**Constitution of the Young Democratic Socialists of America at The Ohio State University**

**Article I**

1. The name of this organization shall be “Young Democratic Socialists of America at The Ohio State University,” hereafter referred to as “the Chapter.”
2. Our purpose is to build a strong democratic socialist movement on campus and in our community through organizing, activism, and education.
3. Our mission is to educate and organize students and young people to advocate for social justice, freedom, and democracy. Within and throughout this struggle, we will articulate and defend the idea that true human liberation is impossible under capitalism. We seek social change that extends democracy to all aspects of life—social, political and economic. Ours is the struggle for democratic socialism. Our vision of socialism is profoundly democratic, feminist, anti‐racist, and anti-fascist.

**Article II: Membership**

1. Any person who is a registered undergraduate or graduate student at The Ohio State University may become a non-voting member of the Chapter.
2. Membership shall consist of non-voting members (referred to herein as “non-voting members”) and voting members (referred to herein as “members”).
   1. The only distinction between non-voting members and members shall be the ability to vote on organizational decisions.
3. Any person eligible for non-voting membership may become a voting member by
   1. attending not less than three consecutive meetings in the current academic year;
   2. attending not less than four meetings in the current academic year;
   3. a two-thirds majority vote of members present;
   4. or by notifying and proving to either the Secretary or a Co-Chair dues-paying status in the DSA or YDSA national organization.
4. Once a member has achieved voting status, their status shall continue into the next academic year.
   1. However, if this member fails to attend the requisite meetings required to achieve voting status laid out in Section 3 of this article during the following Fall Semester, their status shall revert to non-voting.
5. The Secretary shall maintain an accurate roster of members, including a list of meetings attended, for the purpose of establishing voting status.
6. Once a member has achieved voting status in this organization by any of the means established in Section 3 of this article, the Secretary shall report the admittance of the newly active member(s) at the next meeting.
7. Members may be removed by a 60% majority vote of membership present if found in violation of the Code of Conduct found herein.

**Article III: Officers and Elections**

1. The officers of the chapter shall consist of two Co-Chairs, a Treasurer, a Social Media Director, two Harassment Grievance Officers, and all standing committee chairs.
2. Co-Chairs are responsible for the administrative functions of the organization, as well as carrying out resolutions enacted by the Chapter.
   1. One Co-Chair shall preside as chair if a chair was not designated at the previous meeting by majority vote.
      1. If there is a disagreement between Co-Chairs about who is to preside, the Secretary shall preside as chair at the beginning of the meeting and shall only entertain a motion to select the meeting’s current chair and then immediately yield to the selected chair upon agreement of this motion.
   2. The Co-Chairs shall be the main contact for the organization and are responsible for outreach to other organizations.
   3. Notwithstanding specially designated representatives, the Co-Chairs shall represent the organization at public events.
   4. One Co-Chair shall act as “President” for compliance with the Ohio State University’s requirements for Presidents. However, this Co-Chair shall not have more power than the other Co-Chair.
      1. The designation of one Co-Chair as “President” shall occur immediately following officer elections.
      2. The designation shall be made if both Co-Chairs agree to designate one Co-Chair as “President” for the purposes of university compliance.
      3. If the Co-Chairs cannot agree, then the designation shall be decided upon as a special order at the next meeting by a majority vote of members present.
   5. This designation may be changed with the consent of a majority of members present.
3. The Treasurer is responsible for accounting, fundraising, and maintaining the Chapter’s bank account.
   1. The Treasurer shall report on all expenditures, organizational finances such as resource room credit, bank account balances, and other relevant information regarding the organization’s finances at every meeting.
   2. The Treasurer shall account for all expenses made by the organization.
   3. The Treasurer shall ensure that all approved expenses made on behalf of the organization by individual members are reimbursed in a timely manner.
4. The Social Media Director is responsible for maintaining and managing all social media accounts and spreading awareness of the Chapter online.
   1. The Social Media Director shall follow the political line of the organization as closely as possible.
   2. Both co-chairs shall have access to social media accounts at all times.
5. Committee chairs are responsible for leadership in their particular committee.
   1. Committees may be formed around certain issues, jurisdictions, or campaigns, and may be created or dissolved as needed.
   2. The rules for the creation of committees shall follow those laid out in *Robert’s Rules of Order*, the provisions of this Constitution notwithstanding.
6. The Secretary, in collaboration with the designated chair of each respective meeting, shall be responsible for taking meeting attendance, verifying each member’s voting status, taking minutes, and distributing these minutes.
7. The Harassment Grievance Officers responsibilities are outlined in Article VIII Section 4.
8. The terms of office for all elected officers, save committee chairs (who may be removed at will by a majority of their respective committees) shall begin at the next regular meeting following their election.
   1. The previous holders of these offices shall assist the newly-elected officers during this transition period, including but not limited to, handing over relevant documents, keys, passwords, and access to accounts, as well as teaching their successors the duties associated with their respective roles.
   2. The previous Treasurer and Co-Chairs are responsible for handing over authorization and access of all tax documents such as the organization’s IRS employer identification number (EIN) and the Chapter’s bank account.
   3. All elected officers are required to complete and pass Implicit Bias Training through the Kirwan Institute within one month after election.
9. Officers do not have more authority than other members, just more responsibility.
10. All officer elections shall occur by majority vote by secret ballot on a date in Spring Semester selected by a 60% majority of the members present.
11. Elections shall be run and ballots counted by an Election Commissioner who shall be elected by a 60% majority of the members present.
    1. The Election Commissioner may be an existing officer if the membership desires.
    2. However, the Election Commissioner may not run for any office in an election they run.
12. The Election Commissioner shall run a fair election.
    1. All candidates must notify the Election Commissioner of their intent to run at least one week before an election. No candidate may run after this deadline without the unanimous consent of the membership.
    2. The Election Commissioner shall circulate the names of those running and their platforms (giving equal space and consideration to each) at least five days before an election.
    3. Any member may make a motion to elect a new Election Commissioner in the event that the previous Election Commissioner ran or is currently running an unfair or improper election.
       1. If this motion is passed by a 60% majority of members present, the election shall be voided and a new Election Commissioner shall be selected for elections to occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
       2. If a specific grievance, such as failure to recognize the candidacy of an otherwise eligible candidate, was the basis for the motion to elect a new Election Commissioner, the grievance shall be corrected by the incoming Election Commissioner.
13. At least one co-chair must not be a man.
14. The Faculty Advisor(s) shall serve as ex‐officio member(s) of the Executive Board, retaining all rights of that membership without the right to vote.
15. Any member may recommend the removal of an officer to the membership at any time.
    1. The member recommending removal may request either:
       1. immediate suspension pending a hearing,
       2. immediate removal without a hearing,
       3. or a hearing recommending removal of an officer.
    2. In the event of a request for immediate suspension pending a hearing, if a majority of members present vote in the affirmative, the officer shall be suspended until a hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
    3. In the event of a request for immediate removal without a hearing, if two-thirds of the members present vote in the affirmative, the officer shall immediately be removed from their position. If this vote is greater than half of the members present but less than the necessary two-thirds for immediate removal, the officer in question shall be suspended pending a hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
    4. Otherwise, the member shall be entitled to a hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special hearing for the purpose of deciding upon removal of the officer in question.
    5. At a removal hearing the officer in question may be removed by a simple majority vote of the members present.
16. The two co-chairs, acting in unison, shall have the power to suspend an officer pending a hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting on which the removal of the officer shall be voted upon.
17. In the event of a vacancy, a co-chair may serve as the acting officer of the vacant position until the vacancy is filled.
18. Vacancies shall be filled by a special election, administered by an Election Commissioner who shall be selected by and follow the same procedures as a regular officer election.
    1. This special election shall take place two regularly scheduled meetings after the election of an Election Commissioner.

