**Constitution of The Military and Veteran Students Organization at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law**

**ARTICLE I**

Purpose of the Organization

The Military and Veteran Students Organization at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law seeks to provide a vehicle for networking with Columbus and Ohio-area veteran attorneys, to welcome new military-affiliated students into The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, and to participate in service initiatives for Columbus-area veterans.

**ARTICLE 2**

Meetings

**Section A**. A general meeting is valid if at least two-thirds of the executive officers are present and will take place at least once per semester.

**Section B.** Procedure.

1. The Roll Call: The President calls the roll for the executive board.
2. President’s Agenda: After roll call, the President conducts the meeting according to the official agenda established by the executive board. The agenda includes reports from the executive board members.
3. Open Forum: After the agenda, the meeting is opened to new proposals and ideas. The floor remains open to all members so that anyone can bring new issues to the organization for discussion.

**ARTICLE III**

Membership and Voting

General Membership

**Section A**. 1. Eligibility – all full-time, military-sponsored students, veteran students, military spouses, or students with interest in military or public service corps at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law are eligible for group membership regardless of age, sex, race, handicap, or religion.

2. Definition of a Member

a. Must be a full-time student at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

**Section B**. 1. All members have one vote on a given issue (officers are not given extra weight for their vote).

2. Procedure

a. Voting is carried out either by open hand or by closed ballot. A decision is reached by the majority vote on a particular issue or issues being raised at the meeting.

b. Tie votes in elections are settled by the executive board members (excluding candidates running for the position in question).

**Section C. General Member Removal**

1. A vote of no confidence is held for any member who fails to responsibly hold his/her position or reflects negatively on the organization. A warning of no confidence is given one official meeting’s notice before a vote by the executive board.
2. A call for a vote of no confidence can be given at any time by any member on the executive board.
3. One appeal is granted throughout the vote of no confidence and is reviewed by the executive board for the consideration of amnesty.
4. A vote of no confidence succeeds if a two-thirds majority vote is achieved by the executive board and the faculty advisor approves the vote of no confidence.
5. If a vote of no confidence is successful the member will be asked to no longer participate in the organization’s meetings, events, or be affiliated with the organization in any way.

**ARTICLE IV**

Officers and Qualifications

**Section A**. The Executive branch consists of three officers.

1. President
* Is ultimately responsible for the actions of the organization.
* Oversees all aspects of the activities, events, and contacts that occur during his or her term in office.
* Sets the meeting agenda.
* Delivers final approval and guidance for all proposed organization events.
* Serves as the spokesperson for the organization in communicating with the Moritz College of Law and The Ohio State University at large.
* Sends out all written and e-mail correspondence to the membership and general correspondence to non-members.
1. Vice-President
* Works closely with the President to accomplish the tasks designated by the President.
* Assumes all presidential responsibilities if the President is absent from a formal event or cannot fulfill his/her duties, and/or must step down.
* Organizes speaking, networking, and service events with approval from the President and in coordination with the Treasurer as needed
* Is responsible for all room, technical, and facility reservations.
1. Treasurer
* Is in charge of all aspects of financial management. The Treasurer should organize fund-raisers and execute plans approved by a general vote.
* Keeps records of where funds are raised and spent and ensures that The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law guidelines are always followed.
* Is responsible for keeping records of all general and executive meetings, including taking roll to document attendance at all meetings.
* Collects money and places orders for any potential organization-wide clothing or product purchases

**Section B**. Executive Board Eligibility

1. The 3 executive board members are elected by the general membership annually at the last meeting of the spring semester.
2. Any member is eligible to run for office.

**Section C**. Nominations and Election of Officers

1. Students choosing to run for office may self nominate themselves or be nominated by an active member of the club.
	1. Each candidate must be a member in good standing of the club.
	2. Each candidate will be given the opportunity to state why he or she should be elected.
2. Election of officers is by majority vote of the general membership.
	1. Candidates running uncontested must receive two-thirds of the present voters.
	2. Any election that results in a tie will be decided by the executive board (excluding board members running for the office in question)
3. In the event that an office is vacant, a new election is held for the post at the next meeting according to the above voting provisions.
4. All members are privileged in the discussion of candidates; members engaging in hostile and/or negative discussion are asked by the board to leave.
5. The newly elected executive board members assume their power at the end of the spring semester, immediately after their election.

