

# Inter-Professional Council

## Student Organization Constitution

### Article I. Name of Organization

Inter-Professional Council (IPC)

### Article II. Organization Purpose

We, the Inter-Professional Council (IPC) being those professional students of The Ohio State University elected and appointed by our peers, with our authority derived from the professional student body and recognized by the faculty, staff, and administration of this university, dedicate ourselves to the betterment of higher education and student life at The Ohio State University. We hereby promise to be accessible to professional students, remain sensitive to the concerns of all undergraduate and graduate students, and to be a voice for professional issues. Therefore, IPC at The Ohio State University charges itself with creating and maintaining an environment for the promotion of student excellence.

### Article III. University Regulations

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

The Inter-Professional Council 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 Inter-Professional Council 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 Inter-Professional Council 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**

- 1) All students enrolled in a professional college at The Ohio State University, who are in good academic standing, are considered to be general members of the Inter-Professional Council.
- 2) All general members elect student representatives from their colleges to form the IPC Senate, which shall be the official representation of the professional student body. The Senate shall be empowered to:
  - a) Pass legislation on behalf of the professional student body in all areas of student life and in all other areas of student interest that are not directly and solely delegated to other governmental organizations by the student body, the university administration, or the Board of Trustees;
  - b) Require and receive reports from all members of IPC regarding any business conducted on behalf of IPC. These reports shall be preserved by IPC;
  - c) Establish temporary and standing committees as necessary in order to study legislation and issues affecting the professional student body;
  - d) Remove or censure the President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, other executive officers, Chief Justice, Senators, Justices, and professional students on university-wide committees with a two-thirds vote of the Senate;
  - e) Ratify the budget; and
  - f) Overturn a Presidential veto with a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

- 3) Senators
  - a) The Senate shall have the designated number of senators popularly elected within each individual college from the following constituencies:
    - i) Dentistry (8)
    - ii) Law (8)
    - iii) Medicine (8)
    - iv) Optometry (8)
    - v) Pharmacy (8)
    - vi) Veterinary Medicine (8)
  - b) All college senators must be enrolled in the college they are representing for the entire term of representation.
  - c) Senate meetings shall be held at least four times a semester during the Fall and Spring semesters. The President, acting as chair of the Senate, has the power to call additional Senate meetings at any time. The Executive Committee shall provide senators with at least forty- eight-hours notice prior to holding any additional meetings.

#### **Section B. Membership Selection**

- 1) The Senate shall have the designated number (8) of senators popularly elected within each individual college.
- 2) The election of Senators shall be determined by each individual professional college, provided the following criteria are met:
  - a) Senator elections must occur based on a vote of the student body, whether that be amongst the entire population of that professional school, or amongst the population of the class from which the delegate is elected; and
  - b) In the event of a Senator vacancy during the academic year, the position can be filled by appointment or election. Appointment can occur by the lead senator from the respective professional college and must be approved by the professional college's delegation by a two-thirds majority vote. Elections to fill a vacancy must follow the same guidelines as required by Art. IV Sec. B(2)(a).
- 3) Each Senate delegation shall designate a Lead Senator from among the senators of that delegation. The Lead Senator shall fulfill all duties and obligations set forth in IPC's Constitution and Bylaws. Failure to do so will constitute cause for relieving that senator of Lead Senator status by majority affirmation of that respective Senate delegation.
- 4) Only six senators from each college may vote on matters before the IPC Senate, except in instances where voting is controlled by the Election Bylaws. In such instances, all senators are entitled to vote. The Lead Senator shall determine which six senators shall cast votes in all other matters.

- 5) Senators shall have all powers of speech and debate, including, but not limited to, the right to introduce motions, and introduce and sponsor legislation.
- 6) The quorum for all Senate votes shall be 2/3 of all voting members, or 24 voting members. The quorum for votes controlled by the Election Bylaws shall be dictated by those Bylaws.
- 7) The Senate shall be recognized as the agent of the professional students to any collective bargaining contract subject to relevant state and federal laws.

