The Committee of 88
Constitution & By Laws

Updated as of: October 14, 2014

Preamble
We the people of The Committee of 88, in order to celebrate and serve the places we call home, on campus, in Columbus, and throughout the great state of Ohio, do ordain and establish this Constitution.
THE COMMITTEE OF 88 CONSTITUTION

Article I – Name & Purpose

Section 1:
The name of this organization shall be The Committee of 88.

Section 2:
The Committee of 88 is a student operated organization that represents each of the 88 counties of Ohio, uniting them on campus at The Ohio State University. Representatives of each county support service initiatives on campus, in Columbus and in their home counties and celebrate the entire state of Ohio.

Section 3:
Each year, a new issue in the state of Ohio will be chosen to be the focus of The Committee of 88’s efforts.

Article II – Membership

Section 1:
All currently enrolled undergraduate students, who may claim themselves as a resident of one of the 88 counties in Ohio and who are in good academic standing at The Ohio State University (as defined by Rule 3335-9-23 in the Ohio Administrative Code and The Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct as a Cumulative Point Hour Ratio of 2.00) are eligible for membership to The Committee of 88.

Section 2:
Voting membership will be limited to those currently enrolled as undergraduate students at the Ohio State University who are due paying and acting members of The Committee of 88. Non-students, including alumni, may act as associate members, waiving their right to vote or hold office.

Section 3:
The Committee of 88 organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Article III – Officers

Section 1:
The officers of The Committee of 88 shall consist of a Governor, a Secretary of State, a Treasurer, and a total of five Senators.
Section 2:
Each of the four offices is elected from the ranks of and by the organization’s entire voting membership. Each office holds a one year term. In order to run for Governor, Secretary of State, or Treasurer, the candidate must have served at least one year as a senator or team lead.

Section 3: Governor
The Governor shall serve as the officer-in-command of the organization. The Governor shall call to order, set the agenda for, and preside over all general body and Executive Board meetings. The Governor shall act as spokesperson for the organization and will maintain communication and organization between all The Committee of 88 members, officers, advisors, and The Ohio State University community. The Governor is also required to attend the annual president’s training session proctored by The Ohio State University’s SOURCE.

Section 4: Secretary of State
The Secretary of State shall serve as the second-in-command to the Governor of The Committee of 88. The Secretary of State shall fulfill any of the Governor’s duties if the Governor is unable to do so for any short period of time. The Secretary of State shall be responsible for taking detailed minutes of each general body and Executive Board meeting and distributing the minutes to all other officers after each Executive Board meeting and all general body members after each general body meeting. The Secretary of State shall also be responsible for taking the attendance of members at each general body and Executive Board meeting.

Section 5: Treasurer
The Treasurer shall serve as the third-in-command to the Governor and Secretary of State of The Committee of 88. The Treasurer shall fulfill the duties of the Secretary of State if the Secretary of State is unable to do so and fulfill the duties of the Governor if the neither Governor nor the Secretary of State are able to do so for any short period of time. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining The Committee of 88 bank account and keeping accurate and up-to-date records on all transactions, expenses, and revenues of The Committee of 88. The Treasurer is responsible for reporting regularly to both the general body and Executive Board regarding the finances of The Committee of 88. The Treasurer is also responsible collecting any dues from The Committee of 88 members. The Treasurer is required to attend
the annual treasurer training session proctored by The Ohio State University’s SOURCE.

Section 6: Senator
A total of five Senators will be elected each year. The Senators will act as extensions of the Governor and will focus on guiding the growth and development of the organization and its members, as well as holding members accountable for execution of events.

Section 7: Executive Board Planning
Every year the Executive Board will hold an annual meeting in April to assess the events of the past year, select initiatives for the following year. These selected projects will then be organized into Committees, which will be made up of general body members responsible for planning and execution of the initiatives. These must be submitted and voted for approval of a 50% +1 majority at the final General Body meeting of the year.

