

Title: Constitution of Advocates for Science at Indiana University

Preamble:

Advocates for Science at Indiana University is dedicated to strengthening the essential role of science and evidence-based decision making, at all levels from individual actions to international organizations. As a group, Advocates for Science at Indiana University aims to support science via four core aims: promoting the accurate representation of science in the media, in education, and in the design of legislation; engaging with the public to communicate science, especially as it relates to core issues influenced by public policy; promoting the participation of scientists in policy-making processes; and supporting continued federal funding for independent scientific research and defending research from politically motivated attacks. The student group will work in tandem with its larger parent group, Concerned Scientists at Indiana University (CS@IU), to pursue these goals.

Article I: Membership

Advocates for Science at Indiana University allows any interested student to participate in, become a member of, and seek leadership positions in the organization without regard to arbitrary consideration of such characteristics as age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Persons may be admitted to the organization at any time. Requests for membership should be made to any member serving on one of the five committees, and new members will be admitted automatically. Members are expected to attend at least one mass meeting or one ASIU event each academic year, but the level of involvement of any member is discretionary; members may decide on their level of involvement outside of mass meetings. Individuals may join or leave voluntarily at any time. Members who do not meet the annual requirement for attendance will retain membership but not be considered active members. A non-active member can be considered active again once they attend an event or mass meeting.

Members who discriminate or threaten other members in the group will be given two warnings and, on a third offense, will be asked to leave the group and be removed from the BeInvolved page and any official Advocates for Science at Indiana University communication platforms such as GroupMe and Twitter.

Article II: University Compliance

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state and federal laws.

Article III: Executive Officers

Titles and Responsibilities of Officers:

President and Co-President: Co-presidents will preside over meetings and call for meetings to take place as needed.

Undergraduate Committee Chairs: Will serve as the primary undergraduate contact to the five larger committees (Legislative Advocacy, Education and Outreach, Events, Communications, and Steering). These committees consist of faculty, staff, and undergraduates interested in different aspects of ASIU leadership, with one faculty committee chair and one undergraduate committee chair. The chairs will be elected yearly.

- **Legislative Advocacy:** The Legislative Advocacy WG will be responsible for identifying, documenting, and presenting—to the Steering Committee and the larger ASIU and ASIU membership—proposals for coordinated action on key legislative or administrative issues. Much of this work may be coordinated with legislative priorities from the Union of Concerned Scientists, AAAS, and other professional organizations.
- **Education and Outreach:** The Education & Outreach WG will be responsible for both outreach to community organizations (such as schools, community organizations, religious communities, etc.), as well as ‘inreach’ to campus organizations, student groups, as well as membership development.
- **Events:** The Events WG will be responsible for prioritizing, planning, and coordinating both ‘high-frequency’ ASIU and CS@IU events (like Farmers Market tabling) and ‘low-frequency’ special events, such as the all-hands meetings, campus speakers, forums, and response to high-profile current events (presumably in collaboration with other campus organizations and departments).
- **Communication:** The Communications WG will develop an overall strategy for external communications, and will provide media support for all of the activities of the ASIU/CS@IU. They will be responsible for developing and maintaining the CSIU’s social media presence, including CS@IU website, Twitter feed, blogs, and Facebook page, as well as coordinating press releases, letters to the editor, Op-Ed pieces, or other topical media initiatives. They will be responsible for maintaining a regular (weekly?) distribution of relevant news, editorials, and action items related to science policy.
- **Steering:** The steering committee will provide overall guidance to the organization, will be empowered to make decisions on behalf of ASIU membership, and will decide on overall strategy and prioritization of activities. They will meet at least monthly, and will convene a membership-wide ‘all hands’ meeting at least once a semester.

Finance Chair: Will apply for and maintain the organization’s Student Organization Account. Will develop and maintain organization’s budget, as well as maintain record of spending. The budget will be drafted by the finance chair at the beginning of each semester and whenever an event is being planned, and will be discussed among all officers and voted on. A simple majority vote will be sufficient to approve the budget.

Officers will take an active role in the organization’s activities and promote its growth. New appointments will generally be made at the beginning of each Fall semester, and officers will serve for a full academic calendar year. Officers are expected to hold and run at least one

committee or mass member meeting each academic year. If an officer must resign in the middle of the academic year, the executive committee and the officer must find a replacement to fill the vacancy. If an officer discriminates against or threatens any ASIU member, and the incident is reported to the other officers, the officers will hold an emergency meeting and will vote on whether to remove the officer. A simple majority will allow for the removal of the officer.

Near the end of the academic year, any interested student who has fulfilled the requirements for membership can run for any officer position. Elections will involve a two-minute speech and an online, anonymous voting process open only to members.

Article IV: Advisor

The faculty advisor will be selected upon vacancy of the position; that is, a new faculty advisor will be selected when a previous advisor steps down. Hence, advisor terms can last many years. The advisor is expected to attend at least one meeting for any committee each academic year, and must stay in contact, whether in person or by email, with officers at least once a month during the academic year. If a faculty advisor is found to have discriminated against or threatened a ASIU member, a conduct report will be filed with the Dean of Students.

Article V: Non-Hazing

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

Article VI: Meetings

Meetings will be held no less than once-per-academic term and on an as-need basis. Meeting times and dates will be decided by a google poll sent out to all members of the student group.

Article VII: Dues and Budgets

No dues are collected for membership to the organization. The budget will be created and maintained by the Finance Chair, with oversight and voting by all officers.

Article VIII: Finances

The Finance Chair is in charge of the financial affairs of the organization and is responsible for applying for and maintaining the bank accounts associated with the organization.

Article IX: Programs Involving Children

This organization, when working with children, will be aware of and abide by the University's Programs Involving Children (PIC) Policy.

Article X: Personal Gain Clause

This organization, if raising funds, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits

the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

Article XI: Amendments

Members will be notified of proposed amendments to the constitution in an electronic announcement through the organization's list-serv.