

Constitution and By-Laws of the Buckeye Innovation Society (BIS)

Preamble:

We, the members of the Buckeye Innovation Society (BIS), recognizing the need to establish a comprehensive framework guiding our operations, activities, and governance, do hereby adopt this Constitution and By-Laws. This document outlines the fundamental principles, structure, and rules of procedure that govern our organization.

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

Section 1: Name: The official name of this organization shall be the Buckeye Innovation Society (BIS).

Section 2: Purpose: The purpose of BIS is to cultivate a dynamic community of forward-thinking individuals at The Ohio State University, fostering a passion for innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship. Programs sponsored by the organization shall comply with and be consistent with its stated purpose and objectives.

Section 3: Non-Discrimination Policy: BIS 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. All members are expected to adhere to University Policy 1.10 and maintain an environment free from sexual misconduct as outlined in University Policy 1.15.

Article II - Membership: Qualifications and Categories of Membership:

The organization's voting membership is limited to current enrolled Ohio State students who are current members. Non-student members may become associate or honorary members without voting rights. The benefits for student members and any distinctions for non-members or guests shall be clearly defined.

II.a: As required by the Guidelines for Student Organizations, 90% of the membership must include current Ohio State University students. The Executive Committee may make decisions regarding community or other non-student members, and their temporary suspension requires a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Article III - Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers:

III.a: A member may be removed for behavior detrimental to the organization, violation of the constitution, by-laws, or any applicable laws. Removal requires a majority vote of officers in consultation with the organization's advisor.

III.b: Elected officers may be removed for cause, including violations of the constitution, by-laws, or any behavior detrimental to the organization. Removal requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor.

III.c: In cases protected by FERPA or pending investigation, the executive board may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

Article IV - Organization Leadership: Titles, Terms of Office, Type of Selection, and Duties of the Leaders:

The organization's leadership includes the Primary Leader (President), Secondary Leader (Senior Vice President), Vice President of Marketing, Vice President of Recruitment & Member Development, Treasurer, and Advisor. Titles, terms of office, selection criteria, and duties shall be clearly specified.

Article V - Election/Selection of Organization Leadership:

V.a: Eligibility for Office: To be eligible for an elected position, a candidate must be a current Ohio State University student and a member in good standing.

V.b: Nominating Process: Candidates shall be nominated by the general membership, and self-nominations are accepted. The nomination period shall be announced in advance.

V.c: Design of Ballots and Balloting Procedures: The design of ballots and balloting procedures shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

V.d: Timing of Elections: Elections shall be held annually, with the specific timeline communicated to the general membership at least two weeks in advance.

V.e: Appointment and Ratification Procedures: In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Committee shall appoint an interim officer, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the general membership.

Article VI - Executive Committee: Size and Composition of the Committee:

The Executive Committee represents the general membership, conducts organization business between general meetings, and reports actions at general meetings. Its size and composition shall be clearly defined.

Article VII - Standing Committees (if needed): Names, Purposes, and Composition:

Standing committees, if established, shall be permanent, serving the organization's leadership and general membership. Names, purposes, and composition shall be clearly outlined.

Article VIII - Advisor(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria:

Advisors must be full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. Responsibilities and expectations of advisors shall be clearly described.

Article IX - Meetings and Events of the Organization: Required Meetings and Their Frequency:

Required meetings and events, along with their frequency, shall be specified to reflect the organization's expectations for all members.

Article X - Attendees of Events of the Organization: Required Events and Their Frequency:

The organization reserves the right to address disruptive behavior that does not align with the constitution, Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or applicable laws.

Article XI - Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, Notice, and Voting Requirements:

Proposed amendments require written presentation and multiple readings. Voting requires a two-thirds or three-quarter majority of voting members or a majority or two-thirds of the entire voting membership.

Article XII - Method of Dissolution of Organization:

XII.a: Requirements for Dissolution: The organization may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of the general membership, with a quorum being present.

XII.b: Procedures for Assets and Debts: Upon dissolution, any organization assets and debts shall be disposed of in a manner decided by the general membership. Student Activities staff must be contacted for the removal of organization information from the website.

In witness whereof, we, the undersigned, have executed and adopted this Constitution and By-Laws on this [2/1/2024].