Wikipedia Connection
A Student Organization at The Ohio State University

Our Constitution
Written by Kevin Payravi - 5 March 2016

Article I - Name, Purpose and Non-Discrimination Policy

Section 1 - Name

This is Wikipedia Connection, a student organization at The Ohio State University.

Section 2 - Purpose

Our purpose is to serve as a resource for Ohio State students and staff interested in Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia that anyone can contribute to. We aim to explore how Wikipedia functions, and will provide guidance for those interested in editing Wikipedia (both inside the classroom and out). We hope to encourage Wikipedia editing through holding informational meetings, hosting collaborative projects, and supporting events that help Wikipedia grow.

Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy

Wikipedia Connection welcomes all people. Our organization and its members will 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 II - Membership: Qualifications and Categories of Membership

Section 1 - Membership Categories and Selection Process

No prior experience with Wikipedia is required to join the Wikipedia Connection - all people who are interested in Wikipedia are welcome. Per Ohio State policy, voting membership is limited to currently-enrolled Ohio State University students. To be considered a voting member of the
organization, a student has to attend at least one meeting and/or organization-endorsed events (Wikipedia edit-a-thons, etc.). Voting membership lasts through the next semester.

Any other Ohio State-affiliated persons, including faculty and alumni, are welcome as non-voting honorary members.

Section 2 - Membership Removal

In the event that there is a proposed cause for the removal of the organization's member, a member can be removed in one of two ways:

- A majority vote of officers, which may be required in sensitive cases needing swift and private action (such as harassment).
- A majority vote from voting members, provided that at least three-fourths of the usual number of attending members vote.

Article III - Officer Positions, Duties, Selection, and Removal

Section 1 - Officer Positions, Duties, Powers and Limitations

There are three officer positions required by the Ohio State University: the President, the Vice President, and the Treasurer. The aforementioned positions serve as Wikipedia Connection's Executive Board. In addition to these positions, Wikipedia Connection has a Board of Trustees composed of multiple members. The size of the Board of Trustees is limited to two plus one additional trustee for every ten regularly attending members of the club. All the aforementioned positions are considered officer positions have the following responsibilities:

- Represent the organization in a positive light for current and future members.
- Discuss and coordinate future meetings and events.
- Deal with any ongoing issues within the organization.
- Ensure their own adequate attendance to organization meetings and events.

Each officer position also has its own unique responsibilities. These responsibilities are mostly suggestions, and may be delegated to other organization members or worked on by multiple members as needed - though they are ultimately the responsibility of the officers specified below. Ultimately, all responsibility lies with the President to ensure a well-running organization, and as such, the President has the power to make unilateral decisions when needed, within the parameters of this constitution.

- **President** (or ‘The Grand Keeper of Encyclopedia’) - The President is the leader of the organization, and is responsible for ensuring the organization's activity and success. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, representing the organization for current
and future members, and delegating tasks to his or her fellow officers as needed. The President is ultimately responsible for ensuring that all other officers fulfill their own duties, and should guide and assist said duties as needed.

- **Vice President** (or 'The High Laureate') - The Vice President's responsibility is to assist both the President and all other officers with their duties. In the event of the President's absence, the Vice President assumes the President's leadership roles until the President's return.

- **Treasurer** (or 'Auspicious Lootpah') - The Treasurer shall manage any and all financial aspects of the organization. The Treasurer is responsible for making any purchases required for the organization, along with creating and submitting applications for grants and/or funding as needed.

- Members of the **Board of Trustees** - Members of the Board of Trustees are selected according to their relevant experience and interest. Board members help serve the function of the club, such as planning and running events. They may assist the aforementioned officers with their tasks, and may also be delegated other tasks of their own. If needed, members of the Board may be given specific titles that specify their roles in the organization.

New officer positions may be created and removed, as needed, at the beginning of each semester with a majority vote of the current officers.

### Section 2 - Officer Qualifications

Per Ohio State policy, voting membership is limited to currently-enrolled Ohio State University students, and Wikipedia Connection officers must be voting members. To be eligible for an officer position, a member should also have attended at least half of the events held during the semester up to the opening of the registration window. This requirement is to ensure that officers are experienced with the club and are able to serve the club's needs. If no members meet this attendance criteria, or if no members who meet the criteria wish to serve, officer positions may be opened to all voting members.

