

# ACADIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Amended (April 15, 2026)

## ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Acadia University Faculty Association. The abbreviated title shall be AUFA.

## ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS

1. All references to 'the Association' shall refer to AUFA; all references to 'the Board' shall refer to the Board of Governors of Acadia University.
2. AUFA is a trade union that is the bargaining agent for a bargaining unit consisting of all full-time and part-time academic staff employed at Acadia University in the following job categories: Academic Librarians, Archivists, Art Gallery Curator, Instructors, Lecteurs/Lectrices, Pädagogischen Austauschdienstes lecturers (PADs), and Professors, including those in probationary, continuing, tenured, and contractually limited appointments. All employees in these categories pay dues, and are eligible to become members of AUFA on signing a union card. Excluded from the bargaining unit are academic administrators, members of AUPAT who act in a managerial capacity, post-doctoral fellows engaged in teaching to the extent that such teaching is a requirement of their fellowship, graduate students engaged in teaching to the extent that such teaching is a requirement of a scholarship from an external source, teaching assistants, coaches in sports programs, and employees of the Divinity College. (The AUFA bargaining unit is defined by NS Labour Relations Board Certification Orders 2285, 2420, 3338, 3675, 4914 and 5093.)
3. The term "be received by the members" refers to the day the item is deposited in the university mail or sent by electronic mail.
4. The term "Union Officer" is used to refer to the person employed in that position by AUFA.
5. The "Grievance Officer" refers to the senior member of the Association Grievance Committee.
6. The "Association Grievance Committee (AGC)" shall consist of a Senior Grievance Officer, three Junior Grievance Officers, and a Records Officer.
7. Unless otherwise stated, the term "day" used herein refers to a calendar day.

### ARTICLE III OBJECTIVES

1. To promote the independence and freedom of teaching, of thought and of research within the University.
2. To promote the interests and welfare of Employees, the interests and welfare of AUFA and, insofar as these interests coincide, to promote the interest of CAUT.
3. To express member opinion on matters pertaining to their professional and material status and the betterment of higher education and the University, to perform such actions as may be consistent with this objective, and to seek to maintain high academic standards within the University.
4. To act as the bargaining agent in all matters of employer-employee relations including salaries and working conditions for the bargaining unit certified by the Labour Relations Board of Nova Scotia.
5. In selecting members for committees, the members collectively and in committee shall make every effort to ensure equitable representation of the membership, including gender equity.

### ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

1. All members of the bargaining unit who are employed at Acadia at any time during the current academic year (July 1 – June 30) are eligible for membership in AUFA. Part-time faculty or Limited-term who are not employed at Acadia in the current academic year but remain on the precedence list continue to be represented by AUFA (but are not members of AUFA).
2. Upon written application to the AUFA office, retired members, those on unpaid leave, and faculty appointees to the Board of Governors shall be granted Associate member status.
3. Associate members shall hold such status for the duration of the current academic year. When Associate membership status expires, eligible individuals may re-apply for Associate membership.
4. Herein, any reference to ‘member’ shall be taken to mean a regular member of AUFA (not an associate member) unless otherwise specified.
5. Only members of AUFA are entitled to vote at meetings of AUFA. With the consent of the meeting, non-members may be invited to speak and participate in debate. Upon arrival at a meeting, Associate members and other guests must identify themselves to the meeting Chair. The meeting Chair will announce a list of all

Associate members and guests who are in attendance at the meeting, normally at the beginning of the meeting. At any point in a meeting, any member may make a motion that all Associate members and guests leave the meeting until a specified point in the meeting agenda. The motion must be passed by simple majority.

6. Only members are eligible to serve as voting members on any committee of AUFA. On occasion, committees may co-opt non AUFA Members as non-voting members.
7. Associate members shall not have access to the members-only section of the AUFA website and will not be on the AUFA member e-mail distribution list. Access will be restored to individuals who fall under AUFA membership eligibility provisions as set out in Article IV(1).

#### ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

1. All members of AUFA shall be eligible for election to the Executive.
2. The Executive officers of the Association shall consist of President, President Elect, Communications Officer, Treasurer, a Past President (normally the immediate Past President), and four members at large with at least one member of the Executive being a Part-time or Limited-term Employee.
  - (i) The President Elect shall, upon request, receive one three-hour credit course release available to the Association and not reserved for the President of the Association through the relevant article of the Collective Agreement or the equivalent amount of professional development funds.
  - (ii) Each year the Executive will consider compensation for the Part-time or Limited-term representative.
3. The Communications Officer and the Treasurer shall normally hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-election. The President, President Elect and Past President and the Members at Large shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election.
4. No one shall be permitted to serve on the Executive Committee for more than five years consecutively.
5. Duties:
  - (i) The Executive shall be responsible for carrying out the policies as decided by the Association and for furthering the purposes of the Association.

- (ii) The Executive shall initiate consultation and shall be responsible for liaison with provincial and national organizations in all matters of direct mutual concern.
- (iii) The Executive shall act as the liaison organization between AUFA and the University administration and the Board of Governors.
- (iv) The Executive shall carry on business on behalf of the Association between general meetings and investigate and report on matters of interest to the Association.
- (v) The Executive shall call regular and special meetings of the Association in the manner set forth in Article IX below.
- (vi) The Executive shall have power to receive such funds as may be voted by the Association in the form of dues or assessments to further the purposes of the Association, and shall expend such funds as directed by the Association.
- (vii) Cheques shall be signed by any two authorized officers of the Association. The authorized officers shall normally be any two of the President, the President Elect, and the Treasurer.
- (viii) The Executive shall name an accountant to examine the books of the Association and to certify the Treasurer's financial statement prior to its presentation at the annual first general meeting after the end of the fiscal year.
- (ix) The Executive shall:
  - a. appoint members to Standing and Ad Hoc committees as outlined in Articles XI and XIII below with the exception of the Nominating and Negotiating Committees which shall be elected as outlined below.
  - b. appoint representatives to joint Committees of AUFA and the Board and other committees as outlined in Article XII below, and provide their contact information to the relevant committee chairs.
  - c. announce the names of committee members, and any subsequent changes of membership, at the next General Meeting following their appointment. If the Executive wishes to remove a committee member, it must do so in accordance with Article XVI.
  - d. inform the relevant Standing Committee on a regular basis of issues that arise in relation to the articles of the Collective Agreement for which a

Standing Committee is responsible. This information shall be conveyed to the Committee in general terms, without revealing any member's private details.

- (x) The Treasurer's portfolio shall include responsibility for the Association's finances, and involve:
  - a. providing a tentative budget for the following year at the Annual General Meeting;
  - b. providing a financial overview of the Association's finances at the Annual General Meeting;
  - c. providing a budget and the accountant's financial report at the first full meeting after the end of the fiscal year.
- (xi) The Communication Officer's portfolio shall include serving on the Communications Committee (normally as chair) and serving as the primary liaison between the Executive and Communications Committee.
- (xii) The Union Officer shall place the current constitution on the Association's web page.

#### ARTICLE VI COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT

1. A negotiated Collective Agreement must be ratified by the membership before being signed by any officer or agent of AUFA. All AUFA members shall have the right to vote on the proposed Agreement. A ratification vote shall normally take place at a duly constituted meeting of all members eligible to vote, and approval shall be by simple majority. Only three motions shall be permitted: to ratify, to reject, or to refer back to the Negotiating Committee with instructions.
2. AUFA shall not be bound by a Memorandum of Agreement signed by any officer or agent of AUFA unless:
  - (i) that officer or agent has been instructed to enter into such an agreement by at least one-half of the AUFA Executive AND
  - (ii) the text of the proposed or potential Memorandum of Agreement and any relevant documentation has been received by the membership and a period of five working days has elapsed and the proposed Memorandum has not been rejected by means of the procedure described in Article VI OR

- (iii) the officer or agent has been instructed to enter into such an agreement at a general meeting of AUFA following proper notice of motion.
3. If within five days of a proposed or potential Memorandum of Agreement being received by the members, the Executive is petitioned through the Union Officer in writing to reject or amend the proposed memorandum by no fewer than ten members, then the Executive shall call a special meeting to take place within fifteen days of the proposed Memorandum being received by the members.

