

The Opensource Club Constitution

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Preamble

It is important to recognize the danger that bureaucracy can get in the way of doing cool things. So long as the requirements of the Ohio State University and the realistic needs of The Open Source Club are met, efforts should be made to minimize bureaucracy.

As The Open Source Club has evolved it has become necessary to elect additional Officers in order to aid the further growth of The Open Source Club. While this is not an attempt to create a bureaucracy, it is necessary in order to delegate duties among Members and Lieutenants in order to help The Open Source Club run smoothly. At the time of this writing there are currently three required positions within The Open Source Club: President (or Benevolent Dictator), Vice President, and Treasurer. These three positions will continue to exist as long as they are required by the Ohio State University.

Article I - Definition

Section 1 - Name

This is The Open Source Club at The Ohio State University; referenced to in this Document as The Open Source Club.

Section 2 - Purpose

The Open Source Club's purpose is to support and advocate open source software, and to create a community of excellent programmers, admins, and users. This is done through creating documentation, providing support, engaging within the community, and fighting cluelessness.

Section 3 - Public Relations and Endorsements

The Open Source Club currently maintains a public image in various forms: through social media, on our official website, at public events, and while con-

ducting official meetings. While representing The Open Source Club, any Officer, Advisor(s) or Member shall not take any official or publicized stance on news, current events, or current affairs which infers or explicitly states the endorsement of The Open Source Club. Individuals may feel free to express their own opinions with the caveat that the views expressed are solely their own, and not endorsed by The Open Source Club.

The Open Source Club may only give “official” endorsements to open source projects, events, or other appropriate intangibles which one or more Members are involved with. Any definition of open source, whether that be software, hardware, firmware, or something else qualifies.

Section 4 - Non Discrimination Policy

In recognition of the importance of welcoming diversity for the sake of creativity, and for the benefit of humanity, The Open Source Club welcomes all people. This means that The Open Source Club will 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

Section 1 - Categories

The Ohio State University guidelines demand that voting membership be limited to currently enrolled students. In order to meet this requirement, membership will be divided into voting and non-voting categories.

- Non-voting membership is obtained simply by attending one or more previous meetings and maintaining a subscription to The Open Source Club’s mailing list.
- Voting membership requires that the individual meet all of The Ohio State University’s requirements for voting membership, and The Open Source Club’s non-voting membership requirements.

Section 2 - Membership Privileges

Membership in The Open Source Club grants the following privileges:

- Access to The Open Source Club’s computer systems and services
- Voting privileges to voting Members
- Volunteer opportunities on the behalf of The Open Source Club at various events
- Official association with The Open Source Club at The Ohio State University

Section 3 - Voting

Any voting Member who is present (defined as “being in synchronous communication and interacting with” participants) at an Official Meeting or Event is eligible to cast a vote in any Official Vote that may be taken. The Open Source Club differentiates between the following standards of affirmation:

- Supermajorities of 60% (a supermajority of the vote)
- Pluralities (the plurality of the vote)
- Straight Majorities (the majority of the vote)
- Unanimity (a unanimous vote)

All of the preceding qualify as acceptable standards of affirmation which The Open Source Club allows “official” votes to be taken on as is appropriate to the situation and context. However, all voting requirements in this Document supersede any other if applicable, regardless of context.

Ties will be broken by a majority vote of the current Officers. However, any Official Votes on civil matters may opt to have the Advisor(s) act as the final arbiter(s) in the matter in the event of a tie; and their decision will be incontestable.

Section 4 - Membership Removal and Reinstatement

Should cause for membership removal be raised, a Member can be removed by:

1. A unanimous vote of Officers.
2. A supermajority vote of voting Members, providing there is at least a week’s notice of the vote.

Any reinstatement of a Member requires the same voting threshold to be met. However, once that Member is reinstated, they are not considered, and may never regain the status of “in good standing”. All Members who have never been voted to be removed from membership are considered to be “in good standing”.

Article III - Leadership

Section 1 - Leadership Selection

Once a year, elections will take place for the Officer positions. This election must be announced at least one week prior to the vote. The individual who receives a voting plurality will attain that position for the next academic year, unless removed. Alternative Lieutenant positions are open to election or appointment by the President.