Section 8: Webmaster
A Webmaster, responsible for the technological needs of the organization will be selected from the general body if a suitable candidate exists, by the Executive Board during the final General Body Meeting. If no suitable candidate exists among the general body, any Ohio State student in good standing may be chosen by the executive committee and inducted as a associate member with no voting power.

Article IV – Executive Board

Section 1:
The Executive Board shall be composed of all the elected officers: the Governor, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer and the five Senators. The Committee of 88 Advisor shall be an honorary member of the Executive Board with no voting ability or power.

Section 2:
The Executive Board shall hold regular meetings apart from the general body meetings in order for them to share, organize, and perfect ideas and to conduct any other immediate business relative to their positions as officers.

Article V – Removal of Officers

Section 1: All elected officers of The Committee of 88 are expected to fulfill all of their duties as described in this Constitution. As the
elected leaders and spokespeople for The Committee of 88, all officers
are expected to conduct themselves in a way that reflects well on The Committee of 88 and its members.

Section 2:
If an officer of The Committee of 88 is not fulfilling their Constitutional duties, or conducting themselves in a manner that reflects poorly on The Committee of 88 and its members, members of The Committee of 88 have the right to remove the officer from the elected office by way of impeachment as defined in The Committee of 88 By-Laws.

Article VI - Advisor

Section 1:
The Committee of 88 will annually select an advisor, who will serve as a liaison between The Committee of 88 and The Ohio State University. The advisor will be responsible for giving guidance to officers and members in their attempts to meet The Committee of 88’s purpose at The Ohio State University and across the State of Ohio.

Section 2:
The Advisor of this organization shall be a member of The Ohio State University faculty or Administrative and Professional staff who has completed the required Advisor training every two years that is proctored by The Ohio State University’s SOURCE.

Article VII - Amendments

Section 1:
Proposed amendments to The Committee of 88 Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board. Proposed amendments shall be read and made available to all members, but not acted on, at the next general body. Those members not in attendance shall be notified of the proposed amendment and all members shall be given a copy of the proposal.

Section 2:
The members present during the general body meeting at which the proposed amendment is first read shall vote on the amount of meeting(s) until a vote of action can be taken upon the amendment. The proposed amendment shall be read at all subsequent meetings until the designated meeting for a vote of action.
Section 3:
A quorum of at least a majority of The Committee of 88 active members, 50% +1, shall be required to take a vote of action on a proposed amendment. Active members are defined in Article II Section 3 of the By Laws.

Section 4:
A quorum being present at the designated meeting, the proposed amendment shall be read again to all members present and a vote taken. The Committee of 88 Constitution shall be amended by a 50% +1 majority vote of approval by the members present at the designated general body meeting.

Article VIII - Adoption

This Constitution of The Committee of 88 shall be officially established and adopted by a majority vote of current active members for its approval.
THE COMMITTEE OF 88 BY-LAWS

Article I – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern The Committee of 88 in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution or By-Laws of The Committee of 88.

Article II – Membership

Section 1:
Membership shall be obtained upon completion of a standard application form and acceptance from the Executive Board. Applications will be sent out to all first year students of The Ohio State University who may claim themselves as a resident of one of the 88 counties in Ohio via their OSU e-mail accounts in the fall semester. Upperclassmen applicants are welcome to apply but are not required to be actively recruited by the by-laws. Additional resources for obtaining an application will be available via The Committee of 88 website and Facebook group and the Executive Board. The application form is meant to evaluate the character of the applicant and their dedication to service throughout Ohio.

Section 2:
A total of 88 members will be active within the organization at anytime. In order to ensure a fair representation of Ohio, members will be divided into 5 regions: Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southwest and Southeast. These regions will be given representation based on population as follows: Northwest-13; Northeast-30, Central-15, Southwest-21 and Southeast-9. Counties included in each region are defined in appendix A. Every year there will be a recruitment to fill the vacated spots in each region by inactive (as defined in Article II, Sections 3 and 4) and graduating members.

