

CONSTITUTION

of the

INTER-PROFESSIONAL  
COUNCIL

Updated: February 1, 2009, MCS

## MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Inter-Professional Council being those professional students of The Ohio State University elected and appointed by our peers, with our authority derived from the professional student body and recognized by the faculty, staff, and administration of this university, dedicate ourselves to the betterment of higher education and student life at The Ohio State University. We hereby promise to be accessible to the professional students, remain sensitive to the concerns of all undergraduate and graduate students, and to be a voice for professional issues. Therefore, the Inter-Professional Council at The Ohio State University charges itself with creating and maintaining an environment for the promotion of student excellence.

## PREAMBLE

In the belief that students have the right, as well as the obligation, to play a significant role in guiding their university, and in the belief that a democratic student government is the best manner through which this role may be played, we, the professional students of The Ohio State University, hereby create this government, to be called the Inter-Professional Council of The Ohio State University.

With its authority derived from the professional student body and its existence recognized by the faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees of this university, the Inter-Professional Council will institute programs for the betterment and enrichment of the university community, as well as express the opinions of students on any and all issues that are of concern to them. We acknowledge that responsibilities are necessary complements to rights and authority. Every student and student organization must respect the rights of other members of the university community. Each student shall use appropriate channels when exercising individual rights pertaining to the educational community. The academic and civic integrity of the institution must be upheld by all who play a significant role in university affairs.

The Inter-Professional Council reserves the right to pass and enforce such legislation pertaining to its election proceedings as authorized by the student body of The Ohio State University and limit election practices equally among all candidates for Inter-Professional Council offices as deemed necessary by the Student Assembly for purposes of fair elections to the offices within student government, up to and including economic limits for campaigning for these offices.

## BILL OF RIGHTS

1. We recognize the right of every student to consideration in all matters by the university without reference to race, national origin, religious creed, political belief, age, sex, or sexual orientation.
2. We recognize the right to protection from unreasonable, unauthorized, or illegal search, seizure or detention.
3. We recognize the right of every student to live wherever they may choose and in doing so incur no substantive loss of privileges. This right is subject to:
  - a. Rules approved by the Council of Student Affairs, and
  - b. The present financial pledge by the university to make possible the erection and operation of student residence halls.
4. We recognize the right of students to conduct research freely, to publish, discuss and exchange findings and recommendations and to have access to all library materials subject to library operational rules

5. We recognize the right of students to petition through proper channels for the amendment of regulations, the redress of grievances, and the changing of university policies.
6. We recognize:
  - a. The right of students to form organizations and hold meetings;
  - b. The right of any academically qualified students to hold office in an organization without university regulation;
  - c. The right to establish an office on or off campus, subject to space availability (incurring no substantive loss of privileges due to choice of quarters); and
  - d. The right to use university facilities, subject to space availability and reasonable procedural and financial regulations.
  - e. The right of students to establish and elect a democratic student government which shall be autonomous in those areas concerning the student population of the campus community. This government shall be represented at all levels of university planning. We further recognize the right of all student to effective and equitable representation in the legislature of these governments.
7. Any recognized student organization has the right to use the university name in its title upon presentation of a complete list of officers and affidavit of student membership. An organization which has lost its faculty advisor has the right to continue using the University name for a reasonable period of time while still active.
8. We recognize the right of every student and of every student organization to a clear and precise written statement of the university rights and responsibilities to be set forth in a Code of Student Conduct to be revised annually.
9. We recognize the right of every student or group of students to propose to the Council of Student Affairs new rules, or changes in the present rules, which shall be given fair and impartial consideration by that Council.
10. We recognize the right of every student organization and living unit by democratic process to place upon its members additional rules within the framework of the rules set forth in the Code of Student Conduct.
11. We recognize the right of every student and student organization to due process. This right includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. The right to formal notice of specific charges before any hearing or trial,
  - b. The right to a fair and open hearing,
  - c. The right to confront and cross-examine testifying witnesses,
  - d. The right to be informed before any hearing or trial that the defendant's statements may be used against him/her, and
  - e. The right to request the services of tenured members of the university faculty or a student defender as an advisor.
12. We recognized the right of every student and recognized student organization to generate their opinions and beliefs, and to circulate petitions with full protection from the maintenance and political beliefs by the university.
13. We recognize the right of every student organization to solicit funds, to distribute literature, and to invite the campus speakers of their choice, speaking on subjects of their choice, subject to established procedure and statutory requirements. Reasonable regulations for the solicitation of funds may be imposed by living area governments.
14. We recognize the right of every student and student organization to engage in any off-campus activity so long as the student organization does not claim to represent the university.
15. We recognize the right of students and student organizations to maintain and distribute newsletters and other means of general communication, free of censorship, but subject to statutory limitations imposed on all publications by the State of Ohio. Any such publication within the university community supported wholly or in part by student fees should offer all student organizations equal opportunities to advertise and publicize their activities.

