Global Medical Brigades – Ohio State University Constitution

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

**Section 1: Name**

Global Medical Brigades at the Ohio State University, affiliated with Global Brigades

which is an international nonprofit that works to support under resourced communities.

**Section 2: Purpose**

At Global Medical Brigades, a nonprofit organization, we empower aspiring healthcare

professionals to make a tangible impact in under-resourced communities across Central

America and West Africa. Our overall approach involves fundraising efforts to support

sustainable health systems and encourage personal and professional development, with funds contributing directly towards medical supplies, infrastructure development, and community health education initiatives. We educate our members on our multifaceted approach to understanding the complexities of health through analyzing political, socio-economical, historical facets that may be contributing to poor health outcomes. Our goal is to deepen our understanding of global health equity and empower communities around the world, one brigade at a time.

**Section 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.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Global Medical Brigades 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](mailto:titleIX@osu.edu).

***Article II – Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership***

Voting members are limited to those currently enrolled in The Ohio State University.

Faculty, alumni, professionals, and community members are encouraged to become

members but as non-voting associate members. Active members and the Executive

Board are able to make decisions regarding the membership of community and other

non-student members of an organization. Community or other non-student members can be suspended with a majority vote from the Executive Board.

Members of this organization are afforded benefits such as the opportunity to attend a

one-week international service trip, where they are able to shadow doctors, learn about

the logistics of running free clinics and host workshops about health and health equity.

Members are also able to collaborate with the executive board to host fundraisers, hear

from public health experts and expand their worldview.

***Article III – Method of Selecting Officers and Members***

The Executive Board will be appointed from the established voting members

by the previous Executive Board. Brigade attending members (only members who attend the brigade will be eligible for an executive board position) will be able to fill out an executive board application for any open positions: open positions will vary based on who on the outgoing Executive Board is keeping their current positions, who is graduating, and who in interested in leaving the executive board or applying for a new position. Members of the incumbent executive board are allowed to turn down their position for the next term, or apply for a new position within the board. The incumbent President and Vice President will look through written applications to determine who the most suitable applicants are for each position: additional interviews may be held in order to determine the best candidate if a conclusion cannot be reached via the written application. General members and appointed Executive Board Officers will be expected to maintain academic and professional standards as detailed by the Ohio State University.

Interested students can become a member of the organization through the following routes: reaching out via email or social media to indicate interest, attending general body meetings and mandatory information sessions throughout the semester. Students are confirmed as members once they have attended a minimum of 2 general body meetings and all mandatory information sessions. Brigade attending members and non-brigade attending members will be differentiated by who signs up for and attends the projected brigade trip for each academic year. There will be no formal interview process to decide who is able to sign up for the brigade: all members are welcome to sign up, so long as they are able to attend all mandatory meetings and make the required payments by each of the deadlines which will be communicated at the beginning of the semester leading up to the projected brigade trip.

***Article IV – Method of Removing Officers and Members***

If at any time a member, violates Global Brigade’s constitution, or violates the Code of

Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member will be

removed through a majority vote of the Executive Board, after seeking approval from our advisor. Depending on the severity of the offense, the Executive Board will consider

placing said member on probationary status for one year, but they will lose the

opportunity to attend the brigade. If after one year, the Executive Board and advisor

deems the member to be in compliance with the standards outlined, they may be

reinstated and have the opportunity to attend a future brigade. As stated, under no

circumstances will probationary members/Officers attend the brigade while on

probationary status. The Non-Discrimination Policy as detailed above protects members

from removal based on those listed statuses

Any member of the Executive Board of Global Brigades may be removed for the

violation of the constitution, failure to perform their tasks or attend a sufficient portion of

meetings, any behavior that is contradicts the purpose and values of this organization,

and violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or

local laws. The Executive Board member will be removed through a majority vote of the

Executive Board, after seeking approval from our advisor.

If 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 V – Organizational Leadership, Election / Selection of Organization Leadership, Executive Committee: Size and composition of the Committee***

All members of the incoming Executive Board will be elected or appointed voting

members by the outgoing Executive Board. Board members will hold office for one

calendar year with transition occurring in Spring Semester. Elections will be held at the

end of Fall Semester or the beginning of Spring Semester depending on what needs

arise. To be eligible for leadership, members must attend 75% of meeting per semester,

and play an active role in the organization’s attempts to successfully attend a brigade.

President/Brigade Coordinator – Head of the Executive Board. Responsible for

overseeing the leadership team, coordinating with Global Brigades national leadership

and in-country coordinators, and implementing final brigade plans. Will attend President

Training at the OSU union and complete all required Student Organization documentation annually. Will cosign the bank account with the Financial Chair. Will

organize meetings as needed.

Vice President – Responsible for assisting the President with administrative tasks, and

overseeing the recruitment of brigade attending members, both voting OSU students

and community members. Will be primary communication with the members.

Financial Chair – Responsible for opening and/or updating the group bank account.

Responsible for attending Treasurer Training at the OSU union and updating the EIN

number annually. Will cosign the bank account with the Brigade Coordinator. Will

oversee the fundraising opportunities with the rest of the Leadership Team. Will

document the amount fundraised by individual members. Responsible for ensuring that

all brigade costs for individual members (flight, in-country costs) are paid on the

empowered.org website, less the fundraised amount.

Outreach Chair – Responsible for overseeing the recruitment of physicians, both OSU

faculty and community members, to join the brigade. Will be primary communication with the physicians and other recruited medical professionals.

Education Chair – Responsible for designing the educational component of the brigade

to be implemented while in country. Will research the community which the brigade is

serving to know their individual needs, and assist the president in hosting seminars

about cultural humility, ethical engagement in service learning, and the decolonization of

public health, among other topics.

***Article VI – Meetings of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency***

The Leadership Team will meet biweekly and as needed throughout the year. The

general membership will meet at monthly in the Fall Semester and monthly in the Spring

Semester, as needed. Members are expected to attend and contribute to fundraisers

that occur outside of meeting time.

***Article VII – Attendees of Events of the Organization: Required events and their frequency***

Global Medical Brigades 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.

***Article VIII – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting***

***requirements***

Proposed amendments will be in writing, will not be acted upon but read in the general

meeting in which they are proposed, will be read again at the subsequent general

meeting and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. Approval will require

at least two-thirds of voting members present (and to conduct any business an

organization should have quorum present at a business meeting, which is at minimum

50% + 1 of total organization members).

***Article IX – Method of Dissolution of Organization***

If at any time the Leadership Team believes the organization to no longer be fulfilling its

purpose as outlined in the constitution or meeting the needs of the students of The Ohio

State University, it may be voted on and dissolved by the current voting members.

Approval will require at least two-thirds of voting members present at a meeting with

quorum achieved.

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