

# Constitution for the Open Source Club at the Ohio State University

Version 3.0

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## Open source Club Constitution

### Preamble

The Open Source Club at The Ohio State University has had an extensive role in OSU's tech-related student life, from sprouting into other clubs and events, to encouraging students and alumni alike to become a part of the open source community.

The current leadership of this organization would like to extend gratitude to former members and staff; open source has had a rich history, both in and out of OSU's campus, and it is with the support of those who have come before us that we are able to exercise this passion so freely.

The current staff of the Open Source Club would like to acknowledge the following past members and staff for their contributions:

- Isaac Jones
- Martin Jansche
- Michael Benedict
- Andrew Cziryak
- Kyle Rosenberg
- Adrian Vovk
- Dominik Winecki

### Article I - Definition

#### Section I - Name

The name of this student organization is to be "The Open Source Club at The Ohio State University." ("The Open Source Club", "OSC", "th(e/is) organization", "th(e/is) student organization")

#### Section II - Purpose

This student organization will dedicate itself to introducing the open source model of development to students; to showcasing projects developed under an open source development model (programs, games, websites, etc.); to fostering interest in the open source community; to allowing students to engage in discourse with other students on the topics surrounding open source; to raising awareness of the value open source can provide people from all walks of life; to introduce, promote, and potentially normalize a more democratic use and development of the technology that surrounds us and will continue to do so for the years to come.

#### Section III - 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.

In addition, this organization does not discriminate on the basis of academic standing, program affiliation, nor personal political affiliation.

Finally, it is this organization's policy that these statements and policies extend to - and will be required of - all individuals who choose to associate with this organization; student, faculty, or otherwise.

### Article II - Membership

Passive membership is awarded to any and all individuals who display interest in the organization to a recognizable degree. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Those who subscribe to any existing mailing lists.
- Those who interact with any existing social media accounts.
- Those who are members of any existing social groups (Discord, Revolt, Matrix, etc.)
- Those who have expressed explicit interest in the club, but are unable to consistently interface with it due to personal constraints.
- Other examples left to the officers' discretion.

Active membership is awarded to any and all currently-enrolled students of the Ohio State University who display activity within the organization to a recognizable degree. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Those who attend two or more in-person meetings in a semester
- Those who are active in existing social groups (Discord, Revolt, Matrix, etc.)
  - "Active" is loosely defined as contributing enough to online discussion so as to easily be precisely identified and recalled by members during in-person meetings, be it by username or reference to discussions of which the member in question was a part. A more precise definition is left to current officership discretion.
- Other examples left to the officers' discretion.

In order to foster a sense of welcoming and accessibility, the only tangible difference between passive and active membership will be voting and candidacy privileges for officer roles, as well as voting privileges in the removal of executive members.

Neither for passive membership, nor active membership, will any fee or due be required to be considered a member of the Open Source Club.

## **Article III - Procedures for Removing Members and Executive Officers**

In the case that a member of this organization is observed to behave in a way incongruent with Ohio State University Standards, the Student Code of Conduct, the Non-Discrimination Policy as expressed in Article I, or in any other way deemed unacceptable by the standards of this organization and its membership, the member in question will be subject to removal from this organization by the policies proceeding:

### **Section I - The Removal of a Non-Officer**

Non-officer members being considered for removal will be notified of this consideration, whereafter a one-week voting period open to active members, passive members, and officers will commence. The removal will be successful if:

- A unanimous decision to remove is made among the officers.
- A simple majority decision to remove is made among passive and active members, separately.

### **Section II - The Removal of an Officer**

Officer members being considered for removal will be notified of this consideration, whereafter a two-week voting period open to active members will commence. The removal will be successful if:

- A 2/3 majority decision to remove is made among active members.

### **Section III - Calculating Majorities**

Voting abstentions among voting-abled members are not considered in the calculation of a majority. They are, however, considered in the calculation of a unanimity.

## **Article IV - Executive Officership**

### **Section I - Titles and Duties**

The **President** of the OSC will be required to oversee basic functioning of the organization. The President will remain in charge of deciding meeting times, locations, and topics; of establishing or disestablishing social media accounts and

virtual social groups; of representing the OSC both in and out of the OSU campus; of assisting in the maintenance of the organization's digital assets.

