

THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNDERGRADUATE MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM
AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Article I. Name and Affiliation

Section 1. The organization is to be known as the Undergraduate Mock Trial Program at The Ohio State University, or Ohio State University Mock Trial, hereafter referred to as “OSUMT,” or “the program.”

Section 2. OSUMT is registered under, and recognized as a member institution of the American Mock Trial Association, hereafter referred to as “AMTA.”

Section 3. OSUMT will represent the Ohio State University, hereafter referred to as “OSU,” in collegiate mock trial competitions across the nation.

Section 4. OSUMT is also affiliated with the Department of Political Science at OSU.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of OSUMT is to build the critical thinking, advocacy and communication skills of members. The program will provide said members with the opportunity to compete in mock trial tournaments across the nation to build a better understanding of the practice of law and legal procedures.

Article III. Non-Discrimination Policy

This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, sex, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation or veteran status.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1. All members of OSUMT shall be undergraduate students of OSU, enrolled in the fall semester of the season, and be in good standing with the university.

Section 2. Initial membership is based upon performance at a preseason tryout and an interview. The OSUMT Executive Board, hereafter referred to as the “E-Board,” and the program’s coaches will be present at tryouts. The final membership decisions will be made by the program’s Head Coach.

Section 3. Membership conditions must also meet the guidelines set forth in Chapter 3, Rule 3.6 of the AMTA rulebook.

Section 4. The Head Coach, with input from the Assistant Coaches and the E-Board, will place each member into teams before the start of the competitive season. The Head Coach may move members between teams at any time during the competitive season. The Head Coach and the Assistant Coaches have the authority to change role assignments throughout the season as they see fit.

Section 5. OSUMT will charge an annual membership fee of \$75.00 towards the beginning of the competitive season. Each member will be held responsible for the payment of this fee. The amount may be changed before the start of the competitive season, by a majority E-Board vote. Additional funds may be levied from the membership by a unanimous vote of the E-Board.

Article V. Organization Leadership

Section 1. The OSUMT leadership shall be divided into two parts: competitive and administrative. The Head Coach and the Assistant Coaches will be responsible for all competitive decisions such as team and role placements and the revocation of membership. The E-Board will be in charge of all administrative aspects of the program, such as outreach, public relations, finances, travel and tournament organization.

Section 2. The E-Board will be comprised of five members of the organization. Each will fulfill a specific role. The roles are outlined below.

Section 3. The President shall be the Program liaison to other university student groups and committees, to the university administration, and to AMTA. The President is responsible for handling all AMTA-related business, registering with the university, obtaining advisor approval, registering for AMTA tournaments, reserving bids, communicating with the OSUMT faculty advisor for excuse letters, signing up for the involvement fair, handling the lease for the team's office in the Union, distributing case and tournament information to the teams, and handling general email correspondence in a prompt and timely fashion. The President also has primary responsibility for E-Board duties not assigned to another E-Board member by this Constitution or a majority vote of the E-Board.

Section 4. The Vice President of Finance (the Treasurer) is responsible for the management of the program's finances. The Treasurer shall maintain the bank account, reimburse individuals for organization expenses, collect dues and deposit checks. The Treasurer will also work with the Department of Political Science to acquire University funds. When necessary, the Treasurer will meet University leadership to determine the amount of support the program requires, then submit an invoice and the required legal forms to the appropriate staff members. Furthermore, the Treasurer will work with the Vice President of Travel to write a budget for the entire academic year and ensure that travel expenses do not exceed that budget. The Treasurer will also seek additional sources of funding, work with the Undergraduate Student Government to acquire funding and pursue additional fundraising ideas. The Treasurer will be responsible for keeping a copy of all financial documents and records and will also be responsible for answering emails regarding matters under their position.

Section 5. The Vice President of Travel is responsible for travel arrangements for the program, including the booking of accommodations for tournaments. The VP of Travel will work with the Treasurer to write the travel budget for the entire academic year. The VP of Travel will be responsible in taking proactive steps to prevent foreseeable travel and accommodation problems, and respond to those problems as they occur. The VP of Travel is responsible for printing out updated versions of the case materials for case boxes. The VP of Travel will also be responsible for answering emails regarding matters under their position.

Section 6. The Vice President of Public Relations is responsible for managing the program's website and any social media accounts affiliated with the program, as well as outreach to potential members and high school programs. The VP of PR will update the website and social media accounts with news and relevant information regarding the involvement fair, recruitment

sessions, tryouts, tournament updates and information, program updates and member bios. The VP of PR must update the websites and social media accounts creatively and regularly. The VP of PR will also be responsible for answering emails regarding matters under their position.

Section 7. The Vice President of Tournaments is responsible for organizing any tournaments OSUMT hosts, such as the Scarlet and Gray Invitational and the Columbus Regional. Their job will involve the recruitment of judges for these tournaments, the signing up of competing teams, the reservation of the courthouse, the search for sponsors and the logistics for running these tournaments. The VP of Tournaments will also be responsible for answering emails regarding matters under their position.