**Section D**. Executive Responsibility

1. The executive board collectively designates a time for executive meeting at least twice a semester, beginning with the first month of fall semester classes. This meeting should precede any general membership meetings by one week.
2. All officers sign an oath to begin their term of office affirming their dedication to executing the duties of their office.
3. Current executive board members will give training to the new executive board members.

**Section E**. Impeachments and Resignations

1. A vote of no confidence is held for any officer who fails to responsibly hold his/her position as defined by Article IV, Section A. A warning of no confidence is given one official meeting’s notice before a vote by the general body.
2. A call for a vote of no confidence can be given at any time by any member on the executive board.
3. One appeal is granted throughout the vote of no confidence and is reviewed by the executive board for the consideration of amnesty.
4. A vote of no confidence succeeds if a three-fourths majority vote is achieved by the executive board.
5. A vote of no confidence against the President must have a unanimous vote from the executive board excluding the President. The Vice President assumes all rights and duties of the President upon successful impeachment.
	1. An appeal for amnesty is processed by the whole executive board through a majority vote.
6. At an official meeting following an impeachment or resignation, the position is to be filled in accordance with the specifications under Article IV, Section C.

**Section G:**  Unexpired Terms

1. In the event of a vacancy, the Vice President and then Treasurer, in that order, will succeed the President for the remainder of the unexpired term. The resulting Executive Council vacancy shall be appointed by the new President, with majority approval by the Executive Committee.

2. All other office and committee vacancies will be filled by appointment by the President with majority approval of the Executive Council.

3. All replacement appointments will end at the conclusion of the expired term.

**ARTICLE V**

Amendments

Section A. Adoption and ramification of amendments to this constitution shall follow the same procedure as adoption of the entire constitution: a two-thirds majority vote by the general body of the organization, overseen by the executive council.

**ARTICLE VI**

By-Laws

**Section A**. Adoption of bylaws will be accepted after presenting and debating each bylaw in front of at least three -fourths of the general body, followed by a vote of at least two-thirds majority of the members present.

**ARTICLE VII**

Hazing Policy

The harassment of one individual by another individual or group (sometimes called hazing) is not permitted. Behavior prohibited under this rule includes actions threatening substantial risk of physical or mental injury; actions exposing the individual to distressing, repulsive, or alarming situations or sensations; forced consumption of alcohol or drugs; actions in the form of social pressure which might cause harm to an individual.

**ARTICLE VIII**

Discrimination Policy

The Ohio State University College of Dentistry does not discriminate against any individual or group of individuals on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, handicap, or religious, political, language, or ideological views or affiliation.

**ARTICLE IX**

* The Military and Veteran Students Organization of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law serves as a source of information for its membership to prepare them for their active-duty commitment and/or veteran benefits. This information includes but is not limited to: Military Family Life, Deployment, Military Pay and Benefits, Veterans Tuition Assistance, Ohio State’s Veteran Students Office, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Veteran Identity within the Legal Community, Spouse benefits and legal careers, and various nongovernmental resources.
* Guest speakers are invited to the general meetings to cover these subjects. Local legal recruiters are included among the guest lecturers. Veteran alumni and attorneys, both active duty and retired, are also included.
* The club also supports dissemination of information concerning military sponsorship during dental school training to undergraduate pre-dental students. The medical recruiters are relied upon to facilitate such events.

**ARTICLE X**

* The Military and Veteran Students Organization of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law supports the charitable cause of helping Columbus-area veterans.
* Fundraising efforts will be discussed and approved by the executive board in accordance with Ohio State University fundraising regulations.

 **ARTICLE XI**

**Oath of Office**

* I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, having been elected to the position \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Military and Veteran Students Organization of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, do hereby solemnly swear, that I will conscientiously and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties and responsibilities of my office; that I will uphold and defend the club’s constitution and bylaws; that I will obey and enforce the policies of the club; that I will actively participate and support all club activities and programs.