### Section 3 - Officer Selection

Officer selection is a two-step process: the first step is electing the President and Vice President, and the second step is selecting the Treasurer and members of the Board of Trustees.

The positions of the President and Vice President are determined by voting from the general voting member body. During the week leading up to the organization's registration window, eligible members (eligible per the rules set in Article III Section 2) can declare their candidacy for President or Vice President. During the registration window, candidates are given the chance to speak to the general member body at least once. At a meeting announced at least a week in advance, voting will take place. If needed or desired, remote electronic voting may also be made an option over a longer period of time. For the vote to be valid, at least three-fourths of the usual
number of attending members of meetings must vote. Voters' votes should remain as anonymous as possible, viewed and counted by at most two individuals chosen by the Executive Board.

Once the President and Vice President have been selected, remaining members of the organization may apply for the positions of Treasurer and/or member of the Board of Trustees. Members should be given at least one week to apply to the President and Vice President.

The Treasurer position is chosen by consensus between the President and Vice President. As the Treasurer is a sensitive position dealing with club funds, each applicant is looked at for attendance, contributions, leadership skills, and overall responsibility. If the President and Vice President cannot mutually agree on a Treasurer, a third-party should be consulted from either the current Board of Trustees or the Advisor.

Once the Treasurer is chosen, the members of the Board of Trustees are selected through consensus by the Executive Board (President, Vice President, and Treasurer). If a consensus cannot be met for one or more of the Trustee positions, the selection defaults to the President's choice. Note that the Board of Trustees does not have to be filled to capacity at all times.

If desired, a majority vote of the officers can put an officer position to vote for all voting club members to decide the new officer(s) (provided that at least three-fourths of the usual number of attending members vote).

If an officer is removed through the process outlined in Article III, Section 4, or if an officer resigns in the middle of the academic year, the position will be replaced with a new member through the same processes outlined above for each position.

Section 4 - Officer Removal

As leadership is necessary for the success of any organization, officers are expected to attend all organizational meetings and events. It is realized, however, that extenuating circumstances are possible. If an officer plans to be absent from the meeting, it is his or her duty to notify other officers in advance.

If an officer fails to regularly attend the organization's meetings or events, or fails with his or her duties that their position requires, the officer will be subject to losing their officer position per the same voting standards of removing a member (as outlined in Article II, Section 2). An officer removed from their position does not lose their membership, however; a separate vote must be held to consider removing their membership entirely (as outlined in Article II, Section 2).

Article IV - Advisor: Qualification Criteria

The advisor to the organization, as outlined by the Ohio State University, will be a faculty member, administrative or professional staff member, lecturer, or emeritus professor. It is
preferred that the advisor be familiar with Wikipedia, and/or a staff member of one of Ohio State's libraries or English-related departments.

The role of the advisor is to provide guidance and mentorship for the organization, and holds the position for one year.

**Article V - Meetings of the Organization**

Meetings are open to any students of the Ohio State University to attend. Such meetings may include presentations, lectures, guest speakers, or collaborative projects to improve Wikipedia. Separate events (including Wikipedia edit-a-thons) may also occur, as endorsed and/or held by the organization.

Most meetings are also open to others from the University and the public; it is up to the event organizers to make clear who each event is open to.

**Article VI - Constitutional Changes**

In the event that any member of the organization believes that this constitution needs to be altered, the change will come to vote. Alas, the process is not as easy as simply editing a Wikipedia article. Suggested changes must be voted upon by a quorum (3/4 of all members for the year), and the vote must pass with 2/3 of the vote in support. Suggested changes or amendments, particularly large ones, should be carefully considered for a reasonable amount of time before being voted on and implemented.

It is discouraged that the constitution be amended frequently.

**Article VII - Method of Dissolution of Organization**

Should the organization dissolve, all monetary organization assets will be donated to the Wikimedia Foundation, in the original spirit of the organization. Any organization debts will be paid evenly by organization members.