

CONSTITUTION of the INTER-PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL

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MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Inter-Professional Council (IPC) 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, IPC 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, IPC 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.

IPC 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 IPC 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, color, ability, gender identity or expression, national origin, religious creed, political belief, age, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy or family status, medical condition, or veteran status.
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);
 - d. The right to use university facilities, subject to space availability and reasonable procedural and financial regulations; and
 - 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 students 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 that 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

- A. The Legislative Branch of IPC shall consist of a Senate, which shall be the official representative of the professional student body. The Senate shall be empowered to:
1. Pass legislation on behalf of the professional student body in all areas of student life and in all other areas of student interest that are not directly and solely delegated to other governmental organizations by the student body, the university administration, or the Board of Trustees;
 2. Require and receive reports from all members of IPC regarding any business conducted on behalf of IPC. These reports shall be preserved by IPC;
 3. Establish temporary and standing committees as necessary in order to study legislation and issues affecting the professional student body;
 4. Remove or censure the President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, other executive officers, Chief Justice, Senators, Justices, and professional students on university-wide committees;
 5. Ratify the budget; and
 6. Overturn a Presidential veto with a two-thirds vote of the Senate.
- B. Senators
1. The Senate shall have the designated number of senators popularly elected within each individual college from the following constituencies:

Dentistry	(8)(8)
Law	(8)(8)
Medicine	(8)(8)
Optometry	
Pharmacy	
Veterinary Medicine	
 2. All college senators must be enrolled in the college they are representing for the entire term of representation.
 3. Senators shall hold their offices during good behavior. Good behavior shall include, but not be restricted to, fulfilling all duties and obligations set forth in IPC's Constitution and Bylaws, and all relevant student codes of conduct.
 4. Each Senate delegation shall designate a Lead Senator from among the senators of that delegation. The Lead Senator shall fulfill all duties and obligations set forth in IPC's Constitution and Bylaws. Failure to do so will constitute cause for relieving that senator of Lead Senator status by majority affirmation of that respective Senate delegation.
 5. Only six senators from each college may vote on matters before the IPC Senate, except in instances where voting is controlled by the Election Bylaws. In such instances, all senators are entitled to vote. The Lead Senator shall determine which six senators shall cast votes in all other matters.
 6. Senators shall have all powers of speech, and debate, including the right to introduce motions, and introduce and sponsor legislation.
- C. The President shall present a report of the activities of IPC to the University Senate as a whole whenever requested. Moreover, this report is to be published and available to all professional students.

- D. Senate meetings shall be held at least four times a semester during the Fall and Spring semesters. The President, acting as chair of the Senate, has the power to call additional Senate meetings at any time. The Executive Committee shall provide senators at least forty-eight-hours notice prior to holding any additional meetings.
- E. Removal/Replacement
1. If a senator fails to fulfill their duties and obligations, as set forth in the IPC Constitution and Bylaws, the senator may be replaced by an appropriate representative from the same college.
 2. For any removal proceeding, senators shall be entitled to due process and shall be tried by the means set forth in the Organizational Bylaws.
 3. In the event of a vacancy of a senator seat that goes unfilled by the Lead Senator and appropriate Senate delegation, the President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a new senator to the seat from the appropriate constituency.
 4. Any person succeeding to an elected seat shall hold that seat until the end of the regular term. At the end of the regular term, that person shall be eligible for consecutive terms as per Section VII of this Constitution.
- F. Quorum for all Senate votes shall be two-thirds of all voting members, or 24 voting members. Quorum for votes controlled by the Election Bylaws shall be dictated by those Bylaws.
- G. The Senate shall be recognized as the agent of the professional students to any collective bargaining contract subject to relevant state and federal laws.

Article II: The Executive Branch

- A. The Executive Branch shall be led by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Advisory Group. The Executive Branch shall consist of the Executive Committee and the Cabinet.
1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Chief of Staff, Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs, and other members appointed by the President.
 - a. The President, Executive Vice President, and Secretary shall be elected by the Senate in accordance with the Election Bylaws. All other executive positions shall be appointed by the President and ratified by a simple majority of the Executive Committee. The President shall, in good faith, work to ensure that all six colleges are considered for appointed executive positions.
 - b. The Executive Committee shall meet prior to each Senate meeting or at the President's discretion.
 - c. On the recommendation of the President, the Executive Committee shall have the power to create, alter, or dissolve any internal committee by majority vote, except for committees established by the legislative power.
 - d. The Executive Committee shall have the power to set and amend the Senate calendar. The Executive Committee may schedule additional Senate meetings.
 2. The Advisory Group shall consist of the Advisor and the Executive Committee.