**Article IV: Decision-Making and Parliamentary Authority**

1. *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority for all meetings, rules within this Constitution notwithstanding. All meetings shall follow *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* unless a two-thirds majority vote to suspend the rules.
2. Any member noting that *Robert’s Rules* are not being followed may demand at any time that the meeting comply accordingly.
   1. Upon this demand, the Chair must immediately comply.
3. A quorum shall consist of 50% of the average membership attendance of the last five meetings.

**Article V: Advisor(s)**

1. Advisor(s) shall be reviewed every year and the voting members will vote on whether or not to pick a new advisor or continue with the same advisor.
2. Advisor(s) may be removed by a majority vote of members present.

**Article VI: Meetings**

1. Meetings shall be held weekly during the academic year, with the day, time, and location decided at the beginning of the academic year by the membership.
2. Both co-chairs, acting in unison, shall also have the power to schedule a meeting for the organization.

**Article VII: University Code of Conduct**

1. This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.
2. As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Young Democratic Socialists at Ohio State expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15 (https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf).
3. Rules of discussion shall follow those laid out in *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised.*
4. Conduct on social media.
   1. Any account officially associated with this organization shall follow Code of Conduct and generally post in a way that promotes the chapter in a positive manner.
   2. Retweets, reblogs, reposts, etc. are not an endorsement of the account that originally posted.