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

- 1) Any person succeeding to an elected seat shall hold that seat until the end of a regular term. At the end of the regular term, that person shall be eligible for consecutive terms as per the following section of this Constitution.
- 2) The terms of office for all senators shall be one year. Re-election by constituents is not required for consecutive terms. The term of office for all Executive Committee members and the Chief Justice shall be one year, starting the first day of May.

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

- 1) Senators shall hold their offices during good behavior. Good behavior shall include, but not be restricted to, fulfilling all duties and obligations set forth in IPC's Constitution and Bylaws, and all relevant student codes of conduct.
- 2) If a senator fails to fulfill their duties and obligations, as set forth in the IPC Constitution and Bylaws, the senator may be replaced by an appropriate representative from the same college.
- 3) For any removal proceeding, senators shall be entitled to due process and shall be tried by the means set forth in the Organizational Bylaws.
- 4) In the event of a vacancy of a senator seat that goes unfilled by the Lead Senator and appropriate Senate delegation, the President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a new senator to the seat from the appropriate constituency.
- 5) Procedures for Case Review
  - a) The Judicial Panel must thoroughly investigate the case, securing all relevant information in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.
  - b) The Judicial Panel must deliberate and render a decision on a preponderance of the evidence.
  - c) The Judicial Panel must apply the IPC Constitution and its Bylaws as written.
  - d) The Judicial Panel must reach a conclusion supported by a preponderance of the evidence.
  - e) The Judicial Panel must impose sanctions commensurate with the nature of the violation.

- f) A Justice will relinquish their seat during a case in which a conflict of interest arises. All efforts shall be made to temporarily fill this seat with an impartial senator from the same college who shall only hold the seat for the case. In the event that it is impractical to fill the seat, the empty seat will remain vacant as long as quorum is secured.
- g) If a quorum is not secured due to conflicts of interest and other extenuating circumstances, the case will be considered an appellate case and will be referred to the Student Government Coordinator or other University body of proper jurisdiction for adjudication.
- h) Jurisdiction:
  - i) The Judicial Panel will have original jurisdiction over all alleged violations of the Constitution, Organizational Bylaws, and Election Bylaws of IPC.
- i) Adjudication Process
  - i) The member of IPC in question (hereinafter referred to as Member) will be notified by the Chief Justice of the alleged violation at least seven days in advance of any Judicial Panel proceeding. The Judicial Panel will convene no less than seven, but within twenty-one days of receipt of the alleged violation, unless there is an immediate threat of harm. The Chief Justice has primary procedural control of the hearing. The Member may respond in writing to the alleged violation. The Member will have the opportunity to present evidence on the Member's behalf to the Judicial Panel. The Member may make an oral testimony in the Member's defense and answer any questions from the Judicial Panel. The Judicial Panel reserves the right to limit witness testimony so long as the accused has a reasonable opportunity to address the allegations. All Judicial Panel proceedings will be recorded for the purpose of appeal only. The Judicial Panel may establish additional policies and procedures for the conduct of the hearing insofar as those additional policies and procedures are not in conflict with this Constitution or the Organizational Bylaws.
  - ii) In closed session, with the Member not present, the Judicial Panel will find the Member in violation or not in violation of the Constitution or Bylaws by a two-thirds vote.
  - iii) If the Member is found in violation, mitigating and aggravating circumstances will be considered at that time. The Judicial Panel shall not consider anything that goes against IPC's Non-Discrimination Clause.
  - iv) After considering mitigating and aggravating circumstances, the Member who has been found in violation will be sanctioned by the Judicial Panel. A two-thirds vote of the presiding Justices of the Judicial Panel is necessary to accept the sanction.

- j) Opinions. The Judicial Panel must submit its written opinion of the case or interpretation in question no later than thirty days from its receipt by the Chief Justice. Said opinions or excerpts may be released by a majority vote of the Judicial Panel only on a need to know basis after consultation with the advisor of IPC.
- k) Appeals. Members of IPC may appeal the decision of the Judicial Panel to the Student Government Coordinator or other University body of proper jurisdiction within seven days of the original decision. An appeal made after seven days shall only be considered if: new material facts are introduced, there is a violation of the due process rights of the accused, or there is a procedural error. To initiate an appeal, the Member must send written notification to a Justice of the University Court. No appeal will be entertained after sixty days have passed since the decision was made. The Student Government Coordinator or other University body of proper jurisdiction will serve as the final level of appeal.
- l) In the event that a Justice's actions result in a disciplinary inquiry, that Justice shall relinquish their seat on the Judicial Panel upon notice of the inquiry and until completion of the judicial proceedings. The IPC Senate shall have original authority to try this case. The Student Government Coordinator or other University body of proper jurisdiction may consider this case on appeal as per Art. III sec. G of this Constitution.