3. The Cabinet shall be led by the Executive Committee and include the Chief Justice, IPC Internal Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs, and all general members.
 - a. The Cabinet shall advise the President and recommend programs, and be responsible for the execution of programs ordered by the President.
 - b. The Cabinet shall meet at the discretion of the President.
 - c. Internal Committee Chairs shall have responsibility for the internal organization of their offices or committees.
 - d. General members are any non-senator members of IPC.

B. President

1. The President shall be elected annually by a simple majority of the Senate and in accordance with IPC's Election Bylaws. The President shall serve as IPC's chief executive and spokesperson.
2. The President shall have the power to:
 - a. Hold an ex-officio seat on the Senate with no right to introduce legislation or vote absent a tie;
 - b. Chair the Senate;
 - c. Exercise their discretion in breaking ties on legislative votes that do not involve appointments or elections;
 - d. Appoint the Chief of Staff, Vice President of Inter-Governmental Affairs, other executive committee members, and Internal Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs with approval of the Executive Committee;
 - e. Remove from office any appointed Cabinet members or administrative assistants that are not fulfilling their responsibilities;
 - f. Hold a non-voting seat on the University Senate; g. Call Cabinet and Executive Committee meetings;
 - h. Serve as a voting professional representative on the University Senate Steering Committee; and
 - i. Veto legislation approved by the Senate.
3. The responsibilities of the President, or their designee, shall include:
 - a. Chairing meetings of the Cabinet;
 - b. Directing and advising all other appointed and elected executive officials;
 - c. Scheduling and presiding over regular Senate meetings of IPC;
 - d. Serving on the Board of Trustees Selection Committee, or chair it as needed;
 - e. Attending all other meetings as requested on behalf of IPC;
 - f. Overseeing periodic review of the Organizational and Election bylaws and proposing amendments as needed before the Senate; and
 - g. Organizing an orientation for new senators prior to the first meeting.

C. Executive Vice President

1. The Executive Vice President shall be elected annually by a simple majority of the Senate and in accordance with IPC's Election Bylaws. The Executive Vice President shall serve as IPC's secondary executive, chief financial officer, and spokesperson.
2. The Executive Vice President shall have the power to:
 - a. Serve as President in the event that the President is unable to fulfill their duties of office;
 - b. Hold an ex-officio seat on the Senate with full voting rights;

- c. Initiate legislation for a Senate vote on behalf of the Executive Committee;
- d. Hold a non-voting seat on the University Senate; and e.
- Serve on the Board of Trustees Selection Committee.
- 3. The responsibilities of the Executive Vice President, or their designee, shall include:
 - a. Receiving and safely keeping funds of IPC by serving as treasurer;
 - b. Preparing and submitting audits of IPC banking once a semester or upon request by the Senate;
 - c. Coordinating the activities between IPC and the professional colleges, including elections and social events;
 - d. Serving as the ex-officio Chair of the Resolutions Committee; e.
 - Serving as the Elections Chair as per IPC's Election Bylaws;
 - f. Serving as the professional student representative on the Athletic Council;
 - g. Serving as one of the professional student representatives on the Council of Student Affairs;
 - h. Engaging all speakers for Senate meetings; and
 - i. Attending all meetings when the President is unable as a full alternate with voting privileges in their place.

D. Secretary

- 1. The Secretary shall be selected annually in accordance with IPC's Election Bylaws. 2. The Secretary shall have the power to serve on the Cabinet and take part in all executive decisions.
- 3. The responsibilities of the Secretary shall include:
 - a. Recording the minutes from Senate meetings;
 - b. Tracking Senate meeting attendance and senator participation;
 - c. Sending reminders to the senators of upcoming meeting dates and IPC events;
 - d. Maintaining the IPC website and newsletters; and e.
 - Preparing an agenda for all Senate meetings.