Section 2 - Leadership Positions, Duties, Powers and Limitations

There are three Officer positions required by the Ohio State University: The President (or Benevolent Dictator), the Vice President (or Vice Chancellor), and the Treasurer. These three positions will continue to exist as long as they are required by the Ohio State University. However, Lieutenant positions may be added and removed as needed, frequently under the titles 'Librarian' and 'SysAdmin'. Any Officer or Lieutenant is required to be:

- A Member in good standing
- Subject to being listed on any given "official" document of The Open Source Club as their respective position and status

Officers also are required to meet all of the requirements of an Officer per The Ohio State University's guidelines. Namely, being a student of The Ohio State University who is enrolled full-time.

No Officer will necessarily have any control over software projects, since by the definition of open source software, code forks can happen when they need to, and no one therefore has ultimate power over a software project.

The role of the specific Officers are as follows:

- The President's primary responsibility is to lead meetings and work to promote the purpose of The Open Source Club.
- The Vice President's primary responsibility is to carry out the duties of the President when the President is unable to do so, as well as oversee the operations of The Open Source Club.
- The Treasurer's primary responsibility is to maintain the club bank account, and secure funding for The Open Source Club.

In addition to the specific Officer duties listed above, all Officers are responsible for:

- Public relations of The Open Source Club
- All hardware and assets of The Open Source Club
- The authorization of funds to be spent

However, for any administrative, organizational, or relational action considered, a majority of Officers may choose to unilaterally decide a course of action adhering to that which is set forth in this Document, and act accordingly, without the interference of Lieutenants, Members, or Advisors.

Section 3 - Lieutenants

Lieutenants are neither Officers nor regular Members. They are responsible for the operations of The Open Source Club. They may be so delegated the responsibilities and rights to administer, coordinate and maintain the events, systems, and operations of The Open Source Club, such as:

- Food Distribution
- Systems Maintenance
- Scheduling

These Lieutenants must grok the goals of The Open Source Club so that they may help facilitate cool things. The Lieutenants exist to provide alleviation, advice, and assistance as necessary to the Officers and any other Members. Any Lieutenant's term is one academic year.

Section 4 - Officer Removal

Leadership is needed in any club and so Officers are required to be present at as many meetings as possible, and must make every effort to do so. An Officer may not neglect to attend six or more meetings in a semester, or three consecutive meetings in a semester.

However, it is also realized that extenuating circumstances are possible. In order to eliminate doubts surrounding an Officer's excuse for missing an Official Meeting or Event, any Officer who plans to skip an Official Meeting or Event must notify at least one of the other Officers that they will not be in attendance at least 24 hours in advance.

If an Officer is in violation of the aforementioned attendance rules, then voting Members must take a supermajority vote at the next Official Meeting or Event as to whether or not said Officer will be allowed to keep their position. For all other cases of misconduct, the Officer will face the same removal process as any other Member.

Section 5 - Replacing Officers

If an Officer is either removed or resigns during their term, the remaining Officers shall replace the missing Officer in a manner which adheres to all rules set forth by The Ohio State University and that are contained within this Document.

Section 6 - Advisors

The Advisor(s) should be a person of technical experience. Preferably someone who has been involved in the open source ecosystem. The Advisor(s) must grok the goals of The Open Source Club so that they do not get in the way of cool things. The Advisor(s) exist to provide guidance, mentorship, and cluefulness. Any Advisor's term is one academic year.

University guidelines demand that the Advisor(s) (sub-advisors, and/or co-advisors if applicable) “of student organizations must be full-time members of The Ohio State University faculty, administrative, professional, or general staff.” In addition to that, The Open Source Club also requires that any student who is enrolled in any classes at The Ohio State University or any other institution of higher learning not be eligible to become or currently be an Advisor.

Article IV - Systems

The Open Source Club shall retain computer systems insofar as they are used to further the Purpose of The Open Source Club as stated in this Document. All computer systems that the Open Source Club administers *must* be open source.

Section 1 - Hosting

When hosting code, individual software projects must be allowed to be managed however the individuals involved in the project see fit. The Open Source Club shall not create strict guidelines for:

- Any “official license”,
- What kind of software should be developed,
- How a software project should be managed (including frequency of updates, release models, code repository management, etc).

