**UnderLings Constitution**

***Article l - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.***

**Section 1: Name**: Undergraduate Linguistics Society at The Ohio State University (UnderLings)

**Section 2 - Purpose: ​**The purpose of the UnderLings is to provide a forum for students interested in linguistics to network with individuals in the field and discuss, learn, and enjoy various topics surrounding the field.

**Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy:**

This organization (UnderLings) 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, or appointments.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, UnderLings 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.***

*T*he 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.

As an open membership organization dedicated to expanding interest and involvement in the field of linguistics, the category of member has no clear benefits other than running and voting in elections.

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***

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 organization 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).

The executive board, in consultation with the organization’s advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer with a final decision to be put up to an organizational public forum or vote.

***Article IV - Organization Leadership:***

Required leadership positions:

*Primary Leader (President):* The first year after the organization returns to active status, the President should be appointed by 2/3rds of the previous year’s executive committee. In subsequent years the president will be elected by the voting membership following a ranked choice process where the president position is awarded to the top ranked choice. The President shall be responsible for upholding the constitution and management of the organization.

*Secondary Leader (Vice President):* The first year after the organization returns to active status, the Vice President should be appointed by 2/3rds of the previous year’s executive committee. In subsequent years the president will be elected by the voting membership following a ranked choice process where the president position is awarded to the second ranked choice. The Vice President shall be responsible for upholding the constitution and management of the organization.

*Treasurer:* The first year after the organization returns to active status, the Treasurer should be appointed by 2/3rds of the previous year’s executive committee. In subsequent years the executive committee will be elected by the voting membership following majority rules vote. The Treasurer shall be responsible for upholding the constitution and financial management of the organization. The Treasurer is to work with the President and Vice President to give guidance on funding and fundraising for all the events of the club.

*Other Executive Committee Members:* Executive Committee members who serve the executive board but can not assist in appointing other members or directly remove other members may be appointed at will by a 2/3rds vote from the executive committee with an organization-specific announcement to follow. Expansions of the Executive Committee to include future leadership positions non-specified who may be included in the 2/3rds vote within the executive committee must be put to an organization-specific forum and vote in years following the first semester after re-activation of this organization.

*Advisor:* The advisor will be selected in consultation with the Linguistics Department The Ohio State University. The Advisor shall be responsible for helping the organization and student leaders follow The Ohio State University policy. The Advisor should serve as a resource of information about department events and faculty/grad student connections.

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

Election rules and procedures: Any voting members of Underlings may run for any office following a self-nomination and turning in a written form explaining their ideas for the future of the club that will be read by voting members of the club. Regular elections will be held in the Spring Semester and then again in the Autumn Semester if all positions are not filled by the Spring Semester election cycle. If the President becomes indisposed, the Vice President will fill in as the de facto President until the election during the following semester. If the Vice President becomes indisposed, the Treasurer will split Vice President’s duties with the new President until a Vice Presidential election can be held during the following semester, unless they decline the appointment. Due to the student organization training schedule, if the treasurer resigns, the next treasurer will be officially appointed or elected during the next semester.

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

The size and composition of the Executive Committee will be amended as needed either by Executive Committee request or through a proposed election.

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

Standing Committees will be added as needed either by Executive Committee request or through a proposed election.

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

Advisor Criteria: Advisors of student organizations must be full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff, preferably from the Linguistics Department. 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.

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

Required Meetings: At least 1 meeting should be held each academic term except for summer.

***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.*

***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 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 majority of voting members.

***Article XII – Debt***

No debt should be incurred by the organization at any time without gaining permission from the advisor and the department first. A plan to recover the money immediately must be brought to the advisor before spending funds.

***Article XIII – Method of Dissolution of Organization***

This organization, as an informal arm of the Linguistics department should not be officially dissolved at any time, merely put on hiatus until the advisor or student population sees fit to revive it. Any assets will be given to the Linguistics department. Debt should not be incurred recklessly and is in violation of the constitution. Upon the official dissolution of the organization, Student Activities staff must be contacted to remove organization information from the website.