2013-2014
Constitution

Bennett
Graduate Research Society

The Ohio State University
College of Medicine

...promoting and recognizing excellence in graduate research and education for over 25 years
2013-2014 Constitution and By-Laws of Bennett Society

Article 1- Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization

Section 1: Name

Bennett Graduate Research Society at the Ohio State University

Section 2: Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of Bennett Society is to promote and recognize excellence in graduate research and education, connected with the College of Medicine, as well as to enhance communication between students and faculty within the College.

The objectives of Bennett Society include sponsoring (or co-sponsoring) up to two seminars a semester to enhance the research and education of the graduate students affiliated with the College of Medicine. Seminars will be focused in two areas: educating the students on certain aspects of the graduate experience (giving talks, writing a CV, preparing a poster), and career options available to those with an advanced degree. The Bennett society also is involved in planning the annual research day held in the spring at the University Medical Center, which provides an opportunity for graduate students to present their original research and interact with scientists in an encouraging environment.

Section 3: Non-Discrimination Policy

Members of Bennett Society shall not discriminate against any individuals for the following reasons: race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, age, handicap, military service, etc. as per the University’s policy. Accordingly, although the purpose and objectives of Bennett Society are to better the graduate experience for graduate students affiliated with the College of Medicine, Bennett Society and its members follow the University’s policy by allowing access to any and all who wish to participate in Bennett Society-sponsored events (see The Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct and Nondiscrimination Policy in the University Operating Manual).

Article 2- Membership: Qualifications and Categories of Membership

Membership qualifications for the Bennett Society are the following:

Members must be currently enrolled graduate students whose primary advisor has an appointment in the College of Medicine and/or whose graduate program is part of the College of Medicine. Any graduate student who fits the above description is automatically eligible to a member.

If eligible, the student must sign in at any of the events hosted by the Bennett Society and attend at least one of the two seminars held each semester to become a member.
Article 3- Organization Leadership

The organization leadership will consist of four mandatory persons: the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These leadership positions are in place for one year, with elections taking place during Summer Session for the following year, as the officer transition term is the Autumn Window (Aug 1 – Oct 15). The President is responsible for presiding at leadership meetings and Bennett Society-sponsored events, attending Student Organization meetings to ensure the Bennett Society’s right to funding, registering the organization in the fall, ensuring that funding is attained, and the minutes and checkbook are in order. The Vice-President is responsible for helping the President complete all the President’s duties. The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at meetings and sending out seminar announcements. The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that funding is attained, attending the appropriate Student Organization meeting for the Treasurer, budgets are sent for approval on time, the checkbook is balanced, and the reimbursements are done in a timely manner.

Article 4- Executive Committee

The executive committee shall consist of the Organizational Leadership and the Bennett faculty advisor.

Article 5- Standing Committee

Bennett reserves the right to organize standing committees for particular events, such as the annual research day, should the need arise.

Article 6 – Method of Selecting and/or Removing Officers and Members

If a member of the organizational leadership is to disengage from the responsibilities assigned to them upon their election (see Article 3 of the constitution) or a member no longer meets the qualifications of membership (see Article 2 of the constitution) then the proper procedure for dismissal includes:

1. Notification of the situation to the advisor or officers depending upon whether an officer or member is involved, respectively.
2. If the advisor or officers believe that an individual can no longer successfully serve as a member of the organizational leadership or as a member of the society then the individual will be asked to resign from their officer position or as a member of the society.
3. If an officer is involved then a current member will be chosen by the advisor and remaining organizational leadership team to serve as interim officer for that position until the following election term. This change in leadership will be documented in the Bennett Society’s Organization Management system through The Ohio Union website. A change will also be made to the membership roster if a member is dismissed.
Article 7- Advisor Qualification Criteria

The advisor must be a full-time member of the Ohio State University faculty and be appointed in some way (whether directly or through and affiliated graduate program) to the College of Medicine. The advisor is responsible for attending the appropriate Student Organization advisor training session, monitoring the checkbook and finances, attending executive committee meetings, and when possible, attending Bennett Society sponsored seminars.

Article 8- Meetings of the Organization: Required Meetings and Their Frequency

There will be at least two meetings per semester.

Members are required to attend at least one of the two meetings each semester. They are also strongly encouraged to attend the Annual Research Day.

Article 9- Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, Notice, and Voting Requirements

The proper procedure for amendments includes:

1. Proposed amendments should be in writing.
2. Proposed amendments will be sent to the membership via email or read at the next Bennett Society-sponsored seminar or meeting, whichever is most appropriate.
3. Proposed amendments require approval of two-thirds majority of the members.

Article 10-Method of Dissolution of the Organization

The requirement for the dissolution of The Bennett Society shall be majority vote of all members in favor for dissolution. In the event of dissolution, the following procedures must happen:

1. The Treasurer and Advisor must return unused funds to the University though the Student Affairs office.
2. All leaders must be involved in filling the necessary paperwork through the Student Affairs office.
By-Laws

Article 1- Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the Bennett Graduate Research Society at the Ohio State University’s Constitution shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable, and which they are not inconsistent with the by-laws of this organization.

Article 2- Membership

As per the constitution

Article 3- Election/Appointment of Government Leadership

Any Graduate Student in the College of Medicine can be nominated for a position.

The standing order for election shall be the following:

1. Notice will be made, at the end of Spring Semester and during the Summer Session, that The Bennett Society is taking nominations at the end of the Summer Session. This notice will be given at the last meeting of the Spring Semester, in an email to all members, and through newsletters within the College of Medicine.
2. Nominations will be collected by the Organizational Leadership.
3. The standing Organizational Leadership will vote for the incoming Organizational Leadership with a ¾ majority leading to appointment of the position.
4. The newly appointed person will be emailed and be asked if they want to accept the position, in which they have 2 days to respond.
5. If they do not respond in 2 days the runner-up will be contacted and given 2 days to accept.

Article 4- Executive Committee

As per the constitution

Article 5- Standing Committees

As per the constitution

Article 6- Advisor/Advisory Board Responsibilities

As per the constitution
Article 7- Meeting requirements

The standing policy for voting on any general issues that arise shall be all members are allowed to vote and a decision is made by a 2/3 majority vote. In order to vote on an issue, a quorum must be present. A quorum consists of at least three of the four leaders (if only two can be present, then the advisor must also be present) and at least 10 members present.

Article 8- Method of Amending By-laws

The proper procedure for amendments to the By-Laws include:
1. Proposed amendments should be in writing.
2. Proposed amendments will be sent to membership via email or read at the next Bennett sponsored seminar or meeting, whichever is most appropriate.
3. Proposed amendments require a 2/3 majority of the entire present voting membership. As per meeting requirements, a quorum must be present (See Article 7 of By-Laws).