



The German Club at the Ohio State University

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be “The German Club at the Ohio State University”, also known as “der Deutsche Verein der Ohio State Universität”. The organization will be referred to as “German Club” throughout this Constitution.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

To aid the German Department in the propagation and edification of German language, culture, and arts as well as elevate them throughout the university, also to uphold the reputation of the Ohio State University in all endeavors.

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

The German Club at the Ohio State University agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination 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 basis in accordance with these guidelines.

Section B. Hazing

The German Club at the Ohio State University agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.

Section C. Bylaws

The German Club at the Ohio State University retains the right to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in these constitutional articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, The Ohio State University's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities Department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization's currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.



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ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Eligibility

All persons holding membership in the German Club as of the date of adoption of this constitution and all persons meeting the qualifications for membership as established in Section B below shall be members of the organization.

- A. Membership shall be open to any student enrolled in the Ohio State University with an interest in increasing their knowledge of German language and culture.
- B. No one shall be denied membership in this organization because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, disability age, or handicap.

Section B. Member Selection

To become a member of German Club, one must:

- 1. attend 1 monthly meeting per semester, or more than two meetings per semester
- 2. attend 1 non-weekly meeting event
- 3. pay dues once criteria (1) and (2) are fulfilled.

If dues are voluntarily paid before fulfillment of the first two criteria, membership is automatically granted. Those who become members and maintain this status will be considered “active status”.

Section C. Membership Timeline

Membership is open at all times on a rolling basis of the fall and spring semesters and can be attained at any point in this time range by completion of above eligibility and selection criteria in Sections A and B.

Section D. Member Removal

In the event that a German Club member is suspected to have (1) violated the rights of other members, (2) disrupted club events or activities, the executive board will undergo the established process below to consider removal of a member. If the member is found to have violated either (1) or (2), the member shall be barred from taking part in further club events.

The process for removal is as follows:

- 1. Evidence may be presented by any member of the German Club to the officers and advisor for the reason for removal.
- 2. The member suspected of the violation will be informed in writing of their charges and provided with an opportunity to defend themselves.
- 3. A meeting of the executive board will be held to vote on the removal.
- 4. A majority vote with a quorum of the active members or executive board must be met to remove the member.
- 5. Throughout this process, German Club’s advisor will be consulted for their advice on the removal process.

In the case of inactivity, the removal process is impermanent and is listed in German Club’s By-Laws.



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ARTICLE V: ADVISOR

Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities

The Faculty Advisor will act as chief liaison between The Ohio State University and the Executive Board of German Club. To fulfill this role, this person:

1. Completes advisor training every two years
2. Completes the anti-hazing training module available on BuckeyeLearn or through stophazing.osu.edu
3. Submits online approval of the organization's registration every year
4. Submits online approval of the organization's goals every year
5. Submit online approval of any Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Operating or Programming funds requests initiated by the organization's treasurer
6. Follows applicable laws, regulations, university rules, policies and guidelines
7. Attend in at least one weekly meeting to assist the German Club's objectives
8. Completes relevant reporting obligations.

Additionally, to assist in club functionality, the Advisor will:

1. Facilitate officer transition activities
2. Meet with organization leaders and mentors to discuss execution of club activities
3. Consult on the organization's budget
4. Assist with interpreting university policies and processes for student organizations
5. Share university information with members; and
6. Assist with the regular review of the student organization's purpose statement and governing documents to ensure they are current and appropriately reflect the organization's purpose goals and relationship with the department / unit where applicable.

Section B. Advisor Term

An advisor is expected to serve in their role for one year upon appointment, with the opportunity to be reappointed. In the case of late advisor selection due to a previous advisor's resignation or removal, a new advisor is expected to serve until the beginning of the following membership year begins at the start of Autumn semester.

Section C. Advisor Selection

An advisor will have formal connections to the German Club through partnership with the Ohio State University German Department. To be eligible, an Advisor must be a faculty member of this department and willing to provide their aid and advice to the German Club. The potential advisor should also be proficient in the German language to best assist in student language learning, as decided by organization leadership. Once a potential advisor is found, a supermajority, held with a quorum, of organization leadership must approve of the new Advisor.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

In the case that an Advisor resigns or is removed, a new Advisor shall be selected from the German Department within thirty days of the departure according to the eligibility requirements in Section C above.



