

Global Medical Brigades – Ohio State University  
Constitution

***Article I – Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy***

**Section 1: Name**

Global Medical Brigades at the Ohio State University, affiliated with Global Brigades which is an international nonprofit that works to support under resourced communities.

**Section 2: Purpose**

At Global Medical Brigades, a nonprofit organization, we empower aspiring healthcare professionals to make a tangible impact in under-resourced communities across Central America and West Africa. Our overall approach involves fundraising efforts to support sustainable health systems and encourage personal and professional development, with funds contributing directly towards medical supplies, infrastructure development, and community health education initiatives. We educate our members on our multifaceted approach to understanding the complexities of health through analyzing political, socio-economical, historical facets that may be contributing to poor health outcomes. Our goal is to deepen our understanding of global health equity and empower communities around the world, one brigade at a time.

**Section 3: Non-Discrimination Policy**

This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reason of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, veteran status, or any other bases under the law in its activities.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Global Medical Brigades 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

***Article II – Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership***

Voting members are limited to those currently enrolled in The Ohio State University. Faculty, alumni, professionals, and community members are encouraged to become members but as non-voting associate members. Active members and the Executive Board are able to make decisions regarding the membership of community and other non-student members of an organization. Community or other non-student members can be suspended with a majority vote from the Executive Board.

Members of this organization are afforded benefits such as the opportunity to attend a one-week international service trip, where they are able to shadow doctors, learn about the logistics of running free clinics and host workshops about health and health equity. Members are also able to collaborate with the executive board to host fundraisers, hear from public health experts and expand their worldview.

### ***Article III – Method of Selecting Officers and Members***

The Executive Board will be elected or appointed from the established voting members by the previous Executive Board. The rising Executive Board will select brigade attending and non-brigade attending members through meeting attendance and personal correspondence, using applications and interviews if needed. General members and elected or appointed Executive Board Officers will be expected to maintain academic and professional standards as detailed by the Ohio State University..

### ***Article IV – Method of Removing Officers and Members***

If at any time a member, violates Global Brigade's constitution, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member will be removed through a majority vote of the Executive Board, after seeking approval from our advisor. Depending on the severity of the offense, the Executive Board will consider placing said member on probationary status for one year, but they will lose the opportunity to attend the brigade. If after one year, the Executive Board and advisor deems the member to be in compliance with the standards outlined, they may be reinstated and have the opportunity to attend a future brigade. As stated, under no circumstances will probationary members/Officers attend the brigade while on probationary status. The Non-Discrimination Policy as detailed above protects members from removal based on those listed statuses

Any member of the Executive Board of Global Brigades may be removed for the violation of the constitution, failure to perform their tasks or attend a sufficient portion of meetings, any behavior that is contradicts the purpose and values of this organization, and violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Board member will be removed through a majority vote of the Executive Board, after seeking approval from our advisor.

If the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending, the Executive Board, in consultation with the organization's advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

### ***Article V – Organization Leadership: Titles, terms of office, types of selection, and duties of leaders***

All members of the incoming Executive Board will be elected or appointed voting members by the outgoing Executive Board. Board members will hold office for one calendar year with transition occurring in Spring Semester. Elections will be held at the end of Fall Semester or the beginning of Spring Semester depending on what needs arise. To be eligible for leadership, members must attend 75% of meeting per semester, and play an active role in the organization's attempts to successfully attend a brigade.

President/Brigade Coordinator – Head of the Executive Board. Responsible for overseeing the leadership team, coordinating with Global Brigades national leadership and in-country coordinators, and implementing final brigade plans. Will attend President Training at the OSU union and complete all required Student Organization

documentation annually. Will cosign the bank account with the Financial Chair. Will organize meetings as needed.

Vice President – Responsible for assisting the President with administrative tasks, and overseeing the recruitment of brigade attending members, both voting OSU students and community members. Will be primary communication with the members.

Financial Chair – Responsible for opening and/or updating the group bank account. Responsible for attending Treasurer Training at the OSU union and updating the EIN number annually. Will cosign the bank account with the Brigade Coordinator. Will oversee the fundraising opportunities with the rest of the Leadership Team. Will document the amount fundraised by individual members. Responsible for ensuring that all brigade costs for individual members (flight, in-country costs) are paid on the empowered.org website, less the fundraised amount.

Outreach Chair – Responsible for overseeing the recruitment of physicians, both OSU faculty and community members, to join the brigade. Will be primary communication with the physicians and other recruited medical professionals.

Education Chair – Responsible for designing the educational component of the brigade to be implemented while in country. Will research the community which the brigade is serving to know their individual needs, and assist the president in hosting seminars about cultural humility, ethical engagement in service learning, and the decolonization of public health, among other topics.

#### ***Article VI – Advisor(s): Qualification Criteria***

The advisor should be a member of the University Faculty or the Administrative & Professional Staff and will be determined by the incoming Leadership Team during Spring Semester. The advisor will be expected to provide all necessary documentation for bank accounts, Student Organization status, and attend the Advisor Training every other calendar year. The advisor will be a non-voting member, but will be consulted if needed by the Leadership Team.

#### ***Article VII – Meetings of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency***

The Leadership Team will meet biweekly and as needed throughout the year. The general membership will meet at monthly in the Fall Semester and monthly in the Spring Semester, as needed. Members are expected to attend and contribute to fundraisers that occur outside of meeting time.

#### ***Article VIII – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements***

Proposed amendments will be in writing, will not be acted upon but read in the general meeting in which they are proposed, will be read again at the subsequent general meeting and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. Approval will require at least two-thirds of voting members present (and to conduct any business an organization should have quorum present at a business meeting, which is at minimum 50% + 1 of total organization members).

***Article IX – Method of Dissolution of Organization***

If at any time the Leadership Team believes the organization to no longer be fulfilling its purpose as outlined in the constitution or meeting the needs of the students of The Ohio State University, it may be voted on and dissolved by the current voting members. Approval will require at least two-thirds of voting members present at a meeting with quorum achieved.

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