

Constitution

Article I - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.

Section 1- Name:

The name of this organization is “The NeuroLaw Group.” It is not affiliated with any national or international organization.

The name of the organization may be changed with a unanimous affirmative vote of the executive board, approval of the advisor, and a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of the member population.

Section 2 - Purpose:

The NeuroLaw Group (“The Group”) is an interdisciplinary club that will explore the intersections of neuroscience in law, ethics, policy, and society, including but not limited to the legal implications of brain interventions (nano-biotechnologies, stem cells, drugs, surgeries), policy on criminal responsibility and mental capacity to stand trial, neuroscience in educational development, pertinent medical bioethics, and various emerging technologies, from self-driving cars to brain-computer interfacing devices.

The Group will host at least once monthly meetings, most of which will be an open-forum style discussion of related topics, similar to those found in a journal club meeting.

In addition to interesting discussions on the future of neuroscience and society, The NeuroLaw Group will also invite speakers currently studying or working at this growing, exciting intersection, and will engage in appropriate and related public service.

Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy:

The NeuroLaw Group is dedicated to the development of a diverse student membership body. This organization wholly supports and seeks to model The Ohio State University’s non-discrimination policy statement, outlined in the Affirmative Action, Equal Employment Opportunity & Non-Discrimination/Harassment 1.10 (<https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy110.pdf>).

This organization does not discriminate 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 bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, The NeuroLaw Group expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: <https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>

Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership

Ila. As required by the Guidelines for Student Organizations, 90% of the membership of The NeuroLaw Group will consist of current Ohio State University students. Active members and Executive Committee are able to make decisions regarding the membership of the community and other non-student members of an organization. Community or other non-student members may be temporarily suspended with a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Ilb. Members of The NeuroLaw Group will have access to all of the resources and be welcome at all meetings, events, or other activities hosted and/or sponsored by The NeuroLaw Group. The right of a member of The NeuroLaw Group to attend and participate fully in Group activities may not be limited or suspended without due process, as outlined in Article III. Members may be nominated and appointed to Executive Committee positions, may participate with weight in decision-making for The NeuroLaw Group, and are encouraged and expected to contribute to the growth and development of the organization as a whole.

Ilc. Community or other non-student members are welcome to attend the regular meetings of The NeuroLaw Group. The Executive Committee of The NeuroLaw Group reserves the right to temporarily suspend the attendance of non-student members with a majority vote. Non-student members and guests are not eligible to be nominated or appointed to Executive Committee positions, nor may they participate in the decision-making for The NeuroLaw Group. While not mandated to contribute to the future of the organization, non-student members and guests are encouraged to participate in the on-goings of regular meetings, including discussion of articles and developments, friendly debate, and engaging with any invited speakers.

Article III - Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers:

IIIa. 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.

IIIb. Any 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 Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board, in consultation with the organization's advisor.

IIIc. In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), or cannot be otherwise 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 IV - Organization Leadership:

IVa. Primary Leader (President) is an appointed position; upon appointment, the President's term lasts until resignation or removal.

The President will be responsible for leading and calling meetings to order, calling special meetings of the executive board, approving mass communications related to the organization, communicating with special guests, securing meeting places and any necessary equipment, and managing the organization's documents. The responsibility of tie-breaking also lies with the President.

IVb. Secondary Leader (Vice President) is an appointed position; upon appointment, the Vice President's term lasts until resignation or removal.

The Vice President is responsible for leading and calling meetings to order in the absence of the President, member relations (fielding member questions, correspondence), and assisting with communication with special guests.

IVc. Treasurer is an appointed position; upon appointment, the Treasurer's term lasts until resignation or removal.

The Treasurer is responsible for managing the funds of the organization, including organizing a budget and ensuring that the books remain balanced and spending remains sustainable. Upon dissolution of the organization, it is the responsibility of the treasurer to dispose of any assets and ensure that any debts accrued are accounted for appropriately.

IVd. Secretary is an appointed position; upon appointment, the Secretary's term lasts until resignation or removal.

The Secretary, when the position is open due to organization size and status, is responsible for maintaining an accurate minutes of meetings (both of the Executive Board and General Meetings), and takes over or divides with the Vice President the responsibility of member communications.

IVe. Advisor is an appointed position; upon appointment, the Advisor's term lasts until resignation. Succeeding advisors will be chosen by a unanimous vote of the preceding executive board, with the recommendation of the preceding advisor.

Article V - Election/Selection of Organization Leadership

Upon the pending resignation of a member of the organization's leadership, during that member's last semester as an officer, a succeeding officer must be chosen; members will be encouraged to apply to the position, and the succeeding officer will be selected from the applicant pool by a unanimous vote of the executive board, with approval from the organization's advisor.

Article VI - Executive Committee: Size and Composition of the Committee

The Executive Committee will be comprised of the organization's leadership (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary).

The Secretary position is contingent on organization size: for those semesters in which the organization status is "Established," meaning that the Active Membership is greater than or equal to 15 members, a Secretary may be nominated and added to the Executive Board.

