

Constitution

Buckeye Language Exchange

Article I: Name, Purpose, Non-Discrimination Policy, and Sexual Misconduct Policy of the Student Organization

Section 1 – Name: The name of this organization is Buckeye Language Exchange. (BLE)

Section 2 – Purpose: The goal of Buckeye Language Exchange is to promote fluency and interest in foreign languages. This organization will achieve this by matching students who want to learn and practice each other’s languages to participate in a semester long (or potentially longer at the students’ discretion) language exchange that promotes writing, speaking, and conversational practice. This club should serve as the bridge between the language knowledge you learn in the classroom, and the fluency you can bring to the workplace in your future career. Many students grow to intermediate fluency in the respective languages that they are learning, however many stop at that level as they don’t receive the conversation practice they need to improve to higher fluency. This club aims to retain many language learners in their journeys to fluency through conversation practice, in hopes that these students eventually grow to be able to use multiple languages in their future careers and lives. This organization’s mission is exactly in line with Ohio State’s values, as it has the potential to create future influential leaders, and it educates students on the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity in the workplace.

Section 3 – Non-Discrimination Policy: Buckeye Language Exchange does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, sex, disability, veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admissions, and employment.

Section 4 – Sexual Misconduct Policy: As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Buckeye Language Exchange 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

Any undergraduate and graduate students at The Ohio State University can become members of Buckeye Language Exchange. There will be an application process at the beginning

of the fall and spring semesters, where members will be paired up. Members will be granted voting rights and will be able to participate in the upcoming election cycle.

Article III: Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers

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.

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), {00312468-1} the executive board, in consultation with the organization's advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

Article IV: Organization Leadership:

The Executive Board of Buckeye Language Exchange will contain a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Events and Sustainability Chair.

Each board member shall serve a term of one academic year, and each member shall be appointed by election to take place at the end of each academic year.

The general duties for each member are detailed below:

President – will work to make sure the club is aligning with its purpose, will oversee recruiting and adding members to the club, act as a primary contact for all club inquiries, will check in with all board members to stay updated.

Vice President – is responsible for taking the position of President if the President must step down or step away for the position, assists in communicating to all members of the club, assists in the planning of events.

Treasurer – is responsible for the financial management of the club, ensures the club is meeting banking and tax regulations, ensures the club is budgeting correctly and has adequate resources for activities, assists in applying for funding and grant opportunities.

Events and Sustainability Chair – assists in the planning of events for all members, assists in creating future event ideas and exploring options for collaboration with other organizations on events, assists in ensuring the safe transition of the executive board every election cycle.

Article V: Election/Selection of Organization Leadership:

Elections will take place at the end of the spring semesters for leadership transitions. An election will take place where all members are eligible to run, and all other members will vote on who they would like to take leadership positions. In the event that this election is unsuccessful or if there is a tie, there will be a vote among the current executive board to decide positions.

Article VI: Executive Committee: Size and composition of the Committee:

The Executive Committee shall compose of all executive board members. This includes the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Events and Sustainability Chair.

Article VII: Standing Committees:

The Executive board holds the power to create a standing committee if the need arises. To be eligible to participate in a standing committee, you must be a full member of Buckeye Language Exchange.

Article VII: Advisor(s): Qualification Criteria:

All Ohio State faculty members are eligible to serve as an advisor for the organization. Advisors of BLE shall serve as a point of contact for the club, and can provide assistance in any area in collaboration with the executive board.

Article IX: Meetings and Events of the Organization:

The organization should hold at least one meeting every month of the academic semester. Members are expected to meet mostly on their own to practice with each other, however there will be meetings for all members to come together.

Article X: Attendees of Events of the Organization:

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 the Constitution: Proposals, Notice, and Voting Requirements.

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.

Article XII: Method of Dissolution of the Organization:

The organization may be dissolved based on a majority vote from the executive board, and the advisor must also be notified. If any assets or holdings still belong to the club in this process, everything will be transferred over and donated to a non-profit organization of the executive board's choice. Board members are equally responsible and liable for resolving any remaining debt that the organization may have.