The notice for the meeting shall include a copy of the petition. The quorum for such a meeting shall be the same as the quorum for a regular meeting. Article VI, 2(a) notwithstanding, if a motion to reject or amend the proposed Memorandum is not passed at a special meeting, then the Memorandum shall be signed or made to come into effect unchanged except for editorial corrections from the proposed Memorandum distributed to the membership.

#### ARTICLE VII FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

#### ARTICLE VIII FEES

Annual union dues shall be determined by the Association following the presentation of the budget and the accountant's financial report at the first general meeting (normally September) after the end of the fiscal year. Any change to the dues will take effect on the regular pay date in the month following this meeting.

#### ARTICLE IX MEETINGS

1. The meetings of the Association shall be presided over by a Chair or Deputy Chair, such persons to be elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting of the Association and to serve for the following academic year.
2. General meetings of the Association are scheduled for the months of September, October, November, January, February, March and April, but need not take place if there is insufficient business, provided that at least three meetings are called each year, one of which must be the Annual Meeting. Meeting times will normally be announced by July 1 and will take into account the availability of members and endeavour to accommodate varying schedules.
3. The April general meeting shall be called the Annual Meeting.

4. The President shall meet with the Executive and the Chair or Deputy Chair as appropriate at least two weeks prior to all scheduled general meetings to prepare the agenda for those meetings.
5. Only members and associate members may attend meetings. Others may attend a given meeting if so invited by the members.
6. Agenda for general meetings and notice of motion given by the Executive or by any of the Committees of the Association must be received by the members at least seven days prior to the day of the meeting.
7. All notices of motion from members must be received by the members not less than four days prior to the day of a general meeting.
8. Special meetings may be called by the Executive or on demand of any ten of the members. Such meetings require notice of not less than two full working days (excluding the day of the meeting) and shall be held within two weeks of receipt of the demand.
9. Special meetings of the Executive shall be called at the discretion of the President or in their absence by the President Elect.
10. A quorum for general and annual meetings of the Association shall consist of ten per cent (10%) of the members. A quorum for ratification meetings described in VI(1) shall be 10% of the members. A quorum for special meetings shall be the same as for general and annual meetings.
11. A quorum for meetings of the Executive shall consist of 50% of the members of the Executive.
12. Procedure at all meetings of the Association and of the Committees of the Association shall be according to Robert's Rule of Order (latest edition).
13. The union officer shall normally attend all meetings of AUFA and its executive and shall take minutes as requested.

#### ARTICLE X ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The Executive officers of the Association shall normally be elected at the Annual Meeting in each year, and shall serve from July 1 until June 30 next.
2. The Executive officers shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee elected in the manner outlined in Article XI 3 (i) to (vi). The Nominating Committee shall inform members of the Association by mail of the nominations it has made at least two

weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall make every effort to ensure equitable representation of the membership on the executive. Additional nominations can be made in advance in writing to the Union Officer, or from the floor. Prior to the meeting the Union Officer shall communicate to the membership the names of all nominations to all positions.

3. In the event that an office should become vacant during the year, for reasons other than those outlined in Article XVI, the procedure outlined in Article X, 2 above will be followed to fill the vacancy at the next meeting of the Association. Until the election takes place the Executive may make a temporary appointment to fill the vacancy.

In the event that the office of President should become vacant during the year, for reasons other than those outlined in Article XVI, the President Elect shall assume the role of President for the remainder of the year. To ensure a full complement of Executive members, an additional Member-at-Large will be elected for the remainder of the year, following the procedure outlined in Article X 2 above.

