



Operating Policy – Interfaith Council

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To bring together representatives from student faith-based associations at McMaster University;
- 1.2. To work to address issues of common concern that affect the greater McMaster community;
- 1.3. To build connections between students of different spiritual affiliations, furthering the goal of a more unified campus community;
- 1.4. To facilitate and encourage religious dialogue within the McMaster community.

2. Membership

- 2.1. The Interfaith Council shall include one (1) president or undergraduate representative from the following groups, who shall be voting members:
 - 2.1.1. Canadian Martyrs Catholic Church & Chaplaincy; The Cooperative of Indigenous Studies Students and Alumni;
 - 2.1.2. Hillel (Jewish Students Association);
 - 2.1.3. Hindu Students Association;
 - 2.1.4. Muslim Students Association;
 - 2.1.5. Christian Orthodox Campus-Ministry Association;
 - 2.1.6. Power to Change;
 - 2.1.7. Sikh Students Association.
- 2.2. The Council shall include the following non-voting members:
 - 2.2.1. The Diversity + Equity Network Director or Assistant Director;
 - 2.2.2. The Chair of Religious Clubs from the Clubs Advisory Council;
 - 2.2.3. The Ecumenical Chaplain;
 - 2.2.4. One (1) SRA member:
 - 2.2.4.1. The SRA member shall be elected to the Council no later than April 30;
 - 2.2.5. Any religious or spiritual MSU Club deemed appropriate by the Council membership.

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- 2.3. Any MSU Club willing to join the Council should write a letter of interest to the Chair and be ratified by the Council membership as a non-voting member.

3. Operations

- 3.1. The Council shall meet no less than:
 - 3.1.1. One (1) time between May 1 and August 31;
 - 3.1.2. Two (2) times between September 1 and November 30, including once in September;
 - 3.1.3. Two (2) times between January 1 and March 31.
- 3.2. The term of the Council shall be from May 1 to March 31.
- 3.3. The Chairperson shall:
 - 3.3.1. Be elected by members of the Council at the first official meeting of the year;
 - 3.3.1.1. Until a Chairperson is elected, the Diversity + Equity Network Director or Assistant Director shall act as Interim Chairperson and perform all duties associated with the Chairperson, including the organization and facilitation of the first Council meeting;
 - 3.3.2. Call and chair the meetings of the Interfaith Council;
 - 3.3.3. Be responsible for booking meeting rooms, assign action items, distribution of previous meeting minutes and the meeting agendas, and provide any other administrative support to the Council as deemed necessary;
 - 3.3.4. Serve as the central contact person for the Council;
 - 3.3.5. Work with the voting members to develop a transition report for the next year's Council;
- 3.4. Quorum shall be two thirds majority, and votes shall pass solely by unanimous consent of the voting members present.

4. Activities

- 4.1. The Council shall:
 - 4.1.1. Promote the RISO Policy and the accommodations therein;
 - 4.1.2. Offer recommendations to the McMaster Students Union and University on relevant issues and policies;
 - 4.1.3. Host events such as social gatherings, educational forums, and panels;
 - 4.1.4. Other tasks as deemed relevant by the Council;
- 4.2. The Council shall host at least one town hall meeting on religious and spiritual issues per academic year;

- 4.3. The Chairperson or the SRA representative shall report on the activities of the Interfaith Council to the Student Representative Assembly at the fourth (4th) meeting of the Fall and Winter semesters.