

# Constitution

## Article I - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.

**Section 1: Name:** Medical Students Advocating for Mental Health

**Section 2 - Purpose:** The main objective of the organization is to advocate for the mental health and wellbeing of medical students enrolled at The Ohio State University College of Medicine (OSUCOM). This will be accomplished primarily through increased access to mental health resources, changes in the curriculum to increase mental health education, and other initiatives that can improve the mental wellbeing of medical students enrolled at OSUCOM.

### Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy:

*“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.*

*As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Med Students Advocating for Med Students 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](mailto:titleIX@osu.edu).”*

## Article II - Membership: Basic requirements and categories of membership.

**Section 1: Basic Membership Requirements:** As required by the Guidelines for Student Organizations, 90% of the membership of a student organization must include current Ohio

State University students. The Executive Committee is 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.

Membership is open to all students currently enrolled at The Ohio State University College of Medicine including students enrolled in dual degree programs (MD-PhD, MD-MBA, etc.) and students on a leave of absence (LOA). Residents enrolled in the psychiatry residency offered by OSUCOM or current fellows at OSUCOM and Nationwide Children's Hospital are also encouraged to participate in club activities and start their own initiatives through collaboration with the executive committee. Membership will remain free of charge and be designated by voluntary participation in club activities or working with the executive committee to establish initiatives that align with the stated goals of the club in article 1.

### **Section 2: Categories of Membership:**

**General Membership:** General members are free to engage in any public meetings initiated by the executive committee, coordinate with the executive committee to establish new initiatives in alignment with the purpose of the club stated in article 1, or participate in existing initiatives with the permission of any member of the executive committee.

**Executive Committee Membership:** Executive committee membership is a special category of membership reserved for positions in the club outlined in article 6. Article 5 contains the selection criteria for members of the executive committee. The executive committee is responsible for upholding and facilitating the proposed goals of the club stated in article 1.

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

**Section 1:** 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.

**Section 2:** 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 majority affirmative vote of the executive committee in consultation with the organization's advisor.

**Section 3:** 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 committee, in consultation with the organization's advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

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

Organization leadership is open to any current OSUCOM student (but not residents and fellows enrolled at Ohio State or Nationwide Children's Hospital). An application will be sent out every year to the entire OSUCOM student body in search of the new executive committee. One exception to this rule is the first executive committee (beginning Jan 2023), which will serve for two years (through Dec 2024). The current leadership will be tasked with reviewing applications, and electing the new executive committee. Please see Article III for details on how executive officers can be removed.

## **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. The leadership positions are as follows:

Required leadership positions:

Primary Leader  
(President)  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Curriculum  
Chair(s)  
Social Chair(s)  
Education  
Chair(s)  
Advisor

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

Our advisor will be full time members of either 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 will be chosen who is a member of these University classifications.

The advisor will be tasked with attending at least one club meeting per year. In addition, they correspond regularly with executive committee members to answer any questions and/or provide advice and guidance regarding the direction of the club.

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

Members have to attend at least one meeting a year, and the executive committee members have to attend as many as their schedule allows (which should be most of them or this could be a cause for removal in consideration with other factors).

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

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. Frequency of meetings will be determined by the schedule each executive committee sets during the first semester of their leadership. One event is required for general membership and members of the executive committee should try to attend as many of the meetings as possible.

## **Article XI – Method of Amending 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 and agreed upon by a majority of the executive committee to be enacted as an amendment to the constitution. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.

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

The executive committee can hold a vote initiated by the president of the organization to dissolve it. If a majority of the executive committee votes in favor of the dissolution, the organization will be dissolved. Upon dissolution, any organization assets and debts that exist must be settled by the president and vice president. Upon the official dissolution of the organization, Student Activities staff must be contacted to remove organization information from the website.

# **By-Laws**

By-laws contain the standing (permanent) rules of procedure of an organization. Items in the by-laws may be covered in appropriate detail in the constitution. However, most groups keep the two separate because by-laws usually contain more detail and are subject to change more than that of the constitution and, therefore, may require different procedures for amending.

Provision for amendment of the by-laws should be somewhat easier than that of the constitution as rules of procedure should adapt to changing conditions of the student organization. When amending the by-laws, as with the constitution, previous notice of any changes are usually required to be given to the membership and should not be changed in the same meeting in which proposed.

By-laws are more permanent, however, than passing a general motion, which may require only a simple majority vote of voters present at a general meeting of the membership (a quorum being present). By-laws cannot run contrary to the constitution.

#### *Article 1 – Parliamentary Authority*

The rules contained in the constitution shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the by-laws of this organization. The executive committee has ultimate parliamentary authority.

#### *Article II- Membership*

Procedures for becoming a member, which may vary by membership category, amount of dues, if any, and how often they should be paid, termination of membership, and so on should be described in detail.

#### *Article III- Election / Appointment of Government Leadership*

Elections rules and procedures, including eligibility for office, the nominating process, design of ballots and balloting procedures, and so on is specified as well as appointment and ratification procedures.

#### *Article IV- Executive Committee*

Specific duties of the Committee and its responsibilities to the membership.

#### *Article V- Standing Committees (if needed)*

Specific duties of each committee and their responsibilities to the organization leadership, Executive Committee, and general membership.

#### *Article VI - Advisor/Advisory Board Responsibilities*

Expectations of the advisor in the organization (e.g., availability, meeting attendance, support, etc.)

*Article VII - Meeting Requirements*

Regular, special, size and determination of quorum (number of voting members required to vote on decisions placed before the general membership, executive, and standing committees).

*Article VIII - Method of Amending By-Laws*

By-laws may be amended by proposing in writing and reading the change at a meeting of the executive committee, in which a majority vote can ratify an amendment to the bylaws or the constitution..