

## **Charter for Students for a Democratic Society at The Ohio State University**

We, a participatory chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (hereafter referred to as SDS at OSU), hereby announce our intent to become a chapter of the National SDS organization as of Spring 2021.

### **ARTICLE I: NAME, PURPOSE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

- A. The name of this club shall be Students for a Democratic Society (The Ohio State University Chapter). SDS at OSU shall hereby be affiliated with the National Students for a Democratic Society as a participatory chapter.
- B. Purpose: SDS at Ohio State is a progressive, multi-issue organization of student activists that leads and supports initiatives to win social change. We dare to struggle and dare to win progressive change in regard to the following issues: economic injustice; educational justice; racism, sexism xenophobia and other forms of discrimination; police terror; anti-immigration policies; indigenous sovereignty; far-right extremism; anti-war policies; labor and union rights; safe and accessible college campuses; accountability for sexual violence; and environmental justice and sustainability.
- C. Non-Discrimination Policy: SDS at OSU is committed to building and maintaining a diverse community to reflect human diversity and to improve opportunities for all. Our organization is committed to equal opportunity, affirmative action and eliminating discrimination in all forms. This commitment is both a moral imperative consistent with a community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law. SDS at OSU 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.
- D. Sexual Misconduct Policy: As a student organization at The Ohio State University, SDS at OSU requires 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, which can be found here:  
<https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>

### **ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES**

We in SDS at OSU strive to build a long-lasting and resilient political organization led by students and youth to fight back against the injustices perpetrated by an oppressive system. Our objectives include but are not limited to the following:

- A. To empower our community against economic injustice, sexism, racism, heterosexism and any and all forms of oppression.
- B. To support and uplift our allies on campus and in the community in their struggles for justice, whatever they may be.
- C. To provide a focal point for anti-war activism on campus.
- D. To educate students, faculty and community about a wide array of history and people's struggles around the world to promote a global perspective.

- E. To integrate ourselves with the National Students for a Democratic Society to continuously strengthen the largest national antiwar and education rights youth organization.
- F. To build solidarity with progressive student organizations at Ohio State by means of coalescing around shared values, visions and issues.

### **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Full membership shall be granted to any full or part-time student enrolled at The Ohio State University main or satellite campuses in support of progressive, egalitarian politics.
  - a. Full members must attend 50% or more of chapter meetings to participate in SDS at OSU democratic processes.
- B. Supporters from outside the Ohio State community may be granted Associate membership, which will differ from full membership only in that Associate members are barred from participating in the internal democratic processes of the chapter.

### **ARTICLE IV: REMOVAL OF MEMBERS**

- A. Members may be considered for removal if fifty percent of full members believe that the member in question has failed to uphold the tenets outlined in our charter.
  - a. The following violations are grounds for immediate removal from SDS at OSU at the discretion of the officers:
    - i. Violation of Ohio State's non-discrimination policy.
    - ii. Violation of Ohio State's sexual misconduct policy.
- B. Any full member can propose for the removal of a member at any time.
  - a. Removal proposals may be made directly to the President.
- C. If a removal proposal is made, the President shall hold an election for all members to vote on whether to consider the member in question for removal within 7 days of the proposal.
- D. If over fifty percent of full members vote for the removal of the member in question, they shall immediately assume inactive member status and be required to leave all SDS at OSU communication channels.
- E. Current officers shall count votes for removal.

### **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

- A. The officer positions of the chapter shall be President, Vice President and Treasurer.
- B. Officers must be enrolled at Ohio State as students "in good academic standing." Officers must be a full member of SDS at OSU for at least 6 months prior to their election.
- C. The duties of the officers shall be:
  - a. President
    - i. To attend all meetings of SDS at OSU;
    - ii. To carry out the provisions of the charter;
    - iii. To call special meetings;
    - iv. To keep accurate records gathered from current officers and to oversee the transition to new officers.

