

SAPS Constitution

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

Section I: SAPS (Sexual Assault Prevention & Support)

Section II - Purpose: SAPS (Sexual Assault Prevention & Support) is a student-led organization dedicated to sexual violence prevention, awareness, and support. Our mission is to create and implement systems of education, advocacy, and support to foster the long-lasting sociocultural changes needed to end sexual violence.

Section III - Non-Discrimination Policy: SAPS 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. As a student organization at The Ohio State University, SAPS 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, which can be found here: <https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>. If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleIX.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership

Membership for SAPS is open to all members of the campus community including currently enrolled Ohio State students and other non-student members, such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc. Voting membership is strictly limited to currently enrolled Ohio State students, including undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students. Other non-student members, such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc. are considered non-voting associate or honorary members for our organization. SAPS is a student initiated, student led, and student run organization. Non-members of SAPS at The Ohio State University are welcome to attend our campus events as guests.

II.a. As required by the Guidelines for Student Organizations, SAPS at The Ohio State University will maintain an organization membership that includes 90%, or more, of current Ohio State students. Active members and the Executive Committee are able to make decisions regarding the membership of community and other non-student members of an organization. Community or other non-student members may be temporarily suspended with a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

II.b. Executive Committee members consist of the organization leaders (see Article IV).

II.c. Benefits of membership may include: an opportunity to foster experience in advocacy work; maintaining an active involvement within the campus community; working with peers to better the campus environment; access to member only networking and professional development opportunities, and an opportunity to better the wellbeing of students attending The Ohio State University.

Article III - Methods For Removing Members and Executive Officers

All organization members, guests, and Executive Committee members are expected to act and behave in ways that reflect the organization's values and ethics. If any member is found to be disruptive or behaves

in a way not in line with the organization's constitution, the Code of Student Conduct, University policy, or federal, state, or local law, the organization reserves the right to remove the member from the organization.

III.a. If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization's constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization's advisor.

III.b. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor.

III.c. In the event that 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 IV - Organization Leadership

Organization leaders represent the Executive Committee and general membership and are elected or appointed from the ranks of the organization's voting membership.

IV.a. All leadership positions are required to participate in the Spring Semester elections, this responsibility includes running for a re-election and/or training the officer elect in the months of March and April of the position's rules and procedures.

Section 1 – Required Leadership Positions: Required organization leaders are membership positions that must be filled at all times to maintain an active status for a recognized student organization at The Ohio State University.

IV.1.a. President (Primary Leader): The primary role for the campus organizer is to oversee, approve, and provide advice on all tasks, events, and strategies along with reporting to the national SAPS director and related officials. The primary leader for the organization will need to complete required university training to serve in this position.

IV.1.b. Vice President or Co-President (Secondary Leader): The primary roles for the Vice President or Co-President is to assist in tasks in collaboration with the President. The Secondary Leader will take over Presidential duties, should the Primary leader be unable to fulfill their duties.

IV.1.c. Treasurer: The primary role for the treasurer is to communicate with the Office of Student Life regarding funds, maintaining a budget for the academic year, and performing the duties of the campus organizer and secretary in their absence. The treasurer for the organization will need to complete required university training to serve in this position.

IV.1.d. Advisor: The primary role for the advisor is to serve as a connection between the university and the student organization. The advisor's role within the organization is negotiable

with the Executive Committee. The advisor for the organization will need to complete required university training to serve in this position.

Article V - Election/Selection of Organization Leadership

Elections for leadership positions will be held every Spring semester, with election results announced by mid-March. Current Executive Committee members will spend the months of March and April training their leadership position-elects, teaching them the rules and procedures for their elected roles. Term of office begins in June of the election year and ends in May of the following year, making the length of office one year for each position.

V.a. To be eligible for a leadership position, the person seeking nomination must be a member of SAPS at The Ohio State University and in good standing with the university to be enrolled for the following academic year.

V.b. Nominations for leadership positions can be made by the Executive Committee or they can be done by self-nomination.

V.c. The Advisor and Co-Advisor for the organization are leadership positions appointed through a volunteer basis and eligibility criteria.

Article VI - Executive Committee

The organization leaders represent the Executive Committee and general membership. The Executive Committee must include the President, Vice President, and Treasurer and may include any appointed optional leadership position. The Executive Committee conducts organization business between general meetings and reports its actions at the general meetings.

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

The advisor's role within the organization is flexible and can be adjusted in collaboration with the Executive Committee. Some possible responsibilities of the advisor include attending organization meetings and events when possible and reviewing the minutes of any meetings they cannot attend in person. Additionally, the advisor may meet individually with organization members, help facilitate officer transitions, and review the organization's budget before it is submitted. They may also review and, if needed, edit communications from the organization, and assist in interpreting university policies and processes. Other roles include providing historical context for the organization, sharing relevant university information with members, and mediating any interpersonal conflicts. The advisor may also assist in interpreting Risk Management Recommendations and, where necessary, conduct training or workshops on ethics and sensitivity issues related to working in the field of sexual violence.

Article VIII - Meeting and events of SAPS: Required meetings and their frequency

In order to earn SAPS membership, participants must attend 3 General Body events, or volunteer with SAPS and attend 1 General Body event. Participation will be tracked via a points system (+10 points for 1 hour of attendance, +15 points for 1 hour of service), in which +25 points are required for membership. Points will be tracked over the course of the calendar year, excluding summers, to account for cumulative points earned over the Fall and Spring semester. Annual completion of attendance/service requirements is necessary to maintain membership status. General body education events and survivor support events count towards attendance.

Article IX - Attendees of Events of SAPS: Required events and their frequency

All event attendees are expected to act and behave in ways that reflect the organization's values and ethics. If any attendee is found to be disruptive or behaves in a way not in line with the organization's constitution, the Code of Student Conduct, University policy, or federal, state, or local law, the organization reserves the right to handle the individual(s) in ways they see fit.

IX.a.1 The organization reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where the member or event attendee's behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization's constitution.

IX.a.2. If an individual(s) engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization's constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the individuals may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization's advisor. (Refer to Article III)

IX.b.3. Individuals being disruptive will be removed from the meeting or event immediately and further action will be taken at the discretion of the Executive Committee with input from the organization's advisor.

Article X - Method of Amending Constitution

Any Executive Board may propose an amendment to the Constitution by submitting their amendment to the organization in writing. An amendment proposal shall be communicated via email to the General Assembly, at osu.saps@gmail.com, at least 48 hours prior to an Executive Board meeting. During the meeting, the Executive Board members can vote on the proposed amendment presented. An amendment may be proposed at any time, but no more than two weeks should pass between an amendment being introduced and an amendment being voted on. At least two-thirds of the Executive Board should be present in order for a vote on an amendment to occur. If two-thirds of members are not present at the meeting an amendment is proposed, the amendment process must be repeated to be introduced for a vote at a future meeting. A newly ratified constitution goes into effect immediately upon ratification. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.

Article XI - Method of Dissolution of Organization

In the event that SAPS no longer meets university requirements for maintaining active status, the organization will dissolve and become inactive. Any debts or assets will be handled at the discretion of the Treasurer and Campus Organizer. This includes closing any existing bank account associated with the organization. The Office of Student Life Student Activities will be informed should the organization choose to dissolve.