

Fishbowl Improvisational Comedy Troupe Constitution

Originally drafted by Travis Kendall, Alex Lefeld, Carly Kohake, Darius Mousavi, Tyler Davis, and Kara McGinnis; Summer 2009

Amendment proposed by Matthew Schlichting adopted on Thursday, May 31 2012. Due to the extensive nature of the edits, line by line comparisons were not adopted. However, the original draft is included at the end of the document for comparison and posterity.

Amendments made by Natalie Knaggs, Annamarie Jowanovitz, Connor Duguid, Ansley Wilson, Klaire Weinroth on March 20 2025.

Article I: Group Mission and Values

Section I: Name

Fishbowl Improvisational Comedy Group

Section II: Mission Statement

Fishbowl Improvisational Comedy Group is here to bring together creative-minded students, and to explore their unique talents through improvisational comedy in the collective effort of tickling the minds of the OSU student body without charging for admission.

Section III:

Fishbowl strives to create a welcoming environment for all; the organization remains dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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, or admission.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Fishbowl Improv 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: Calendar and Membership

Section I: Performance Season

Our group will perform year-round, but limit on-campus performances to the Autumn and Spring semesters.

Section II: Additional members

All members must be current students of The Ohio State University. Members that are active will audition interested students. Auditions will be scheduled by the Officers of the group and will occur at the beginning of the Autumn and Spring semesters.

Section III: Auditions

Auditions will occur in two sections: A preliminary audition and a callback. Interested students will attend a preliminary audition. If the student receives a majority vote in favor of their performance, they are notified the evening of their audition that they may attend callbacks. The date of callbacks will be announced alongside auditions. After the callback audition, students require a two-thirds supermajority after deliberation to be invited into the group. All audition and callback sessions are mandatory for active members barring illness or family emergency.

Article III: The Executive Board

Section I: Executive Board

There will be five officers in Fishbowl Improvisational Comedy Group. These members will be known as the “Executive Board.” The officers will hold their title for the term of one year. Any member may run for any position by delivering a speech to the group. The active members of the group will then privately deliberate and take a majority vote on who should be elected to each position. Elected Officers should be able to attend Executive meetings throughout the year. Barring extreme circumstances, President and Vice President must remain active members during their terms.

The Executive Board fields general group concerns as they may arise. Members may bring up concerns with any officer with the expectation that the subject will be handled with privacy and respect.

Section II: Shared Powers

The Executive Board is responsible for overall group organization, scheduling, and conflict resolution.

With the exception of executive power, the Executive Board may delegate the responsibilities herein enumerated to other members of the group. Their primary responsibility is not to perform the enumerated tasks, but to see that they are performed

efficiently, effectively, and punctually.

Section III: President

The executive power of Fishbowl Improv is vested in the President. They must be able to attend the Ohio State University Primary Leader training sessions as they occur throughout the year.

The President is responsible for scheduling, organizing, and running rehearsals. In the case they are unable to, they will delegate to the Vice President or another officer.

The President serves as the representative of the group to the University.

The President helps the other executive members in their responsibilities and oversee the functions of the group.

The President has the power to perform any task herein enumerated for another office of the executive board with the prior consent of said office.

The President is the primary head of alumni show coordination and delegation.

Section IV: Vice President

The Vice President is the direct aide to the President.

The Vice President helps other executive board members in their responsibilities and oversee functions of the group.

The Vice President takes responsibility of all presidential duties in the event that the President cannot fulfill his or her duties.

The Vice President is the primary head of scheduling and Tides delegation and organization.

The Vice President organizes and maintains the Fishbowl Library.

Section V: Treasurer

The Treasurer will attend The Ohio State University Treasurer Training.

The Treasurer monitors the financial transactions of the group including taxes, purchases, and all expenditures.

The Treasurer prepares funding requests for Fishbowl Improv as necessary.

The Treasurer handles all CampusParc communication and coordination, financial and otherwise. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping track of members' completion of CampusParcs, but the duty to enforce those commitments is within the

President and Vice President.

The Treasurer collects compensation from fundraising opportunities such as dorm shows, etc.

Section VI: Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes during executive board meetings and handling the audition deliberation process.

The Secretary will create and manage event pages for shows. Their duties include but are not limited to: creating event descriptions and updating the event pages.

The Secretary will coordinate group correspondence via email.

The Secretary manages and updates the official Fishbowl website.

The Secretary will assist the Vice President in scheduling and Tides coordination.

Section VII: Marketing Director

The Marketing Director coordinates the group's advertisements and social networking.

The Marketing Director will create and print graphic flyers for Fishbowl events and arrange group advertising or flyering sessions.

The Marketing Director is the primary manager of Fishbowl's Instagram, Twitter and Facebook pages. They are to monitor the pages and ensure posts are accurate, appropriate, and informational.

Section VII: Executive Board Member Vacancy

In the event of an executive board member stepping down from his or her position, an election will be held to fill that vacancy, whereby any person in the group, including current board members who are not the President, can run to fill that position in standard Fishbowl election style. If a current board member is elected to fill the vacancy, an additional election will be held to fill the new vacancy.

