PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

The Bylaws Committee is proposing the following Amendments to the OSURA Bylaws for consideration by OSURA members at the Annual Meeting scheduled to be held on August 7, 2020. The current and complete statement of the Bylaws, as amended September 20, 2017, is available for review in the 2019 OSURA Directory and on OSURA.osu.edu. Below are excerpts from the current Bylaws of just those Articles and Sections of Articles that contain proposals for amending. The text that is proposed to be added appears with highlights and text proposed to be eliminated appears with highlights and strikethroughs.

The Amendments were published in the OSURA News in July 2020. Several members of OSURA responded to the invitation to contact the Bylaws Committee Chairperson with concerns or suggestions. The two editorial suggestions that were received are incorporated into copy that follows.

Rationale for proposals: All of the suggested amendments are editorial in nature. If approved by the Membership of OSURA, they will provide clarification and or more accurately capture current practices.

Questions or Concerns: Any member of OSURA who has a question or a concern about the content of the proposed amendments is encouraged to contact Marie Taris, chairperson of the Bylaws Committee in advance of the Annual Meeting in August. Please write or call: mtaris4@att.net or 614-537-1162.

Membership of the Bylaws Committee: Jerry Newsom, Gabby Reissland, Elenore Zeller, and Marie Taris, chairperson.

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Article II – Affiliation

OSURA shall be considered a special interest society within, and an integral part of, The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc. (hereafter referred to as the Alumni Association). The Alumni Association is the official alumni organization of The Ohio State University (hereafter referred to as the University).

Section 1: OSURA will promote and support the mission of the Alumni Association.

Section 2: The Alumni Association’s commitment to OSURA is outlined in the Charter as agreed to by OSURA and the Alumni Association.

Article III – Purpose

The purpose of OSURA is to enhance the well-being of its members through educational and cultural programs and/or experiences that provide:

a. pertinent educational, social and recreational activities;

b. information of importance to the member’s status as a retiree of the University;
c. information about ways of maintaining and improving the member’s health condition and economic status and financial condition;
d. opportunities for members to maintain a relationship with and service to the University; and
e. information and/or for assistance to a surviving spouse/partner or family in case of extreme illness or death.

Article IV - Membership and Donations

Section 1 - Active Members

A retiree of the University or of an affiliated organization as recognized by the University, (or of an organization recognized by the Executive Board as being closely related to the University, for example, The Ohio State University Faculty Club) shall become an Active Member by making a donation to OSURA at the minimum annual or at the minimum Lifetime membership level.

Section 2 - Associate Members

Retirees from places other than the University who have an interest in and can contribute to the purpose of OSURA can be eligible for an Associate Membership. Also, individuals who are nearing retirement from the University are eligible to become Associate Members. Associate Members must be approved by the Membership Committee and must make a donation to OSURA at the minimum annual membership level to retain their memberships. Associate Members do not have the right to vote or hold any position requiring membership on the Executive Board. The Executive Board will hereafter be referred to as the Board.

Section 4 - Membership Donations

The Executive Board sets the level of minimum donation required for Active membership status. Active members make either an annual donation to OSURA or a donation at the Lifetime membership level.

Section 5 - Inactive Members

Inactive Members shall have none of the rights and privileges of Active Members.

Article V – Officers

Section 2 – Length of Term

The Vice President, who is also President-Elect, shall be elected by the membership for a one-year term as Vice President and shall serve the subsequent year as President. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected by the membership for a two-year term. The Secretary shall be elected in the even-numbered years and the Treasurer shall be elected in the odd-numbered years. The Immediate Past President shall serve a one-year term following the year of his or her presidency. The terms of office shall begin on July 1. All officers are eligible to serve additional terms.
**Article VI – Duties of the Officers**

**Section 1: President**

The President shall preside at all general meetings of OSURA and of the Executive Board, appoint the chairpersons of all committees with the approval of the Board, serve as an ex officio member of all committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee, and perform duties as usually pertain to the office.

