



# *Constitution*

of

the Ohio State University Chapter  
of the Alexander Hamilton Society



Alexander Hamilton Society  
The Ohio State University  
Chapter Constitution  
2019.03.23

**Article I. Name, Purpose, Affiliation and Non-Discrimination Policy.**

Section 1. Name: The name of the organization shall be The Alexander Hamilton Society | Ohio State University Chapter (hereafter “Alexander Hamilton Society” or “AHS”).

Section 2. Purpose: The Alexander Hamilton Society is an independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting constructive debate on basic principles and contemporary issues in foreign, economic, and national security policy.

Section 3. Affiliation: This organization is a chapter affiliated with the national Alexander Hamilton Society organization headquartered in Washington D.C.

Section 4. Non-Discrimination Policy: This organization and all its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation or veteran status.

**Article II. Membership: Qualifications and Categories**

Section 1. Membership is limited to currently-enrolled Ohio State students. Others in The Ohio State University (hereafter “OSU”) community--faculty, alumni, and professionals--are welcome to attend Alexander Hamilton Society events, but may not become voting members.

Section 2. Graduate students may become members and attend all social and speaking events but may not serve in positions which have voting powers, or as recruiting or membership chairs.

Section 3. Voting members are those who attend at least three Alexander Hamilton Society meetings per year, at least one of which must be a major event (e.g. debate, speaker lecture).

- A. Voting members are eligible to vote in elections and hold leadership positions.
- B. Voting status can be granted to an individual on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the President unless a majority vote by the Executive Board overrides any such action.
- C. Voting status can be revoked for an individual on a case-by-case basis, contingent on a majority vote by the Executive Board.

Section 4. Membership fees will be decided unanimously by the Executive Board before Autumn Term and will be valid until the start of the following Autumn Term.

**Article III - Organizational Leadership:**

Section 1. The Alexander Hamilton Society is chaired by five elected officers (hereafter the “**Executive Board**”) and at least eight appointed officers. Both of which comprise the “**General Board.**”

- A. The five elected officers, are, in order of seniority: the President, Vice-President, and the Treasurer, Secretary, and Program Coordinator.

- B. The eight appointed officers include a deputy of each elected member, and three additional assistants.

Section 2. The **President** is the chief officer and primary public contact for the organization. The President is required to seek the advice and consent of the executive board when appropriate, and his primary responsibilities are:

- A. Directing and overseeing the organization's operations;
- B. Interpreting the provisions set forth in this document along with the Vice-President;
- C. Chairing weekly meetings and semester elections;
- D. Calling and holding board meetings;
- E. Maintaining contact with the national organization's leadership and coordinating with speakers for major events.

Section 3. The **Vice-President** aids in the fulfillment of the President's previously-noted responsibilities, and assumes the duties of the President when he is unable to exercise the same. In particular, the Vice-President is responsible for logistical matters and the execution and planning of major events (e.g. the procurement of weekly meeting spaces, event venues and refreshments).

Section 4. The **Treasurer** is responsible for the financial affairs of the organization and must ensure that The Alexander Hamilton Society | Ohio State University Chapter remains in good financial standing with both The Ohio State University and the national Alexander Hamilton Society organization. The Treasurer is responsible for managing all club transactions and keeping detailed yearly financial records of them, along with finding alternate funding sources if necessary.

Section 5. The **Secretary** is responsible for overseeing the club's social media accounts, email communications, and contact directory. He is also responsible for recording the proceedings of Executive Board meetings and for keeping track of attendance at weekly meetings and major events. In addition, the Secretary is responsible for keeping an updated copy of the constitution at all Executive Board meetings, and for determining voting eligibility and membership status.

Section 6. The **Program Coordinator** creates and designs the presentations for the weekly meetings, and is in charge of providing structure to the weekly discussions. He is also responsible for generating topic ideas and involving general and executive board members in their selection. It is his duty to guarantee the availability of the necessary devices and technological accommodations necessary for the aforementioned discussions.

Section 7. Each appointed board member serves as either deputy to an executive board member, or as a general assistant for club operations. In the case of the former, they aid in all duties pertaining to their respective elected officers and guarantee the fulfillment of said duties in the case of an officer's absence. The latter have varying responsibilities assigned to them.

Section 8. Elected officers serve a one-year term and appointed positions are subject to a yearly renewal or dismissal solely at the discretion of their overseeing officer. Appointees are accountable to the Board Member overseeing their position and are held to the same standards as the members of the Executive Board.

