

The Constitution of the Michigan Wikipedians

Preamble:

We, the Michigan Wikipedians, seek to uphold the educational and philanthropic missions of the Wikimedia Foundation and the University of Michigan. Our mission is to empower and engage the students, faculty, and broader community at the University of Michigan to collect and develop free educational content, and to disseminate it effectively and globally.

Article I – Name

The name of the organization is Michigan Wikipedians. Before July 2011, the organization was known as the Wikipedians of the University of Michigan.

Article II - Purpose

The Wikimedia Foundation's top priority is to encourage more people to edit Wikipedia and its sibling projects. The purpose of the organization is to transform passive Wikipedia readers into active Wikipedia editors. By equipping students and faculty with the necessary skills to navigate Wikipedia's editing code, they can offer knowledge gained in an academic setting to the world through Wikipedia. In addition, Michigan Wikipedians who go abroad can teach those people they come into direct contact with abroad how to edit Wikipedia, thus broadening the scope of editors even more. This organization is a service organization and we aim to disseminate knowledge to the global community.

Article III - Membership

There are no restrictions or prerequisites for membership in Michigan Wikipedians. Membership is open to all students without respect to sex, race, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, ability/disability, age, or marital status. Any University of Michigan student, graduate and undergraduate, is eligible for membership. Faculty, staff, and community members are also eligible for membership, although Michigan Wikipedians cannot grant them scholarship funds for travel to any Wikipedia conferences.

Active membership in Michigan Wikipedians is an informal concept and not an official or monitored status. Activity is loosely defined by regularly making edits to any Wikimedia project, attending the club's weekly meetings, and donating funds or other contributions to the club itself as needed. Examples of this include helping to cover the registration fee for Festifall or creating questions for Trivia Night.

If a member is blocked from a Wikimedia project by an administrator or community decision, the other members of Michigan Wikipedians will attempt to reach a consensus decision on whether or not that individual may remain a club member. If consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be held and the majority decision shall prevail.

How does one become a member? How are members identified?

A person becomes a member by adding his or her Wikipedia username to the “members” section of the Michigan Wikipedians project page on Wikipedia (shortcut code “WP:UMICH”) and by signing up for e-mail notifications from the organization. Members are identified by being on the membership list on the Wikipedia project page and on the list serve.

Voluntary withdrawal of membership can be explained here.

If a member would like to voluntarily withdraw from Michigan Wikipedians, he or she must remove his or her username from the “members” section of the Michigan Wikipedians project page as well as notify the president. It is the responsibility of the president to remove that person's e-mail address from the list serve.

Article IV- Officers

How many Officers are there? What are their titles and duties?

Michigan Wikipedians will be governed by the following means:

- 1.) The role of the President is to maintain accurate records of membership as well as active involvement in the recruiting of new members. The President will also facilitate all meetings and functions that he or she is able to attend.
- 2.) The role of the Vice President is to facilitate all meetings and functions that the President cannot attend. The Vice President may also play a supporting role in the facilitation of meetings and functions that the President is able to attend.
- 3.) The role of the Treasurer is to handle all financial aspects of the club, chiefly applying for funds or grants and collecting monetary donations from the members.
- 4.) The role of the Secretary is to develop and maintain the written resources of the club, including the Michigan Wikipedians project page, as well as to draft and word amendments or changes to official documents such as the club constitution. The Secretary will also organize the voting process for selecting club officers and the tabulate the results after the votes are all in.

Will the Officers constitute an executive committee?

Yes, the officers will constitute an executive committee.

What are the duties of the advisor?

The advisor encourages the members of the club in their activities and oversees the financial obligations of the club.

Article V - Operations

Who is eligible for office?

Any actively participating member (as loosely defined in Article III) with a commitment to carry out the duties of the office for the entire term is eligible for office.

(Note: Exceptions were made for the inaugural year of the organization due to the establishment of the organization.)

How are officers elected? What type of ballot? When are the elected (month)? For what purpose are they elected?