#### ARTICLE XI STANDING COMMITTEES

1. There are six standing committees of the Association: The Survey Committee (SC), the Proposals Committee (PC), the Nominating Committee (NC), the Association Grievance Committee (AGC), the Grievance Appeal Committee (GAC), and the Communications Committee (CC). The Executive shall make every effort to ensure equitable representation of the membership on all Standing Committees.
  - (i) In the year prior to the final year of the Collective Agreement, the Survey Committee (SC) shall develop a survey to be distributed to the membership prior to Negotiations, as outlined in Article XVII below. The SC shall normally be composed of two members of the Executive and at least three other members of AUFA who collectively have expertise in survey methodology. Every effort shall be made to ensure equitable representation of the membership on the SC, including members of all three Faculties and from varying job classifications (Librarian/Archivist, Instructor, Professor, and Part-time members). The members of the SC shall jointly select a Chair.
  - (ii) In the final year of the current Collective Agreement, the Proposals Committee (PC) shall draft proposals to be included in the Collective Agreement. The PC shall keep a record of the results of the first survey, MOUs, MOAs, and issues identified by the Executive and AGC. The PC shall conduct Round Table meetings of the membership to provide information and receive feedback necessary to prepare its proposals, normally by January 31 of the year in which the Collective Agreement expires. The Chair of the PC shall submit the proposals to the membership for approval at a general

meeting of the Association, normally no later than March 1 of the year in which the Collective Agreement expires. The PC shall conduct a second membership survey, as outlined in Article XVII below. The PC shall be composed of the President or President Elect, Senior Grievance Officer or other member of the AGC, Records Officer of the Negotiating Team, Chief Negotiator who shall be a non-voting member, and at least two other Association members. Every effort shall be made to ensure equitable representation of the membership on the PC, including members of all three Faculties and from varying job classifications (Librarian/Archivist, Instructor, Professor, and Part-time members). The members of the PC shall jointly select a Chair.

- (iii) The Nominating Committee which shall nominate the Executive Officers, as outlined in Article X 2 above.
- (iv) The Negotiating Committee which shall represent AUFA in negotiations with the Board.
- (v) The Association Grievance Committee (AGC) consists of a Senior Grievance Officer, three Junior Grievance Officers, and a Records Officer. The AGC operates autonomously from the AUFA Executive in its investigation of complaints by members. While the AGC can make decisions to file grievances independently of the Executive, the Executive retains the right to decide whether or not a grievance should go forward to arbitration. Should the AGC rule that a complaint is not a viable grievance, the complainant may appeal that decision to the Grievance Appeal Committee (GAC). The GAC is empowered either to uphold the AGC decision or to direct the AGC to move forward with a grievance filing. The ruling of the GAC is final and terminates the right of appeal.

The AGC shall meet regularly (not less than once per month) to discuss all complaints and to decide collectively whether or not to proceed with a formal grievance. Regular meetings during which all cases on the docket are reviewed should ensure that all complaints receive due process. At least one member of the AGC shall report to the Executive at regularly scheduled meetings of the Executive. The AGC shall inform the relevant Standing Committee on a regular basis of issues that arise in relation to the articles of the Collective Agreement for which a Standing Committee is responsible. This information shall be conveyed to the Committee in general terms, without revealing specific details of individual members' grievances.

The Senior Grievance Officer shall ordinarily take the job for a term of no less than 3 years. Ordinarily, the Senior Grievance Officer will accept this position

immediately after having served as one of the Junior Grievance Officers. The Senior Grievance Officer will qualify for up to three (3) three (3)-credit hour course releases available to the Association and not reserved for the President of the Association through the relevant article of the Collective Agreement. [Article 17.35] Remuneration of up to one (1) three (3)-credit hour stipend may be requested in place of one three (3) credit hours course release. Any member of the Committee shall step down if a majority of the Committee is so agreed and the Executive confirms the recommendation of the Committee, or if a majority of the Executive determines it to be in the best interests of the membership.