16. We recognize the right of every instructor to maintain order and high academic standards in his/her classes, laboratories, and offices. Unreasonable disciplinary action on the part of a faculty member may be appealed to the department chair, and if necessary and reasonably warranted, to the dean of the college, to the Provost, to the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and ultimately, to the courts.
17. The enumeration of certain rights herein shall not be construed as to nullify or limit any other rights possessed by students.

### Article I: The Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch of the Inter-Professional Council shall consist of a Senate, which shall be the official representative of the professional student body.

#### A. Powers

The Senate shall be empowered to:

- 1) Recommend action and express opinion on behalf of the professional student body in all areas of student life, legislate in all areas of student life, and to legislate in all areas of student interest not directly delegated to other governmental organization by the student body, the university administration or the Board of Trustees.
- 2) Require and receive written, biannual reports from all students serving on university wide committees, Inter-Professional committees, and the Cabinet. These reports shall be filed at the Inter-Professional Council office.
- 3) Establish such temporary and standing committees that are required in order to study legislation and issues affecting the professional student body.
- 4) Impeachment and/or censure of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Chief of Staff, Senators, Justices, and professional students on university wide committees.
- 5) Ratify the budget
- 6) Overturn a Presidential veto with a 2/3 vote of the Senate

#### B. Senators

- 1) The Senate shall have the designated number of Senators popularly elected within each individual college for one year terms from the following constituencies:

Dentistry	(5)
Law	(5)
Medicine	(5)
Optometry	(5)
Pharmacy	(5)
Veterinary Medicine	(5)

- 2) All college senators and justices must be enrolled in the college they are representing for the entire term of representation
- 3) Voting Senators shall have all powers of speech, debate, and voting, including the right to introduce motions, and introduce and sponsor legislation.

#### C. University Senate

- 1) The President shall present both a written and oral report of the activities of the Inter-Professional Council to the University Senate as a whole whenever requested. Moreover, this report is to be published, and available to all professional students.
- 2) Each constituency represented by an elected seat on the Senate shall have or share one seat on the University Senate.

#### D. Meetings

Senate meetings shall be held once per month during Autumn, Winter, and Spring Quarters. The Vice President, acting as chair of the Senate, has the power to call a meeting at any time.

E. Removal/Replacement

- 1) If a student senator or justice fails to take his/her obligation seriously and does not attend two consecutive meetings, or three meetings within the academic year the senator or justice may be replaced by an appropriate representative from the same college.
- 2) If a senator qualifies for removal or replacement, they shall be notified at least 14 days in advance to submit an explanatory statement to the senate which will be presented at the next senate meeting for a vote.
- 3) The Senate will review the statement and vote with 2/3 majority required for removal
- 4) In the event of a vacancy a senator without another member from that constituency the president shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a new senator or justice to the seat from the appropriate constituency.
- 5) Any person succeeding to an elected seat shall hold that seat until the end of the regular time.