- b. Vice President
  - i. To attend all meetings;
  - ii. To offer guidance and leadership training to teams;
  - iii. To assist the President and to assume the responsibilities of the President in their absence;
  - iv. To complete necessary forms to reserve space for meetings
  
- c. Treasurer
  - i. To attend general meetings and officer meetings;
  - ii. To make copies of and keep financial records;
  - iii. To collect revenues, issue receipts and properly deposit revenues;
  - iv. To prepare appropriate paperwork for all expenditures;
  - v. To work with advisors, other officers and the fundraising team to determine revenue-increasing actions;
  - vi. To collaborate with teams to allot funding for projects which will be approved at general meetings.

#### **ARTICLE VI: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- A. The term of office shall be one year.
- B. Any full member may run for office either by nomination or self-nomination.
  - a. Self-nominations must obtain a "second."
- C. Only full members, who are in good standing with Ohio State, are eligible to hold office. Nominees must be an active member of SDS at OSU for at least 6 months prior to the election.
- D. Nominations will begin during the 12th week of the Spring semester.
- E. Nominees shall deliver a speech for their consideration during the 13th week of the Spring semester.
- F. Elections will be held during the 14th week of the Spring semester
  - a. Elections shall be held via Google Forms. Members may only vote once and will be required to log into their Gmail to record their name.
  - b. Positions with more than 2 nominees will be held with ranked-choice voting.
  - c. Special elections will be held by the remaining officers if an officer absence occurs before the standard transition period.
- G. Only full members are eligible to vote.
- H. Graduated officers shall handle election logistics.
- I. Votes shall be counted by the Treasurer.
- J. Newly-elected officers shall begin their term immediately after the results of the election are released. Newly-elected officers shall work with the outgoing administration to complete the transition of leadership.
  - a. Due to unique circumstances, the officers elected in Spring 2021 shall retain their positions until August 1, 2021.

## **ARTICLE VII: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

- A. Officers may be considered for removal if fifty percent of full members believe that they have failed to perform their assigned duties to the satisfaction of the group.
- B. Any full member can propose for the removal of an officer at any time.
  - a. Removal proposals may be made to the President, unless the President is being considered for removal in which case proposals may be made to the Vice President.
- C. If a removal proposal is made, the President (or Vice President should the President be put to vote for removal) shall hold an election for all members to vote on whether to consider the member in question for removal within 7 days of the proposal.
- D. If over fifty percent of members vote Yes, the officer will be required to vacate their position immediately. After which, a special election will be held by the remaining officers to elect a new officer to the vacated position.
- E. Current officers, excluding the officer(s) in question, shall count votes for removal.

## **ARTICLE VIII: ADVISOR**

- A. The President shall issue a written request to the potential advisor to request their service.
- B. The advisors' responsibilities shall include:
  - a. To advise officers on the implementation of the chapter program;
  - b. To submit advisor registration forms in order to maintain active club status;
  - c. To assume ultimate responsibility that the chapter abides by board policies and procedures.

## **ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS**

- A. Meetings shall be held regularly once per week at a time to be specified by officers.
- B. Meetings will be held in a virtual format (Zoom).
- C. Meetings will be facilitated on a rotating basis by any member who desires to do so.

## **ARTICLE X: Teams**

- A. Teams shall be formed by officers as the need arises. Any full member may propose a new team.
- B. Team Structure:
  - a. Any member may choose to join or leave a team at any time.
  - b. By joining a team, members agree to participate in consensus decision making wherein the team shall draft proposals and present them during general meetings for discussion, revision and implementation or rejection.
- C. Team Proposals:
  - a. Teams may generate proposals to bring to the general membership for a collective decision.
  - b. Proposals may be revised, expanded upon or denied during general meetings.
  - c. Decision-making charts may be created to grant decision-making authority over specific items to teams.

**ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS**

- A. Amendments and/or revisions to this document shall be submitted as a proposal during a general meeting for approval or denial via consensus.