

# **The Open Source Club**

## **Student Organization Constitution**

### **ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The Open Source Club at the Ohio State University, The Open Source Club, Open Source Club, OSC

### **ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE**

This student organization will dedicate itself to helping promote, propagate, and standardize the open source paradigm of technology development and use, both in software, and in other works to which the open source paradigm is applicable and societally beneficial.

This organization will strive to excel in these three vectors by:

- Introducing the open source model of development to OSU students and the larger OSU/Columbus community;
- Showcasing projects developed under an open source development model (programs, games, websites, arts, etc.);
- Fostering interest in the open source community, and providing ways for members to involve themselves in it (meetings, talks, workshops, etc.);
- Creating a space in which members can engage in constructive discourse on the topics surrounding open source;
- Raising awareness of the value the open source paradigm can provide to students, members of our communities, and society at large;
- Inspiring members to think critically about the technology they use, the way that technology interfaces and affects their lives, and the ways in which we can reclaim our agency and foster solidarity in our communities through a more sustainable relationship with technology and a more democratic paradigm of technology in our societies.

### **ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

#### **Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct**

*The Open Source Club agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination 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 basis in accordance with the Student Organization Registration Guidelines.*

### **Section B. Hazing**

*The Open Source Club agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.*

### **Section C. Bylaws**

*The Open Source Club retains the right to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, The Ohio State University's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization's currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.*

## **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section A. Membership Eligibility**

In the pursuit of our stated purpose, membership in this student organization is extended to all members of the OSU and Columbus community who wish to involve themselves—and learn how to benefit from—open source. No fees or dues will ever be collected from any member of the community wishing to involve themselves in the Open Source Club.

Recognizing the breadth of our potential member pool, we define two types of members as **active** and **passive**, and elaborate on the privileges afforded to each in the subsequent section.

### **Section B. Member Selection**

**Active membership** is awarded to any and all currently-enrolled students of the Ohio State University, part- or full-time, who are in good standing with the organization, and who display activity within the organization to a recognizable degree. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Attending four or more in-person meetings in a semester;
- Being active in existing social groups (Discord, Revolt, Matrix, etc.):
  - “Active” is loosely defined as contributing enough to online discussion so as to easily be precisely identified and recalled by members during in-person meetings, be it by username or reference to discussions of which the member in question was a part. A more precise definition is left to current officership discretion.
- Other examples left to current officership discretion.

Active membership affords members the privilege of continuing to participate in digital social groups; being allowed to attend meetings and, to the discretion of associated organizations, meeting collaborations. Active membership additionally affords members the privilege of being able to run for, and hold, executive officer positions; being able to vote for candidates for executive roles; being able to participate in votes for the removal of an executive officer.

**Passive membership** is a largely symbolic type of membership awarded to any and all individuals in good standing with the organization who display interest in the purpose of the Open Source Club.

### **Section C. Membership Timeline**

Seeing as both types of membership are open and only require an established level activity to receive, membership approval opportunity is provided on a rolling basis throughout the academic year.

### **Section D. Member Removal**

It may be the case that a member of the organization has their behavior deemed incongruent with the stated goals of the organization, in violation of the Ohio State University Standards, the Student Code of Conduct, and/or the Non-Discrimination Policy as expressed in Article III, Section I, or otherwise deemed unacceptable by the expectations of this organization and its membership. For these regrettable cases, a process for member removal of the offending individual is established:

1. A meeting is held among the current executive officership to discuss evidence of offensive behavior for the member in question, and to decide whether to continue with the removal process.

2. The member in question is privately notified of their potential removal, and they are provided the opportunity to explain their behavior in a written document.
3. After the written document is received or declined to be written, a separate meeting is held among the current executive officership where a vote is held to remove the member; a two-thirds majority results in the member's removal.

## **ARTICLE V. ADVISOR**

### **Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities**

The Advisor of the Open Source Club will:

- Approve any changes made to the Constitution, Goals, or other legislature of the organization;
- Approve programming and meeting decisions;
- Ensure current executive officership abides by existing organization legislature;
- Meet regularly with current executive officership to discuss high-level performance of the organization;
- Provide guidance, support, and resources as is available to them, and as the organization requires, throughout the course of the academic semester.

### **Section B. Advisor Term**

An advisor will hold their role for one year, and must be newly appointed or re-appointed every year.

### **Section C. Advisor Selection**

The primary advisors of the Open Source Club must be a full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. Co-advisors may additionally be classified civil service employees, graduate administrative associates, and emeritus and retired faculty/staff. Precise departmental association, such as with the College of Engineering, is not required, and is instead left to current executive officership discretion.

### **Section D. Advisor Replacement**

A new advisor is appointed to the club by a nomination of one or more member(s) of current executive officership of an available individual considered eligible as per Section C, then voted on. If current executive officership votes unanimously on the individual, they are appointed as an advisor.