## **Article V. Advisor**

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

- 1) The Faculty Advisor's responsibilities include:
  - a) Assisting the Executive Committee;
  - b) Assisting the Judicial Panel regarding violations of the Constitution, Organizational Bylaws, and Election Bylaws of IPC;
  - c) Serving on the IPC Advisory Group;
  - d) Attending Senate meetings when able; and
  - e) Acting as a liaison between IPC and the academic leadership of the professional colleges.
- 2) Student Life will also provide an advisor for the organization and their responsibilities include:
  - a) Assisting the Executive Committee;
  - b) Serving on the IPC Advisory Group;
  - c) Assisting in activity and event planning; and
  - d) Providing guidance on all organizational events.

## **Section B. Advisor Term**

- 1) The Faculty Advisor shall serve two-year terms.
- 2) The Student Life Advisor terms are designated by the Ohio State University Student Life department.
- 3) Terms may be renewed indefinitely with consent from the Advisor and approval by the Executive Committee.

## **Section C. Advisor Selection**

- 1) The IPC Advisor shall be a faculty member on staff at one of the six professional colleges.
- 2) The Student Life Advisor shall be designated by the Ohio State University Student Life department.
- 3) The Executive Committee is responsible for recruiting the Advisor from the eligible faculty.

## **Section D. Advisor Replacement**

- 1) The IPC Advisor may be replaced by the decision of the Executive Committee or the Advisor at the completion of a two-year term.

## **Article VI. Organizational Leadership**

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

- 1) The Executive Branch shall be led by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Advisory Group. The Executive Branch shall consist of the Executive Committee.
  - a) The Executive Committee shall meet prior to each Senate meeting or at the President's discretion.
  - b) The Executive Committee shall have the power to set and amend the Senate calendar. The Executive Committee may schedule additional Senate meetings as long as a minimum of 48 hours notice is given to Senate members.
- 2) The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Chief of Staff, Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs, and Chief Justice.
  - a) President
    - i) The President shall have the power to:
      - (1) Hold an ex-officio seat on the Senate with no right to introduce legislation or vote absent a tie;
      - (2) Chair the Senate;

- (3) Exercise their discretion in breaking ties on legislative votes that do not involve appointments or elections;
  - (4) Appoint the Chief of Staff, Vice President of Inter-Governmental Affairs, other executive committee members, and Internal Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs with approval of the Executive Committee;
  - (5) Remove from office any appointed Cabinet members or administrative assistants that are not fulfilling their responsibilities;
  - (6) Hold a non-voting seat on the University Senate;
  - (7) Call Executive Committee meetings;
  - (8) Serve as a voting professional representative on the University Senate Steering Committee; and
  - (9) Veto legislation approved by the Senate.
- ii) The responsibilities of the President, or their designee, shall include:
- (1) Chairing meetings of the Executive Committee;
  - (2) Directing and advising all other appointed and elected executive officials;
  - (3) Scheduling and presiding over regular Senate meetings of IPC;
  - (4) Serving on the Board of Trustees Selection Committee, or chair it, as needed;
  - (5) Attending all other meetings as requested on behalf of IPC;
  - (6) Engaging all speakers for Senate meetings;
  - (7) Organizing an orientation for new senators prior to the first meeting; and
  - (8) Present a report of the activities of IPC to the University Senate as a whole whenever requested through a Senate vote. Moreover, this report is to be published and available to all professional students.
- b) Executive Vice President
- i) The Executive Vice President shall have the power to:
- (1) Serve as President in the event that the President is unable to fulfill their duties of office;
  - (2) Hold an ex-officio seat on the Senate with full voting rights;
  - (3) Initiate legislation for a Senate vote on behalf of the Executive Committee;
  - (4) Hold a non-voting seat on the University Senate; and
  - (5) Serve on the Board of Trustees Selection Committee.
- ii) The responsibilities of the Executive Vice President, or their designee, shall include:
- (1) Receiving and safely keeping funds of IPC by serving as treasurer;
  - (2) Preparing and submitting audits of IPC banking once a semester or upon request by the Senate;
  - (3) Coordinating the activities between IPC and the professional colleges, including elections and social events;