Officers may be appointed to office by a sitting officer if the appointee consents to the appointment and there is consensus among all members agreeing to the appointment. If there is no consensus or if no appointments are made, officers are elected by a vote of active members of the organization at the time of the election. Elections are held annually in March for the following academic year. They are elected to govern and maintain organization of the club.

The actual voting process begins with the President taking nominations from the floor, after which the nomination process is closed and the movement is seconded. The nominated parties will be allowed to vote. Voting is done by secret ballot to be collected and tabulated by the Secretary and one other voting

member, appointed by the sitting President.

When do Officers assume their positions?

Officers assume their positions in April and hold their positions through the academic school year, until the following March.

What is the role of the advisor in elections (if applicable?)

Not applicable.

Article VI - Finances

How will your organization finance its activities?

Michigan Wikipedians will finance the activities that it engages in by the following means:

- 1.) Direct funding from the University's General Fund
- 2.) Funds from organizations that offer funding to student organizations
- 3.) Donations from members
- 4.) Campus-wide trivia nights

What position(s) within your organization is/are responsible for the organization's Finances?

President and Treasurer are responsible for Michigan Wikipedians' finances.

Article VII – Amendments

How are amendments to be proposed?

Amendments can be proposed at regular club meetings. All Officers must be present for the proposal as well as for the ruling of the proposal. The proposal will be discussed by the Officers and seconded by an Officer. The club will then attempt to reach a consensus decision on the proposal. If consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be held and a two-thirds majority of the membership present must support the amendment for it to pass.

Who can propose them?

Any active member can propose amendments.

Do you want to provide a certain amount of time before bringing forth an amendment and voting on it?

How will you vote on your proposed Amendments?

The amount of time before bringing forth an amendment is to be decided by the Officers on a case-by-case basis. In most cases, there will not be a certain amount of time before bringing forth an amendment and then voting on it.

Article VIII – Registration Renewal

To help with transitioning from year to year, this section may contain a statement that specifies a date for your organizations registration renewal. If your organization has elections, a good time for renewal may be one month after those elections.

The date for the organization's registration renewal will be the first week of April, when the new

officers assume their positions. Michigan Wikipedians will re-register with the Michigan Student Assembly on an annual basis, no later than September 15. The President will be responsible for submitting a registration renewal and to gather a list of members willing to continue their active status. The club will return a signed SOAS card no later than September 15.

Article IX – Removal of Membership

If your organization has Officers, under what circumstances shall they be removed? (ex failure to comply to rules and regulations, criminal offense, did not pay dues, etc)

Any officer of Wikipedians in violation of Wikipedian's purpose or constitution, and inadequately carrying out his or her duties as an officer, may be removed from office by the following process:

- 1.) A written request by at least 3 active Michigan Wikipedians members (see Article III).
- 2.) Notification must be given to the Officer of the request, and if improvement is not seen by the remaining officers in good standing, the Officer will be asked to be present at the next meeting and prepared to speak.
- 3.) Either consensus of all present active members or, failing consensus, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present active members is necessary to remove the officer.

What is the process for removing Officers? (eg voting out, trial, decision of organization president)

See above.

Under what circumstances shall members of the organization be removed?

Under normal circumstances, members of Michigan Wikipedians shall not be officially removed unless they will it (see Article III for voluntary withdrawal). If a member ceases to be active (as defined loosely in Article III), he or she will simply be considered “inactive” or “semi-active” by the club. Under exceptional circumstances, as in the case of a member being highly disruptive or antagonistic towards the club and its mission, consensus among all Officers is required to forcibly remove a member from the club. This is not an action to be taken lightly.

What is the process for Removal of organization members?

The member is removed from the “members” section of the Michigan Wikipedians project page as well as the email list-serve. Furthermore, he or she will no longer be eligible for grants to various conferences or for organization memorabilia. If the member is to represent the organization at a later date, such as at a conference, that member to be removed will be replaced by an active member.

Article X – Statement of Compliance

By completing the registration process, we agree to abide by the University's policies. We understand that the organization's registration is contingent on the acceptance of these policies.