

The Boundary Constitution

June 2026

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1. Mission statement

- a) *The Boundary* (or *Boundary News*) aims to satirize news and events relevant to Victoria University, the University of Toronto, their students, and their alumni.

2. Positions and roles

- a) The following roles constitute the Masthead, defined as elected senior positions of *The Boundary*:

- One (1) Editor-in-Chief
- One (1) Managing Editor
- One (1) Social Media Chair
- One (1) Head Copy Writer
- Two (2) Deputy Managing Editors
- One (1) Head Writer

- b) The Editor-in-Chief (EIC) shall lead weekly meetings, craft and approve pitches, contribute and write articles when needed, examine each article before publication, develop relevant talking points for each meeting with assistance from the Head Writer, assist in managing the social media pages, manage the website, promote *The Boundary* on the University of Toronto campus, maintain and develop contact with VUSAC and other relevant partners, represent the group in any public engagements, and will ultimately deem what is publishable or not based on *The Boundary's* ethics code (Article VI).

- c) The Managing Editor shall assist the EIC in whatever means necessary including but not limited to putting together the semesterly magazine and all of its related responsibilities, assisting in the copy-editing or content-editing of articles, leading meetings when the EIC is absent from meetings, writing articles when needed, managing the website, and assisting other Heads when needed.

- d) The Social Media Head shall be responsible for creating, uploading, and sharing *The Boundary's* content on all social media platforms for which the club has an account. They will communicate with the EIC and Managing Editor to establish publishing dates, brainstorm promotional material, and report on the success of content across different platforms.

- e) Deputy Managing Editors shall assist the EIC and Managing Editors in whatever ways necessary, including but not limited to copy-editing, brainstorming, writing, and collaborating on articles; shooting and editing photos; leading meetings; attending VUSAC functions on behalf of *The Boundary*; liaising with other groups for collaborations; managing the website and social media pages; assisting in magazine production; and mentoring junior writers.

- f) The Head Writer shall help brainstorm ideas for articles and zine contributions. They are also entitled to writing at least one of the articles published weekly.
- g) The Head Copy Writer shall help the EIC and Managing Editors edit and proof-read articles, edit and create social media posts, and proof-read zines before their final submissions for print.
- h) A Staff Writer shall be defined as a person who has written at least two articles during the current Masthead's tenure. This position shall be granted automatically. It may be revoked at the discretion of a two-thirds majority of the Masthead in cases where a Staff Writer has been found to be in violation of Sections 4 and 6 of this Document. The process for revocation may be initiated only by the Editor-in-Chief and must be seconded by the Managing Editor or all Deputy Managing Editors.
- i) A General Member shall be defined as a person who has submitted their name, student number, and U of T email for the purposes of receiving *Boundary* communications. They shall have the right to be published in priority above contributors (henceforth Guest Contributors) who do not hold general membership, since their expression of interest in the *Boundary* demonstrates a potential desire to become Staff Writer. This position may be revoked at the discretion of a two-thirds majority of the Masthead under the same circumstances and by the same process as outlined in Section 2(h).
- j) A Guest Contributor is a person who has published an article in *The Boundary* and has chosen not to be a General Member. Their contributions shall not count toward Staff Writer Status. Non-affiliates of the University of Toronto are Guest Contributors by default.

3. Elections

- a) **ELECTION TIMING:** Elections will take place during the first two weeks of April at the discretion of the group (defined as staff writers and Masthead). The election date will be agreed upon based on a majority vote of the group at the first weekly meeting in March.
- b) **RESIGNATIONS AND BY-ELECTIONS:** In case a member of the Masthead should resign before their term is over, their position shall be filled by by-election unless that person was the Editor-in-Chief or the Managing Editor. In the event that the Editor-in-Chief or the Managing Editor should resign before their terms are over, the Managing Editor shall become Editor-in-Chief and the Head Writer shall become Managing Editor.
- c) **QUORUM:** Quorum is met when at least two-thirds of the group is present.
- d) **VOTING OFFICIAL:** A student or employee of the University of Toronto may act as Voting Official during this time. He or she must not run in any of the election races and must be voted in by a majority of the group at the first weekly meeting in March.

- e) **CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY:** Any *Boundary* staff writer or Masthead member may run for the various positions. There are no minimum requirements. In the event that there are no eligible staff writers running for a given position on the Masthead, a non-eligible University of Toronto student may run for the position.
- f) **POSITIONS AVAILABLE:** Any eligible individual may run for any of the four Masthead positions. Every eligible individual may run for two positions at maximum. Staff writers are automatically appointed after the publication of two articles.
- g) **VOTING ELIGIBILITY:** One vote is entrusted to each staff writer or Masthead member. They may vote once in each of the Masthead position elections.
- h) **VOTING PROCESS:**
 - i) All eligible voters will cast their vote via secret ballot on the day of the election or, if circumstances prevent this, up to three (3) days before the election. In this case, the voter must convey their wish via text message, phone call, Kik, or another related channel to the Voting Official.
 - ii) A simple majority must be attained for the candidate to win the election (in other words, first-past-the-post).
 - iii) If the election results in a tie between two candidates, any lower-ranking candidates will be eliminated and a new vote will be initiated (a run-off election will be ushered in).
 - iv) If there are only two parties to begin with and the democratic vote results in a clean tie, the newly elected EIC will determine who they desire for the position.
 - v) In the event that there are no candidates for a position, the EIC is encouraged to appoint a staff writer to the vacant position. If there are no staff writers available or willing to accept the position, a new member may be appointed by the EIC.

