



Constitution of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection at Ohio State

October 11, 2023

Article 1 – Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.

Section 1 - Name: Allied Scholars for Animal Protection at Ohio State

Section 2 - Purpose: The purpose of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection (ASAP) is to bring education and awareness on animal rights and to promote lifestyle changes that prevent animal cruelty, are beneficial for public health, and benefit the environment. Target membership includes anyone interested in the protection of both human and nonhuman animals. Activities will include outreach and tabling, documentary screenings, speaker events, and food events.

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, Allied Scholars for Animal Protection at Ohio State 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.

Section 1. Restrictions. This organization restricts membership to students, faculty members, staff members, and alumni of the University. Voting membership is restricted to students.

Section 2. Procedure to Join. To become an official member, students must register with the Student Division of Allied Scholars for Animal protection at <https://www.alliedscholars.org/>.

This Chapter may have associated members who are non-students, such as faculty and staff, community members, alumni, University Advisor, and Allied Scholars for Animal Protection staff members. Associated members shall have all membership privileges except the right to vote or hold office.

Article III - Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers

Section 1 - Removal of members: A member may lose the privileges of membership, including the right to attend meetings and events sponsored by the Chapter, under the following circumstances:

1. If the individual is causing disruption to the group or is engaged in disorderly conduct or threats.
2. If the individual poses a danger to other students.
3. If the individual's conduct rises to the level of harassment of another member of the Group.
4. The member is hostile to the goals of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection.
5. The members' actions harms the reputation of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection and brings it into disrepute.

In the event of any of the above conduct by a member, deemed by an officer, member, or University Advisor to be against the values of ASAP and/or the University, the officer, member or University Advisor must level a charge by communicating with the officers.

Following the complaint, the Leadership Team (or members of the Leadership Team) shall meet to confer with the Chapter's Allied Scholars for Animal Protection staff and the University Advisor for advice and counsel.

The President will then call a special leadership meeting. They will hear from the accused member as well as other witnesses, confer, and make a decision regarding the accused member's membership rights.

Section 2 - Removal of leadership/officers: Leaders may be removed from their positions by a majority of the Leadership Team. Any member of the Chapter may make a complaint against any leader in the Chapter, including a member of the Leadership Team. Following the complaint, the Leadership Team (or members of the Leadership Team) shall meet to confer with the Chapter's Allied Scholars for Animal Protection staff and the University Advisor for advice and counsel.

They will also meet with both the complaining individual and the accused leader. No leader may be removed without first receiving a full and fair hearing from the Leadership Team. A leader complained against may only be removed by at least a simple majority of the remaining members of the Leadership Team.

Any misrepresentation on the leadership application or a change in the leader's commitment to lead the Chapter to fulfill its purpose as stated in Art. II, shall be grounds for the immediate review of the leader's position by the Leadership Team.

Article IV - Organization Leadership:

Section 1. Structure. The officers of this organization will serve as liaisons with the University. The officers of this organization shall be the following:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Treasurer
4. Secretary

An officer shall serve terms of one year from the start of his/her term of office or until his/her successor is selected. Distribution of roles among officers will be at the discretion of the President in consultation with the University Advisor and Allied Scholars for Animal Protection staff.

Additional Leaders: The current Leadership Team, in consultation with Allied Scholars for Animal Protection staff & the University Advisor, may select additional leaders that are able to serve the Chapter as needed for a school term.

Leadership Team: The Leadership Team shall consist of the officers and may include additional selected leaders (from the list below) that provide direction for various aspects of the Chapter's purpose.

President: The President shall conduct the business of the club in a just and orderly fashion. The President shall take care of the overall growth and management of the club and shall have the power to appoint committees and call special meetings. He/she shall be responsible for the registration of the Registered Student Organization and all required paperwork for the continuation of the organization.

The President shall act as a representative of the club whenever one is called for. The President presides over general and officer meetings, plans content for meetings and newsletters, and assists in event coordination. The President directs the other officers and Leadership team.

Vice President: The vice-president shall assist the president in matters of business and management. The vice-president shall take the place of the president whenever they are unable to fulfill their duties at the time.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall establish and oversee the annual budget for the Chapter, in consultation with the President, and report regularly to the organization on the financial situation. They will collect dues, manage day-to-day financial transactions, record and pay bills, reimbursements, deposits, and withdrawals, and record accrued interest.

Event Coordinator: Plans tabling and other outreach, social, and volunteering events.

Social Media Coordinator: Manages the Chapter's social media accounts through weekly posting of topics in animal issues and reminders of upcoming events. Assists event coordinator with creation of event pages and advertising for events.

Public Outreach Coordinator: Responsible for communications between the Chapter and other University organizations for joint events and other reasons, and for communication with non-UT entities for the purpose of organizing volunteering events and fundraisers.

Section 2. Responsibilities: The officers will be responsible for organizing and providing leadership for all meetings, activities and events of the Chapter, including activities related to events, screenings, training, study, outreach, and education—or any other activity intended to further the purposes and to communicate the messages of the Chapter.

