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An Undergraduate Honorary for the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University

**Constitution and By-Laws**

**Preamble**

We, students in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University, believing that an honorary within the College should be established to honor students who have maintained a high scholastic average and proven themselves outstanding and a credit to the college, do ordain and establish this Constitution of Towers Agricultural Honorary.

**Article I Name**

There is hereby established an honorary to be known as Towers Agricultural Honorary, which is subject to the provisions of this Constitution and its by-laws.

**Article II Purpose**

The purpose of this honorary shall be to:

1. Further the prestige of and interest in agriculture

2. Serve as a goal for all students and act as a means of recognition for those persons who are active in extracurricular activities and are students in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

3. Promote fellowship among members of the Honorary

4. Promote yourself and others in education and career

**Article III Membership**

**Section 1** This student organization will not categorically deny membership because of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, political views, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status or any other basis.

**Section 2A** **Membership Eligibility**

Any student in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences who has completed at least two academic semesters, or any transfer student who has completed at least one academic semester in the college and is at least a first semester sophomore; has earned an accumulative point hour ratio of 3.00 or above; and has proven himself/herself outstanding in at least one extracurricular activity is eligible for active membership.

**Section 2B Extracurricular Activities**

Only those extracurricular activities in which the student has assumed a position of leadership will be acceptable. Considerations will be made for students who work, are married, participate in varsity sports, or any other reasonable factor.

**Section 3A Active Membership**

All undergraduates fulfilling Article 3: Sections 2A and 2B are eligible for active membership. The term “active membership” mentioned throughout the Constitution and By-laws shall be defined as meeting the requirements set forth in Article VIII Section 1.

**Section 3B Associate Membership**

Any member who transfers from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, drops out of school, or is doing coursework off campus, is automatically relegated to the status of associate member until a time when they can again fulfill the requirements of active membership. Associate members do not possess the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of active members, including but not limited to voting and holding executive office.

**Section 3C Honorary Membership**

Any member of faculty, staff, or a graduate student in the college or another person prominent in the field of agriculture may be elected to honorary membership by a 75% approving vote of all active members present at that meeting.  One honorary member may be elected annually, which shall be the Towers Honorary Membership Award recipient, if given.

**Section 3D Alumni Membership**

All active and associate members who have graduated shall constitute the Towers Alumni of the honorary.

**Article IV Financial**

**Section 1 Initiation Fee**

There shall be an initiation fee to cover the cost of induction materials and operating expenses. Fees shall be set by the Executive Council and approved by the membership.

**Article V Meetings**

**Section 1 Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings shall be held at least three times each semester during the fall and spring semesters.

**Section 2 Special Meetings**

The president shall call a special meeting at the request of the Executive Council or one-third of all active members. The secretary shall notify all members at least five days prior to the meeting.

**Article VI Officers**

**Section 1 Eligibility**

Only active members shall be eligible to hold office.

**Section 2 Offices**

Officers shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, CFAES Student Council Representative, Back-up CFAES Student Council Representative, two Member Mentor Reception and Induction Co-Chairs, Recruitment Chair, Community Service and Philanthropy Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Social Chair. Each shall hold office for one year, or until the successors are elected and qualified.

**Section 3 Faculty Advisor**

There shall be one Faculty Advisor who shall be a member of the Dean’s Office.

**Section 4 Executive Council**

Officers and Faculty Advisor shall constitute the Executive Council.

**Article VII Amendments**

**Section 1** Amendments to this constitution shall be handed to the Secretary in written form and be read at a regular meeting. Voting will take place at the next regular meeting.

**Section 2** A three-fourths vote of all active members present at the time of the vote shall be required to pass an amendment.

**Section 3** New amendments shall automatically invalidate conflicting provisions.

**Article VIII Attendance**

**Section 1** All members are required and expected to attend a minimum of four Towers activities per academic semester beginning with the first day of fall semester and ending with the last day of spring semester.

**Section 2** If this minimum requirement is not met, then the member will face dismissal from the organization unless otherwise decided by the executive committee.

**By-laws**

**Article I Membership**

**Section 1** All students fulfilling qualifications set forth in Article 3, Section 2 of the Constitution will be considered for membership.

**Section 2** Membership shall be limited to 50 active members, exclusive of the active members graduating during the semester in which new members are initiated.

**Section 3** The Executive Council shall determine eligibility for membership.

**Section 4** All individuals applying for membership must do so by filling out an application.

**Section 5** Students selected for membership shall be tapped during a ceremony occurring in the weeks prior to the induction ceremony.

**Section 6** New members are required to go through formal induction.

**Section 7** Removal of a member shall take place if the member is not fulfilling membership requirements as outlined in the constitution. The act of member removal shall be approved by the entire executive council. If the decision is contested, it shall be brought before the general membership during a regular meeting and the member removal shall require a 2/3 vote.