**Article VIII: YDSA Code of Conduct**

1. **Prohibited behavior** is outlined in Article VII, Section 1. Harassing or abusive behavior, such as unwelcome attention, inappropriate or offensive remarks, slurs, or jokes, physical or verbal intimidation, stalking, inappropriate physical contact or proximity, and other verbal and physical conduct constitute harassment when:
   1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a member’s continued affiliation with DSA;
   2. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for organizational decisions affecting such individual; or
   3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating a hostile environment interfering with an individual’s capacity to organize within DSA.
2. **Other protected classes.** Harassment based on categories not encompassed by those listed section (a) will be evaluated at the discretion of the HGO overseeing the dispute.
3. **Reporting procedure and timeline**
   1. **Complaints.** Members may follow the standard DSA complaint process as set out in the following sections if they believe they have been harassed by another member. There will be no time limits requiring the accuser to file a report within any amount of time after the alleged harassment has occurred.
   2. **Harassment Grievance Officers.** Members filing a formal complaint must contact a DSA harassment grievance officer (“HGO”).
      1. The HGO(s) responsible for the reporting channel used by the accuser will contact the accused member within seven days to notify them that a report has been filed against them and request a written response to the report either affirming or denying its substance;
      2. The accused will submit their written response within seven days of being notified. If the accused does not meet this deadline, the HGO will recommend the Executive Board move to take appropriate disciplinary action;
      3. If the accused denies the substance of the report, the HGO overseeing the dispute will have the option to investigate the report by:
         1. interviewing other members with direct knowledge of the substance of the report;
         2. requesting documentation from either the accuser or accused or any other parties directly involved;
         3. or employing any and all other means deemed necessary, with the utmost respect for the confidentiality of the parties, within a time period not to exceed ten days.
      4. The HGO(s) responsible for adjudicating the dispute will determine whether the report is credible and, if necessary, make a recommendation to the rest of the Executive Board of appropriate disciplinary action as soon as practicable, but ultimately within thirty days of the report being filed. This is to ensure the timely, efficient, accurate, and discreet adjudication of all reports. The HGO(s) may notify the Executive Board of the accuser’s report and its substance at any time after the report is filed, but must give written notice to both the accuser and the accused member before doing so.
4. **HGO responsibilities.** The HGO(s) will:
   1. Receive, acknowledge receipt of, and archive accuser reports;
   2. Contact the accused to notify them of the accusations, request their written response, and archive any written response;
   3. Conduct any necessary investigation of the claim; and
   4. Present their findings to the Executive Board and, if necessary, a recommendation for disciplinary action.
   5. If necessary, HGO(s) may recommend that parties do not contact each other for the duration of the investigative process.
   6. Compile a yearly report that details:
      1. How many reports were made
      2. How many were taken to the disciplinary process
      3. How many disciplinary actions were taken
      4. Any recommended changes for making the reporting system more effective
   7. This report will not include personally identifying information of any parties in any dispute. The local HGO(s) will send the yearly report to the national HGO(s) no later than January 1 of the new year.
5. **Determinations**
   1. All reports will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the HGO(s) and Executive Board associated with the accuser’s reporting channel. The ultimate disposition of each report will be made by the chapter’s Executive Board or, in the case of DSA National, the NPC, after that body reviews the written report and recommendation of the HGO(s).
   2. **Standard for Determining if a Report is Credible**
      1. The chapter’s Executive Board or, in the case of DSA National, the NPC will find the factual allegation in a report is “credible” if it more-likely-than-not occurred.
   3. **Remedies and Penalties**
      1. If a chapter’s Executive Board or, in the case of DSA National, the NPC finds the report to be credible, they are authorized to carry out the following remedies and penalties:
         1. A formal discussion between the accused and the Executive Board to develop a plan to change the harassing behavior(s);
         2. Suspension from committee meetings and other chapter or organizational events;
         3. Removal from chapter committee(s);
         4. Removal from DSA; and
         5. Any and all other relief deemed necessary and just by the chapter or national leadership.
      2. The Executive Board is authorized to enforce suspension or expulsion in accordance with those procedures.
      3. DSA national is authorized to enforce certain remedies and penalties in accordance with Article III, Section 4 of the DSA Constitution and Article I, Section 3 of DSA Bylaws
         1. Removal from DSA; and
         2. Any and all other relief deemed necessary and just by the chapter or national leadership.
      4. The appropriate form of relief will be determined by, among other things:
         1. The request of the accuser;
         2. The severity of the offense;
         3. The response of the accused; and
         4. The accused’s relevant behavioral histories.
6. **Appeals process.** Either party may appeal the form of relief determined by the Executive Board by filling out appellate form created by the accuser’s reporting channel. Appeals must be filed within thirty days of receiving written notice of the Executive Board’s decision. The limited grounds for appeal are:
   1. Either party believes the behavior was not interpreted using the standards for harassment;
   2. Procedural errors, misconduct, or conflicts of interest affected the fairness of the outcome; and
   3. The remedy or penalty determined by the Executive Board was grossly disproportionate to the violation committed
7. **Retaliation.** This policy prohibits retaliation against any member for bringing a complaint of harassment pursuant to this policy. This policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who assists someone with a complaint of harassment, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Retaliatory behavior includes threats, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to organizing. If any party to the complaint believes there has been retaliation, they may inform the HGO who will determine whether to factor the retaliation into the original complaint, or treat it as an individual incident.

**Article IX: Dissolution of YDSA Charter**

1. This organization may dissolve its charter with the national Young Democratic Socialists of America organization by a 60% majority vote of members present.

**Article X: Amending the Constitution**

1. The constitution may be amended by circulating the suggested amendment(s) to the membership at one meeting and sending them to all members via email.
2. The proposed amendments, after being examined by the membership, shall be offered up at the second meeting, for discussion and voting. Notice of a vote shall be sent to all members via the Ohio State University email, as well as via the official Chapter Slack/group chat, before the second meeting.
3. The amendments shall then be voted on and must receive a 60% majority of the membership present to be ratified.

*Approved:* *October 16th 2019*