Section 3:
All active members are required to submit dues at the beginning of each academic semester of the school year in order to maintain membership status. Dues are to be used for program and activity funds for The Committee of 88. The dues will be set at $30 per year and records will be maintained by the elected Treasurer.
Section 4:
All active members are required to attend events and general body meetings in order to maintain membership status. A minimum of 51% of the hours of service available to the general body, with 10% of that time able to be excused absence as deemed by the Secretary of State. Additionally, only one unexcused absence to meetings per semester is allowed. Following a member’s failure to meet these criteria, their status should be reviewed in accordance with Article II, Section 6.

Section 5:
If a student wishes to terminate their own membership, they will be expected to notify the Governor by submitting a statement in writing. If the student wishes to take a break from membership involvement (for any issue such as those related to school, family, etc.), rather than terminate their membership, they will also be expected to notify the Governor, if the situation allows that to be possible. The Governor will then take the necessary actions of informing the student, the Executive Board, and the Advisor of the request and mark the appropriate changes into the membership records. Those members who are taking a temporary leave of absence from membership will not be replaced by any new member.

Section 6:
Members of the Executive Board, notably the Secretary of State and the Treasurer, will maintain up-to-date records of active member status. Failures to meet those requirements as outlined in The Committee of 88 By-Laws under Article II, Section 4 will result in member evaluation by the Executive Board. Students under evaluation will be notified of their evaluation by the Executive Board. The Executive Board and the representative of the Membership Status Committee will be responsible for determining appropriate action to meet The Committee of 88’s standards, including, but not limited to probation, suspension, or termination of membership.

Section 7:
The executive committee shall choose the Webmaster and if he or she is not a general body member, they shall not be subject to the aforementioned requirements.

Article III - Elections

Section 1:
The election process for all officer positions will be held during the spring. Applications will be distributed via e-mail to all active
members by the Secretary of State. Applications are to be turned in to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall then email the applications of the nominees to all general body members before the elections. The application form is meant to evaluate the character of
the applicant, their leadership qualities, their goals, and plans to reach those goals if elected to an officer position.

Section 2:
Applicants are required to be in good standing within the organization as outlined in The Committee of 88 By-Laws under Article II. Those applicants who wish to apply for Governor, Secretary of State, or Treasurer must have served at least one term as Senator or team lead and can only apply for one of those three positions. All active members are eligible to apply for the position of Senator, including those who are also applying for Governor, Secretary of State, or Treasurer.

Section 3:
Applications will be reviewed by the current Governor, Secretary of State and Treasurer to ensure that applications are complete and well thought out. Incomplete applications, applications lacking the necessary criteria and members that are not in good standing should be removed from the applicant pool. Senators have veto rights on eliminating an application through a majority vote.

Section 4:
Voting will take place in the month of March at a pre-designated general body meeting with a quorum of a majority of the active membership, 50% +1, being present. Elections shall be made in the order of Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and finally Senators.

Section 5:
The Secretary of State shall make the application forms of each candidate available to all of the members present at the general body meeting, including those unable to attend the meeting. Applicants for the offices of Governor, Secretary of State, and Treasurer will each have three minutes to present their candidate’s speech to the entire general body. Candidates for Senator will each have two minutes to give a speech. Applicants shall give their speeches in alphabetical order for each office.

Section 6:
After all applicants for each officer position have given their speeches, the Governor shall open the floor to any other nominations for the position. Those who wish to nominate themselves or someone else must make a motion and the nominee must accept the nomination. Nominees will then be allowed to make their own candidate’s speech within the previously specified time limits for each office. Though nominees will
have an equal chance of election as all other applicants, they will not have the benefits of having an application form read prior to and during the election.

Section 7:
Elections shall be made by a secret, paper ballot. A list of all the candidates for each office, including any nominees nominated during the election, shall be available to all general body members. Ballots shall be counted by the Advisor or Executive Board member, with a simple majority, 50% +1, of votes being necessary for election to any office. In the case that no one candidate receives a simple majority of the votes cast, there will be a run-off election between the top two candidates. The candidate who receives the simple majority of votes in the run-off election shall be elected to the office. Members cannot hold more than one office during the same term.