- (vi) The Grievance Appeal Committee (GAC) shall be responsible for conducting appeals of AGC grievance denial decisions. The committee shall be comprised of four members: a member of the Executive as non-voting Chair, normally the President; a member of the Executive, normally the Past President; a member with past experience as a grievance officer; a member with past experience on the Negotiating Team or Proposals Committee.
  - (vii) The Communications Committee shall be responsible for select internal membership communications, including an Association newsletter. The Communications Committee shall also be responsible for external and public-facing communication on behalf of the Association including the Association website, social media, and media relations. The Communications Committee shall normally be composed of three to five members, including the Communications Officer of the Association who shall normally serve as Chair.
  - (viii) The Executive may establish additional Standing Committees that remain active on a long-term basis.
2. The membership of these committees with the exception of the Nominating and Negotiating Committees shall be determined by the Executive and announced to the membership at the first meeting in the fall each year. Members of these committees, with the exception of Nominating, Negotiating, Association Grievance, and Communications Committees, shall normally be appointed for the life of the contract. Members of all standing committees shall be replaced by the Executive at their own request and during any leaves. The Nominating Committee shall serve until a new committee is elected. The Negotiating Committee shall serve until a new contract is signed, unless the Membership or the Committee deems that the Committee should be replaced. Membership of the AGC shall extend in rotations as required to ensure that the Senior Grievance Officer occupies that position for a period of at least three years, ideally after having served for not less than one year as a Junior Grievance Officer. Members of the Communications Committee (excepting the current Communications Officer of the Association) shall serve for three-year terms beginning 14 months prior to the expiry of the Collective

Agreement. Committee members removed under the procedures outlined in Article XVI.1 shall not be re-appointed to their position by the Executive.

3. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members. One member of the Nominating Committee shall serve as Chair. Ideally, the Nominating Committee will have representation from all faculties. Members of the Nominating Committee will be elected as follows:
  - (i) As soon as possible after the first AUFA general membership meeting in the fall (to be held no later than October 31), the Union Officer shall issue a call for nominations for members of the Nominating Committee.
  - (ii) Only persons who have been members of the Association for the previous academic year are eligible for election to the Nominating Committee. No member may be elected to serve on the Nominating Committee of the Association for more than three consecutive years. Those nominated will indicate their willingness to serve to the Union Officer prior to the issuance of the ballot.
  - (iii) Of the five positions, one shall be reserved for a member of the Association who served on the Nominating Committee the previous year. The previous year's Nominating Committee shall nominate the person for this position.
  - (iv) Those nominated will indicate their willingness to serve to the Union Officer prior to the issuance of the ballot.
  - (v) The Union Officer will prepare a ballot from the nominations received and distribute it to the full membership within one week of the close of nominations.
  - (vi) For the four non-reserved seats, each member of the Association may vote for up to four persons from among those nominated. For the one seat reserved for a returning member of the previous year's Nominating Committee, the ballot will be "yes" or "no". No member may give more than one vote to any one candidate. Ballots must be returned to the Union Officer within one week of receiving the list.
  - (vii) For the non-reserved seats, the four leading candidates by total vote tally shall serve on the Nominating Committee for one term for the remainder thereof. Ties will be resolved through run-off elections. For the reserved seat for the returning member, a majority "yes" vote is required to continue to serve on the Nominating Committee. If this threshold is not achieved, the previous year's Nominating Committee shall nominate another member from the

previous year's committee to fill the position, and another vote will be conducted.

(viii) Should a vacancy(ies) arise in the Nominating Committee during the year, the vacancy(ies) shall be filled by the Executive if deemed necessary.

4. Negotiating Committee:

4. A The Negotiating Committee shall include a member of the Executive who shall be chosen by the Executive, and shall normally be composed of five other members elected by the membership. Normally, the Negotiating Committee shall include a Professional Librarian/Archivist, an Instructor, and a Part-time or Limited-term Employee. The Negotiating Committee may co-opt other members. Every effort shall be made to ensure equitable representation of the membership on the Negotiating Committee.

(i) The Executive shall nominate members to the Negotiating Committee, including a Chief Negotiator, giving two weeks' notice of motion for these nominations. Members may nominate additional persons, giving at least one week's notice of motion.

(ii) The election shall take place by secret ballot at a meeting of the Association.

(iii) In the event that a vacancy occurs in the Negotiating Committee during its term of service, the Executive shall, in consultation with the remaining members of the Negotiating Committee, make an appointment to fill the vacancy.

4. B Notwithstanding the language of 4A, nothing in this constitution shall prevent AUFA from including non-members on any negotiating committee.

5. All committees shall report at the annual meeting each year.

6. The President of AUFA or their designate shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of AUFA with the exception of the Nominating and Negotiating Committees.