F. Quorum

One-half of the total number of senators shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Senate. Vacant seats shall not be counted in determining quorum.

G. Collective Bargaining

The Senate shall be recognized as the agent of the professional students to any collective bargaining contract subject to the limits imposed by federal or state law.

## Article II: The Executive Branch

A. President

- 1) The President shall be elected annually by majority vote of the outgoing senate and shall serve as its chief executive and spokesperson.
- 2) The President shall have the power to:
  - a. Hold an ex-officio seat on the Senate with no voting rights
  - b. Appoint the Chief of Staff and Internal Committee Chairs with approval of the Executive Committee
  - c. Remove from office any appointed Cabinet members or administrative assistants that are not fulfilling their responsibilities
  - d. Hold a non-voting seat on the University Senate
  - e. Serve as a voting professional representative on the University Senate Steering Committee
  - f. Have oversight of one IPC Internal Committee
  - g. Veto legislation as approved by the Senate
- 3) The responsibilities of the President shall include:
  - a. Chair meetings of the Cabinet, or designate someone to serve as Chair
  - b. Direct and advise all other appointed and elected executive officials
  - c. Schedule and preside over monthly general body meetings of the Inter-Professional Council
  - d. Serve on the Board of Trustees Selection Committee or chair it as needed.
  - e. Attend all other meetings as requested on behalf of IPC

B. Vice President

- 1) The Vice President shall be elected annually by majority vote of the outgoing Senate and shall serve as its secondary executive and spokesperson.
- 2) The Vice President shall have the power to:
  - a. Serve as President in the case of the death, impeachment, or resignation of the President.

- b. Hold an ex-officio seat on the Senate with full voting rights and Chair the Senate.
- c. Initiate legislation for a Senate vote on behalf of the Executive Committee
- d. Hold a non-voting seat on the University Senate
- e. Serve on the Board of Trustees Selection Committee
- f. Have oversight of one IPC Internal Committee
- 3) The responsibilities of the Vice President shall include:
  - a. Receive and safely keep funds of the Inter-Professional Council and pay out same, serving as treasurer.
  - b. Prepare and submit audits of IPC banking once after Autumn and once after Spring Quarter.
  - c. Coordinate the activities between the Inter-Professional Council and the professional schools, including elections and social events.
  - d. Serve as the professional student representative on Athletic Council.
  - e. Serve as one of the professional student representatives on the Council of Student Affairs.
  - f. Engage all speakers for General Body or Senate meetings.
  - g. Attend all meetings when the president is unable as a full alternate with voting privileges in his/her place.

#### C. Cabinet

- 1) The Cabinet shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Chief of Staff, and IPC Internal Committee Chairs.
- 2) The Cabinet shall advise the President and recommend programs, and be responsible for the execution of programs ordered by the President.
- 3) The Cabinet shall meet at the discretion of the President.
- 4) Cabinet Directors shall have responsibility for the internal organization of their offices or committees.
- 5) Cabinet Members shall be responsible for the filling of quarterly reports with the President

#### D. Secretary

- 1) The Secretary shall be elected annually by majority vote of the outgoing Senate.
- 2) The Secretary shall have the power to:
  - a. Have oversight of one IPC Internal Committee
  - b. Serve on the Cabinet and take part in all executive decisions
- 3) The responsibilities of the Secretary shall include:
  - a. Monthly email to professional student body summing up events for that month on or off campus that would be of interest.
  - b. Minutes for General Body Meetings. These minutes must be posted on the webpage no later than two weeks after the meeting date.
  - c. Track General Body Meeting attendance. The Secretary shall bring to attention of the Executive Committee any delegate who has missed two or more meetings without an excuse.
  - d. Send email reminders to the delegates of upcoming meeting dates and IPC events.
  - e. Send email reminders to the professional student body of upcoming General Body Meetings and other IPC events
  - f. Send out Thank You notes to invited speakers and guests and other notes, invitations, and greetings as needed.
  - g. Prepare an agenda for all General Body Meetings.