The President reserves the right to appoint a temporary member to fill the vacancy in the instances of long school breaks, proximity to Tides or any other major event where the vacancy needs to be filled immediately.

Section VIII: Run Off Elections

In the instance of a tie between two or more candidates running for one position, a runoff election will be held between the tying candidates with the highest number of votes. Voters will then revote between only the candidates who received a tie. There will

be no deliberations for this second round of voting.

In the instance of a tie between only two candidates running for one position, the group will move back into a deliberation, or pro-con session, whereby members will voice their concerns and opinions for the two candidates in order to move the group into making a more cohesive decision.

Article IV: Removal from the Group

Section I: Rules Regarding Impeachment, Disbandment, and Dismissal

Members of the group may be dismissed for the following reasons: Inability to consistently attend rehearsals and performances; consistent conduct in detriment to the group; inability to maintain reasonable balance between school commitments and group commitments; consistently poor performance AND a lack of desire to improve OR an inability to improve in a timeframe deemed necessary by the Executive Board; or any combination thereof.

Members of the Executive Board may be Impeached for any reason a group member may be impeached; for abusing the powers associated with their office; and for any other high crimes or misdemeanors.

The Executive Board may be disbanded for any of the above reasons.

Section II: Impeachment of Single Executive Board Member

A petition must be submitted to the Executive Board containing the specific grievance and at least fifty one percent of the group members' signatures. The Board member in question will get a warning from the remaining Board members. At the beginning of the next meeting the person in question must publicly acknowledge the warning and the petition. After two weeks time or six meetings of the group, a vote will be held in regards to them keeping their position. The majority vote rules with the Executive Board making the final decision based on the vote.

Section III: Disbandment of Executive Board

The same impeachment system as stated in Section I of Article IV applies to the disbandment of the entire Executive Board. The entire non-board group of members must have a unanimous vote. If a disbandment of the Executive Board takes place nominations and elections of the new Executive Board will be held immediately after at the same meeting.

Section IV: Dismissal From the group

The Executive Board has the power to dismiss non-board members from the group. The member in question will receive a written warning from the Executive Board. After one week there will be a meeting held by the Executive Board with the member in

question and an advocate of their choice from the group.

Article V: The Advisor

Section I: Advisor

The advisor will oversee activities when requested by the group. Their primary function is to guarantee the existence of the group as required by the University.

Article VI: Practices, Shows and Meetings

Section I: Practice

Regular practices will be held twice a week, as scheduled by the Executive Board.

If a member is consistently more than 10 minutes late to practice, it constitutes a discussion among the Executive Board.

By joining the group, members acknowledge their commitment practice and avow to avoid misconduct. Misconduct can include, but is not limited to; being under the influence of drugs and alcohol during practice, deliberately sabotaging the group, and disruptive behavior. Failure to act accordingly may result in a punishment as determined by the Executive Board.

Regular attendance at practices is expected and mandatory during a member's first two semesters within the group. Regular or irregular conflicts due to illness or academic/familial commitments may be excused, as determined by the Executive Board. To detail these conflicts, members should directly communicate with both the President and Vice President as soon as possible.

Members may elect to adopt Flex Status at any time, meaning they remain a part of the group, but are not "active" (do not participate in shows or practices).

In order to perform in a show or festival, members are required to attend both practices during the preceding week. In the case of conflicts, they must attend a Bonus Practice. In extenuating circumstances, it is expected for the member to initiate a conversation with the Executive Board regarding their ability to perform.

Bonus Practices, or "Bonusprov", may be announced by any member of the group at any time. Attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged.

Section II: Open Practices

Open practices for the general public to experience and learn improv with the group may be held as determined by the Executive Board. These may be cancelled at the group's discretion. At minimum, there must be one open practice a semester, with the expressed goal to orchestrate additional sessions.

Section III: Show Protocol

All members are expected to show up and be ready to perform on the call day. If a member is not able to attend a performance, they must notify the executive board of this 3 days in advance. If a member is unable to perform for a show unexpectedly, another member will fill his spot in the line-up. Failure to attend a show without previously informing the Executive Board may result in a punishment as determined by the Executive Board.

Section IV: Executive Board Meetings

Executive Board meetings will be held regularly throughout each semester to discuss group matters. All members are invited to attend open meetings but only officers are required to attend. The Executive Board reserves the right to schedule closed meetings due to sensitive subject matter.

Article VII: Constitutional Amendments

This will be a living document that is open to amendments at all times. In order to amend, a motion with a second must be submitted to the executive board and be given a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote by the Board. If a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote is acquired then a majority vote from the group will enact the amendment. If a motion fails to receive a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by the Board, it then opens up to a vote by everyone and needs a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by them for the amendment to pass.

Article VIII: Disbandment of the Group

Disbandment of the group requires a unanimous vote of all members of the group.

Article IX: Original Constitution

Constitution

Article I:

Section I: Name

Fishbowl Improvisational Comedy Group

Section II: Mission Statement

Fishbowl Improvisational Comedy Group is here to bring together un-noticed creative-minded students, and explore their unique talents through improvisational comedy that tickles the mind of the OSU student body.