## **ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP**

### **Section A. Officer Positions**

The **Primary Leader** or **President** of Open Source Club will manage the executive board, and oversee the large-scale success of the organization by way of directing current executive officership on decision pertaining to the organization's functioning.

The **Treasurer** of Open Source Club will oversee and manage existing financial assets belonging to OSC, as well as ensure that OSC is maintaining sustainable pecuniary practices. They are expected to maintain detailed records of all assets and funds belonging to OSC, as well as a detailed history of pecuniary transactions.

The **Secondary Leader** or **Vice President** of Open Source Club will provide support to the Primary Leader in their responsibilities as both parties see fit and appropriate, and will take on any responsibilities that the current Primary Leader may not immediately be able to accomplish when able.

The **Development Chair** of Open Source Club will foster an inter-supportive community of software and/or hardware developers where members can improve their skills in making technical contributions to open source and developing their own open source projects, as well as find a community of like-minded developers to help one another become more involved in the technical side of the open source community at large.

The **Communications Chair** of Open Source Club will ensure OSC maintains a positive presence within and among larger communities (OSU, the open source community at large, other organizations within OSU, etc.), as well as managing mutually beneficial relationships with non-OSC parties. At current officership discretion, they may also manage any social digital communications.

### **Section B. Officer Eligibility**

Any active members of OSC are eligible to hold an executive position. The roles of Primary Leader and Treasurer have the additional eligibility requirement of full-time studentship.

### **Section C. Officer Selection Process**

1. Towards the beginning of the January, current executive officership makes known an upcoming self-nomination period for active members to express intent in taking on an executive role for the following academic year.
2. Towards the end of January, a two week-period of self-nomination opens wherein active members will make their interest in an executive position known to current executive

officership. Self-nomination must allow members to specify the precise role they wish to take on. Self-nomination may also allow members to specify multiple roles, so long as roles must be ordered by preference. Interest in a not-yet-established role must be previously communicated to current executive officership, in order to be included in the self-nomination.

3. Once the self-nomination period elapses, a one week period ensues where current executive officership reviews the self-nominations, ensures the eligibility of the nominees, and notifies them of their candidacy.
4. After the review period, a two-week voting period ensues where active members may vote for executive officer candidates. The voting must be rank-choice, such that each voter lists all candidates in order of preference for the executive role. At most one week after the voting period elapses, the results of the election are announced. New executive officers are appointed on the 1st of May.

In order to decide the winner of a role with ranked-choice voting, the following process is followed:

1. The candidates are listed in order of most to least first-rank votes.
2. If the first candidate on this list has more than 50% of the votes, they are awarded the position.
3. If the first candidate on this list has less than 50% of the votes, the last candidate on this list is eliminated. Each vote for this candidate is then redistributed based on voters' second-rank choice, and the list is recalculated.
4. This process continues until the first candidate on the list has more than 50% of the votes.

If candidates are afforded the ability to self-nominate for multiple roles, and if a candidate receives 50% or more of the votes for two separate roles, they receive the role with higher preference, are removed from the candidate list for the other role, and the candidate preference list is recalculated as established above.

#### **Section D. Officer Removal**

In the case of incongruent behavior on the part of an officer as described in the member removal process outlined in Article IV Section D, the offending officer and the organization advisor will be notified by remaining officership of this perceived offense. The officer in question may then provide a written response to the advisor of the organization, which will then be reviewed by remaining executive officership and the advisor. Current executive

officership will then vote on the officer's removal, and a unanimous vote will result in the removal of the officer. Advisor approval is expected, but only as a point of guidance, rather than as a requirement. The responsibilities intended for the removed officer are then redistributed to remaining officership by the Primary Leader; if the Primary Leader is the officer that has been removed, the Secondary Leader is promoted to Primary Leader status for the remainder of the term, until a new end-of-year vote is carried out.

## **ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION**

### **Section A. Dissolution Requirements**

If self-nomination for future executive roles suggests an insufficient interest for the required roles of this organization to be held, current executive officership is expected to dissolve the organization.

### **Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts**

Dissolution of this organization will be communicated to Student Life and any active advisors of the organization. Should there be any outstanding debts in the organization, current pecuniary assets will be used immediately to address them. In the case that debt remains thereafter, physical and digital assets are to be liquidated immediately where possible to address them. In the case that debt remains thereafter, it becomes the responsibility of the individual holding the current Primary Leader position to address them.

## **ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

### **Section A. Amendment Process**

Amendments to the constitution can be proposed by any existing active member of the organization. Any and all amendments can only be adopted between registration cycles. All suggested amendments to the constitution are to be collected over the course of the year. When the new executive officership takes on their roles in early May, they may then vote unanimously on each contested amendment up until the registration window opens, wherein they will submit a new constitution to Student Life with any approved amendments for Student Life approval.