

Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism
The University of Western Ontario

Constitution

The Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism is an established forum for interdisciplinary research and advanced study into theoretical problems and practices that cross major field sub-disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Since its creation in 1986, as Canada's only centre for interdisciplinary theoretical research housed between the Faculties of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Information and Media Studies, the Centre has come to be internationally recognized for its approach to "theory" as a distinct object of inquiry with its own intellectual genealogies and discursive history.

I. General

General amendments to the rules of procedure contained in the Centre's Constitution shall require the approval of a two thirds majority of the Core Faculty. Every other change shall be approved by a simple majority of those present at a meeting and voted on. Changes to the Constitution will be approved at the annual meeting of the Centre's Core Faculty

II. Director of the Centre

- a) The Director of the Centre must be a member of the Core Faculty of the Centre, and shall be appointed for a period of three years, following the provisions of Letter of Understanding E of the 2004/10 Collective Agreement for UWOPA represented faculty. Upon the recommendation of a Selection Review Committee, agreement by the Steering and Advisory Committee and Provost, a Director may be reappointed for a second term normally of three years.
- b) The Director of the Centre shall be an ex officio member of all committees within the Centre.
- c) The Director shall have overall responsibility for the conduct and efficient operation of the Centre, including the Centre's operating and student funding budgets, and for its research and graduate education mandates.
- d) The Director shall be responsible for communication concerning the Centre with the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS), with other appropriate individuals outside SGPS, and with other entities within the University.

III. Members of the Centre

1. Membership

according to a system of staggered terms. The aim is, where practicable, for nominations and composition of the committee to reflect the range of interests and faculty of the Centre.

iii) Two graduate students – if available, one from the M.A. program (M.A. II) and one from the Ph.D. program, elected by the students for one year, who will be present at meetings unless asked by the Committee chair to leave for reasons of confidentiality or conflict of interest.

b) Responsibilities:

i) General supervision of the graduate programs of the Centre, including the recommendation to the Centre of yearly graduate courses.

ii) The admission of students and the allocation of financial aid.

iii) The adjudication of internal and external student award applications.

iv) To review and decide, with the Director, applications for membership in the Faculty of the Centre, for visiting fellowships, and for postdoctoral fellowships.

v) To consider appeals and complaints referred to the committee by the Director.

vi) To assist the Director in preparing a yearly academic plan, an annual report, and an annual budget plan.

ii) To coordinate and manage conferences, and to address other research issues and initiatives as they arise.

3. Qualifying Exam Committee

a) Composition:

i) Three examiners, appointed by the Director in consultation with the Graduate Chair (or where there is no Graduate Chair, the Graduate Studies Committee) to serve for three years, according to a system of staggered terms. The aim is, where practicable, for nominations and composition of the committee to reflect the range of interests and faculty of the Centre.

ii) The Committee shall elect its own chair for a period of one year, on a rotating basis.

iii) Normally the Chair of the Committee and at least one of the other two ex officio members of the Core Faculty of the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism with full SGPS doctoral supervisory privileges.

b) Responsibilities:

i) To interpret and apply existing policy regarding the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination.

ii) To set and grade the Qualifying Exams.

4. Steering and Advisory Committee

a) Composition:

i) The Dean, or designate, of the Centre's Host Faculty shall be the Chair of the Steering and Advisory Committee.

ii) The Deans, or designates, of participating academic Faculties.

iii) The Director of the Centre.

iv) Three Core Faculty members elected by the Core Faculty, with staggered two year terms. The aim is, where practicable, for nominations to reflect the range of interests and faculty of the Centre.

v) Two student representatives from the Centre elected by the Centre students for a one

year term (one M.A. and one Ph.D. student). Student representatives are ~~ex-officio~~ (non-voting) members

b) Responsibilities:

- i) To work with all interested parties to promote the continued success of the Centre.
- ii) To serve as a liaison for relations between the Centre, the School of ~~Graduate~~ Postdoctoral Studies, the Centre's host ~~academic~~ unit, and its participating and affiliated academic units in matters that pertain to the funding and support of the Centre.
- iii) To provide the Director and the Centre with advice on administrative matters and its relations to other units and externally.
- iv) To advise the Director on issues relating to strategic direction and management of the Centre.
- v) To approve a ~~four~~ year academic plan, an annual report, and an annual budget plan, all of which are to be prepared ~~by~~ the Director in consultation with the Graduate Studies Committee.
- vi) To coordinate with participating academic units on matters pertaining to associated teaching and/or degree programs, such as the structure of degree and thesis requirements, and teaching placement for Centre students in their degree programs.
- vii) To advise the Director on the addition or reclassification of academic units as "participating" or "affiliated" academic units, as per procedures established by the Steering and Advisory ~~Committee~~.

5. Nominations Committee

Composition:

- i) Centre Director
- ii) Three full-time members of the Core Faculty ~~selected~~ by the Centre Core Faculty for two years, according to a system of staggered ~~terms~~ being convened, the committee shall determine a Chair from among the three Core Faculty members.

Responsibilities:

- i) To recommend to the Centre Core Faculty a slate of candidates to serve on all Standing Committees of the Centre, to be voted on by the Core Faculty.

2. Upon being convened, an ad hoc committee shall determine its methods and procedures. The Director will act as Chair.

VII. Voting

1. All questions arising in the Centre or in its committees, shall normally be decided by a simple majority of those present and voting. General amendments to the rules of procedure contained in the Centre's Constitution shall require the approval of a two thirds majority of the Core Faculty.

2. The Centre may from time to time decide, by majority vote of the Faculty, to resolve questions or conduct elections by confidential ballot.