Section 8:
In the event that an office needs filled at a time other than the election due to vacancy, removal, or any other long-term circumstance, the Governor position will be filled by the Secretary of State, and the new Governor will appoint a member of the Executive Board, or an individual who has served a previous term on the Board. The Senator positions will be filled by a member selected by majority by the Executive Board.

Section 9:
As detailed in Article III Sections 7 of the Constitution, following the election of the new board, both past and newly elected executive board members will convene for an annual meeting. Only active members of the board will have voting privilege and past members are to act as advisors. This meeting is called to evaluate the past years events, and establish the schedule of initiatives events for the following calendar year. These then must be grouped into cohesive Committees with defined roles and presented to the General Body at the final General Body Meeting.

Section 10:
At the final General Body Meeting officers will present the new Committees and accept applications for teams made up of the general body for the following year. Roles should include but are not limited to: Communications Representative, County Outreach Representative, Columbus Outreach Representative, Campus Outreach Representative,
Financial Manager, and Team Lead. The size of teams should be as determined necessary by the Executive Board.

Section 11:
All members are guaranteed a position on a team, but placement to team and position is competitive based on criteria established by the Executive Board at their annual meeting. Applications assess the applicants ability to fulfill the duties required by a specific role. These applications are due one week after the final General Body Meeting and notification of their placement as determined by the Executive Board will be notified before the end of Spring Semester.

Article IV – Executive Board

Section 1:
The Executive Board will consist of the active Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and the five Senators. The Committee of 88 Advisor shall be an honorary member of the Executive Board with no voting ability or power. All other members of the Executive Board will have the ability to vote on any issue, except the Governor, who shall only cast a vote in the case of a tie between the other officers.

Section 2:
The Executive Board shall hold regular meetings apart from the general body meetings in order for them to discuss issues of importance related to their positions and to organize and prepare for general body meetings and events.

Section 3:
The Executive Board shall be responsible for reviewing and deciding on new membership applications and officially inducting new members. In addition, the Executive Board, notably the Secretary of State and Treasurer, will be responsible for maintaining up-to-date records of active member status. The Executive Board shall be responsible for evaluating any general body member for failures to meet the membership requirements as outlined in The Committee of 88 By-Laws under Article II. Students under evaluation will be notified of their evaluation by the Executive Board. The Executive Board will be responsible for determining appropriate punishment for failures to meet The Committee of 88’s standards, including, but not limited to probation, suspension, or termination of membership.

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Section 4:
The Executive Board, notably the Treasurer, will be responsible for maintaining accurate and up-to-date records regarding The Committee of 88 bank account and all transactions, expenses, and revenues of The Committee of 88. The Executive Board shall be responsible for ensuring that The Committee of 88 funds shall be allocated and used in a manner that promotes The Committee of 88’s purpose at The Ohio State University and across the State of Ohio. In addition, the Executive Board shall be responsible for reporting these allocations regularly to the general body.

Section 5:
Active officers are required to abide by the attendance defined for active members as well as attend all officers meetings unless excused by the Governor.

Article V – Removal of Officers

Section 1:
The Governor, the Secretary of State, and all elected officers of The Committee of 88, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, having knowingly not fulfilled their Constitutional duties to the Committee of 88 and its members or conducting themselves in a manner that reflects poorly on The Committee of 88 and its members, including but not limited to, abusing the powers of their leadership role, using The Committee of 88 funds for personal gain, or any form of criminal activity.

