineligible to hold a position in the RSO, an emergency election for the position will be held the following week, following the Standing Rules described in Article VI of the Torch Constitution. All other nominees who ran in the original election shall be able to run again. If the elected officer ran unopposed, the position shall instead be considered as a vacancy and dealt with accordingly.

Article VI - Standing Rules

The Standing Rules for overseeing elections in the Torch Alliance shall be as follows:

- A. If a situation arises which is not defined here, the Executive Board may decide how to handle the situation from previous experience.
- B. Elections for the Executive Board positions shall be held in the order of the Chain of Command as defined in the Torch Alliance Bylaws.
 - a. The candidates shall have a maximum of 3 minutes for a speech, followed by a questioning period with no time limit.
 - i. The Chair is responsible for giving the candidate a 1 minute warning, followed by a 15 second warning for time remaining.
 - ii. All other candidates running for the position shall leave the room for each candidate's speech and question period.
 - b. In the result of a tie for a position.
 - i. All other candidates who did not tie shall return to the room as voting members.
 - ii. The tied candidates shall once again follow election protocol for the position as defined in Standing Rules.
- C. All votes are decided by paper ballot.
 - a. Prior to voting meetings, all members of the organization will be notified whether or not they are voting members for the meeting.
 - b. Voting period will happen after discussion has closed.
 - c. The results will be decided by a plurality.
- D. The Chair of the meeting shall follow the Chain of Command as defined in the Bylaws if the previous Chair is unable to do so for any reason.
 - a. In the case none of the Executive Board is able to chair, the Chair shall be appointed by the Executive Board.
 - b. The Chair does have the ability to ask questions of the candidate, and join in the discussion.
- E. The discussion floor is open for all members of the organization.
 - a. A person must be acknowledged by the Chair to raise a point.
 - b. A motion may be raised by members by raising an LGBT+ flag.
 - i. All motions must be seconded, or will be ignored by the chair.
 - ii. Motions shall take priority over discussion.
- F. Motions
 - a. If a motion is seconded, the Chair will hold a vote by acclamation.
 - i. If the Chair is in doubt, or cannot reach a clear consensus, they will have a re-vote by show of hands.

- b. A motion must first be approved by the Chair.
 - i. A motion can be made by the members to repeal the decision of the Chair if a majority of the members agree that the motion should be entertained.
- c. Scope calls.
 - i. A member may call “scope” on a discussion when they believe something is irrelevant to the discussion at hand.
 - ii. The Chair will decide if the scope call should be entertained or not.
 - iii. If a discussion point is deemed out of scope, the point should not be considered during the election.

Article VII – Resignation of Officers

Should a member of the Torch Alliance Executive Board choose to resign from office, this individual must submit a formal notice of resignation to the Executive Board. This member is responsible for the duties of their position for up to two weeks or until a suitable replacement is chosen by the process outlined in Article V.

Article VIII – Removal of Officers

Any officer of the Torch Alliance Executive Board who fails to perform the general or position-specific duties as described in the Torch Alliance Bylaws is liable to be removed from the Executive Board. To implement this individual’s removal, the Executive Board has discretion to impeach the member in question. Impeachment must be a unanimous decision of the remaining members of the Executive Board.

Article IX – Committees

Ad hoc committees may be formed at the request of the Chair of the Board on an as-needed basis. Upon their request of an ad hoc committee, the Chair of the Board must provide the Executive Board and the general body with the following details of the requested ad hoc committee:

- The purpose and mission of the ad hoc committee;
- The suggested duration of time the ad hoc committee is projected to serve;

The chairperson of the ad hoc committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board. The chairperson shall provide the Executive Board and general body with a concise, executive summary of the committee's progress upon request.

Article X– Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed at any general body meeting by any general member. Adoption of an amendment shall be by three fourths of quorum as defined in the bylaws.

Article XI – Custody of the Constitution and Bylaws

A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws shall be posted publicly on DuckLink.

Article XII – Chaos Clause

Procedures not specifically defined in this constitution shall be adapted from previous experience of the Executive Board.

Approved by the Torch Alliance General Body on this 29th day of March
2023