4. Treatment of staff

The Boundary aims to create a respectful environment. However, it also acknowledges that a provocative, controversial, and occasionally even vulgar perspective is crucial in exploring and developing satire. *The Boundary* will always hold free speech as its highest ideal, because free speech is what makes the group's existence possible in the first place. The balance between these two ideals, respecting staff and developing provocative satire, will ultimately be determined by the EIC, the Managing Editor, and the Deputy Managing Editors. These four will preside over meetings and be responsible for regulating and disciplining what they deem to be blatant, unnecessary, or intentional discrimination. Any member who feels they have been intentionally targeted by a staff writer or Masthead member should immediately consult either the EIC, Managing Editor, or one of the Deputy Managing Editors.

5. Finances

The Boundary's survival is dependent on VUSAC. One member of the Masthead, preferably the EIC or Managing Editor, must submit a budget well in advance of VUSAC's deadline each semester after consulting the Masthead and group-at-large. This member will be responsible for managing expenses, drafting the budget, liaising with VUSAC's Finance Executive, and keeping track of members' group-related expenses. They must also attend budget ratification meetings should the group's budget exceed \$1000.00 (this number is subject to change in accordance with VUSAC's updates to their criteria). If the Masthead member responsible for finances cannot attend this meeting, they must delegate the duty to an associate.

6. Ethics

- a) *The Boundary's* satire, above all, aims to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted. Any deviation from this ideal should be done with caution. The group should always tread carefully when writing about disadvantaged demographics, although by no means are such groups excluded from *The Boundary's* coverage.
- b) *The Boundary's* dependence on VUSAC for funding should never affect a decision to satirize, or not satirize, VUSAC.
- c) As a general rule, total anonymity should not be granted to writers. This, loosely speaking, is in accordance with the Timson Rule, which mandates that news outlets, satirical or otherwise, must avoid publishing anonymous attacks on individuals or organizations. In the interest of safeguarding the satirical tradition in a fractious political environment, however, writers should be credited with initials only. Exemptions may be granted in exceptional cases by the EIC.
- d) Moreover, all staff writers and Masthead members must be listed on *The Boundary's* website. This ensures accountability and transparency.
- e) When covering topics which involve human suffering, particularly the suffering of marginalized demographics, the EIC may append a discretionary disclaimer at the end of the article.

7. Amendments

- a) Amendments may be proposed when quorum is achieved. A two-thirds majority of the members of the Masthead present must be achieved to amend the Constitution. The group may amend the Constitution at any meeting. To ensure multiple perspectives are considered and that the amendment process is as successful and considerate as possible,

the amendment must then be approved by either the previous EIC, the previous Managing Editor, or both of the previous Deputy Managing Editors.

- b) In such exceptional cases as none of the individuals mentioned in 7(a) are involved in The Boundary, the provision for the ratification of the amendment by these aforementioned individuals is considered null and void.

Presiding over first passing of Constitution (December 2019): *Daniel Aykler, Kyle Brickman, Jack Mageau, Nona Jalali, Emory Claire Mitchell, Louis Butt, Thomas Sider, Emilio Ortelli, Ruven Samaraweera, Will Stoecker, Ted Fraser, Joseph Strauss, Hannah So.*

Presiding over second passing of Constitution (March 2021): *Madeleine Beckett, Natalie Cader-Beutel, Samuel Edwards, Patrick Fraser, Daniel Golden, Nona Jalali, Emory Claire Mitchell, Keah Sharma, Joseph Strauss, Shane Wang.*

**amendment made by Clare Mooney in 2024: mentions of Head Copy Editor & Head Writer eliminated to reflect this year's lack of the position*

**amendments made by Artemis Fedorchuk in 2025: mentions of Head Writer, Head Copy Writer, and Second Deputy Managing Editor reinstated to reflect this year's elected members*

**amendments made by Silas Busby in 2026: provisions added for the election of non-staff writers to Masthead positions in exceptional circumstances, partial anonymity (initials only) of writers, discretionary disclaimers, amendment of constitution in the absence of previous Masthead members. Removal of term limits on Masthead positions in the interest of ensuring the publication's continued survival and longevity. Definitions of Staff Writer, General Member, and Guest Contributor added. By-election and resignation protocol added.*