Section 2:
The motion for impeachment of an officer of The Committee of 88 can be made by any member during any general body meeting. The member must briefly state the cause of the motion to the entire general body at the time the motion is made. The motion must be seconded by another member of the general body and a vote must be taken by all those members present. A majority vote in favor of impeachment is required for an officer to be impeached. If the majority votes in favor of impeachment, the accused officer will temporarily give up all their responsibilities as officer until the impeachment process is concluded. The duties of the impeached officer shall be fulfilled by the officer who is next in-line as determined by Article III of The Committee of 88 Constitution.
Section 3:
The remaining members of the Executive Board as well as the general body member with the highest tally of service hours from each region will form the “Impeachment Review Committee” shall have the power to try all officer impeachments. In all cases, the Advisor shall preside over the proceedings, while the members of the Impeachment Review Committee will act as a jury. The member who made the motion of impeachment will act as prosecutor and present their case against the accused officer. The officer will then be allowed to present a defense. The accused officer is entitled to a presumption of innocence until proven guilty. Therefore, the prosecution will have the burden of proving that the officer is guilty of the charges by a preponderance of evidence (members of the Impeachment Review Committee must only be more than 50% sure, or “more likely than not,” that the officer is guilty of the charge rather than sure beyond a reasonable doubt). A 50% +1 majority of the entire Impeachment Review Committee, excluding the presiding Advisor, is required to convict the officer of the charges and remove them from office.

Section 4:
A judgment of guilty in cases of impeachment by the Impeachment Review Committee shall not extend further than to the immediate removal from office of The Committee of 88. The case of impeachment shall not decide issues of the officer’s membership or legal innocence. If there are any issues concerning the officer’s membership status, the officer must go through the process specified in Section 5 of Article II of The Committee of 88 By-Laws, though evidence used in the impeachment case shall be available to all those participating in such an evaluation.

Article VI - Committees

Section 1:
Each Senator is required to serve as a representative from one of the five regions of Ohio as described in Article II of the Constitution. They do not have to be from a designated region but will be responsible for the members in that given region and ensuring that their region is well represented and served within the organization.

Section 2:
Each member will be required to serve on at least one of the Committees as defined. All members are required to identify their desired committee at the beginning of the academic year. New members will select their committee upon induction. Members are permitted to serve
on multiple committees if they so choose, but are only required to serve on one each academic year.

Section 3:
There shall be standing subcommittees as defined by the needs of the organization determined by the annual meeting of the Executive Board.

Article VII - Advisor

Section 1:
The Advisor of this organization shall be a member of the University faculty or Administrative and Professional staff who has completed the required Advisor training once every two years.

Section 2:
The Committee of 88 Advisor will serve as a liaison between The Committee of 88 and The Ohio State University, in particular the Ohio Union. The advisor will be responsible for being regularly available to give guidance, advice, and recommendations to officers and members in their attempts to meet The Committee of 88’s purpose at The Ohio State University and across the State of Ohio.

Section 3:
As an honorary Executive Board member, the Advisor is recommended to attend Executive Board meetings as suggested by the Board, approximately one third of all Executive Board meetings. In addition, it is recommended that the Advisor attend no less than one third of all general body meetings each semester. The advisor does not have the right to vote in either Executive Board or general body meetings, but does have the ability to serve as co-signer on the organization’s account.

Article VIII - Amendments

Section 1:
Proposed amendments to The Committee of 88 Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board. Proposed amendments shall be read and made available to all members, but not acted on, at the next general body. Those members not in attendance shall be notified of the proposed amendment and all members shall be given a copy of the proposal.
Section 2:
The members present during the general body meeting at which the proposed amendment is first read shall vote on the amount of meeting(s) until a vote of action can be taken upon the amendment. The proposed amendment shall be read at all subsequent meetings until the designated meeting for a vote of action.

Section 3:
A quorum of at least a majority of The Committee of 88 active members, 50% +1, shall be required to take a vote of action on a proposed amendment. Active members are defined in Article II Section 3 of the By Laws.

Section 4:
A quorum being present at the designated meeting, the proposed amendment shall be read again to all members present and a vote taken. The Committee of 88 Constitution shall be amended by a 50% +1 majority vote of approval by the members present at the designated general body meeting.

Article IX - Adoption

These By-Laws of The Committee of 88 shall be officially established and adopted by a majority vote of active current members for its approval.