Section 8. While each E-Board position is primarily responsible for executing the duties delegated to that position, the E-Board may vote to direct the actions of the position. In the event that an E-Board member is unable to fulfill the duties in a timely manner, that E-Board member may delegate the duty to another member of the program. If the E-Board member fails to fulfill the duty or delegate to another member of the program, the other members of the E-Board may vote to assign the duty to another member of the program, including one of the E-Board members.

Article VI. Voting

In order for an action to be taken under the authority of the E-Board, a resolution must pass by affirmative vote of a majority of the E-Board officers unless otherwise noted. The President's vote will break a tie. In the event of a tie in which the President did not vote, the Head Coach will have the power to break a tie.

Article VII. Committees

Section 1. Each member of the E-Board may choose to create a committee for assistance with certain parts of their job. The committees shall be comprised of active members of the program.

Section 2. Each committee shall be limited to two members, unless there is an E-Board vote to increase the size of a committee.

Section 3. The VP of Tournaments is required to obtain at least two committee members due to the amount of work involved in planning and running tournaments.

Article VIII. Meetings

Section 1. The coaches will be responsible for scheduling practice times.

Section 2. The Head Coach and the E-Board may call for all program meetings during any time when all members are scheduled to practice or at a time that is convenient for a majority of the members.

Article IX. Advisors

OSUMT must have at least one faculty advisor. The faculty advisor must be a full-time member of the University faculty or Administrative and Professional staff. The advisor shall be the program's primary contact within the University.

Article X. Coaches

OSUMT shall have one Head Coach that is responsible for competition-related decisions and representation with AMTA. The E-Board shall select the Head Coach, and must vote on the Head Coach before the start of every competitive season. The Head Coach may also select Assistant Coaches to coach the program.

Article XI. Officer Removal

Any E-Board member who fails to perform his or her duties as specified in this Constitution can be removed by a unanimous (minus that member) vote by the E-Board as well as a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote from all program members. Any member wishing to remove an E-Board member should make the request to the President or if the officer in question is the President, the request should be made to one of the other four E-Board members, or the Head Coach. Removal of an E-Board officer entails removal from the E-Board but not from the program.

Article XII. Member Removal

Program members can be removed for failure to represent OSU in a proper way, refusal to pay team dues, or any conduct that is destructive to the functioning of the program. The E-Board can vote to dismiss the member by a $\frac{4}{5}$ vote. This $\frac{4}{5}$ vote shall be used as a recommendation to the Head Coach. The final decision to remove a member lies with the Head Coach. Any member who wishes to talk about the dismissal of another member shall approach the President with that request and he or she will take the request to the E-Board, and the Head Coach for consideration.

Article XIII. Elections

Section 1. Organizational elections for the following academic year must take place between the end of competition for the current year and the end of the current academic year.

Section 2. Any undergraduate student with at least one season of experience as a competing member of the Program is eligible to be elected to any E-Board position.

Section 3. E-Board officers will be elected by a majority of votes cast by current program members in a fair procedure, determined in advance by the current year's E-Board.

Section 4. Potential candidates must notify the E-Board in writing, in the manner specified by the E-Board, of their intention to run for a position, by whatever deadline mandated by the E-Board. A candidate may be nominated for a position by another member as well. If a candidate is nominated by another member, the candidate will then be asked to accept or reject the nomination.

Section 5. $\frac{2}{3}$ of the program must vote for the election to take place. Members are encouraged to vote in person, but may vote via absentee ballot.

Section 6. Each candidate will be given a set period of time to deliver a speech. Each candidate for a position will receive the same amount of time to speak, and the length of time shall be predetermined by the E-Board before the election.

Section 7. If no candidate has a majority after all votes are counted according to the procedures set out by E-Board, there shall be two additional ballots conducted, with the candidate receiving the fewest votes dropped from each successive ballot. If a majority is not reached after the three total ballots, two more tiebreakers will be employed. Firstly, another vote will take place, this time excluding the ballots of graduating seniors. If majority is not reached after this tiebreaker, the E-Board will vote between the remaining candidates.

Section 8. The E-Board must notify the program of the format of the elections, and these guidelines, prior to the election.

Article XIV. Interpretation

Organization leadership (E-Board and coaches) shall have the ultimate authority to interpret the provisions set forth in this document in accordance with the voting provisions set forth in Article VI.

Article XV. Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by any member of the program, subject to approval by a majority of the E-Board.

Section 2. Potential amendments approved by the E-Board must then be approved by two-thirds of the program membership.

Article XVI. Membership Affirmative Voting

Section 1. If the E-Board has committed itself to an issue that requires funds, and the membership of the organization disagrees with the item, it may veto that issue. The veto is successful if there is a unanimous veto vote of the membership, minus the E-Board.

Section 2. If the membership would like to do an activity that the E-Board refuses to hear, then the membership may bring the activity to the E-Board's table for discussion by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote, minus the E-Board. If the E-Board then turns the activity down, the membership may then overrule them by a unanimous vote.

Article XVII. Hazing

Any violation of OSU or Ohio's anti-hazing laws shall be grounds for a conduct violation of a member whether within or outside of an OSUMT sanctioned meeting. In addition there shall not be any type of pledgeship within OSUMT.

Article XVIII. Ratification

There must be a majority vote of all program members for this Constitution to replace the current OSUMT constitution.

