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KNOWLTON SOCIETY

*CONSTITUTION*

FOREWARD

The Knowlton Society was called to action in January of 2024 out of the Knowlton Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access(ability) committee’s World Café. A desire for student advocacy, cohesive excellence, and social justice inspired the greater purpose for the future organization.

The word *society* implies an unbreakable commitment to fostering connections, facilitating knowledge exchange, and promoting collective growth. It suggests an inclusive environment where individuals come together to contribute, learn, and advance common goals, emphasizing the importance of collective action in achieving meaningful outcomes.

The Knowlton Society was founded by students across cohorts in architecture, landscape architecture, and planning.

1.1 VISION

The Knowlton Society’s vision is a Knowlton School that fosters cross-disciplinary community, student advocacy, and collective purpose amongst the architecture, landscape architecture, and city and regional planning sections as well as the allied arts.

1.2 MISSION

The Knowlton Society’s mission is to thoughtfully engage with the student body, faculty, staff, administration, and relevant stakeholders of the Knowlton School to uphold our pillars of advocacy, community, and student empowerment.

1.3 PILLARS

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| **1.3.1 ADVOCACY**  Empowering students and challenging industry to establish forward thinking pedagogy that positions our work within the built environment as powerful forces for good through values of equity and justice. | **1.3.2 COMMUNITY**  Ensuring unity and belonging amongst the sections, cohorts, and allied arts through cross-disciplinary/neutral programming, networking, and collective goal setting. |
| **1.3.3 EMPOWERMENT**  We aim to serve as the neutral voice of the Knowlton student body by concerning ourselves with its wellness, empowerment, and retention. | |

2.1 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Although the Knowlton Society is a collective, elected student officers will bear the responsibility of facilitating KS programming, fundraising, and ultimately serving as spokespeople for the organization to appropriate parties. There is no hierarchy for officer positions; all will be treated as equal stakeholders.

Chair positions are non-officer positions with the purpose of assisting officer-led initiatives.

The officers are as follows:

**2.1.1 PRESIDENT OF THE KNOWLTON SOCIETY**

The president of the Knowlton Society serves as KS’s spokesperson and principal facilitator for E-Board meetings. There may be up to 2 presidents of the Knowlton Society.

There will be no role of vice-president.

**2.1.2 TREASURER OF THE KNOWLTON SOCIETY**

The treasurer of the Knowlton Society is a single individual that holds the responsibility of oversight of organization funds as well as additional responsibilities to be determined by the needs of the board.

**2.1.3. PARLIMENTARIAN OF THE KNOWLTON SOCIETY**

The parliamentarian of the Knowlton Society is a non-spokesperson role that oversees the creation and implementation of organizational initiatives. This is not a position that is required to be filled, but may be necessary per the judgement of the Executive Board.

**2.1.4. ADVISOR TO THE KNOWLTON SOCIETY**

The advisor of the Knowlton Society must be Knowlton School faculty or staff that conducts tasks as required by the university Office of Student Life.

2.2 COMMITTEES

To advance the pillars of the Knowlton Society, committees may be established through the unanimous decision of the E-Board to head organizational initiatives. Similarly, committees may be abolished per the unanimous decision of the E-Board.

A committee may be headed by a member of the executive board, or a designated number of committee chairs deemed appropriate by the Parliamentarian. Any member of the Knowlton Society may join a committee.

**2.2.1 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

A student may be nominated to a non-officer position to head KS initiatives in the form of a committee chair. Chairs assist in the planning and implementation of KS initiatives as well as communicate between officers, KS members, and the student body. A committee chair may head multiple committees.

**2.2.2 CURRENT COMMITTEES**

**2.2.2.1. KNOWLTON TOWN HALL**

**2.2.2.2 ANYTHING BUT STUDIO**

**2.2.2.3 DRAGON DAY CONCEPT**

**2.2.2.4 KNOWLTON BALL WITH AIAS**

**2.2.2.5 FINAL FRIDAY**

**2.2.2.6 SPEAKER SERIES**

**2.2.2.7 COMMUNICATIONS / SOCIALS / GRAPHICS**

2.3 ELECTION, REMOVAL, AND AMENDMENTS

**2.3.1. OFFICER ELECTIONS**

To serve as a member of the E-Board, a KS member must be elected by popular vote. Elections occur at the end of the spring semester every year.

To qualify to run for the executive board, the individual must be a KS member in good standing for over 1 academic year.

Should the Knowlton Society require an emergency election, a mid-year or mid-semester election may take place per the unanimous approval of the Executive Board.

**2.3.2. OFFICER REMOVAL**

Should a member of the Executive Board require removal due to violations of student code of conduct or disregard for the Pillars of the Knowlton Society, a unanimous decision by the executive board in addition to approval by the Advisor must be made.

If a unanimous decision amongst the officers cannot be reached, an emergency impeachment vote must occur amongst the members of the Knowlton Society and must cross a threshold of 50% of counted votes in favor of the motion.

**2.3.3. OFFICER VACANCY**

Should a member of the Executive Board step down or otherwise become unable to fulfil their duties, a decision may be made amongst the KS advisor and remaining Executive Board to choose to replace the missing member amongst themselves. Should a decision not be made, the board may decide to enact an emergency election as mentioned in section 2.3.1.

**2.3.4. AMENDMENTS TO THE KNOWLTON SOCIETY CONSTITUTION**

To effectively amend the content or vocabulary of the Knowlton Society Constitution, the executive board must conduct a public hearing to openly discuss proposed changes. Any officer, chair, or member may propose amendments.

Amendments may be enacted and documented after crossing a 50% threshold of counted votes.

3.1 MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Knowlton Society is not dictated upon enrollment in a Knowlton Program, undergraduate or graduate, as it aligns with our vision regarding comradery with the allied arts. Students majoring or minoring in any Knowlton program regardless of cohort are highly encouraged to join.

Students may be considered “members” after documented attendance of their 2nd meeting or verbal association.

**3.1.1. FEES AND DUES**

There is no cost to membership within the Knowlton Society. However, there may be occasional non-mandatory initiatives that may require a monetary fee (Merchandise, events, fundraising, etc.)

**3.1.2. MEMBER REMOVAL**

Similarly to the removal process of an elected officer, a member of the Knowlton Society may be removed if they are seen to have violated the Student Code of Conduct of The Ohio State University and seen in misalignment of the Society’s pillars. Majority approval by the executive board and approval by the Advisor must be reached to remove a member.

Members may also request that their name be removed from the organizational roster to the advisor or any officer at any time.

4. 1 NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a diverse community to reflect human diversity and to improve opportunities for all. The university is committed to equal opportunity, affirmative action, and eliminating discrimination and harassment. This commitment is both a moral imperative consistent with an intellectual community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. See below for inquiries regarding potential discrimination.

4.2 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge the land that The Ohio State University and Knowlton Hall occupies is the ancestral and contemporary territory of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe and many other Indigenous peoples. Specifically, the university resides on land ceded in the 1795 Treaty of Greeneville and the forced removal of tribes through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. As a land grant institution, we want to honor the resiliency of these tribal nations and recognize the historical contexts that has and continues to affect the Indigenous peoples of this land.

As facilitators of the built environment, we would also like to acknowledge our historical roles in the displacement, disinvestment, and violence against all indigenous peoples. We must approach our practice with sensitivity and respect for the traumas imposed—both past and ongoing present .