#### F. Chief of Staff

- 1) The Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the President
- 2) The Chief of Staff shall have the power to:
  - a. Appoint representatives to university wide committees

- b. Bring to the attention of the President and Vice President senators and representatives to university wide committees that are not attending their meetings
    - c. Serve on the Cabinet and take part in all executive decisions
  - 3) The responsibilities of the Chief of Staff shall include:
    - a. Compile quarterly reports to the Senate and General Body of university wide issues currently in committee that are important in the professional student body
    - b. Notify the Vice President of issues in committee that may be important for IPC to address.
    - c. Maintain contact with university wide committee chairs and serve as a liaison between them and IPC.

#### G. Chain of Command

- 1) In the event of the resignation, death, or impeachment of the President, the Vice President shall succeed to the Presidency. The Vice President, after succession to the Presidency, shall select a new Vice President, whose appointment must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.
- 2) In the event of the resignation, death, or impeachment of both the President and Vice President, the Chief of Staff shall succeed to the Presidency. The Chief of Staff, after succession to the Presidency, shall select a new Vice President, whose appointment must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.
- 3) If the Chief of Staff refuses the office of President, or there is a vacancy in the office of Chief of Staff, shall take nominations from within that body and shall elect within eight days, a President and Vice President.
- 4) If there is no member of the Senate who will take the office of President and Vice President, or an election is deadlocked, then the Senate reserves the right to elect Professional students from outside the Senate to the office of President and Vice President.
- 5) In the event of the resignation, death or impeachment of the Vice President, the President shall select a new Vice President, whose appointment must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.
- 6) Any person succeeding to an elected seat shall hold that seat until the end of the term.

### Article III: The Judicial Panel

#### A. Selections

- 1) Six Justices shall be selected, one from each college amongst the delegates chosen from that college to serve on IPC, and shall take office not later than five weeks into Fall Quarter.
- 2) The term of office shall be one year
- 3) In the absence of an selected justice, the President may appoint a justice which must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.

#### B. Duties and Responsibilities

- 1) The Judicial Branch serves as an oversight body for the senate and IPC and is therefore a non-voting position.
- 2) The Judicial Panel shall select from amongst themselves a Chief Justice.
- 3) Each panel Justice shall have one vote.
- 4) Quorum shall consist of 3 panel Justices.
- 5) The Judicial Branch shall be responsible for assurance that IPC is in compliance with its constitution and shall therefore be responsible for recommending changes of the constitution to the Senate as needed.
- 6) The Justices shall review the IPC budget and operating expenditures quarterly.
- 7) The Judicial panel shall be responsible for reviewing all cases brought to them.

- 8) The Justices shall have control over the Professional Development Fund including guidelines, application creation and revision, application screening, and award decisions within the limits of the Standing Rules of the Professional Development Fund.
- 9) The Judicial Panel is in charge of reviewing the IPC Constitution annually and presenting any required amendments to the Senate no later than the last meeting of Winter Quarter.

#### C. Procedures for Case Review

- 1) The Panel must thoroughly investigate the case, securing all relevant information in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.
- 2) Panel must deliberate and render a decision on a preponderance of the evidence.
- 3) The Panel must apply the Constitution and Organization Election Bylaws as written.
- 4) The Panel must reach a conclusion supported by evidence.
- 5) The Panel must impose sanctions commensurate with the nature of the violation of this constitution.
- 6) A Panel Justice will relinquish his/her seat during a case in which a conflict of interest arises; in such a case, the empty justice will remain vacant as long as quorum is secured.
- 7) If a quorum is not secured due to conflicts of interest and other extenuating circumstances, the case will be considered an appellate case and will be referred to University Court for adjudication.

#### D. Jurisdiction

- 1) The Judicial Panel will have original jurisdiction over all alleged violations of the Constitution and Organizational Bylaws of the Inter-Professional Council.
- 2) The Judicial Panel, or its designee, will have jurisdiction on any or all alleged violations of the Election Bylaws.

