**Constitution**

**Article 1: Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination policies**

Section 1: This organization shall be named *Veterinary Students Without Borders.*

Section 2: The purpose and objectives of this organization are to:

* *Provide a welcoming community and atmosphere for students with interests in international veterinary medicine, veterinary service learning, and global public health;*
* *Organize details of all international experience groups within the college to streamline trip experiences and find ambassadors for programs; and*
* *Support trip groups through fundraising, trip planning, and cultural awareness efforts after reviewing the program and ensuring it provides sustainable volunteerism, quality professional development opportunities for students, and is safe for all humans and animals involved.*

Section 3: *Veterinary Students Without Borders* shall not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and/or veteran status in its program and activities.

Section 4: The rules in Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable.

**Article 2: Membership**

Section 1: Any student who is enrolled by The Ohio State University shall be given the right to take part in voting and decision making. Other members, such as faculty, alumni and professionals are encouraged to take part in non-voting activities run by *Veterinary Students Without Borders*.

Membership is open to any student enrolled by The Ohio State University, both undergraduate and professional/graduate students.

Section 2: Each member holds the right to vote, run for office, and participate in all events.

Section 3: *Veterinary Students Without Borders* shall convene at the start of autumn semester each and remain active through the spring semester each academic year.

Section 4: The annual dues for this organization shall be established annually. There are currently no dues required to be a member of *Veterinary Students Without Borders.*

Section 5: Methods for removing members:

* If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization’s constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization’s advisor.
* In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), the executive board, in consultation with the organization’s advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member.
* Any persons removed or suspended may appeal to the executive board and may be reinstated by two-thirds approval.

**Article 3: Organization Leadership**

Section 1: *Veterinary Students Without Borders* shall have a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers serve as the Executive Committee. Officers must be members of this organization and shall be elected or appointed by the organization’s voting membership.

Section 2: Term for Executive Committee members shall be one full academic year.

Section 3: Election of Executive Committee officers shall be held during the spring semester. Nominations shall be taken from the floor and elections will be taken by ballot. Persons receiving majority vote shall be elected.

Section 4: Methods for removing officers:

* Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws.
* The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization’s advisor.
* In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), the executive board, in consultation with the organization’s advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend an officer.
* Any persons removed or suspended may appeal to the executive board and may be reinstated by two-thirds approval.

Section 5: Any vacancies in office may be filled by appointment by the President until approval of the general membership at the next group meeting.

**Article 4: Executive Committee**

Section 1: President

* The President shall act as chief executive officer;
* The President shall appoint all committee chairpersons;
* The President shall fill vacancies in office by appointment until approval of the general membership;
* The President shall be in charge of communications between the general body and executive board members;
* The President is responsible for the delegation of various responsibilities and deadlines;
* The President shall suggest and discuss future programs and events; and
* The President shall coordinate meeting times to best accommodate all members of the general body.

Section 2: Vice-President

* The Vice-President shall fulfill the roles of the president should the position become vacant or the president is not present; and
* The Vice-President shall be in charge of coordinating social events during the semester.

Section 3: Secretary

* The Secretary is responsible for accessing the organization’s email account no less than twice a week;
* The Secretary shall send biweekly or monthly updates and reminder emails to the general membership depending on club activity frequency deemed by the exec team;
* The Secretary is responsible for logging all minutes of all general body meetings and meetings of the executive board;
* The Secretary shall record attendance at all meetings; and
* The Secretary shall keep a master file of all meeting minutes and provide copies to each officer upon request.

Section 4: Treasurer

* The Treasurer shall keep a current record of all financial transactions;
* The Treasurer shall keep record of all fundraising efforts and an Excel spreadsheet listing which members have earned funds towards a future veterinary service learning trip;
* The Treasurer shall develop semester reports containing a list of all receipts and disbursements and distribute them amongst members; and
* The Treasurer is responsible for checking the accuracy of all bills.

**Article 5: Advisor Qualifications**

Section 1: The Advisor of *Veterinary Students Without Borders* will be a member of the Columbus campus faculty or staff who shares the same goals and values as the organization, can maintain communication, meet with officers regularly, and attend group meetings and events when available.

Section 2:

* The Advisor shall assist the organization in carrying out roles and responsibilities;
* The Advisor shall provide feedback to the organization in regard to operations and give direction toward future operations;
* The Advisor shall serve as a resource;
* The Advisor should share knowledge, experience, expertise and advice for the planning of group activities and trips; and
* The Advisor will be a nonvoting member of the organization.

**Article 6: Meetings of the Organization**

Section 1: General body meetings shall be held regularly during the semester for each academic term, excluding summer, at the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Meetings shall be held at a predetermined time communicated via email.

Section 2: Meetings which serve a special purpose may be called to order by the advisor or any member of the Executive Committee.

**Article 7: Amending the Constitution**

Section 1: Any member may propose an amendment to the constitution by providing a written proposal to the Executive Committee. The proposal shall then be introduced to the membership at the next meeting.

Section 2: Written proposals must be distributed to all members two weeks prior to vote.

Section 3: Amendments may be made to the Constitution by two thirds vote of the organization members.

**Article 8: Method of Dissolution of Organization**

In the event of the dissolution of *Veterinary Students Without Borders*, and after all payments of purchase orders and bills have been remunerated, remaining funds shall be transferred to the Student Development student fund account.

**Article 9: Affiliation**

*Veterinary Students Without Borders* shall be formally recognized by The Ohio State University as a local affiliate, provided that all requirements stated within this Constitution are met.

***Initial semester of registration:****Spring 2020*

Constitution updated 4/22/2020