

Global Medical Brigades - Ohio State University Constitution

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

- I. This organization will be known as Global Medical Brigades, or Global Medical Brigades Ohio State University Chapter.
- II. This organization goes by the acronym GMB, or GMB at Ohio State.
- III. This organization is associated with the Global Brigades organization.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

- I. 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

ARTICLE III. UNIVERISTY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

- I. *Global Medical Brigades 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

- I. *Global Medical Brigades 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

- I. *Global Medical Brigades 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

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Eligibility

- I. 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. 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 nonbrigade 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.

Section B. Member Selection

- I. 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 nonbrigade 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.

Section C. Membership Timeline

- I. Students can become members any time during the Spring and Summer semesters. Members can join in the fall semester before the payment deadline for plane tickets for the upcoming brigade. If members want to join after the plane ticket payment deadline, then they must contact the executive board for approval.
- II. Timeline
 - A. Members can reach to the club through social media, email, or attending an information session.

- B. Students are confirmed as members once they have attended a minimum of 2 general body meetings and all mandatory information sessions.

Section D. Member Removal

- I. 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

ARTICLE V. ADVISOR

Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities

The Advisor must satisfy the following requirements as required by the University:

- I. Complete advisor training every two years
- II. Complete the anti-hazing training module available on BuckeyeLearn or through stophazing.osu.edu
- III. Submit online approval of the organization's registration every year
- IV. Submit online approval of the organization's goals every year
- V. Submit online approval of any Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Operating or Programming funds requests initiated by the organization's treasurer
- VI. Follow applicable laws, regulations, university rules, policies and guidelines
- VII. Complete relevant reporting obligations

The Advisor must perform the following responsibilities as required by the GMB

- I. Ensure that GMB remains controlled and directed by student leaders in accordance with this constitution.
- II. Facilitate officer transitions.
- III. Mediate interpersonal conflict when asked to by the executive board.
- IV. Submit requests for University emailing and technology services

Section B. Advisor Term

- I. The advisor is expected to serve in their role for one year, with opportunity to be reappointed.

Section C. Advisor Selection

- I. A university faculty member must be contacted and then appointed by a member of the executive board. Once the faculty member is appointed, a simple majority vote will be taken by the executive board to confirm the faculty member as the advisor.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

- I. If at any time the advisor, 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 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board,
- II. If an advisor must be replaced, either through resignation or removal, the same process to select an advisor will take place as detailed in Article V. section C.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

Section A. Officer Positions

- I. 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.
- II. 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.
- III. Treasurer - 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
- IV. 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.
- V. 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
- VI. Social Media Chair - Responsible for keeping track of our social media platforms, informing students of our upcoming events or any information regarding our upcoming brigade. Will be primary communication between students and the executive board via Instagram, Groupie, or TikTok.

- VII. Fundraising Committee - responsible for organizing and leading efforts to raise money for the club's activities and initiatives. This includes planning and executing fundraising events, identifying potential donors or sponsors, and managing fundraising campaigns. The chair works to create strategies for securing financial support, whether through events, grants, donations, or other sources. They also track fundraising progress, manage budgets for fundraising initiatives, and ensure that funds are allocated properly. The fundraising chair collaborates with other club members and leadership to ensure that the fundraising efforts align with the club's goals and mission.
- VIII. Charla Committee - Members of the Charla Committee are responsible for researching health topics relevant to the community, developing age-appropriate and culturally sensitive educational materials, and creating engaging, interactive activities for both children and adults. Depending on the assigned topic, the committee brainstorms creative ways to teach health concepts through games, visuals, demonstrations, and discussion-based learning while fostering a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment. The committee also collaborates with clinic leaders to ensure that health information is accurate, accessible, and aligned with Global Medical Brigades' mission. Charla members play a key role in reinforcing patient education, promoting preventative care, and ensuring that learning during the brigade is both impactful and enjoyable.
- IX. Recruitment Chair - responsible for expanding the club's membership and fostering an inclusive, welcoming environment for current and prospective members. This role involves actively reaching out to students on and off campus, tabling at events, attending involvement fairs, and promoting meetings, events, and brigades through various channels.

Section B. Officer Eligibility

- I. 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.

Section C. Officer Selection Process

- I. All members of the incoming Executive Board will be elected or appointed voting members by the outgoing Executive Board via simple majority vote. 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.

Section D. Officer Removal

- I. 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 VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION

Section A. Dissolution Requirements

- I. 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

Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

- I. Once the organization is dissolved, the treasurer will use any organization assets to settle debts. Any assets remaining will be donated to an organization voted upon by the executive board.

ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- I. 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).