#### E. Adjudication Process

- 1) The member of the Inter-Professional Council in question (hereinafter referred to as Member) will have been notified by the Chair of the Judicial Panel in writing of the alleged violation at least seven days in advance of any Judicial Panel proceeding. The Judicial Panel will convene no less than seven, but within fourteen days of receipt of the alleged violation, unless there is an immediate threat of harm. The Chief Justice has primary procedural control of the hearing. The member may respond in writing to the alleged violation. The member will have the opportunity to present evidence on the member's behalf to the Judicial Panel. The member may make an oral testimony in the member's defense and answer any questions from the Judicial Panel at least twenty-four hours in advance of the Judicial Panel proceedings. The Judicial Panel reserves the right to limit witness testimony so long as the accused has reasonable opportunity to explain the allegation. All Judicial Panel proceedings will be recorded for the purpose of appeal only. The Judicial Panel reserves the right to establish those policies and procedures heretofore not expressed.
- 2) In closed session, with the member not present, the member will be found in violation or not in violation of the Constitution or Organizational or Election Bylaws.
- 3) If the member is found in violation, mitigating circumstances will be considered at this time.
- 4) Prohibitive areas such as the following are not to be considered during the sanction process:
  - a. voting behavior,
  - b. personality,
  - c. sex, race, religion, or any other characteristics which the university identifies in its non-discrimination policy, or

- d. involvement in activities outside of the Inter-Professional Council.
- 5) Upon consideration of the mitigating circumstances, the member who has been found in violation will be sanctioned by the Judicial Panel. A two-thirds vote is necessary to accept the sanction.

#### F. Opinions

The Judicial Panel must submit its written opinion of the case or interpretation in question no later than three weeks from its receipt by the Chair of the Judicial Panel. Opinions or excerpts wherefrom may be released only on a need to know basis in consultation with the advisor of the Inter-Professional Council.

#### G. Appeal

Members of the Inter-Professional Council can appeal the decision of the Judicial Panel to the University Court only if: new facts are introduced, there is a violation of the due process rights of the accused, there is a procedural error or a Justice of the University Court has received notification for appeal no later than seven days from the original decision. The last instance, the University Court will serve as the final level of appeal.

#### H. Impeachment, Censure or Removal of Members of the Judicial

- 1) In the event that a member of the Judicial Panel be accused of a Violation of the Constitution, or Organizational or Election Bylaws:
  - a. The member shall relinquish the member's seat on the Judicial Panel from receipt of notice of alleged violation until completion of the judicial proceedings. These Judicial proceedings will be administered by the University Court.
  - b. In the event that the accused member is found in violation, the member must permanently relinquish the member's position.
- 2) Replacement of a removed Justice can occur by general election within the necessary college or can be an appointment by the President with ratification of the Senate.
- 3) Replacement should occur within two weeks

### Article IV: Recall and Impeachment

The President or Vice President may be recalled by a majority vote of the student body. Such an election shall be called by the submission of a petition for such an election, containing the number of signatures of one-third of the professional student body and the approval of two-thirds of the Senate. A Senator may be recalled by a majority vote of the representatives constituency in a recall election. Such an election shall be called by the submission of a petition for such an election, containing the signatures of one-third of the professional students in the representatives constituency.

### Article V: Bylaws

#### A. Bylaws

- 1) A set of Organizational Bylaws shall be established.
- 2) A set of Election Bylaws shall be established.
- 3) These Bylaws may be established and amended by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

### Article VI: Amendment Procedures

This Constitution may only be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. In order for the Constitution to be amended changes must be suggested at one meeting prior to the call of a vote.

Article VII: Term of Office

- A. The terms of office for the voting Senators shall be one year, starting the 1st day of May.
- B. The term of office for the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Chief of Staff shall be one year, starting the 1st day of May.