**Constitution and By-Laws Guidelines for Student Organizations**

***Article l - Unhoused Community Advocacy and Networking (U-CAN)***

**Section 2 - Purpose:** Organizations should take care to include a complete statement of purpose and objectives including what the target membership includes and what type of programs that will be delivered. Programs sponsored by the organization must comply and be consistent with the organization’s stated purpose and objectives.

**Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy:** All student organizations desiring to benefit from active, registered student organization status with Ohio State University must include in their constitution a non-discrimination policy statement that accords with and is at least as broad as the University’s Non-Discrimination policy statement. The University’s non-discrimination statement outlined in the Affirmative Action, Equal Employment Opportunity & Non- Discrimination/Harassment 1.10 (https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy110.pdf) is as follows:

*“The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a diverse community to reflect human diversity and to improve opportunities for all. The university is committed to equal opportunity, affirmative action, and eliminating discrimination. This commitment is both a moral imperative consistent with an intellectual community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law.*

*Ohio State 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.”*

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An example of an acceptable non-discrimination policy statement for a student organization is as follows:

*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.*

Additionally, your organization is also encouraged to include the following statement regarding the University’s Sexual Misconduct Policy:

*As a student organization at The Ohio State University, U-CAN 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, which can be found here: https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf.*

*If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at http://titleIX.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu****.***

***Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.***

The organization’s voting membership should be limited to currently enrolled Ohio State students. Others non- student members, such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc., may become members, but only as non-voting associate or honorary members.

For educational and leadership development reasons, student organizations are to be student initiated, student lead, and student run. Please refer to the Guidelines for Student Organizations for more information at https://activities.osu.edu/involvement/student\_organizations/resources. In addition to defining membership, Article II should explain the benefits for student members of the organization will receive and, if your organization allows non-student members, the difference in benefits for non-members and guests.

*II.a. As required by the Guidelines for Student Organizations, 90% of the membership of a student organization must include current Ohio State University students. Active members and Executive Committee are able to make decisions regarding the membership of community and other non-student members of an organization. Community or other non-student members may be temporarily suspended with a majority vote of the Executive Committee.*

***Article III – Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers***

Article III should clearly define your organization’s procedures for removal of officers or members. Be sure to think critically about the process of removing members and include variables such as timeline, voting procedures, and the various reasons a member or executive officer should be removed.

III.a. *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.*

III.b. *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.*

*III.c. 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 or executive officer.*

***Article IV - Organization Leadership:*** *Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.* Organization leaders represent the Executive Committee and general membership and are elected or appointed from the ranks of the organization’s voting membership. The titles of organization leaders, the length of terms, specification as to which leaders are elected or appointed and by whom, and the general duties of each leadership position should be clearly specified.

**All leaders will collaborate with the best interest of the organization and all decisions will be established via majority rule.**

**Co-Presidents:** Primary contact for U-CAN, by managing email address and other social media accounts.

**Treasurer**: Collaborate with Primary leaders to manage funding and set budget for each event.

**Advisor**: Offer insight and guidance on elevating ongoing collaborations. Additionally, if for unforeseen circumstances members are unable to come to a consensus or reach a majority vote the advisor will function as a tiebreaker.

***Article V- Election / Selection of Organization Leadership***

Elections rules and procedures, including eligibility for office, the nominating process, design of ballots and balloting procedures, and so on should be specified as well as appointment and ratification procedures. The timing of elections and/or appointments should be specified along with procedures to cover special circumstances (resignations, impeachments, etc.).

***Article VI - Executive Committee: Size and composition of the Committee.***

The Executive Committee (like a board of trustees or directors) represents the general membership, conducts business of the organization between general meetings of the membership, and reports its actions at the general meetings of the membership. In many organizations, this Committee is composed of the organization leaders, chairpersons of the standing committees, and sometimes ex officio positions from related student organizations.

***Article VII - Standing Committees (if needed): Names, purposes, and composition.***

These committees serve the organization leadership, the Executive Committee, and general membership. Standing committees are permanent and designed to carry out the basic functions of the organization. Often chairpersons of these committees are appointed by the organization leadership.

***Article VIII – Advisor(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria.***

Advisors of student organizations must be full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. If a person is serving as an advisor who is not a member of the above classifications, a co-advisor must be chosen who is a member of these University classifications. Responsibilities and expectations of advisors should be clearly and adequately described.

***Article IX – Meetings and events of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency.***

Required meetings and events and their number should be specified in the governance documents and should reflect the organization’s expectations for all members. For example:

*IX. Two general meetings and attendance at all or 50% of events hosted may be required for membership each academic term except for summer.*

***Article X – Attendees of Events of the Organization: Required events and their frequency.***

Explain the process that will be implemented if any member, student or non-student, behave in ways that is disruptive (i.e., behavior that interferes with students, faculty, or staff and their access to an appropriate educational or work environment) or do not align with your organizations constitution, the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law. Additional information and resources on assisting disruptive or distressed individuals can be found at: oaa.osu.edu/assets/files/documents/911handout.pdf. For example*:*

*X. The organization reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where the member or event attendee’s behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization’s constitution.*

***Article XI – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.***

Include the method for amending the constitution here. Define the process for proposing an amendment, providing notice to the organization or executive board, and the exact voting procedure for approving the amendment.

*XI. Any proposed amendments should be presented to the organization in writing and should not be acted upon when initially introduced. Upon initial introduction, the proposed amendments should be read in the general meeting, then read again at a specified number of subsequent general meetings and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken, and should either require a two-third or three-quarter majority of voting members (a quorum being present) or a majority or two-thirds of the entire voting membership of the organization, present or not. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.*

***Article XII – Method of Dissolution of Organization***

Requirements and procedures for dissolution of the student organization should be stated. Should any organization assets and debts exist, appropriate means for disposing of these assets and debts should be specified clearly and unequivocally. Upon the official dissolution of the organization, Student Activities staff must be contacted to remove organization information from the website.