Section 5. Terms. Officers will serve terms of one year, with a suggested term of May 1st to April 30th. The exact term may be selected in consultation between the incoming and outgoing President and the University Advisor.

Section 6. Removal of leadership/officers: Leaders may be removed from their positions by a majority of the Leadership Team. Any member of the Chapter may make a complaint against any leader in the Chapter, including a member of the Leadership Team. Following the complaint, the Leadership Team (or members of the Leadership Team) shall meet to confer with the Chapter's Allied Scholars for Animal Protection staff and the University Advisor for advice and counsel.

They will also meet with both the complaining individual and the accused leader. No leader may be removed without first receiving a full and fair hearing from the Leadership Team. A leader complained against may only be removed by at least a simple majority of the remaining members of the Leadership Team.

Any misrepresentation on the leadership application or a change in the leader's commitment to lead the Chapter to fulfill its purpose as stated in Art. II, shall be grounds for the immediate review of the leader's position by the Leadership Team.

Article V - Election / Selection of Organization Leadership

Section 1. Qualifications. A. Knowledge requirement: Officers must complete the Chapter's leadership application, which shall determine the applicant's skill in providing liberationist animal advocacy leadership for the Chapter and knowledge of the Chapter's core messages.

B. Alignment requirement: Officers must commit to lead the Chapter in a way which is consistent with the mission and faithful to the messages of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection, and will not undermine Allied Scholars for Animal Protection's mission and message. Officers will also commit to guide the Allied Scholars for Animal Protection Chapter to serve the University community, seeking to care for animals in need.

Section 2. Process. The selection of each successive incoming President will be made by the current outgoing President in consultation with the University Advisor and Allied Scholars for Animal Protection staff.

After being selected, the President will nominate officers at his/her discretion in consultation with the University Advisor and Allied Scholars for Animal Protection staff.

A. Officers of this Chapter will be chosen either through election by active membership or selection by the previous term's Leadership Team in consultation with the University Advisor. See Article VI. Additional leaders may be selected from the active membership. They will be chosen based on their ability to meet the same qualifications as the officers, and their willingness to serve.

B. Applicants who meet the qualifications outlined above shall be eligible to stand for election for a leadership position.

C. During any election or selection process, applicants will be asked about their skills, beliefs and views. Qualified applicants may be asked about their willingness to model the Chapter's core messages through their behavior so that the messages are communicated with integrity.

D. The staff members of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection and the University Advisor serve an advisory role in the selection process, working with the current Leadership Team to consider and evaluate potential new leaders. The Leadership Team will then select individuals, inviting them to take the new leadership roles.

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 comprised of the organization leaders, chairpersons of the standing committees, and sometimes ex officio positions from related student organizations.

Article VII - Advisors:

Qualifications: advisors of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection at Ohio State must be value-aligned faculty who are interested in promoting animal rights. Additionally, we may work with staff at Allied Scholars for Animal Protection national. Advisors will be expected to provide strategic guidance regarding the direction of our student group and help with administrative tasks as required (these will be kept to a minimum).

Allied Scholars for Animal Protection at Ohio State will work with Professor Tristram McPherson as a faculty advisor.

Additionally, we elect to have Dr. Faraz Harsini, founder and CEO of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection, as an additional advisor.

Article VIII - Meetings and events of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency.

Section 1. Regular Meetings:

A. Membership Meetings: Formal meetings of the active membership to conduct a vote.

B. Large and Small Group Meetings: Regularly scheduled meetings for all members to Attend.

Large group meetings typically occur weekly during the school year, breaking when instruction ends and during school vacation periods (unless students are present on campus). Small group meetings (Discussion Groups) may also meet weekly within the same parameters. Other meetings necessary to advance the purposes of the Chapter will be held as occasion warrants.

Section 2. Officer Meetings: Officer meetings will be called at the discretion of the President, as needed. Officers may meet in committee as the need arises.

Section 3. Purpose. Meetings shall be held to further the purposes of the Chapter. The officers, in consultation with the University Advisor and Allied Scholars for Animal Protection staff, shall determine the frequency, time and place, and agenda of the various meetings. All decisions made at such a meeting are ultimately subject to the approval of the President.

Section 4. Attendance. There is no specific attendance rate required for members except that a minimum of three meetings within a school year must be attended to become a voting member.

Article IX - 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 X - Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.

Section 1. *Procedure.* Amendments to this Constitution shall be made at the discretion of the sitting President. Any member of the Chapter may propose an amendment simply by notifying the President. Final approval is at the discretion of the President and the Chapter's University Advisor.

The amendment is then submitted to Allied Scholars for Animal Protection (National) for their written approval.

Section 2. *Express Approval.* All Constitutional Amendments require the express written permission of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection (National) and the Chapter's University Advisor.

Article XI - Method of Dissolution of Organization

In the event of dissolution, the President of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection at Ohio State shall be responsible for returning all funds to Ohio State and Allied Scholars for Animal Protection national, as appropriate. Upon official dissolution. Student Activities staff must be contacted to remove organization information from the website.