Section 9. Additional officer positions may be added at the suggestion of the President and the approval of a simple majority within the Executive Board.

Section 10. For the purposes of Executive Board and General Board decisions, each member has one vote, with the President having one additional vote in the event of a tie.

#### **Article IV - Election Process**

Section 1. Only voting members are allowed to become candidates for the Executive Board positions and can only run for one position per election. Any non-voting member is only eligible to run for a position pending a majority vote by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Elections are held on the week immediately preceding the Spring Break every year. Candidate nominations start the week before election day. Any voting member may nominate himself or be nominated in turn by another voting member.

Section 3. On the day of the election, each candidate must deliver a short statement explaining their interest in the position. Statements and voting occur one after the other and for each position at a time, starting with that of President, and proceeding with Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Program Coordinator.

Section 4. Each voting member may vote only once, and outgoing General Board members are not eligible to vote.

Section 5. Once the results are known, and the Executive Board confirms their validity and communicates them, any allegations of election irregularities must be reported within no more than two days.

Section 6. The newly-elected Executive Board begins its term of service with a transition period starting immediately after the election takes place, and effective until the end of the Spring semester. During said transition period, the incoming Executive Board, with the guidance of the outgoing Executive Board, is responsible for the planning and execution of one major event and all weekly meetings remaining until the end of the current term. Once this period ends, and the Autumn semester starts, the incoming Executive Board officially assumes full responsibility.

#### **Article V - General Responsibilities and Code of Conduct**

Section 1. All members are expected to hold themselves to a standard of conduct that is commensurate with the purpose and integrity of the organization.

Section 2. All General Board members are expected to maintain an appropriate level of service to the organization. Including attendance at every major event and regularly-scheduled meeting, with exceptions made for properly communicated absences. Said exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section 3. All members must adhere to OSU and Ohio's anti-hazing laws.

#### **Article VI - Removal and Resignation of Members**

Section 1. All General Board members (i.e. elected and non-elected) can be removed from their position by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the General Board, if they fail to abide by the Code of Conduct referenced in Article V.

Section 2. The General Board may, by a unanimous vote, remove any individual from membership for a failure to adhere to the Code of Conduct outlined in Article V.

Section 3. If an Executive Board member is removed or resigns, the other members of the Executive Board will select a replacement from among the appointed board members. If no appointed board members are willing or able to occupy the position, then the replacement will be selected from among a pool of eligible voting members.

#### **Article VII—Advisor(s) or Advisory Board**

Section 1. The organization's advisor must be a member of The Ohio State University's faculty, and the individual must meet be approved by the national leadership of the Alexander Hamilton Society.

Section 2. The Faculty Advisor position is held in perpetuity until the advisor tenders a resignation, or if the other members of the Executive Board move to select a new Faculty Advisor by a unanimous vote at their absolute discretion.

Section 3. The advisor shall 1) Communicate with the Executive Board in order to make sure that the organization is running in accordance with its mission, 2) Serve as a connection between the organization and the university, 3) Facilitate officer transition activities, 4) Interpret university policies and processes, 5) Moderate AHS sponsored events unless unavailable or ask not to by the Executive Board, 6) Maintain any advisor duties required by the Office for Student Life.

Section 4. If the Faculty Advisor is not present on campus and unable to perform the duties of the position, then all the members of the Executive Board will consult with the national leadership of the Alexander Hamilton Society to select an interim Faculty Advisor at their discretion.

#### **Article VIII - Meetings of the Organization**

Section 1. The organization must hold a weekly meeting for the discussion of current events relevant to the Purpose outlined in Article I, Section 2.

Section 2. General and/or Executive Board meetings are to be held either weekly or bi-weekly and at the discretion of the President or the Executive Board.

Section 3. Quorum for General and Executive Board meetings is achieved if at least half of all relevant members are present, with motions passing if they have the support of a majority of the votes cast, with the exception of amendments to the constitution.

#### **Article IX - Method of Amending the Constitution**

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by any General Board member, and are subject to approval by a  $\frac{4}{5}$  vote of the General Board. All Executive Board members must be present for any constitutional amendments to be valid.

#### **Article X - Dissolution of the Organization**

Section 1. Method of Dissolution: The organization may be dissolved by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board in conjunction with a four-fifths vote of the entire voting membership.

Section 2. Transfer of Remaining Assets: Any remaining assets will be distributed to the national Alexander Hamilton Society organization.