

Description

As the aging population worldwide continues to grow, the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease is increasing at an alarming rate. The United States alone has an astonishing 5 million sufferers, a number that is predicted to double by the year 2030. To this day, nearly a century after its initial discovery, Alzheimer's remains an elusive and debilitating disease that cannot be slowed, stopped, or prevented. As of now, there is no known cure and very little can be done from a medical stance to alleviate and soothe those plagued by Alzheimer's.

Few practices are currently in place to mitigate the symptoms of Alzheimer's, and the few that do exist rely heavily on the surrounding family and on their education and knowledge of Alzheimer's disease. Moreover, the greatest hope for the future is advancement of research, which benefits greatly from a society that is aware of the problem and contributes to finding a solution. Our organization seeks to raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease through close collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association Greater Indiana Chapter in Indianapolis and local facilities. Volunteers play an invaluable role in community education, building a foundation for a well informed and involved society, and clinical engagement, establishing vital connections between patients and the resources and support available for them, thereby helping those afflicted with the disease, their caregivers, and their families.

Constitution of Alzheimer's Association at IU

Preamble

Alzheimer's Association at IU. Our purpose is to raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease, inform community members on the issue, volunteer as clinical engagement representatives and as community educators, contribute to the advancement of research and, in general, promote education and training in the neurosciences. We aim to achieve these goals through volunteering opportunities in collaboration with Alzheimer's Association Greater Indiana Chapter and in partnership with the Neuroscience Club at Indiana University and the Society for Neuroscience Chapter at Indiana University.

Article I: Membership

Alzheimer's Association at IU 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.

Section A. Requirements

Part 1. In addition to abiding with the Indiana University Code of Ethics, members are required to demonstrate sufficient involvement in the organization through active participation in volunteering activities and meetings.

Part 2. Membership is not contingent on dues.

Section B. Rights

Part 1. Members have the right to participate in meetings and events of the organization.

Part 2. Members have the right to apply for an executive officer position.

Section C. Member Removal

Part 1. Alzheimer's Association at IU holds the right to remove any member not in compliance with the organization's and the university's policies, including but not limited to inappropriate or illegal behaviors.

Part 2. Removal is left to the discretion of the executive officers, Faculty Advisor, or Student Organizations Advisor, and will result in an individual's banishment from participating in any future meetings and activities.

Article II: University Compliance

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

Article III: Executive Officers

Executive officials will serve yearly terms and are required to attend any and all meetings. Failure to do so will result in the removal of said official and the reelection of a replacement. No previous experience is required to hold an executive position, however, an active and flexible role in the organization is essential. Executives are required to turn over their offices following the last scheduled meeting of the year. Past officers will serve as mentors for newly elected officials the following year, helping rookie officials ease into their newly acquired positions. Executives desiring to resign are required to provide at least a 2-weeks notice to enable the organization to adequately prepare for upcoming changes.

Part 1. President: The President takes responsibility for the organization as a whole with the primary responsibility of organizing and facilitating bi-weekly meetings and volunteering. The President is responsible for keeping Faculty Advisor current on organization activities, setting short- and long-term goals for the organization, developing organization budget, and maintaining contact with affiliated department and partner organizations. In addition, the President is responsible for connecting any member in need of assistance with resources provided by Indiana University such as Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), School of Social Work, and Student Life and Learning.

Part 2. Vice President: The Vice President is responsible for closely working with the President, Secretary, and Director of Finance to ensure semester goals are being met. In addition, the Vice President is responsible for presiding in the absence of the President, facilitating election of officers, and recruiting new members.

Part 3. Secretary: The Secretary is responsible for maintaining lists of organization members, completing required University paperwork, and notifying all members of meetings. In addition, the Secretary is responsible for taking notes during meetings and preparing organization's calendar of events.

Part 4. Director of Finance: The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the financial affairs, keeping records of organization spending, preparing an annual budget, and serving as the primary signatory on financial accounts.

Part 5. Executive Officer Removal: Officers not fulfilling their duties may be removed from office by a two thirds majority vote of present members at a regularly scheduled meeting. Quorum is required. Quorum is defined as 75% of members present.

Article IV: Advisor

The Faculty Advisor is responsible for overseeing the organization and serving as a link between the organization and the department, as well as departmental sources of funding. In addition, the Advisor promotes interest in neuroscience research and, depending on his or her availability, educates the members of the organization on the topic. An advisor serves indefinitely, depending on his or her choice. More than one advisor may be selected by the organization.

Article V: Meetings

Meetings will be held weekly. Time and dates will depend on the maximum availability of members. The meetings are to be advertised through social networks and by e-mail. The President and Vice President have the authority to call meetings. The agenda for the meetings is set by the President, Vice President, or Secretary.

Article VI: Elections

Elections will be conducted on a yearly basis in April. Members will be notified three meetings in advance of the upcoming election to provide ample time for assured attendance. Any individual who chooses to run for office may do so. A member may nominate any other member, and self-nominations are accepted. Officers will be elected via an anonymous ballot that requires 75% of members to be in attendance that day. In the case of a tie, the Faculty Advisor shall hold a meeting with each of the candidates and make an executive decision as to which candidate is more qualified for the position. Elected official will take office the following meeting. Executive Officers serve a 12-month term from April of the year they are elected to April of the following year.

Article VII: 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 VIII: Dues & Budgets

Dues will not be charged by the organization for membership. The creation and maintenance of the group's budget will be the responsibility of the elected treasurer.

Article IX: Finances

Financial affairs will be the responsibility of the elected treasurer. The organization intends to apply for a Student Organization Account. This organization shall comply with the Student Organization Accounts office policies and procedures.

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

Eligible voting members will be notified of proposed amendments via email that will be further discussed during meetings. Ratification of an amendment requires that $\frac{3}{4}$ of total members be in agreement.