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ARTICLE VI: ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

Section A. Officer Positions

The executive board will be comprised of the following officer positions and chairs to maintain

- A. President. The duties of the President shall be to:
 - 1. coordinate club activities and affairs
 - 2. preside over meetings
 - 3. act as or appoint delegates to represent the club at other functions
 - 4. arrange club activities
 - 5. raise community visibility
- B. Vice President. The duties of the Vice President shall be to:
 - 1. Take minutes at committee meetings
 - 2. Maintain membership records
 - 3. Aid the President in publicizing events among members and general public.
- C. Treasurer. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to:
 - 1. Collect member dues
 - 2. Oversee fundraisers
 - 3. Maintain financial records
- D. Communications Chair. The duties of the Communications Chair shall be to:
 - 1. Create a monthly newsletter for the club, sent by email.
 - 2. Communicate with members about upcoming events and scheduled activities and discuss member needs and requests.
- E. Social Events Chair. The duties of the Social Events Chair shall be to:
 - 1. Create posts on German Club's social media pages to raise community visibility
 - 2. Arrange non-weekly meetings and special events to emphasize German culture, such as restaurant visits
- F. Tutoring Chair. The duties of the Tutoring Chair shall be to:
 - 1. Arrange for members, officers, and graduate students to work as tutors through the club or through external organizations for members to learn German
 - 2. Discuss potential cooperation opportunities for tutoring between the club and the German department's established tutoring systems.

Section B. Officer Eligibility

- A. Any member of the German Club may be elected to the Executive Committee provided they are eligible for a leadership office as defined by the Student Organization and Activities Board.

These requirements are that the member is to be:

 - 1. An enrolled full-time Ohio State University student as defined by the student's college or school.
 - 2. Not on disciplinary probation as defined in the Code of Student Conduct, Rule 3335-29-03.
 - 3. In good academic standing.



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Section C. Officer Selection Process

Elections are to be performed in the following manner:

1. All members shall be notified of the election.
2. Up to three candidates for each office may run for a position, and each must be an active member.
3. One candidate shall be elected to each office by the majority of secret ballot of the active status membership present. Non-active status members receive no vote.

Section D. Officer Removal

A. Unfulfilled Duties.

In the event that an officer is found to be unable to fulfill the requirements of their appointed office, they will be notified by their peers in the executive committee of their failure to perform their duties. They will then be given a period of time, determined by those in the executive committee, to rectify the shortcomings for which they were implicated. If they are still found to be unable to fulfill their office at the end of this period, they shall be removed from their office. A new election may then be held according to Article VI, Section C.

B. Violation of Member Rights.

In the event that a German Club officer or chair (referred to here as an “officer”) is suspected to have violated (1) the rights of other members, (2) disrupted club events or activities, the executive board will undergo the established process below to consider removal of the officer. If the officer is found to have violated either criterion, the member shall be barred from taking part in further club events.

The process for removal is as follows:

1. Evidence may be presented by any member of the German Club to the officers, without the offending officer, and advisor for the reason for removal.
2. The officer suspected of the violation will be informed in writing of their charges and provided with an opportunity to defend themselves.
3. A meeting of the executive board, without the influence of the offending officer, will be held to vote on the removal.
4. A majority vote with a quorum of the active members or executive board must be met to remove the officer.
5. Throughout this process, German Club’s advisor will be consulted for their advice on the removal process.

ARTICLE VII: ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION

Section A. Dissolution Requirements

1. Voluntary Proposal of Dissolution.

- a. At any time, a member of the Executive Board may call a motion to make a voluntary proposal of dissolution.
- b. If a two-thirds majority of the executive board approves the motion, the proposal of dissolution will be accepted and the procedure outlined in Article VII.A.3 will be followed.

2. Automatic Proposal of Dissolution



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- a. If more than half of the members of the Executive Board resign without replacement within one semester, a proposal of dissolution will be made automatically and the procedure outlined in Article VII.A.3 will be followed.
3. Procedure for Proposals of Dissolution
 - a. In the event of a proposal of dissolution, all members will be advised of the proposed dissolution in writing at least two weeks before voting occurs, with reasoning provided.
 - b. A two-thirds majority of the members (a quorum being present) must vote in favor of the dissolution for it to be approved.
 - c. Upon approval, the Executive Board members are responsible for carrying out the Dissolution Procedures outlined in Article VII.B.

Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

Debts: In the event of dissolution while the club has outstanding debts, club funds will first be used towards payment.

1. If club funds are insufficient to cover all debts, the Executive Board may demand additional dues from members to cover the debts.
 - a. The Executive Board may only demand dues in the amount necessary to cover the debt.

Assets: In the event of a dissolution where debts have been paid and there are remaining assets, club assets will be divided according to the following procedures.

1. All club funds will be donated to the German Department specifically for funding of scholarships to allow more students to pursue German through awards and stipends.

ARTICLE VIII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- A. A proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be presented to the Executive Committee at least fifteen (15) days prior to its proposed adoption. Any executive officer may present an amendment; members who wish to make an amendment should discuss with an officer.
- B. The membership shall be notified of the proposed amendment, and a copy of the text shall be made available to all members at least seven (7) days prior to the consideration.
- C. After proposal, a supermajority of executive officers must be in favor of the proposed amendments to approve the change.
- D. Unless otherwise provided, all amendments shall take effect at the beginning of the membership year following their adoption.



The German Club at the Ohio State University

Date Constitution Adopted: 10/30/25

President
Saatvika Vyakaranam

Vice President
Jeremy Slywczak

Treasurer
Benjamin Brobst

Advisor
Barbara Heck