The **Vice President** of the OSC will assist the President in the functioning club, and be delegated individual roles when appropriate and agreed upon. The Vice President will remain in charge of providing secondary opinions to the President regarding decisions on organization and meetings; of assisting the President in their duties pertaining to the regular functioning of the organization; of assisting in the maintenance of the organization's digital assets.

The **Treasurer** of the OSC will manage and oversee all financial accounts and duties of the OSC. The Treasurer will remain in charge of overseeing and approving spending when necessary; of maintained detailed records of organization cashflow; of assisting in the maintenance of the organization's digital assets.

The **Director of Software Project Development** of the OSC will oversee a dedicated subteam of the OSC with the goal of fostering a space where technologically-interested members can learn how to develop open-source software firsthand. The Director of Software Project Development will remain in charge of organizing subteam meetings; of designing and maintaining a primary project for the subteam to work on (at member discretion); of planning and creating update presentations to share with the larger, non-technically-focused membership of the OSC; of overseeing primary subteam project repositories to be hosted on the OSC's GitHub Organization and providing assistance to those members of the subteam who select to work on their own projects.

## **Section II - Voting and Tenure**

Officer elections are to take place at the end of the semester preceding the semester for which the vote will be relevant.

Elections for a provided position are to continue, eliminating the least-popular candidate from the roster each time, until a candidate receives a simple majority of votes (not including abstentions).

An individual is allowed to run for, and hold, any officer position until they are no longer a currently-enrolled OSU student.

## **Section III - Modifying Officer Positions**

In the case of substantial club size change, the current officers may deem it reasonable to create new officer positions, or eliminate existing ones. In all cases, there must always be at least the following three positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer

When creating executive officer positions beyond these three, members who fill them are to be labeled as "Secretary" on the Ohio State Student Organization page, with the proper name of the role being placed in "Other Title". An exception is made for roles whose names and responsibilities line up comfortably with a role that is listed in those available on the Student Organization page (the definition of "comfortably" is left to officer discretion).

The exact process for the creation or removal of officer positions is left to the current officers' discretion. Any changes to the structure of officer positions is to be made public to the membership during the semester preceding the term in which these changes would take effect.

## **Article V - Advisor Selection**

Advisors of student organizations must be full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. Advisors are expected to approve any changes made to the Constitution, Goals, or other legislature of the organization. They are additionally expected to approve programming and meeting decisions, as well as budgeting decisions. Advisors are expected to meet with the officers of the organization at least once per term.

Finally, advisors are encouraged to meet with the officers on a more regular basis, such as once per month, as well as give general opinions and advice pertaining to the success of the organization.

## **Article VI - Organization Meetings**

While meeting attendance is not explicitly required to be a member of this organization (excepting active membership), it is highly encouraged. In-person meetings shall occur no less than two times in a semester, pending extenuating public health considerations, individual, communal, municipal, or otherwise.

It is a stated goal of the OSC to perform collaborative meetings with other organizations. Whether and which of these meetings are considered official OSC meetings is left to the discretion of the current officers.

## **Article VII - Management of Organization Assets**

### **Section I - Physical Assets**

All physical assets are to be stored and cared for in a location agreed upon by the current officers.

### **Section II - Digital Assets**

In addition to other assets that are typically held by OSU organizations, the OSC will also manage a GitHub organization.

At any given time, the only individuals who are permitted write access to the GitHub organization and all repositories over which it presides are the three primary officers labeled in Article IV Section III, the faculty advisor(s) of the organization, and any other additional officers whose explicitly-named duties in this constitution include the management of this organization's digital assets. It is the responsibility of those aforementioned to ensure that, when the individuals taking on these roles are changed, permissions are revoked and granted properly within one month of the decision for these roles to be changed.

Non-write access is left to the current officers' discretion.

## **Article VIII - Methods of Amending this Constitution**

Proposed amendments shall be presented to the other officers and then discussed among them. If a majority of officers approve of the amendment, it can be made to the constitution.

## **Article IX - Methods of Dissolving this Organization**

For this organization to dissolve, a unanimous vote among the officers to do so shall take place. Should any assets and/or debt exist, the advisers shall see fit to dispose of it.