



# THOMISTIC INSTITUTE

## Constitution of The Thomistic Institute at the Ohio State University

### ARTICLE I: NAME, PURPOSE, AND NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

#### Section 1: Name

The name of the organization will be The Thomistic Institute at The Ohio State University, also known as The Thomistic Institute or Buckeye Thomists. The Thomistic Institute at The Ohio State University will be an official chapter of the national Thomistic Institute, which is based out of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC.

#### Section 2: Purpose

The mission of The Thomistic Institute at The Ohio State University is to foster civil intellectual discourse about philosophy and theology within the framework of the Catholic Church and the intellectual tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas. This mission will include inviting speakers to campus to give talks and facilitating reading groups or other social events. The target audience/member is any Ohio State student with an interest in the above.

#### Section 3: Nondiscriminatory 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.

### ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1: Voting member rights and privileges

Voting members will be eligible for leadership positions within the organization and will be able to participate in the selection process for the speakers which will be invited to campus throughout the year.

#### Section 2: Voting member requirements

Members must attend at least two speaker events per year to maintain voting status. Voting membership is limited to currently enrolled Ohio State students. All general body members are also invited to participate in optional reading groups or social events.

#### Section 3: Non-member clause

All speaker events hosted by the organization are open to the public, including members and non-members.

#### Section 4: Becoming a Member

Membership in this organization is open to any interested individual. To become a member, the interested individual should email the current president and join the GroupMe. They will be considered a member after expressing interest and attending two events hosted by the club. An individual can become a member at any point of the year by expressing interest to the president.

### **ARTICLE III: LEADERSHIP**

#### Section 1: Student leadership positions defined

All student leadership positions will be filled by elected members. Leadership positions include:

-President

*Delegates tasks and leads exec board meetings. Heads correspondence with The Thomistic Institute HQ. Plans logistics for speaker events.*

-Vice President

*Aids the President in their duties. Acts as President in the absence of the President.*

-Treasurer

*Handles organization assets and finances*

- Event Coordinators (2-4)

*Manages event-specific outreach and logistical needs*

#### Section 2: Student leadership elections and transfer of power

All student general body members as well as current leaders are eligible to run for leadership positions. In the first month of the spring semester members may submit applications. A general body vote through google forms will then decide who will occupy each position starting in the proceeding fall semester. Should a leader resign or be removed from office, an application and election process will happen immediately, with the newly elected leader starting immediately.

#### Section 3: Faculty advisor

The advisor to The Thomistic Institute at The Ohio State University must be a full-time faculty member at The Ohio State University. The responsibility of the advisor is to aid student leaders in hosting speakers, and to answer questions from student leaders. The position of faculty advisor will be held until an advisor should choose to step down, in which case the acting executive board will act at their own discretion to find a new advisor.

### **ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BOARD COMPOSITION**

The executive board will meet intermittently at the discretion of the President to determine strategy and pick 2 speakers to invite per semester (for a total of four events

per year) based on a general consensus of executive board members. Executive positions correspond with student leadership positions, and include the acting:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Event coordinators

## **ARTICLE V: STANDING COMMITTEES**

Upon the establishments of the speaking events which will occur in a given semester, general body members may apply through google forms to stand on an organizational committee for each respective event. The acting President and Vice President will select the members of each committee, with between 2-6 members per committee. Committee members will help the event coordinators in publicizing and organizing their event. Specific duties will be assigned by the Executive Board, and may include hanging posters, procuring food, and developing an itinerary for the speaker.

## **ARTICLE VI: REMOVAL OF MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

### Section 1: Removal of Student Leaders/Executive Officers

Any elected leader or executive officer may be removed from their position due to conduct which does not reflect the values of the Thomistic Institute or The Ohio State University. Should a member or officer notice poor behavior from a current officer, a formal report should be made to the acting president. The president will then approach the individual in question to issue a warning. Should the poor behavior continue, with the approval of two other officers and the faculty advisor the president may remove the officer in question from their position, or both their position and the organization. If the president is the officer in question, the report may be filed with the acting vice president.

### Section 2: Removal of Members

Should a general body member conduct themselves not in accordance with the values of the Thomistic Institute or The Ohio State University, they may be removed from the organization. Should an executive officer notice poor behavior, a general body member may be removed with the approval of the entire executive board and the faculty advisor. General body members may file reports about poor member behavior with the acting president.

## **ARTICLE VII: ATTENDEES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

The Thomistic Institute at The Ohio State University holds the right to address any member or attendee of an event who may be disruptive or conducting themselves inappropriately and may remove said person from a meeting or speaking event.

## **ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

To amend the Constitution a written proposal must be given to the Executive Board. The proposal will then be sent out to active members via google forms, where they will then vote whether the amendment should be made. Should over 60% of the organization desire the amendment, it will be implemented.

#### **ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Should the entire executive board as well as over 50% of acting general body members desire the dissolution of the organization, dissolution will occur. All assets and debts of the organization will be handled by the acting treasurer at the time of dissolution. Student Activities staff will be contacted by the acting president at the time of dissolution about the dissolution.