However, The Open Source Club shall not host any code or content that would be categorized as illegal or against The Ohio State University’s policies.

Section 2 - Access Management

Accounts on The Open Source Club computers can be given out to any Member who requests an account, provided Ohio State University’s rules are followed. These accounts may be revoked due to inactivity or failure to follow the rules. Accounts must be revoked if a Member loses their membership status.

Key card access to The Open Source Club office can be granted on request given the consent of the president, provided that Ohio State University rules are followed. Access may be revoked due to inactivity or failure to follow the rules. Access must be revoked if a Member loses their membership status.

Section 3 - Operations

The computer systems of The Open Source Club must be maintained with a reasonable degree of care. Any service that is offered to general Members of The Open Source Club which is hosted by The Open Source Club must be reasonably:

- Backed up in an efficient and effective way,
- Secured in such a way that protects the *totality* of the Members' and systems' data,
- Kept up-to-date with all patches, security or otherwise.
- Kept in compliance with The Ohio State University's registration and other requirements

Article V - Official Meetings and Events

The Open Source Club is to have Official Meetings at least once a week through the entirety of all Fall and Spring semesters on all weeks wherein the given day of the week to meet does not fall on a holiday or break which is observed by The Ohio State University. If none of the Officers can be in attendance at a given Official Meeting or Event, then said Official Meeting or Event will not formally take place, as Official Votes cannot be made without one or more of the presiding Officers. Members can still hold an independent Meeting or Event, but it will not be recognized as an Official Meeting or Event.

Section 1 - Types

All of the meetings must revolve around one or more aspects of the open source ecosystem. They also must be in the form of a panel, tutorial, or scripted presentation. Meetings are not a time for unstructured forums, study sessions, or project development. Despite that, participation by and questions from Members is *highly* encouraged.

Section 2 - Presenters

Examples of acceptable presenters are:

- Members
- Alumni of The Open Source Club
- Representatives of Companies
- Professors
- Advisor(s)

Section 3 - Rationale

The rationale for The Open Source Club to hold meetings is twofold. Primarily, meetings are the predominant vehicle in which to fulfill the Purpose of The Open Source Club as stated in this Document. Additionally, meetings serve to connect the Members into a network of connections throughout the local and global community. All meetings must strive to simultaneously maximize the emphasis on both of these reasons. These are why meetings are held in the first place.

Article VI - This Document

Section 1 - Validity

This Document shall be valid insofar as it is itself open source.

Section 2 - Rationale for Changes

In the case that someone thinks that they need to alter the constitution for bug fixes, adding features, or compatibility with new hardware, the Official Vote must be announced at least a week in advance and the vote must be carried by a supermajority. Amendments and changes should be taken advisedly and considered for a reasonable amount of time before being implemented.

It is strictly encouraged that the constitution should be changed frequently. If it is to be amended, then this article allows for the creation or modification of any by-laws in favor of amending the main body of the Constitution. Any creation or modification to any by-laws requires only a majority vote.

It is further strictly *discouraged* that any amendments or by-laws restricting free commerce and creativity be created. New amendments or by-laws should not conflict with the above stated purpose of The Open Source Club.

Section 3 - Versioning

This Document should be versioned using semantic versioning insofar as semantic versioning shall be considered open source. Semantic versioning for this Document is defined as:

- A MAJOR Versioning *must* be done whenever a vote passes that makes incompatible API changes to the formatting (the Articles and Sections) of this Document,
- A MINOR Versioning whenever a vote passes that adds content in a backwards-compatible manner to this Document,
- A PATCH Versioning whenever a vote passes that makes backwards-compatible bug fixes.

Article VII - Method of Dissolution of Organization

Should The Open Source Club be forced to dissolve itself, any and all assets should be put toward The Open Source Club's debt (if any). This includes equipment and/or funds owed to or owned by The Ohio State University.

The remaining assets (hardware, operating funds, etc) should be donated to an open source organization, like the FSF or the OSI. The organization to which the assets are donated must be determined at the time of dissolution by the Benevolent Dictator, with final approval of the Advisor(s).

