

Student Linguistics Association (SLA)

Student Organization Constitution

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be Student Linguistic Association. The acronym SLA will be used in both official and unofficial contexts to refer to the organization. The SLA is a student organization affiliated with the Department of Linguistics at The Ohio State University.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

The Student Linguistic Association is the official organization representing graduate students in the Department of Linguistics at The Ohio State University. The SLA supports the academic, professional, and social development of linguistics graduate students and facilitates communication and collaboration between students and faculty.

The SLA coordinates graduate student participation in departmental committees each year, including committees such as Mentoring, Community Outreach, and Social Events, ensuring fair distribution of service. It also supports academic and professional development by contributing to conference and event organization. In particular, SLA members collaborate with graduate students at the University of Kentucky in planning and running the Central Kentucky Linguistics Conference (CKLiC), which serves as a joint venue for student research and interdepartmental collaboration.

Also, the organization works closely with the department and the faculty advisor to help plan the annual Prospective Student ("Prospie") Weekend, welcoming prospective students and representing the graduate community.

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

The Student Linguistic Association *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

The Student Linguistic Association *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 Student Linguistic Association 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

Any graduate student at The Ohio State University who is enrolled in the Department of Linguistics or a related program, or who has a demonstrated interest in linguistics, is eligible for membership in the Student Linguistic Association.

Section B. Member Selection

To become a member, a student must (1) Contact an officer to express interest, and (2) provide their name and contact information for inclusion in the SLA communication list.

Section C. Membership Timeline

Eligible students may join at any time during the academic year.

Section D. Member Removal

Members may be removed for conduct detrimental to the organization or violation of university policies, following a discussion among the officers and advisor and a majority vote of the executive committee.

ARTICLE V. ADVISOR

Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities

The faculty advisor shall serve as a resource person providing advisory support to SLA officers and members. In addition to ensuring that SLA operates in compliance with university policies, the advisor provides institutional continuity, supports departmental coordination, and offers guidance on financial and academic matters relevant to the SLA's mission.

Section B. Advisor Term

The advisor shall serve a one-year term, renewable annually by mutual agreement between the Department of Linguistics and the SLA Executive Committee.

Section C. Advisor Selection

At the beginning of each academic year, the SLA Executive Committee will discuss potential faculty members to serve as advisor. Members may nominate any eligible faculty member in the Department of Linguistics. After nominations are finalized, the Executive Committee will vote to select one nominee. A simple majority vote of the Executive Committee is required to confirm the advisor. The selected nominee will then be contacted by the President to confirm willingness to serve. Once the nominee accepts, the appointment will be communicated to the Department of Linguistics for record-keeping and approval.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

If the advisor resigns, becomes unavailable, or fails to fulfill their duties, the SLA Executive Committee will notify the Department of Linguistics and initiate the replacement process. The Committee will solicit nominations from among eligible faculty, discuss the candidates, and vote to select a new advisor by simple majority. The President will then reach out to confirm the nominee's willingness to serve. Upon confirmation, the Department of Linguistics will be informed of the transition.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

Section A. Officer Positions

The President serves as the official liaison between graduate students and faculty within the Department of Linguistics. The President is responsible for calling and presiding over SLA meetings, coordinating the assignment of student office space within the department, and representing graduate students at departmental faculty meetings with voting rights. The President also oversees SLA's collaboration with the University of Kentucky for the Central Kentucky Linguistics Conference (CKLiC), maintaining communication between the two universities, forming and supervising SLA subcommittees for CKLiC, and ensuring all aspects of the collaboration are carried out effectively.

The Vice President assists the SLA faculty advisor in planning events for the Spring Recruitment ("Prospie") Weekend. The Vice President also presides over SLA meetings in the absence of the President.

The Treasurer maintains all organizational records, including meeting minutes and financial documentation. The Treasurer is also responsible for submitting reports as requested by the Executive Committee and ensuring continuity in administrative materials.

Section B. Officer Eligibility

Only currently enrolled graduate students in the Department of Linguistics are eligible to serve as officers.

Section C. Officer Selection Process

Officer elections are held at the first general meeting of the fall semester. Any SLA member may nominate another member (who is a member of the Department of Linguistics) or nominate themselves if they are a member of the Department of Linguistics. Nominations are taken openly during the meeting.

After nominations close, all members present participate in an open vote by show of hands. The candidate receiving a simple majority of votes is elected to the position. In the event of a tie, a second round of voting will be held immediately. Newly elected officers assume their duties at the conclusion of the election meeting.

Section D. Officer Removal

Officers may be removed for neglect of duties, misconduct, or violation of the constitution. A written request for removal must be submitted to the Executive Committee, after which the officer in question will be notified and given the opportunity to respond. A meeting of the SLA membership will then be called to discuss and vote on the removal. Removal requires a two-thirds majority of members present. The advisor will be consulted during the process. Vacancies resulting from removal or resignation are filled by a special election within three weeks.

ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION

Section A. Dissolution Requirements

A motion for dissolution may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by petition of one-third of active members. A two-week notice is required before the dissolution vote. Dissolution requires approval by a two-thirds majority of voting members.

Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

Upon dissolution, the Executive Committee shall inventory all assets and debts. Available assets shall be used first to satisfy outstanding obligations. If debts exceed assets, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Department of Linguistics, will develop a written repayment plan that may include fundraising, seeking donations, or other lawful means of debt resolution. This plan must be approved by both the Executive Committee and the Department. If assets exceed debts, all remaining funds shall be transferred to the Department of Linguistics to support graduate student initiatives. The SLA shall not leave any unresolved debts to The Ohio State University or its entities.

ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendment Process

Any SLA member in good standing may propose amendments to this constitution. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee and distributed to all members at least one week before voting. Approval requires a two-thirds majority of members present at a general meeting.