

# Bridge USA at IU

Student Organization Name: BridgeUSA at IU

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## Article I - Name

BridgeUSA at IU

## Article II - Purpose

BridgeUSA at IU is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to creating a space for polite and empathetic intellectual discourse. We hope to bridge the current political divide that runs rampant in our nation and university by fostering a culture of active listening. We hope to help students learn and develop a variety of opinions in order for better understanding to occur, rather than just for rebuking purposes. We hope to give every political opinion a space to be voiced as long as it is voiced both respectfully and tactfully. We will not tolerate anyone who abuses our commitment to free discourse to personally target any specific person or persons.

## Article III - Membership

Any student, faculty, or staff is allowed to be part of our organization as long as they carry themselves during meetings with respect and empathy. Only current registered students, faculty, and staff may be active members in a registered student organization. Only active members may vote or hold office. To be considered an active member, one must have attended 4 meetings in that School Year. We will not haze according to Indiana State Law. We will not restrict membership based upon race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (including membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services).

Expectations outlined for our members revolves around their ability to maintain and uphold a respectful environment during our meetings by engaging in productive and non-malicious debate. Any person whom is accused of being in violation of this expectation will be placed under review by the executive board, who will in turn decide whether further action must take place. Any person found in violation of the membership rules, as determined by a majority vote of the executive board, will be removed from the organization.

Examples of Violations include, but are not limited to:

- Use of derogatory terms
- Exhibition of malicious physical contact
- Exclusion
- Attacking certain individuals based on physical characteristics or a set of beliefs

#### Article IV - University Compliance

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

#### Article V - Officers & Qualifications

The titles of all officers shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Outreach Director, Events Chair, Social Media Chair, Diversity Chair, and Recruitment Chair.

To be an executive officer one must be an IU student, have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA, and have a commitment to the organization's goals as stated in Article II. All officers will serve in their position for a minimum of one semester, and for a maximum of four semesters. An Executive Officer can serve as many semesters as they wish in a given role, all the way up to the four-semester term limit. Officers will assume their role 14 days prior to the scheduled start of the semester they are serving in. No member can hold more than one Bridge officer position at any given time. Outgoing officers will provide incoming officers with guidance in their respective position, ensuring a smooth transition between leadership.

To resign, an Executive Officer will give the President two weeks' notice prior to their relinquishing of the role. Executive meetings will be held bi-weekly following the general meeting. The president will call these meetings to order. The advisor is not considered an executive officer. If an officer has been accused of a violation stated in Article III, the Executive Board can remove an Officer with a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote. If an officer vacancy occurs in the middle of a school year, the Executive board, under the guidance of the Vice President, will elect the Executive member by a majority vote.

The President will preside over general and executive board meetings, maintain contact with the faculty advisor, university officials, and the national organization. The president will also represent the organization to the university and assist executive officers in their roles. The President will also work with the necessary executive officers and faculty advisor to complete any necessary University paperwork. The President will re-register the organization each year. Lastly, the president will work with all members in developing goals for the organization, and to provide direction for the organization.

The Vice President will assume the duties of the president in their absence, facilitate acquisition of new executive board members, support the treasurer, outreach director, and the events chair, works with president to support prior mentioned executive board members, performs other duties as directed by the president.

The Events Chair will serve as a moderator of discussion, help produce content for meetings, create PowerPoint slides for meetings, provide general members with educational sources about the meeting's discussion topic. The Events chair will also help further the organization's understanding of what makes productive discourse. Lastly, they will coordinate with the necessary people to keep members up to date on event and meeting information and works with the Social Media Chair to keep social media accounts and the website up to date.

The Outreach Director will take minutes of meetings and distribute them to the executive board as quickly as possible. They will also request rooms from the university as needed, handle the logistics of food and other items as needed, and they will reach out to professors and others for speaking requests. Lastly, they will maintain the email list and the list of members, track attendance of the executive board at meetings, and keep records of meetings and their effectiveness.

The Treasurer will prepare an annual budget, keep all financial records of the organization, advise members on financial matters, and will coordinate funds.

The Recruitment Chair will help organize tabling and other outreach, assist in outreach with other student organizations, work with other members to promote organization, and will work with the Social Media chair to promote the organization online.

The Social Media Chair will maintain the organization's online presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and its website. They will do this by posting regularly and keeping the organization's online presence up to date. They will work with all other executive board members to achieve this.

The Diversity Chair will work to ensure that the organization remains diverse and will coordinate outreach efforts. They will specifically focus on traditionally underrepresented minorities and will help ensure the organization promotes inclusion. They will also seek to ensure that the organization is committed to ideological diversity.

#### Article VI - Elections

Elections will be held 2 weeks prior to final exam week during the spring semester every year. To be elected to a position a person must be nominated by one other active member. The nomination must be submitted to a board member in writing, and can be submitted at any point throughout the year. Those who have been nominated will be voted on at the election meeting. The winner of an election will be the person who receives the most votes for that position. The election will be done by a raising of the hand, and will be tallied by the Outreach Director. A quorum will be established when 15 active members are present. No election shall occur in the first or second semester of the establishment of the student organization.

#### Article VII -Advisor

The advisor will provide guidance and support to the organization, as is needed, to help it achieves its goals. An advisor will be selected by the executive committee by simple majority vote. In the case of a violation of Article III, the advisor will be removed, and a replacement will be determined by a majority vote of the executive board. Otherwise, an advisor will serve as long as they see fit.

#### Article VIII - Meetings

Our organization will meet weekly, and the meetings will be called by the Executive Board. A quorum will be met when at least half of all Executive Board members are present. The Executive Board will meet bi-weekly, to discuss future meeting plans and the direction of the organization.

#### Article IX - 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 X - Dues and Budgets

The organization will not collect dues. The treasurer will create and advise the Executive board on the budget and all budgetary matters. The budget must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive board. The budget can be revised, as long as it is approved by a majority of the Executive board. Any financial action taken by the Treasurer or any other member of the Executive Board must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive board before the money is spent.

#### Article XI - Finances

The treasurer will advise the Executive board on all financial affairs. Any financial action taken by the Treasurer or any other member of the Executive Board must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive board before the money is spent or renewed. If the organization dissolves, then the money will be returned to the respective people or organizations that the money was obtained from. If it is not possible to return the money, then the money will be given to the National BridgeUSA organization.

#### Article XII - 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 XIII - Constitutional Amendments

The executive board can propose an amendment by calling for an amendment to be considered at executive board meetings. A two-week period is required between the proposed amendment and the final vote. For any amendment to be passed, 2/3 rd of the executive board is required. All amendments, additions or deletions to this document will be filed with the University.

