

Medical Students for Choice (MSFC)

Constitution

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

Section 1 – Name: Medical Students for Choice (MSFC)

Section 2 – Purpose Statement:

Medical Students for Choice (MSFC) seeks to align with the internationally recognized, non-profit organization of the same name, while concurrently upholding the mission they follow, as it appears below:

“Medical Students for Choice is dedicated to ensuring that women receive the full range of reproductive health care choices. MSFC recognizes that one of the greatest obstacles to safe and legal abortion is the absence of trained providers. As medical students and residents, we work to make reproductive health care, including abortion, a part of standard medical education and residency training.”

Additionally, the MSFC hopes to accomplish meaningful work at various levels related to the provision of appropriate clinical care, reproductive health advocacy and education, and public policy awareness. The group’s fundamental goal is to ensure and protect every woman’s right to have access to—and utilize, if she so chooses—any and all available reproductive health services and family planning options.

Specific Objectives of MSFC at OSU COM:

- 1). Raise awareness of practitioner shortage, lack of reproductive health education in medical schools, and unnecessary hostility toward abortion providers.
- 2). Provide opportunities to shadow local abortion providers/experts.
- 3). Involve and inform students and others of legislative actions regarding reproductive rights at both the local and national levels.

→ Please note, these are by no means wholly inclusive or exclusive.

Section 3 – Non-Discrimination Policy

This organization and its members shall 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 – Voting membership limited to currently enrolled Ohio State University College of Medicine students in good academic standing. Others, such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc., can become members but as non-voting associates or honorary members.

Article III – Organization Leadership: Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.

Section 1 – The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Faculty Advisor.

Section 2 – All executive and legislative power granted herein shall be vested in the Executive Committee.

Section 3 – The Executive Committee shall be empowered to recommend priorities for various projects and to plan activities.

Officer Titles:

- *+President: Group Policy Creation; Event Planning; Meeting Facilitation
 - *+Vice President: Record Keeping; Information Dissemination; Misc. Transport
 - *+Treasurer: Financial Record Keeping
 - *+Secretary: MSFC Group Logistics; Google Group maintenance
 - *+Faculty Advisor
 - +Clinical Affairs Chair
 - +Community Outreach/Education Chair
 - +Internal Public Relations Chair
 - +External Public Relations Chair
 - +Public Policy Chair
- General Members/Interested Students

- *Executive Committee
- +Voting Positions

→ Terms of office are generally one academic year, but can be continued indefinitely so long as the incumbent officer chooses to continue her or his role. Elections shall be held among the group leadership and voting members of the group when several candidates express interest toward the same leadership position.

Article IV – Organizational Structure and Leadership.

Section 1 – MSFC will be led by interested OSU COM students regardless of MED rank (1-4, etc.). Duties will include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- Organizing MSFC events, meetings, discussions, and rallies.
- Maintaining the group as a successful student organization.
- Recruiting new members.
- Maintaining a record of group activities.
- Applying for funding opportunities for the current/following academic year.

Section 2 – New leaders will be selected by outgoing leaders based on interest, commitment to the group, and passion for reproductive health and family planning issues. Discussion and debate should assist in decision-making. The consensus of those present at the meeting shall be the final decision. Those unable to be present at a meeting must express their thoughts via a member who will be present.

Article V – Method of Removing Officers and Members.

Section 1 – Officers may be impeached and, if convicted, removed from office by a two-thirds majority of the voting members on the basis of not fulfilling their duties as outlined in the MSFC Constitution.

Section 2 – Members may be impeached and, if convicted, may be expelled from membership by a two-thirds majority of the voting members on the basis of not fulfilling the mission of MSFC.

Section 3 – Advisors may be impeached and, if convicted, removed from their position by a two-thirds majority of the voting members on the basis of not fulfilling their duties as described by this MSFC Constitution and the general guidelines delineated by the student organization handbook at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Section 4 – Any individual who is impeached shall be given full notice of the allegations against him/her and shall have an opportunity to respond to them.

Section 5 – Any member of the organization may initiate investigative proceedings.

Article VI – Advisor(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria.

Section 1 – A Faculty Advisor shall be appointed by a majority of the voting members.

Section 2 – The Faculty Advisor shall be a member of the Executive Committee.

Section 3 – The duties of the Faculty Advisor shall be to:

- a. Act as consultant for projects and special committees.
- b. Attend academic and social activities sponsored by the MSFC.
- c. Lend expert medical and legislative insight/knowledge.

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

Section 1 – Meetings will be scheduled on an as-needed basis. Announcements of upcoming meetings and events will be made via e-mail and/or the Google Group. Secretary will facilitate room reservation, announcements, and the general agenda of the meeting or event. Regular meetings of the voting membership shall be tentatively scheduled to be held once per month (around the 15th of the month).

Section 2 – Special meetings of the organization may be called by the President, or by the Executive Committee, or upon the written request of five (5) members of the organization.

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

Section 1 – Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed either by two-thirds of the Executive Committee or by a petition submitted by fifty percent of the voting members.

Section 2 – A two-thirds majority of the voting members shall be necessary to approve amendments to this Constitution.

Section 3 – Amendments to this Constitution shall be recommended to the Dean of Student Life at the College of Medicine for approval following approval by the faculty advisor.

→ Amendments to this document can be proposed by any member of the group and will be effective if accepted by a majority. This document requires annual review and evaluation.

Article IX – Method of Dissolution of Organization

Medical Students for Choice (MSFC) may be dissolved by a majority (two-thirds) vote of members present and voting at any business meeting, provided that specific notice of the proposed dissolution has been given in the call for the meeting and that such call has been distributed in writing (email is acceptable) to all members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting during which voting is to take place.