**Section 3: Secretary**

The Secretary shall send out notices of the Executive Board and general membership meetings and keep minutes of these meetings. The Secretary shall send reports of these meetings and the activities of OSURA to the Alumni Association. The Secretary shall have the custody of the names and addresses of those retirees who become Active or Associate Members of OSURA and shall notify the Alumni Association of any updates or changes that OSURA might receive. OSURA shall not release the membership list for political, personal or commercial purposes.

**Section 4: Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall supervise all receipts and expenditures of OSURA in keeping with an appropriate system of control over the financial resources of the organization. The Treasurer shall oversee the preparation and distribution of monthly financial reports. The Treasurer shall obtain and record the information necessary for monthly financial reports to the Executive Board and the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall disburse funds subject to the approval of the Executive Board and its established policies. As requested, the Treasurer shall complete and submit annual financial forms to the Alumni Association. Additionally, he or she shall complete and submit any documents that may be required by the Internal Revenue Service.

**Section 5: Immediate Past President**

The Immediate Past President shall work with the President to further the objectives of OSURA. The Immediate Past President shall officiate at Executive Board meetings in the absence of the President and the Vice President.

**Article VII – the Executive Board (hereafter referred to as the Board)**

**Section 1: Composition**

The Board, all of whom must be Active Members of OSURA, shall consist of:

a. the officers named in Article V;

b. the Historian(s);

c. the Chairpersons of the following Standing Committees: Benefits, Bylaws, Communications, Conference Planning, Cultural Arts, Finance, Friendship, Membership, Social, Special Interest Groups Coordinating and Travel. A committee chairperson may designate another member of his or her committee to serve as the Board member representing the committee;

d. six members-at-large elected to the Board by the membership of OSURA;

e. members, without vote, designated from time to time by the Board and serving as liaison to the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio, the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, and other organizations, projects, and committees, both internal and external to the University;

f. the President/CEO of the Association, or designee, as an ex officio, without a vote.
g. the staff designee from the University Office of Human Resources responsible to work with OSURA, as an ex officio, without a vote.

e. ex officio members, without a Board vote include:

- active OSURA members, appointed by the president with approval of the Board including liaisons to the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio, the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System and other organizations that impact university retirees;

- the President/CEO of the Alumni Association, or designee;

- the staff designee from the University Office of Human Resources responsible to work with OSURA.

An individual may hold more than one membership position, but may have only one vote.

*Section 2: Duties of the Board*

The duties of the Board include:

a. to hold regular meetings (the President being empowered to call special meetings);

b. to receive and review secretarial and financial reports;

c. to develop policies for the planning and promotion of programs and activities;

d. to have general supervision of the affairs of OSURA between meetings of the membership, to fix the date, time and location of meetings, to make recommendations to the membership, and to perform such duties as are authorized by the membership. No action of the Board shall conflict with actions taken by the membership at a meeting of the membership;

e. to elect a successor to any member of the Board who is unable to serve;

f. to appoint a Historian or Co-Historian(s) who shall serve an indefinite term.

g. to determine the minimum donation required for annual and lifetime membership.

*Section 3: Actions of the Board*

Any action of the Board that is challenged in writing by at least twenty members must either be rescinded by the Board or submitted to the membership for a vote. The returns shall be tabulated within six weeks. Approval of the Board’s action requires the approval of the majority of the returns.

*Section 4: Quorum*

The majority of the voting members of the Board constitute a quorum.

*Article VIII – Meetings*

There shall be one Annual Meeting of the OSURA membership. Other meetings may be called by the President or the Board. Twenty-five members constitute a quorum for all meetings of the membership.
Article X – Elections

Elections will be held each year to select officers, in accordance with the length of term as described in Article V, Section 2, and to select three members-at-large, who are elected for a two-year term. The Nominating Committee is responsible for conducting the election process which generally begins in January and concludes prior to July 1, in accordance with the timetable outlined in the OSURA Operating Manual.

The existing OSURA Bylaws were originally adopted on August 17, 2016 and were revised September 20, 2017