E. Chief of Staff

- 1. The Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.
- 2. The Chief of Staff shall have the power to:
 - a. Appoint senators to internal and external committees;
 - b. Remove senators for cause from committees where that senator was originally appointed to that committee by the Chief of Staff;
 - c. Oversee the work of the Cabinet; and
 - d. Serve on the Cabinet and take part in all executive decisions.
- 3. The responsibilities of the Chief of Staff shall include:
 - a. Compiling semesterly reports to the Senate of university-wide issues currently in committee that are important to the professional student body;
 - b. Notifying the President of issues brought up in committee meetings that may be important for IPC to address;
 - c. Overseeing all staffing and appointments of committee members, with the exception of Committee Chairs;
 - d. Monitoring the participation of all senators;

- e. Maintaining contact with university-wide committee chairs and serving as a liaison between them and IPC;
- f. Organizing the Inauguration Ceremony at the end of the Spring semester; and
- g. Scheduling and conducting committee updates at IPC Senate meetings with those senators seated on the respective committees.

F. Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs

- 1. The Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.
- 2. The Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs shall have the power to:
 - a. Oversee certain internal committees; and
 - b. Serve on the Cabinet and take part in all executive decisions.
- 3. The responsibilities of the Vice President for Inter-Governmental Affairs shall include:
 - a. Coordinating with USG, CGS, and other organizations within the university community; and
 - b. Overseeing the work of any internal committees that interact with the above-mentioned bodies.

G. Succession

- 1. In the event that the President can no longer fulfill their duties of office, the Executive Vice President shall succeed to the Presidency. The Executive Vice President, after succession to the Presidency, shall select a new Executive Vice President, whose appointment must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Senate.
- 2. In the event that the President and Executive Vice President can no longer fulfill their duties of office, the Secretary shall succeed to the Presidency. The Secretary, after succession to the Presidency, shall select a new Executive Vice President and Secretary, whose appointments must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Senate.
- 3. If the Secretary refuses the office of President, or there is a vacancy in the office of Secretary, nominations shall be taken from within the Senate, and the body shall elect within eight days, a President and Executive Vice President.
- 4. If there is no member of the Senate who will take the office of President and Executive Vice President, then the Senate reserves the right to elect professional students from outside the Senate to the office of President and Executive Vice President.
- 5. In the event that the Executive Vice President can no longer fulfill their duties of office, the President shall select a new Executive Vice President, whose appointment must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Senate.
- 6. Any person succeeding to an elected seat shall hold that seat until the end of the term.

H. Advisor

- 1. The IPC Advisor shall be a faculty member on staff at one of the six professional colleges.
- 2. The Advisor's responsibilities include:
 - a. Assisting the Executive Committee;

- b. Attending Senate meetings when able; and
- c. Acting as a liaison between IPC and the faculty.

Article III: The Judicial Branch

A. The Judicial Branch shall consist of the Judicial Panel. The Chief Justice shall lead the six members of the Judicial Panel.

- 1. The six Justices shall be selected, one from each college by that college's senators, and each shall take office no later than 30 days from the first day of the Fall semester.
- 2. The term of office shall be one year.
- 3. In the absence of a selected Justice, the President may appoint a Justice that 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 executive and legislative branches of IPC.
- 2. After the selection of the Chief Justice, the senators of the college of the Chief Justice shall select one of their members to serve as the junior Justice.
- 3. Once the Chief Justice's term of office has expired, they may return to their former position as a Justice, in which case the junior Justice's term shall expire.
- 4. Each panel Justice shall have one vote; the Chief Justice only votes in the case of a tie.
- 5. Quorum shall consist of three panel Justices.
- 6. The Judicial Branch shall be responsible for assuring IPC is in compliance with its Constitution and shall therefore be responsible for recommending changes to the Constitution as needed.
- 7. The Judicial Panel is in charge of reviewing the IPC Constitution annually and presenting any required amendments to the Senate no later than the second meeting of Spring semester.
- 8. The Judicial Panel shall be responsible for reviewing all cases brought to them.
- 9. 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. They are responsible for amending the Standing Rules of the Professional Development Fund as needed and with the approval of a Senate majority vote.

C. Chief Justice

- 1. The Chief Justice shall be selected by a majority of the Justices after the Executive Officer Elections and before the Inauguration. Only one person from each college may cast a vote in this election. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the tie-breaking vote. The Chief Justice shall serve for a one-year term.
- 2. The Chief Justice shall have the power to:
 - i. Oversee the administration of the Professional Development Fund;
 - ii. Manage the operations of the Judicial Panel;
 - iii. Chair all judicial proceedings as a non-voting member;
 - iv. Break ties in all decisions made by the Judicial Panel; and

- v. Submit financial documents to the University for reimbursement or payment.