**Article II Meetings**

**Section 1** One-half of all active members shall constitute a quorum. No business may be transacted unless a quorum is present.

**Section 2** In the event the one-half of the active members are not present at any meeting, the President may declare a quorum. In this instance, each member shall have the power of veto.

**Section 3** The Secretary shall notify, in writing, all members of the time and place of all regular and special meetings in advance of the time of the regular meeting.

**Section 4** “Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised” shall govern procedure at meetings.

**Article III** **Officers**

**Section 1** Term of office shall be for one year.

**Section 2** Election shall be held at a meeting of the spring semester. Current active members shall be eligible to apply to officer positions, submitting said application by the published deadline set by the executive board.

**Section 3** All voting for officers shall be by secret ballot.

**Section 4** All active members, excluding the advisor, shall be eligible to vote in officer elections.

**Section 5** **Duties of officers:**

**Section 5A President**

The President is responsible for providing leadership and guidance to the honorary by offering advice and fostering good discussions during meetings. The President shall preside over all meetings and conduct them following parliamentary procedure. The President shall be responsible, along with the Vice-President, for organizing any executive meetings.

**Section 5B** **Vice President**

The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in his or her absence and shall assist the President in all official duties. The Vice-President shall be Chairman of the Executive Council. The Vice-President, along with the President, shall be responsible for organizing any executive meetings.

**Section 5C Secretary**

The Secretary shall be responsible for correspondence. The Secretary shall notify, in writing, all members of the time and location of regular and special meetings. He or she is responsible for making necessary room reservations. The Secretary shall also keep records of meeting attendance, current membership, and the proceedings of all meetings. The Secretary, in cooperation with the President and Vice President, shall prepare an agenda for each meeting.

**Section 5D Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping accurate financial accounts of the honorary. The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and recording membership dues as well as distribution of payments.

**Section 5E Reporter**

The Reporter shall be responsible for informing the public of Towers’ activities of interest via social media and fliers posted around CFAES campus. The Reporter is responsible for notifying hometown newspapers of initiation of new members. The Reporter is also responsible for updating and monitoring the website, as well as documenting Towers events through photography.

**Section 5F College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Student Council Representative and Back-Up Representative**

The CFAES Student Council Representative or Back-up Representative shall attend all regular and special meetings of the CFAES Student Council as a representative of Towers Agricultural Honorary. The Student Council Representative shall serve as a liaison between the two organizations.

**Section 5G Recruitment Chair**

The Recruitment Chair shall perform duties that involve the recruitment of new members. The recruitment chair will distribute applications to qualified students during spring semester and be in charge of new member application review, notifying new members of their acceptance, and planning the new member tapping ceremony.

**Section 5H Member Mentor Reception and Induction Co-Chairs**

The Member Mentor Reception and Induction Co-Chairs shall be responsible for all the duties involving the planning and execution of the Member Mentor Reception during fall semester and the induction ceremony for new members in spring semester.

**Section 5I Social Chair**

The Social Chair shall be responsible for holding a minimum of one social event per semester.

**Section 5J Fundraising Chair**

The Fundraising Chair shall be responsible for planning and executing fundraising activities for Towers. The sole source of funds for Towers is a one-time membership fee for each member and this Fundraising Chair works to supplement those funds with fundraisers that coincide with the purpose of Towers Agricultural Honorary.

**Section 5K Service and Philanthropy Chair**

The Service and Philanthropy Chair shall be responsible for coordinating with philanthropic organizations to plan and execute service-based events, including Red Cross Blood Drives. The Service and Philanthropy Chair shall also be responsible for the planning and execution of events to support and raise funds for philanthropic causes selected by the general body.

**Section 6** In the instance of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall automatically assume the office of President. Other vacancies shall be filled by the nomination and election of an active member to the vacated position at the first regular meeting following the vacancy.

**Section 7** Members may hold two offices concurrently during the same academic year.

**Section 8** Removal of elected and appointed officers shall take place if the officer is not fulfilling his or her duties as outlined in the constitution. The act of officer removal shall be approved by the entire executive council. If the decision is contested, it shall be brought before the general membership during a regular meeting and the officer removal shall require a 2/3 vote.

**Article IV Amendments**

**Section 1** These By-Laws may be amended in the same manner and form as provided for in making amendments to the Constitution.

Adopted April 28, 1954

Amended May 13, 1962

Amended May 1965

Revised October 1965

Amended May 15, 1966

Revised March 1969

Revised May 1976

Revised and Amended November 1982

Revised October 30, 1990

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Revised April 2, 2000

Revised January 12, 2011

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