Ladies of Leadership (LOL) Constitution

Article I - Name, Purpose, and Anti-discrimination statement of the Organization

Section 1: The name of the organization is Ladies of Leadership (LOL).

Section 2 (Purpose Statement): The Ladies of Leadership Peer Leader program is designed to provide upper-level undergraduate women an opportunity to mentor first-year women of color in reaching their academic and leadership aspirations. Taking a strengths-based approach to leadership development, Ladies of Leadership Peer Leader Program work with small groups of first year women of color to create a supportive environment that is conducive to success. Our ultimate aim is to challenge and change (mis)perceptions of women of color through thoughtful research and programming that centralizes the contributions of women of color to society. In partnership with others serving women of color on The Ohio State University campus, we will accomplish this aim while upholding our core values of scholarship, service, wellness, empowerment, and leadership.

Section 3 (Anti-discrimination statement): Ladies of Leadership and its members shall not discriminate against any individuals for reasons of race, color, national origin, disability, gender identity or expression, age, creed, religion, sexual orientation, sex, or veteran status.

Article II –Membership (Selection and Removal)

Active mentee membership is given to selected individuals that are first - year students here at The Ohio University. Active mentor membership is given to upperclassmen that have gone through an application process and have been chosen by the advisors. Previous mentors who are not selected as mentors for the next year will have the option to be a part of the Ladies of Leadership Alumni (LOLA). LOLA students will plan social events together. Members who fail to meet the attendance requirement as noted in the mentor/mentee contract, are subject to removal upon review by the executive board members.

Article III- Funds

Section 1:

a. All active members are encouraged to participate in fundraising opportunities held throughout the year.

b. Fundraising events of the Ladies of Leadership are held with the purpose to pay for yearly events such as social events, retreats, and conferences.

Article IV - Executive Leadership (Officer Titles and Duties)

The executive board of the Ladies of Leadership consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Programming, and Service Chair.

President duties: creating agendas, emailing updates and important information to mentees and mentors, serving as the main contact person of the organization, and making major decisions.

Vice president duties: managing the Facebook account and Ladies of Leadership email account, sending emails from the account, and taking attendance.

Treasurer duties: handling money and all responsibilities regarding finances.

Secretary duties: managing the organization email account, taking attendance and minutes at meetings.

Director of Programming duties: Plan and organize major events.

Service Chair duties: Organize group service outings and oversee service sight leaders.

Article V - Method of Selecting and/or Removing Officers

1. Potential officers are expected to present to the mentors and mentees why they would like to be chosen as an officer, and are elected. The candidates with the majority vote will be selected for the position.

2. Officers are to be removed if they fail to meet the university’s GPA requirement, or are voted out of office by the executive board and general body, after neglecting their responsibilities to the organization.

Article VI - Advisors Qualification Criteria

Advisors of Ladies of Leadership must be members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff.

Article VII - Meeting of the Organization

1. Meetings for all mentors and mentees will be required weekly, and will last for 1.5 hour periods

Article VIII- Method of Amending the Constitution

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 2 subsequent general meetings and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. Approval should require at least two-thirds of voting members present (and to conduct any business an organization should have quorum present at a business meeting, which is at minimum 50% + 1 of total organization

members). The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.

Article IX – Method of Dissolution of Organization

**Requirements and procedures for dissolution of the student organization should be stated. Should any organization assets and debt exist, appropriate means for disposing of these assets and debts should be specified clearly and unequivocally.**

By-Laws - **WHAT IS THIS SECTION FOR? #CONFUSED**

By-laws contain the standing (permanent) rules of procedure of an organization. Articles in the by-laws may be

covered in appropriate detail in the constitution of very small organizations. However, most groups keep separate

by-laws because they usually contain more detail and are subject to change more than that of the constitution and,

therefore, may require different procedures for amending.

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Provision for amendment of the by-laws should be somewhat easier than that of the constitution as rules of

procedure should adapt to changing conditions of the student organization. When amending the by-laws, as with the

constitution, previous notice of any changes is usually required to be given to the membership and should not be

changed in the same meeting in which proposed. By-laws are more permanent, however, than passing a general

motion, which may require only a simple majority vote of voters present at a general meeting of the membership (a

quorum being present). By-laws cannot run contrary to the constitution.

Article 1 – Parliamentary Authority

Most organizations use Robert’s Rule of Order to govern their organization’s decision making except when these

rules are inconsistent with their constitution or by-laws of the organization. These rules are of Western cultural

origin, and based on the premise that “though the minority shall be heard and absentees protected, the majority will

decide.”

A recommended wording is “The rules contained in [specify the source for parliamentary practice] 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

Procedures for becoming a member, which may vary by membership category, amount of dues, if any, and how

often they should be paid, termination of membership, and so on should be described in detail.

Article III- Election / Appointment of Government Leadership

Elections rules and procedures, including eligibility for office, the nominating process, design of ballots and

balloting procedures, and so on should be specified as well as appointment and ratification procedures. The timing

of elections and/or appointments should be specified along with procedures to cover special circumstances

(resignations, impeachments, etc.).

Article IV- Executive Committee (if needed)

Specific duties of the Committee and its responsibilities to the membership.

Article V- Standing Committees (if needed)

Specific duties of each committee and their responsibilities to the organization leadership, Executive Committee,

and general membership.

Article VI - Advisor/Advisory Board Responsibilities

Expectations of the advisor in the organization (e.g., availability, meeting attendance, second signer on checks, etc.)

Article VII - Meeting Requirements

Regular, special, size and determination of quorum (number of voting members required to vote on decisions placed

before the general membership, executive, and standing committees).

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).

Note - Some organizations desire a structure that is fundamentally different from the guidelines presented here.

Under these circumstances, the organization should contact the Student Activities Office to assist in the design of an

alternate structure. The goal would be to incorporate basic principles important to the University while prom