- (4) Serving as the ex-officio Chair of the Resolutions Committee;
  - (5) Serving as the Elections Chair as per IPC's Election Bylaws;
  - (6) Serving as the professional student representative on the Athletic Council;
  - (7) Serving as one of the professional student representatives on the Council of Student Affairs and;
  - (8) Attending all meetings when the President is unable as a full alternate with voting privileges in their place.
- c) Secretary
- i) The Secretary shall hold an ex-officio seat in the Senate with full voting rights and the right to initiate legislation for a Senate vote.
  - ii) The responsibilities of the Secretary shall include:
    - (1) Recording the minutes from Senate meetings;
    - (2) Tracking Senate meeting attendance;
    - (3) Sending reminders to the senators of upcoming meeting dates and IPC events;
    - (4) Maintaining the IPC website and newsletters;
    - (5) Preparing an agenda for all Senate meetings; and
    - (6) Overseeing IPC contact databases.
- d) Chief of Staff
- i) The Chief of Staff shall have the power to:
    - (1) Appoint senators to internal and external committees;
    - (2) Remove senators for cause from committees where that senator was originally appointed to that committee by the Chief of Staff; and
    - (3) Take part in all executive decisions.
  - ii) The responsibilities of the Chief of Staff shall include:
    - (1) Compiling semesterly reports to the Senate of issues currently in IPC committees that are important to the professional student body;
    - (2) Notifying the President of issues brought up in committee meetings that may be important for IPC to address;
    - (3) Overseeing all staffing and appointments of committee members, with the exception of Committee Chairs;
    - (4) Monitoring the participation of all senators;
    - (5) Maintaining contact with university-wide committee chairs and serving as a liaison between them and IPC;
    - (6) Organizing the Inauguration Ceremony at the end of the Spring semester; and
    - (7) Scheduling and conducting committee updates at IPC Senate meetings with those senators seated on the respective committees.
- e) Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs
- i) The Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs shall have the power to:

- (1) Serve on the Executive Committee and take part in all executive decisions.
- ii) The responsibilities of the Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs shall include:
  - (1) Compiling semesterly reports to the Senate of issues currently in external committees and university bodies that are important to the professional student body.
  - (2) Reporting relevant work, events, etc. of USG, CGS, and other organizations within the university community;
  - (3) Holding a seat on the University Senate; and
  - (4) Serving as a liaison for any internal committees that interact with the above-mentioned bodies.
- f) The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Judicial Panel. The Chief Justice shall lead the six members of the Judicial Panel.
  - i) Duties and Responsibilities
    - (1) The Justices shall have control over the Professional Development Fund including guidelines, application creation and revision, application screening, and award decisions within the limits of the Standing Rules of the Professional Development Fund. They are responsible for reviewing and amending annually the Standing Rules of the Professional Development Fund as needed and with the approval of a Senate majority vote.
    - (2) The Judicial Branch serves as an oversight body for the executive and legislative branches of IPC.
    - (3) Each panel Justice shall have one vote; the Chief Justice only votes in the case of a tie.
    - (4) Quorum shall consist of three panel Justices.
    - (5) The Judicial Branch shall be responsible for assuring IPC is in compliance with its Constitution and shall therefore be responsible for recommending changes to the Constitution as needed.
    - (6) The Judicial Panel is in charge of reviewing the IPC Constitution and Bylaws annually and presenting any required amendments to the Senate no later than the second meeting of Spring semester.
    - (7) The Judicial Panel shall be responsible for reviewing all cases brought to them.
  - g) Chief Justice
    - i) The Chief Justice shall have the power to:
      - (1) Oversee the administration of the Professional Development Fund;
      - (2) Manage the operations of the Judicial Panel;
      - (3) Chair all judicial proceedings as a non-voting member;
      - (4) Break ties in all decisions made by the Judicial Panel and;

- (5) Submit financial documents to the University for reimbursement or payment.
- ii) The responsibilities of the Chief Justice shall include:
  - (1) Serving as the Senate Parliamentarian for all IPC Senate meetings;
  - (2) Administering the oath of office;
  - (3) Managing the Professional Development Fund; and
  - (4) Trying all cases in which the Judicial Panel possesses jurisdiction.