3. The responsibilities of the Chief Justice shall include:

- i. Serving as the Senate Parliamentarian for all IPC Senate meetings;
- ii. Administering the oath of office;
- iii. Reviewing the IPC budget and operating expenditures semesterly;
- iv. Managing the Professional Development Fund; and
- v. Trying all cases in which the Judicial Panel possesses jurisdiction.

4. Procedures for Case Review

- i. The Judicial Panel must thoroughly investigate the case, securing all relevant information in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.
- ii. The Judicial Panel must deliberate and render a decision on a preponderance of the evidence.
- iii. The Judicial Panel must apply the Constitution and Bylaws as written.
- iv. The Judicial Panel must reach a conclusion supported by a preponderance of the evidence.
- v. The Judicial Panel must impose sanctions commensurate with the nature of the violation.
- vi. A Justice will relinquish their seat during a case in which a conflict of interest arises. All efforts shall be made to temporarily fill this seat with an impartial senator from the same college who shall only hold the seat for the case. In the event that it is impractical to fill the seat, the empty seat will remain vacant as long as quorum is secured.
- vii. 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 the University Court for adjudication.

D. Jurisdiction. The Judicial Panel will have original jurisdiction over all alleged violations of the Constitution, Organizational Bylaws, and Election Bylaws of IPC.

E. Adjudication Process

1. The member of IPC in question (hereinafter referred to as Member) will be notified by the Chief Justice 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 twenty-one 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. The Judicial Panel reserves the right to limit witness testimony so long as the accused has a reasonable opportunity to address the allegations. All Judicial Panel proceedings will be recorded for the purpose of appeal only. The Judicial Panel may establish additional policies and procedures for the conduct of the hearing insofar as those additional policies and procedures are not in conflict with this Constitution or the Organizational Bylaws.
2. In closed session, with the Member not present, the Judicial Panel will find the Member in violation or not in violation of the Constitution or Bylaws by a two-thirds vote.

3. If the Member is found in violation, mitigating and aggravating circumstances will be considered at that time. The Judicial Panel shall not consider anything that goes against IPC's Non-Discrimination Clause.
 4. After considering mitigating and aggravating circumstances, the Member who has been found in violation will be sanctioned by the Judicial Panel. A two-thirds vote of the presiding Justices of the Judicial Panel 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 thirty days from its receipt by the Chief Justice. Said opinions or excerpts may be released by a majority vote of the Judicial Panel only on a need to know basis after consultation with the advisor of IPC.
- G. Appeals. Members of IPC may appeal the decision of the Judicial Panel to the University Court within seven days of the original decision. An appeal made after seven days shall only be considered if: new material facts are introduced, there is a violation of the due process rights of the accused, or there is a procedural error. To initiate an appeal, the Member must send written notification to a Justice of the University Court. No appeal will be entertained after sixty days have passed since the decision was made. The University Court will serve as the final level of appeal.
- H. In the event that a Justice's actions result in a disciplinary inquiry, that Justice shall relinquish their seat on the Judicial Panel upon notice of the inquiry and until completion of the judicial proceedings. The IPC Senate shall have original authority to try this case. The University Court may consider this case on appeal as per Art. III sec. G of this Constitution.

Article IV: Removal of Executive Officers

Any Executive Officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the IPC Senate in favor of removal.

Article V: Bylaws

- A. IPC shall have Bylaws that have the same binding authority as this Constitution.
- B. The Bylaws shall consist of: (1) a set of Organizational Bylaws; and (2) a set of Election Bylaws.
- C. 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 presented at the meeting preceding the call to vote or by e-mail one month prior to the call to vote.

Article VII: Term of Office

The terms of office for all senators shall be one year. Reelection by constituents is not required for consecutive terms. The term of office for all Executive Committee members and the Chief Justice shall be one year, starting the first day of May.

Article VIII: Non-Discrimination Clause

IPC and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of race, color, ability, gender identity or expression, national origin, religious creed, political belief, age, sex or sexual orientation, pregnancy or family status, medical condition, or veteran status.

