Socialist Students Interim Constitution

The constitution should be simple yet comprehensive and difficult to amend, leaving any specific procedural rules to be included in the by-laws. When amending the constitution, as with the by-laws, previous notice of any proposed changes are usually required to be given to the membership and should not be changed in the same meeting in which proposed.

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

Section 1: Socialist Students Columbus

Section 2 - Purpose: Socialist Students is an initiative launched by student members of Socialist Alternative, the party of Seattle’s socialist city councilmember Kshama Sawant. We are young people who see the crisis of student debt, the lack of good paying jobs, and our declining living standards as being entirely connected to the crisis of capitalism. We believe that capitalism is a system based on exploitation of the many for the profit of a few billionaires. This system can no longer meet the needs of young and working people across the world. We need a society that works for all not just the 1%. We need a socialist system where we have democratic control over our own lives. Socialist Students in the United States stands in political solidarity with Socialist Students (UK). We aim to build a student movement that fights against attacks on education, racism, sexism, LGTBQ people and other issues that affect students and workers.

Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy:

Socialist Students does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

Socialist Students follows the general policy outlined in The Ohio State Universities Human Resources Policy: https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy110.pdf

Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.

Voting membership should be defined as limited to currently enrolled Ohio State students. Others such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc. are encouraged to become members but as non-voting associate or honorary members. [For educational and leadership development reasons, student organizations are to be student initiated, student lead, and student run.]
**Article III – Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers**

III.a. If a member conducts themselves in such a manner deemed detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization or is in violation of the Ohio State University Student Code of Conduct, they can be removed through a majority vote of the other voting membership or unanimous vote of the officers, with the consultation of the advisor.

III.b. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed for sufficient cause. Sufficient cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws or any conduct deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the chapter. Prior to a vote on the matter of removal of an elected officer, the chapter Executive Committee shall hold a formal hearing. The officer shall have the opportunity to personally appear at the formal hearing or to be represented by counsel. The officer may present any defense to the charges before any action is taken. The chapter Executive Committee shall adopt rules to ensure due process to the officer. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two thirds affirmative vote of the executive board.

**Article IV - Organization Leadership: Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.**

Organization leaders represent the Executive Committee and general membership and are elected or appointed from the ranks of the organization’s voting membership. The titles of organization leaders, the length of terms, specification as to which leaders are elected or appointed and by whom, and the general duties of each leadership position should be clearly specified. Organizations need to have the necessary leaders to conduct their activities.

President: organizes the meetings, write the agenda and

Treasure:

**Article V - Executive Committee (if needed): Size and composition of the Committee.**

This Committee (like a board of trustees or directors) represents the general membership and conducts business of the organization between general meetings of the membership and reports its actions at the general meetings of the membership. In many organizations, this Committee is comprised of the organization leaders, chairpersons of the standing committees, and sometimes ex officio positions from related student organizations.

**Article VI - Standing Committees (if needed): Names, purposes, and composition.**
These committees serve the organization leadership, Executive Committee, and general membership and are permanent and designed to carry out the basic functions of the organization. Often chairpersons of these committees are appointed by the organization leadership.

Article VII – Adviser(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria.

Advisers of student organizations must be full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. If a person is serving as an adviser who is not a member of the above classifications, a co-adviser must be chosen who is a member of these University classifications. Responsibilities and expectations of advisers should be clearly and adequately described.

Article VIII – Meetings of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency.

Meetings topics for the following month will be discussed and planned by the executive committee with the aid of the advisory board at the end of each month. They will occur no less than every two weeks, but may occur more often if the executive committee and advisory board deems necessary. It will further be understood, for the purposes of membership, that a student need only attend one meeting per week to meet the eligibility requirement.

Article IX – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.

Proposed amendments should be in writing, should not be acted upon but read in the general meeting in which they are proposed, should be read again at a specified number of subsequent general meetings and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken, and should either require a two-third or three-quarter majority of voting members (a quorum being present) or a majority or two-thirds of the entire voting membership of the organization, present or not. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.

Article X – Method of Dissolution of Organization

A supermajority of the general membership can vote to dissolve the organization. If this occurs it is the responsibility of the executive committee and advisory board to discharge any debt the group has occurred, close the bank account and figure out the distribution of the inventory of the group.
Article 1 – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the by-laws of this organization.

Article II- Membership

Any student of Ohio State University who has come to at least three consecutive meetings, or participated in a planned action is eligible to vote on proposals. No dues will be taken.

Article III- Election / Appointment of Government Leadership

Each year, before October 15th, the executive committee will put together a slate for leadership position: President, Treasurer and Secondary Leader, to be ratified by a simple majority of the membership. If the membership declines to ratify the executive committee’s slate a new slate will be proposed by the membership and voted on immediately.

Article IV- Executive Committee (if needed)

The executive committee is made up of the president, treasure, and secondary leader and is responsible for the planning and organization of the meetings and actions proposed by the group.

Article VI - Adviser/Advisory Board Responsibilities

The adviser and advisory board be made up on the staff advisor and less than one Socialist Alternative Columbus member. Their duties are to advise the group, and give political perspective, but not to run the group or organize the meetings.

Article VII - Meeting Requirements

Meetings topics for the following month will be discussed and planned by the executive committee with the aid of the advisory board at the end of each month. Quorum is reached if at least two thirds of the membership are in attendance. However, if quorum is not reached the executive committee may will pursue any plans that are time sensitive until a quorum can be reached later.
Article VIII - Method of Amending By-Laws

Should be similar to amending the constitution. However, by-laws are apt to change more often than the constitution, thus amending should be somewhat easier. By-laws may be amended by proposing in writing and reading the change at a general meeting of the membership and then bring the proposed change up for a vote at the next general meeting with a 2/3 majority vote of the membership present (a quorum being present).