

Humber Polytechnic Undergraduate Engineering Society (HPUES)

Constitution

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Article 1 - Name & Legal Standing

01. Name

- a. The official name of the organization shall be the “**Humber Polytechnic Undergraduate Engineering Society**”, hereinafter referred to as “HPUES” or “The Society”
- b. The Head Office of the society shall be located at Humber Polytechnic North Campus in the City of Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- c. The Society's Term shall commence on May 1st and conclude on April 30th each year.
- d. The Society and its members shall operate in compliance with Humber Polytechnic Policies and applicable laws.

02. Legal Standing

- a. HPUES is a non-profit, student-governed organization representing undergraduate engineering students enrolled at Humber Polytechnic.
- b. The Society exists as a recognized student organization and shall operate in accordance with Humber Polytechnic policies, applicable municipal, provincial, and federal laws, and all institutional regulations.
- c. The Society shall not operate for personal profit. Any surplus funds shall be used solely to further the objectives of the Society.

Article 2 - Purpose, Mission, Vision & Values

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the Society is to represent, advocate for, support, and enhance the academic, professional, and social experience of undergraduate engineering students at Humber Polytechnic.

2. Mission

- 2.1. The mission of the Society is to empower undergraduate engineering students by fostering leadership, innovation, collaboration, and professional development, while serving as a unified voice between students, the institution, and external stakeholders.

3. Vision

- 3.1. The vision of the Society is to cultivate an inclusive, innovative, and professionally engaged engineering community whose members are prepared to engineer solutions with meaningful real-world impact.

4. Values

- 4.1. The Society is guided by the following core values:
 - 4.1.1. **Integrity** - acting honestly, ethically, and transparently in all activities;
 - 4.1.2. **Inclusivity** - promoting equity, diversity, accessibility, and respect for all members;
 - 4.1.3. **Leadership** - encouraging responsibility, accountability, and service-oriented leadership;
 - 4.1.4. **Innovation** - supporting creativity, problem-solving, and continuous improvement;

- 4.1.5. **Excellence** - striving for high standards in governance, programming, and representation.

Article 3 - Definitions & Interpretation

03. Definitions

- a. **“Humber”** - Refers to Humber Polytechnic's, a recognized post-secondary institution in Ontario, Canada, offering undergraduate engineering programs and other academic disciplines.
- b. **“FAST” or “Faculty”**– Refers to Humber’s Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology.
- c. **“Term”** - the Society’s official year of office; for HPUES, the term runs from May 1st to April 30th of the next year. Society’s Fiscal Year will commence and conclude with the Term.
- d. **“Active Member”** - an undergraduate engineering student at Humber Polytechnic who is registered as a member of HPUES in the current academic year and whose membership fees (if any) are paid.
- e. **“Board of Directors” or “BoD”** - Main governing body of HPUES, outlined in By-law 1
- f. **“Executive”** - Individuals elected to carry out specific governance or operational responsibilities within HPUES.
- g. **“Representative” or “Rep.”** -Individual elected to represent a certain group in HPUES discussions or meetings.
- h. **“Commission”** - A group of people selected to perform specific tasks within HPUES.
- i. **“Commissioner”** - An individual chosen to perform particular tasks under a Commission.
- j. **“Council”** - Group of representatives chosen to participate in HPUES discussion to ensure communication and feedback to Executives.
- k. **“Simple Majority”** - more than 50% of votes cast.
- l. **“Two-thirds majority”** - at least 66.7% of votes cast.
- m. **“Chair”** - Member assigned to preside over a meeting.
- n. **“Year”** - In the context of students, a year shall be defined as per Humber’s credit-based definition.
- o. **“Student”** - refers to an individual within an undergraduate engineering program at Humber.

- p. **“Good Standing”** - refers to HPUES members who are currently meeting the minimum academic requirements set by their program and are eligible to continue.
- q. In these by-laws, **“shall”** is mandatory; **“may”** is permissive.
- r. All other words shall carry their common dictionary definitions.

Article 4 - Membership

1. Membership

- 1.1. Membership in the Society shall be open to all undergraduate students enrolled in an accredited or accreditation-track engineering program at Humber Polytechnic.
- 1.2. Membership shall be voluntary and inclusive, subject only to eligibility requirements defined in this Constitution and the By-Laws.
- 1.3. No undergraduate student shall be denied membership or participation on discriminatory grounds as defined by applicable law or institutional policy.

Article 5 - Governance Structure (BoD)

1. Governance Structure

- 1.1. The governance of the Society shall be exercised through the following bodies:
 - 1.1.1. The **Board of Directors**, or “BoD” as the primary governing authority;
 - 1.1.2. **Council**, as a representative and deliberative body; and
 - 1.1.3. The **Executive**, as the officers responsible for day-to-day administration and leadership.
 - 1.1.4. The specific composition, powers, duties, responsibilities, limitations, and procedures of the Board of Directors, Council, and Executive shall be defined exclusively in the By-Laws, including but not limited to **By-Law 1 (Governing Body)** **By-Law 4 (Executive)** and **By-Law 5 (Council & Commissions/Committees)** of the [*Updated HPUES By-Laws*](#). (BY-LAWS 2025-26).