#### ARTICLE XII MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

1. The Executive shall appoint members to represent AUFA on-joint committees of AUFA and the Board, according to the terms of the Collective Agreement. Members shall normally be appointed to a joint committee for the life of the contract but shall be replaced by the Executive at their own request and during sabbatical and other leaves.

2. The Executive may appoint members to represent AUFA on university committees, external committees, or any other committees that are deemed to be in the interests of AUFA. Members shall normally be appointed to any such committee for the life of the contract but shall be replaced by the Executive at their own request and during sabbatical and other leaves.

#### ARTICLE XIII AD HOC COMMITTEES

The Association may establish any number of short-term—"ad hoc"—committees on any matter within the interest of the Association. Members shall normally be appointed to any such committee for as long as it is active.

#### ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Association provided that two-thirds of the members present and voting concur and that at least two weeks' notice of proposed amendments be given in writing through the Union Officer or President of the Association.

#### ARTICLE XV BY-LAWS

The Association may, by a simple majority vote of those present and voting, write any By-Laws not inconsistent with this Constitution provided that one week's notice of any alterations or additions to the By-Laws be given in writing through the union officer.

## ARTICLE XVI REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

1. Any member of the AUFA Executive, member of an AUFA committee, or AUFA representative on any committee, may be removed before the expiration of their term of office, by resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at a meeting of members of which notice specifying the intention to pass such resolution has been given.
2. Any member of the AUFA Executive, member of an AUFA committee, or AUFA representative on any committee, may be removed before the expiration of their term of office, by resolution at a meeting of the Executive, passed by a vote of at least six members of the Executive.
  - (i) The decision by the Executive to remove a member of the AUFA Executive, member of an AUFA committee, or AUFA representative on any committee, must be placed before the membership for acceptance or rejection at a Special Meeting held within thirty days, pending which the member shall be suspended from their office. Notice of motion to ratify the Executive's decision shall be given for this meeting. If the Executive's decision to remove the member is not ratified by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at the meeting, the committee member will be deemed to be reinstated.
3. In the event that a motion passed as in XVI.1 above requires the resignation of more than one-third of the members of the Executive, a meeting of the Nominating Committee shall be held without delay, to appoint interim members of the Executive as required. A special meeting will then be held within fourteen days to reconstitute the Executive, as per the procedures outlined in Article X, 2.

## ARTICLE XVII MEMBERSHIP SURVEYS

1. In the year prior to the final year of the current Collective Agreement, the SC shall create a first membership survey to establish overall priorities for the next round of negotiations. By June 30 of that year, the membership shall receive the survey electronically and shall have until September 15 of the final year of the Collective Agreement to complete it.

The SC shall be provided with the raw data of the first membership survey. The SC shall normally present a summary of this data to the membership by October 15.

2. The PC shall conduct a second survey after the general set of proposals have been approved by the membership in order to determine which specific proposals have top priority, normally no later than the April 30 of the year in which the Collective Agreement expires. The results of the second survey shall only be known by and

released at the discretion of the President and Chief Negotiator for the purpose of conducting negotiations.

BY-LAW 1

Should a motion of the Executive identified as an "item requiring immediate action" be placed on the Agenda as a Notice of Motion for any duly scheduled General Meeting of the Association and should this meeting fail to convene due to the lack of a quorum, the Executive is empowered to act on behalf of the Association on such a motion as if it had been adopted at the duly scheduled General Meeting.

BY-LAW 2

To carry out its duties as specified in Article XI (1)(v) above, the Executive may authorize expenditures on legal counsel for the purposes of grievance and arbitration. For other expenditures, the Executive is empowered to spend up to the equivalent of the cost of one three- (3) credit-hour course release without prior approval of the membership and that any such expenditure over \$1000 shall be reported to the membership at the next meeting of the membership.

BY-LAW 3

To carry out its duties as specified in Article XI (1)(v) above, the Association Grievance Committee may authorize expenditures on legal counsel for the purposes of grievance and arbitration up to the equivalent of the cost of one three- (3) credit-hour course release without prior approval of the Executive.