Section III:

Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited in our group.

Article II:

Section I: Performance Season

Our group will perform throughout the year starting in the Autumn Quarter extending until the end of Spring Quarter.

Section II: Additional members

All members must be current students at The Ohio State University. Members that are active will audition interested students. Auditions will be scheduled by the Officers of the group and will occur in the Autumn Quarter and the Spring Quarter.

Section III: Auditions

Auditions will occur in two sections: A preliminary audition and a Callback. The interested student will attend the preliminary audition. If the student appeals to the current members of the group, the group will then vote on whether or not the student will come to callbacks. The Student will be notified the evening of their audition if they have made it into the next round. The same process takes place for Callbacks to decide who is in the group.

Article III:

Section I: Board of Directors

There will be four officers in Fishbowl Improvisational Comedy Group. These members will be known as "Executive Board". The board officers will hold their title for the term of one year. The Executive Board will nominate officers for the next creative season at the end of the year. The active members of the group will then take a majority vote on who should be elected to each position. Elected Officers should be able to attend Executive meetings throughout the year.

Section II: President

The Head officer will be called the President. He or She must be able to attend the Ohio State University Primary Leader training sessions as they occur throughout the year. The President will serve as the head representative of the group to the University. The President will help the other executive members in their responsibilities and oversee the functions of the group.

Section III: Vice President

He or She will be the direct aide to the President. The main responsibilities of the Vice President are to generate all types of advertising needed to promote the group. The Vice President will help other executive board members and oversee functions of the group. The Vice President will take responsibility of all presidential duties in the event that the President cannot fulfill his or her duties.

Section IV: Treasurer

The treasurer's main responsibilities will be attending The Ohio State University Treasurer Training, monitoring the financial transactions of the group including tickets sales, taxes, purchases, and all expenditures.

Section V: Organizational Chair

The Organizational chair's main responsibilities will be coordinating meetings, scheduling and reserving spaces for events, recording the minutes of meetings and rehearsals, and running the

executive board meetings throughout the year.

Article IV:

Section I: Impeachment of Single Executive Board Member

If there is a problem with a Board member a petition must be submitted to the Executive Board containing the specific grievance and at least fifty one percent of the group members' signatures. The Board member in question will get a warning from the remaining Board members. At the beginning of the next meeting the person in question must announce their knowledge of their warning and the problem that was brought to their attention. In two weeks (Six Meetings), a vote will be held in regards to them keeping their position. The majority vote rules with the Executive Board making the final decision based on the vote.

Section II: Disbandment Executive Board

The same impeachment system as stated in Section I of Article IV applies to the disbandment of the entire Executive Board. This containing the warning petition, the meeting after two weeks, and the vote. The entire non-board group of members must have a unanimous vote. If a disbandment of the Executive Board takes place nominations and elections of the new Executive Board will be held immediately after at the same meeting.

Section III: Dismissal From the group

The Executive Board has the power of dismissing non-board members from the group. There will be a warning issued in written form from the Executive Board. After one week there will be a meeting held by the Executive Board with the member in question and an advocate of their choice from the group.

Article V:

Section I: Advisor

The advisor will oversee activities when requested by the group. They will be there as a support system, but mostly to guarantee the existence of the group.

Article VI:

Section I: Practice

Regular practices will be held three times a week, twice at a minimum. There will be consequences for tardiness, truancy, and misconduct during meetings/practice. If a member is more than 20 minutes late to a practice, it constitutes tardiness. Misconduct can include, but is not limited to; being under the influence of drugs and alcohol during practice, deliberately sabotaging the group, and disruptive behavior. Consequences will appropriately be decided by the executive board using a three strike system.

Section II: Workshop Dates

A workshop date open up to the general public will be held at least once a month to experience and learn improv with the group. This may be cancelled at the group's discretion.

Section III: Practice Protocol

For practice, all members are expected to be on time and ready to fully participate in all games and practice activities throughout. Tardiness will be dealt with as mentioned in Section II.

Section IV: Show Protocol

Call and performance line-up will be determined 3 practices ahead of time before the call. All members are expected to show up and be ready to perform on the call day. If a member is not able to attend a performance, they must notify the executive board of this 3 practices ahead of time. If a member is unable to perform for a show unexpectedly, another member will fill his spot in the line-up. Failure to attend a show without an unjustified excuse, will result in suspension from the next show.

Section V: Business Meetings

Business meetings will be held at the beginning of each quarter/semester to discuss group matters for that quarter/semester. All members are invited to attend but only officers are required to attend.

Article VII: Constitution Amendments

This will be a living document that is open to amendments at all times. In order to amend, a motion with a second must be submitted to the executive board and be given a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote by the Board. If a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote is acquired then a majority vote from the group will enact the amendment. If a motion fails to receive a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by the board, it then opens up to a vote by everyone and needs a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by them for the amendment to pass.

Article VIII: Disbandment of the Group

Disbandment of the group requires a unanimous vote of all members of the group.