

Fellowship of Christian Optometrists

Student Organization Constitution

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Fellowship of Christian Optometrists

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

- To help optometrists and allied ophthalmic personnel become established in the type of mission work which combines eye care and the furtherance of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as described in Luke 24:47 and Acts 1:8. This is the primary purpose for which the organization was founded. All activities serve to support this central purpose.
- To promote, further, and maintain fellowship among optometrists and others in the ophthalmic professions who believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as recorded in Scriptures.
- To encourage one another in accordance with Ephesians 4:11-13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11-22.
- To foster handling of the Word in accordance with 2 Timothy 2:15
- To provide optometric and ophthalmic services for poor and needy persons in both the United States and foreign countries, on a charitable basis and not for pecuniary profit.
- To establish, maintain and operate educational training programs and clinics in optometry and allied ophthalmic fields for students of optometry and allied ophthalmic fields and who are members are affiliated with FCO, International.

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

FCO 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 the Student Organization Registration Guidelines.

Section B. Hazing

FCO 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

FCO 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 the previous 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 (CSA) 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.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Eligibility

Membership and participation in this organization is open to any Ohio State University College of Optometry student and faculty member.

Section B. Membership Selection Any

eligible member may join.

Section C. Membership Timeline

Eligible members may join at any time by joining the organization GroupMe.

Section D. Member Removal

1. If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization's constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization's advisor.

2. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The executive board members may act for removal if significant evidence (as seen above) is brought to their attention. The officer will be informed of the situation and will have one week to schedule a meeting with the executive board and advisor. At the conclusion of the meeting, the advisor and other members of the board will complete an anonymous vote. A majority will vote will be required to remove the officer and any tie breakers will be determined by the advisor.

3. In the event that 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. ADVISOR

Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities

Provides guidance, support, and mentorship to the club's leadership and members. The advisor provides invaluable support in maintaining the integrity of the club, offering both spiritual and professional advice to ensure the club fulfills its mission in a way that honors both God and the optometry profession.

Section B. Advisor Term

No limit.

Section C. Advisor Selection

Individual must be faculty or staff in The Ohio State College of Optometry. Advisor's goals must align with the FCO organization purpose outlined in Article II.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

Interested individuals must be willing and able to fulfil the Advisor Duties and Responsibilities outlined in Section A of Article V. If multiple individuals are interested the executive team will take a majority vote or may vote to have co-advisors. In this instant, the advisors would share the duties and responsibilities.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

Section A. Officer Positions

- Primary Leader (President): Responsible for leading the organization, setting goals, and ensuring its overall vision aligns with both the profession of optometry and Christian values. The president ensures that the club maintains a strong sense of community, purpose, and commitment to both the optometry profession and Christian faith.
- Secondary Leader (Vice President): Assists the president in leading the organization and plays a key role in ensuring the club's activities reflect both professional and Christian values. The secondary leader plays a vital role in ensuring smooth operation of the club while helping to create a supportive, faith-driven environment for members.
- Treasurer: Responsible for managing the club's finances and ensuring the financial health and accountability of the organization. The treasurer ensures that the club's resources are effectively managed, supporting the growth of the organization while maintaining financial integrity and alignment with the club's Christian mission.
- Bible Study Leader(s): Responsible for planning and leading frequent Bible Studies that align with the FCO foundational views. This individual plays a vital role in maintaining a safe and open space for members to explore their faith.
- Jamaica Trip Planner(s): Responsible for planning the annual service trip to Jamaica. This individual must work closely with the staff Mission of Sight to set up dates, travel and logistics of the trip.

Section B. Officer Eligibility

Must be a current student in The Ohio State College of Optometry. Individuals must be committed to upholding the Organizational Purpose outlined in Article II and the position responsibilities highlighted in Section A Article VI.

Section C. Officer Selection Process

1. Interested individuals may apply in April
2. Individuals will be interviewed by the current student in the role in which they wish to hold
3. Each candidate will write a small paragraph stating why they will be a good person for the role. These will be sent to and reviewed by all active members.
4. If needed, a majority vote will be sent out via online form

Section D. Officer Removal

Any discussions for officer removal will be held with the executive board members and organization advisor.

Possible reasons for removal (include, but not limited to):

- No longer active student in The Ohio State University College of Optometry
- No longer are able to support or uphold the Organizations purpose outlined in Article II
- No longer able to meet expected position responsibilities outlined in Article VI Section A
- Any violation to the University Regulations outlined in Article III

Article VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION Section

A. Dissolution Requirements

1. No Organization Advisor
2. No eligible executive board members

An anonymous vote will take place with any remaining members. A majority vote must be met to proceed with dissolution.

Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

1. Any debts will be handled by the current executive board while working with University faculty and staff
2. All remaining assets will be distributed to the National FCO Organization

Article VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendment Process

1. This constitution will be adopted with a general consensus of the leadership of the organization (or a two-thirds vote of the committed membership).
2. This constitution may be amended by a general consensus of the leadership of the organization (or a two-thirds vote of the committed membership), providing that no change is made in Article II and Article III.
3. Amendments to this constitution will not become valid until a copy of said amendment has been placed in the office of the OSU Student Union for the College of Optometry.