2. Authority

- 1.1. All governing bodies and officers derive their authority from this Constitution and are accountable to the membership of the Society through the mechanisms set out in the By-Laws.
- 1.2. No individual, officer, committee, or governing body may act beyond the authority granted by this Constitution and the By-Laws.

Article 6 - Governing Documents & Hierarchy

1. Governing Documents

- 1.1. HPUES governing Documents must not conflict with Humber policy or any municipal, provincial, or federal law.
- 1.2. Governing documents shall include, but not be limited to, this document, hereinafter referred to as “The By-Laws”, as well as any additional policies adopted by the Society.
- 1.3. The governing framework of the Society shall consist of the following documents:
 - 1.3.1. This Constitution;
 - 1.3.2. The By-Laws of the Society (By-Law 2 - Subsection 3.4.1.1 to 3.4.1.4);
 - 1.3.3. Policies, procedures, and operational guidelines adopted pursuant to the By-Laws.

2. Hierarchy

- 2.1. By-Laws take precedence over all policies, procedures, or rules of the Society.
- 2.2. Policies and procedures may supplement but **cannot contradict** these Constitution.
- 2.3. The Constitution, other by-laws, policies, and procedures may be enacted, amended, or repealed through the process outlined in by-law 2.
- 2.4. In case of dispute, these Constitution shall be interpreted in the spirit of fairness, accountability, and transparency.
- 2.5. If ambiguity exists, the interpretation of BoD(by two-thirds vote) shall prevail unless overruled by the General Meeting (BoD).
- 2.6. In all cases, institutional policy and applicable law superseded these Constitution.

Article 7 - Non-Discrimination, Equity & Conduct

1. Non-Discrimination

- 1.1. The Society shall uphold principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in all activities, governance practices, and decision-making processes.
- 1.2. The Society shall not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, ethnicity, colour, nationality, ancestry, religion, creed, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, or any other protected ground under applicable law or institutional policy.

2. Equity & Conduct

- 2.1. All members and officers shall conduct themselves in a respectful, professional, and ethical manner consistent with the values of the Society.

Article 8 - Elections, Appointments, Removal & Accountability

1. Election

- 1.1. Democratic representation and accountability are fundamental principles of the Society.

2. Appointment

- 2.1. All matters relating to elections, appointments, nominations, campaigning, voting procedures, vacancies, removals, succession, discipline, and appeals for elected or appointed positions shall be governed exclusively by **By-Law 3 (Elections & Referenda)** and **By-Law 6 (Vacancies, Removal & Succession)** of the [*HPUES By-Laws*](#). (BY-LAWS 2025-26).

3. Accountability

- 3.1. No election, appointment, or removal shall be valid unless conducted in full accordance with the By-Laws.

Article 9 - Financial Governance

1. Governance

- 1.1. The Society shall manage its financial affairs responsibly, ethically, and transparently in the best interests of its membership.
- 1.2. All matters relating to budgeting, revenues, expenditures, signing authority, audits, sponsorships, donations, misuse of funds, financial reporting, and the fiscal year shall be governed exclusively by **By-Law 6 (Finance & Accountability)** of the [*HPUES By-Laws*](#)(BY-LAWS 2025-26).

- 1.3. Society funds shall be used solely to advance the objectives and purposes of the Society.

Article 10 - Amendments to the Constitution

1. Amendments

- 1.1. This Constitution may be amended only in accordance with the amendment procedures set out in **By-Law 8 (Amendments)** of the [*HPUES By-Laws*](#) (BY-LAWS 2025-26).
- 1.2. No amendment may conflict with Humber Polytechnic policies or applicable law.
- 1.3. Amendment may be temporarily suspended to achieve a certain goal during a General Meeting via 2/3 majority;
 - 1.3.1. Always reconsider suspending By-Laws as it may have legal consequences.

Article 11 - Dissolution

1. The Society may be dissolved only in accordance with the procedures, voting thresholds, and safeguards set out in **By-Law 9 (Dissolution)** of the [*HPUES By-Laws*](#). (BY-LAWS 2025-26).
2. 10.2 Upon dissolution, all assets and records of the Society shall be distributed in accordance with the By-Laws and institutional requirements.

Article 12 - Adoption, Authority & Continuity

1. Adoption, Authority & Continuity

- 1.1. This Constitution is adopted and ratified by the membership of the Humber Polytechnic Undergraduate Engineering Society.
- 1.2. Upon ratification, this Constitution shall come into full force and effect and shall supersede all previous constitutions or governing documents of the Society.
- 1.3. If any provision of this Constitution is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.