The Executive Committee has the right to add additional positions should the need arise. Criteria for this decision should be based on workload and organization size. If it is unreasonable for The Executive Board to perform their tasks effectively or to keep up with the membership size, then a new position may be established to better manage the Executive workload. Except for in the case of the addition of a Secretary, this will involve a change to the Constitution, and should follow that procedure.

Article VII - Advisors or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria

By requirement of The Ohio State University, the advisor must be a full-time member of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. If a person is chosen as an advisor who is not a member of the above classifications, a co-advisor will be chosen who is a member of these classifications.

The advisor must be a member of, or affiliate with, the Neuroscience department at The Ohio State University.

The advisor is the organization's liaison between the organization and the University. Their approval will be sought for changes to the Constitution and By-Laws, Executive Board, and other major changes related to The NeuroLaw Group.

Article VIII - Meetings and Events of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency

Attendance at two general meetings is required for membership of The NeuroLaw Group for each academic term, except for Summer.

Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the organization's leadership, and be due to extenuating circumstances. A time conflict does not qualify as an extenuating circumstance.

Article IX - Attendees of Events of the Organization: Required events and their frequency

The organization reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where it is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization's Constitution and By-Laws.

For offenses which do not break the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local law, the offending member or attendee will be issued a verbal warning. A second infraction after this warning may result in removal from the event, and the organization's leadership may vote for removal of the member from The NeuroLaw Group, barring access to future meetings and events.

For offenses which break the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local law, the offending member will be subject to removal from The NeuroLaw Group.

Article X - Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements

Any proposed amendments should be presented to the organization in writing and should not be acted upon when initially introduced. Upon initial introduction, the proposed amendments should be read in the general meeting, then read again at one subsequent general meeting and at the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. The amendment passes with a three-quarters majority of the voting membership of the organization and approval from the organization's advisor.

Article XI - Method of Dissolution of Organization

Dissolution of the Organization may proceed with a unanimous vote of the organization's leadership, a two-thirds majority vote of the membership population, and approval from the organization's advisor.

Should debts or assets belonging to The NeuroLaw Group exist at the time of dissolution, the organization's executive board will determine the most appropriate means for their dispersion or disposal. The Treasurer is responsible for seeing through any decisions made by the executive board in this regard.

The President of the organization is responsible for notifying Student Activities staff of the dissolution of the organization so that its information may be removed from the website.

The Vice President of the organization is responsible for notifying the membership of the final decision to disband.

By-Laws

Article I - Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the by-laws of this organization.

Article II - Membership

Attendance at two general meetings per semester, except for summer semester, is required for the maintenance of membership.

Membership status will be evaluated at the end of each semester, according to meeting records kept by the organization's leadership.

Members found to be in violation of any part of the Constitution may be removed from the organization according to the policies and procedures outlined in the Constitution.

Article III - Election/Appointment of Government Leadership

IIIa. Neuroscience or Psychology major or pre-major students of The Ohio State University in good academic standing, and who have been a member of The NeuroLaw Group for at least one previous semester, are eligible for leadership positions of The NeuroLaw Group.

Non-majors will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; a solid foundation in psychological and neurological concepts is a necessity for effective guidance of The Group. Individuals may demonstrate this via a history of related coursework, extracurricular or work experiences, or other relevant experience.

IIIb. Individuals will be self-nominated for leadership positions via an application process. The application will be designed by the organization's leadership. Its questions and methods must be equitable and accessible.

IIIc. Open leadership positions will be filled via appointment, selecting from the applicant pool, by the organization executives, with approval from the organization's advisor.

IIId. Except in the event of extenuating circumstances, appointments will occur one semester prior to an individual's assumption of a leadership role.

IIIe. In special circumstances (impeachments, resignations without prior notice, etc.), the process may be expedited, and the new executive may assume their role in the current semester.

Article IV - Executive Committee

The Executive Committee, comprised of the organization's leadership, as whole as an obligation to provide consistent, stable leadership to The NeuroLaw Group. This includes the selection of relevant topics for meetings, organization of regular meetings and events, the timely appointment of new leadership as necessary, and the appropriate management of organization resources.

Article V - Advisor/Advisory Board Responsibilities

The advisor of the organization will attend meetings as available, and will serve as the intercessor between the organization and the University in matters that extend the capacity of the Executive Board. The advisor will be available to assist students with navigating aspects of registration, and will maintain their own training status.

Should the advisor need to resign, they are responsible for providing ample notice so that the Executive Board may find a suitable replacement; if possible, the advisor will aid in the recommendation and selection of a new advisor.

Article VI - Meeting Requirements

Regular meetings of The NeuroLaw Group will be held once monthly.

Special meetings and events may be scheduled by the Executive Board for the continuation of previous discussions and for special guest speakers, or for other purposes as approved by the Executive Board.

For matters which must be put to a vote, unless otherwise stated, a quorum is comprised of the Executive Board, plus at least 50% of the current Active Members of the organization.

Article VII - Method of Amending By-Laws

By-laws may be amended by proposing the change in writing, reading the change at a general meeting of the membership, and then voting on the proposed change at the next general meeting. The amendment passes with a two-thirds majority vote of the present membership.