Innovation Lab

Organization Constitution

Article I – Name, Purpose & Non-Discriminatory Policy of the Organization

Section 1: Name
This organization shall hereby be called Innovation Lab, abbreviated as IL. The organization is a student-run organization at The Ohio State University.

Section 2: Mission
Innovation Lab provides current OSU students with both the educational building blocks and the networking connections necessary to be successful as innovators within small and large organizations.

Section 3: Purpose
The purpose of the Innovation Lab is as follows:
- Participate in and hold worthwhile events that achieve goals stated in IL’s organizational mission statement
- Make use of Columbus’ vibrant innovation environment in serving IL’s organizational mission statement

Section 4: Non-Discrimination Policy
This organization, its members and its partners shall not discriminate against an individual or individuals on the basis of sexual orientation, race, creed, religion, national origin, marital status, age, gender, ethnicity, handicap or Vietnam veteran status.

Article II – Membership Qualifications and Categories

Section 1: General Membership
Membership to the Innovation Lab is open to all currently enrolled undergraduate, graduate or professional students at The Ohio State University. Voting is limited to the officers of the organization, and the Advisor, with the Advisor’s vote to be cast in tie vote situations only.

Section 2: Procedures for Becoming a Member
General membership status is contingent upon the submission of an application, accepted on a rolling basis, as well as the payment of membership dues. The application is to be decided on each year by the Executive Committee with an emphasis placed on maintaining continuity through largely similar membership applications from year to year.

Section 3: Removal
Any member may be removed from the group subject to a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee and a clearly stated purpose for dismissal, submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at the time of the vote.
Section 4: Membership Dues
Dues are to be set by the Executive Committee each year by two-thirds vote. Dues are to be paid by every member of the organization, including officers.

Article III – Officers of the Organization

Section 1: Named Officers
The named officers of the Innovation Lab are to be President, Vice President of Outreach, Vice President of Marketing and Treasurer. Named officers are elected annually to one-year terms in March by majority vote of members in good standing. The four named officers comprise the Executive Committee of the organization and hold organizational voting rights.

Four unnamed officers are to be designated by the Executive Committee each year, outlined in Article 3, Section 2.

Section 2: Unnamed Officers
In an effort to increase organizational cohesion from one year to the next, four unnamed officers are to be named annually. To be eligible for these unnamed officer positions, individuals must be enrolled undergraduate, graduate, or professional students.

Unnamed officers do not have organizational voting rights but are encouraged to provide input on significant organizational issues. Unnamed officers are appointed by the Executive Committee each January through a method left up to the discretion of the Executive Committee. The President has final authority on determining the method for appointing unnamed officers.

Section 3: Method of Removing Officers
An officer may be relieved from his/her duties if they become unable to perform their duties in an adequate fashion. This decision and resulting vote to relieve an officer of their duties will be carried out by the Executive Committee. Two out of the three remaining officers must vote in favor of relief for the individual to be removed from office.

Section 4: Duties
Duties of named and unnamed officers are to be determined on an annual basis via discussion between named officers, unnamed officers, the Advisor and the Advisory Board.

Article IV – Advisor / Advisory Board

Section 1: Advisor
The role of the Advisor is to provide support, as requested by the Executive Committee, to the initiatives undertaken by the group and any activities that support the organization’s mission. To the extent possible, the Advisor will also create a meaningful connection between the Innovation Lab and OSU / community innovation resources. The coordination of efforts between the two organizations is the responsibility of the Innovation Lab, but aiding that coordination falls under the responsibility of the Advisor.
Additionally, the Advisor serves as a key member of the Advisory Board outlined in Article IV, Section 2. To the extent possible, the Advisor will aid the IL Executive Committee in maintaining relationships with organizations and individuals that become part of the Advisory Board. The Advisor will offer support to recruitment, retention and engagement efforts undertaken by IL in relation to the Advisory Board.

Section 2: Advisory Board
Given IL’s stated mission to provide a connection between leaders and OSU students, the Advisory Council serves as a tangible representation of that link, forging a line of two-way communication between IL and the larger innovation community. Additionally, the Advisory Council maintains a level of continuity for IL, an important trait for an organization that cycles through members and leadership in two-year rotations.

It is IL’s desire to become a more relevant touch point for innovation leaders and the wider Ohio State University community. Direct contact between Advisory Council members and IL leaders creates that link.

Advisory Council meetings will take place twice a year, supplemented by ad hoc conversations as necessary. Advisory Council meetings will feature IL leaders presenting past IL events, upcoming activities, ongoing initiatives and all efforts supporting IL’s mission. Guidance will be sought on the overall direction of the organization, offered through the lens of the extensive experience held by Advisory Council members. The ongoing role of the Advisory Council will be subject to the same kind of ongoing guidance and dialog.

Members of the Advisory Board will be recruited and approved at the discretion of majority vote of the Executive Committee. Permanent members of the Advisory Board include all past Innovation Lab presidents.

Article V – Requirements for Meetings

There are no set requirements for Innovation Lab meetings.

Article VI – Committees

The creation and dissolution of committees within the Innovation Lab is up to the discretion of the President of the Innovation Lab.

Article VII – Method of Amending the Constitution

The Constitution can be amended only by unanimous vote of the Innovation Lab Committee following a presentation to the Executive Committee of any proposed changes. After the presentation of any such changes, voting on inclusion can take place no earlier than seven days after the presentation of changes.