

# **Constitution of the University Gilbert and Sullivan Society (UGSS)**

## **Preamble**

The Indiana University Gilbert and Sullivan Society (IUGSS) is dedicated to the quality performance of works of light opera, especially those of Gilbert and Sullivan. It is intended that the group will provide an excellent opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to collaborate and have meaningful artistic experiences. The goal of the organization is to perform one fully staged opera every school year, but may produce more as it sees fit.

## **Article I: Membership**

Participation in IUGSS must be 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.

Membership shall be open to any interested party, and there is no limit to the number of members. However, it is understood that participation in IUGSS does not guarantee a role in any production. All roles shall be determined by audition with the exception of a President and/or Vice President wishing to cast themselves in a role (see "Executive Officers" section below). Other opportunities within the organization may include advertising, stage management, refreshment sales, set design, costume design, etc.

## **Article II: University Compliance**

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

## **Article III: Executive Officers**

**President:** The President shall serve as the director of the yearly production. In the event that more than one show is produced per school year, another member of the organization may serve as director. In their capacity as director, the President may cast him/herself as well as the Vice President in a

role of their choosing, without audition, in one production per year. Thereafter, they may audition for other roles if they desire to do so. Additionally, the President will oversee other facets of the performing company, including repertoire selection, casting, advertising, and faculty coordination.

**Vice President:** The Vice President shall serve as the assistant director of the yearly production. In the event that more than one show is produced per school year, another member of the organization may serve as assistant director. In their capacity as assistant director, the Vice President may consult with the President regarding a role in which they would like to be cast, without audition, in one production per year. Thereafter, they may audition for other roles if they desire to do so. Additionally, the Vice President will assist the President with their duties overseeing the company as mentioned above.

Executive officers may serve for three consecutive years (beginning in January) before moving from office. At the time that either or both officers are ready or required to change, they shall appoint their replacements. Both current officers must agree with and approve the appointment(s). The Vice President may be appointed as President at this time. Typically, replacements will be appointed from members of the organization who have already performed in at least one show with the IUGSS. They will have demonstrated through their abilities during production or through comparable class work that they have a specific interest and requisite experience in directing, as determined by the outgoing officer(s).

Beginning in January, the executive officers shall meet at least once per month in order to begin selecting a production team (music director, stage manager, choreographer, etc.) and to discuss possible repertoire for the following year. Auditions shall take place in late April or early May, during and after which ample time will be given to the casting process. It is assumed that during rehearsal and performance periods, the executive officers will meet as often as necessary to help with the production. The same is assumed for subsequent productions produced in the same year.

The Faculty Advisor for the IUGSS is not considered an executive officer unless the need to remove the President or Vice President arises and during appointment of new executive officers. If the behavior of either officer is called into question either by their counterpart or by any member of the IUGSS, the faculty advisor shall meet with both executive officers separately and shall then make the final decision regarding removal. Additionally, the Faculty Advisor holds veto power for new appointments to either of the executive offices. If they feel a candidate is unsuitable, they may challenge the appointment, at which point an email vote of the membership shall occur, with majority ruling.

#### **Article IV: Advisor**

The faculty advisor is appointed by the joint approval of the executive officers, and shall be selected from the faculty of the Jacobs School of Music as it is anticipated that most members of the IUGSS will be students from the JSOM. There is no limit to their length of service, but they may be replaced at any time. The duties of faculty advisor are limited for this organization as the intent of its creation is to allow students the opportunity to self-manage an amateur production company. Their primary responsibility is to be able to communicate the status of productions to the faculty of the Jacobs School of Music and share that faculty's concerns, if any, with the executive officers. This will help the officers to be able to best schedule and coordinate the company's events within the JSOM calendar.

#### **Article V: Meetings**

For the purpose of this organization, meetings will generally refer to rehearsals, the schedule for which is determined by the executive officers. Additional meetings may be called by the executive officers as they deem necessary.

#### **Article VI: Elections**

As the executive officers of this organization are appointed by their predecessors, elections are not necessary. However, the Faculty Advisor may veto an appointment, at which point an email vote by the membership of the organization shall occur, with majority ruling.

## **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 VII: Dues and Budgets**

Membership dues shall be shall only be charged if the SOA balance is deemed insufficient to support a production and shall be as follows (only applicable to those participating in actual productions): \$20 for those cast in lead roles, and \$10 for those cast in ensemble roles. These dues may be applied as the executive officers see fit to help with the cost of production, which may include: building rental, accompanist compensation, orchestral compensation, costume rental, etc.

Dues are collected at the first staging rehearsal of each production, and failure to comply may result in loss of a role. Exemptions or extensions will be made for financial hardship.

A budget shall be created for each production by the production team, and maintained by a volunteer from the organization, generally a cast member of that production.

## **Article IX: Finances**

Financial affairs for the organization will be overseen by the executive officers and Faculty Advisor. Each year, a cast member will volunteer to oversee application for and maintenance of a Student Organization Account in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Student Organization Accounts office. Due to the large cost of production and not charging admission, the organization will also seek fundraising opportunities including but not limited to private donors, online fundraising, benefit recitals, etc.

## **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**

Any proposed amendments made to this constitution shall be made known to members during rehearsals (if applicable) and/or via email. A majority vote is necessary to ratify any amendment, and if an email vote is taken, three days will be allowed for members to reply.