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

- 1) Any member of the Senate is eligible to run for any of the elected positions on the executive committee or be appointed to any of the appointed positions on the executive committee.

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

- 1) The President, Executive Vice President, and Secretary shall be elected by the Senate in accordance with the Election Bylaws. All other executive positions shall be appointed by the President and ratified by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.
  - a) President
    - i) The President shall be elected annually by a simple majority of the Senate and in accordance with IPC's Election Bylaws. The President shall serve as IPC's chief executive and spokesperson.
  - b) Executive Vice President
    - i) The Executive Vice President shall be elected annually by a simple majority of the Senate and in accordance with IPC's Election Bylaws. The Executive Vice President shall serve as IPC's secondary executive, chief financial officer, and spokesperson.
  - c) Secretary
    - i) The Secretary shall hold an ex-officio seat in the Senate with full voting rights and the right to initiate legislation for a Senate vote.
  - d) Chief of Staff
    - i) The Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.
  - e) Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs
    - i) The Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.
  - f) Judicial Panel
    - i) The six Justices shall be selected, one from each college by that college's senators, and each shall take office no later than 30 days from the first day of the Fall semester.
    - ii) The term of office shall be one year.

- iii) In the absence of a selected Justice, the President may appoint a Justice that must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.
- g) Chief Justice
  - i) The Chief Justice shall be nominated by the President and approved by a majority of the currently serving Justices after the Executive Officer Elections and before the Inauguration. Nominees must have served as a Justice in order to be eligible. In the event of a tie, the outgoing Chief Justice shall cast a tie-breaking vote. The Chief Justice shall serve for a one-year term.
  - ii) After the selection of the Chief Justice, the senators of the college of the Chief Justice shall select one of their members to serve as the junior Justice.
  - iii) Once the Chief Justice's term of office has expired, they may return to their former position as a Justice, in which case the junior Justice's term shall expire.

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

- 1) On the recommendation of the President, the Executive Committee shall have the power to create, alter, or dissolve any internal committee by majority vote, except for committees established by the legislative power.
- 2) Removal of Executive Officers
  - a) Any Executive Officer may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the IPC Senate in favor of removal.
- 3) Succession
  - a) In the event that the President can no longer fulfill their duties of office, the Executive Vice President shall succeed to the Presidency. The Executive Vice President, after succession to the Presidency, shall select a new Executive Vice President, whose appointment must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Senate.
  - b) In the event that the President and Executive Vice President can no longer fulfill their duties of office, the Secretary shall succeed to the Presidency. The Secretary, after succession to the Presidency, shall select a new Executive Vice President and Secretary, whose appointments must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Senate.
  - c) If the Secretary refuses the office of President, or there is a vacancy in the office of Secretary, nominations shall be taken from within the Senate, and the body shall elect within eight days, a President and Executive Vice President.
  - d) If there is no member of the Senate who will take the office of President and Executive Vice President, then the Senate reserves the right to elect professional students from outside the Senate to the office of President and Executive Vice President.

- e) In the event that the Executive Vice President can no longer fulfill their duties of office, the President shall select a new Executive Vice President, whose appointment must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Senate.
- f) Any person succeeding to an elected seat shall hold that seat until the end of the term.

## **Article VIII. Constitutional Amendments**

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

- 1) This Constitution may only be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Senate. In order for the Constitution to be amended, changes must be presented at the meeting preceding the call to vote or by e-mail one month prior to the call to vote.

For the purpose of establishing governance rules for the Inter-Professional Council, approved  
by resolution of the Senate:

Senate Approval Updated April 16, 2023

Senate Approval Updated October 5, 2025