

Constitution of INFORMS@OSU
Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences Student Chapter
The Ohio State University

Article I: Name, Purpose, Non-Discrimination, and Conflict of Interest Policies

1. **Name:** Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences (INFORMS) Student Chapter at The Ohio State University.
2. **Purpose:** To serve as the student chapter of INFORMS (<http://www.informs.org/>) at The Ohio State University and to serve as a forum to forge intellectual connections with faculty and professionals that lead to publications, job opportunities, consulting relationships, internships, and personal friendships.
 - a) Encourage interest in the field of operations research (OR) and the management sciences (MS),
 - b) Provide a means of communication among people having interest in OR/MS,
 - c) Provide an informal means of exchange about OR/MS educational programs and opportunities,
 - d) Provide an informal means of sharing information about the methods and techniques of OR/MS,
 - e) Present a forum of speakers who address OR/MS topics.
3. **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.”
4. **Conflict of Interest Policy:**

A conflict of interest is defined as any situation in which a person who influences decision making for INFORMS has an incentive to recommend or make decisions that are not in the best interest of INFORMS or the community served by INFORMS. The existence of an incentive is sufficient to establish a conflict of interest, even if no undue influence has been exerted.

Conflicts of interest should be avoided if possible by the person with a conflict being

replaced by another without conflict. If unavoidable, it must be disclosed to those with the authority to eliminate or mitigate the conflict.

Article II: Membership and Organization Leadership

Membership is limited to current students enrolled at The Ohio State University. Faculty, alumni, and professionals may become associate or honorary members (non-voting).

Membership Selection Process: Interested OSU students may become members by submitting a request via email to the Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee will confirm eligibility and add the student to the membership list within one week. Membership will be confirmed via a welcome message and an invitation to the next general meeting.

Executive Committee:

- Elected annually, open only to student members.
- **President:** Primary contact, resolves conflicts, 1-year term.
- **Vice President:** Assumes President's duties when absent, 1-year term.
- **Treasurer:** Manages finances, files reports, approves expenditures, 1-year term.
- **Webmaster:** Manages website.
- **Secretary:** Organizes meetings/events, keeps minutes, 1-year term.
- **Officers:** Assist leadership, often past execs for transition, 1-year term.

Officer Removal: An officer may be removed from their position under the following conditions:

- a) A formal complaint must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee detailing misconduct, neglect of duties, or behavior contrary to the chapter's mission.
- b) The President (or Vice President, if the President is the subject) shall call a special Executive Committee meeting to discuss the matter.
- c) The officer in question will be given at least 3 days' notice and the opportunity to respond in person or in writing.
- d) After hearing both sides, the Executive Committee will vote. A two-thirds majority vote is required for removal.
- e) The faculty advisor shall serve as an impartial observer and may mediate if necessary.

General Member Removal: A general member may be removed if their behavior is disruptive, violates the code of conduct, or is harmful to the Chapter's purpose. The process begins with a formal complaint to the Executive Committee. A hearing will be held at the next scheduled meeting. The member will be allowed to present a defense. After the member exits, a secret ballot vote will be conducted among Executive Committee members and present general members. A majority vote is required for removal.

Article III: Meetings

1. General meetings: Open to all members, scheduled by the Program Committee.
2. Election meeting: Held annually.
3. Executive Board meetings: Called by President, only Executive Board members attend.
4. At least two meetings annually, including one general meeting.
5. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern meetings.

Article IV: Amendments and Procedure

1. Amendments presented by Secretary, circulated 2 days before meeting, passed by 2/3 majority (with quorum), then submitted to INFORMS Subdivisions Council for approval.
2. Quorum: 5 members or 5
3. President (with faculty advisor) rules on procedures not in bylaws.

References:

- Handbook for Student Chapters: <https://www.informs.org/content/download/266538/2522716/file/Handbook%20for%20Student%20Chapters%202016%20UPDATED.pdf>