

Constitution of the Open Source Club

Hunter College

Executive Board of the OSC

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Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Constitution | 1 |
| Article Z Definitions | 1 |
| Article I Name | 2 |
| Article II Purpose | 2 |
| Ends | 2 |
| Means | 2 |
| Allied Goals | 2 |
| Article III Membership | 3 |
| Article IV Officers | 3 |
| Article V Committees | 3 |
| Article VI Meetings | 3 |
| Article VII Quorum | 3 |
| Article VIII Amendment | 3 |
| Article IX Ideology | 4 |
| Preamble | 4 |
| Definition | 4 |
| History | 4 |

Constitution

Article Z Definitions

For the purposes of this document and unless the distinction is specified explicitly, let the term Open Source include both permissive (copy-center) and reciprocal (copy-left) licenses.

Let Open Source refer to Creative Commons Licenses and other permissive licenses when referring to educational documents such as instructional textbooks.

Article I Name

The name of this organization will be Hunter's **Open Source Club** or **OSC**.

The Hunter **Association for the Advancement of Free, Libre, and Open Source Software** was suggested, but discarded because of its verbosity. Before it, Hunter's **Free Software Club** was suggested, but discarded because it is not inclusive of permissive licenses, and suffers from the ambiguity: free might be misinterpreted to be free of charge instead of software **freedom**.

To not stray far from the topic, this distinction is clarified in *Article IX Ideology*.

Article II Purpose

Ends

The club's primary goals are to...

1. combat elitism, increase equitability and promote accessibility in computer coding and programming,
2. bolster student portfolios and prepare students for a future in computer science, and
3. improve adoption of Open Source Software among technical students, professors and creatives.

Means

To achieve these goals, the club will...

1. provide technical assistance for computer science and math classes for members and,
2. host technical and behavioral workshops to advance career readiness for members, and
3. build, deploy, and promote Open Source Software and solutions for all target groups.

Allied Goals

1. Maintain a strong presence on social media and in physical advertising to allow all Hunter students to benefit from club opportunities.
2. Build, deploy, and maintain an Open Source Club website serving as a central hub for resources on and off the campus.
3. Host socials to promote networking among members and spread the open source spirit.
4. Lobby for and consolidate tools for the creation of a makerspace where students can learn about physical computing and computer hardware in a welcoming environment.
5. Reach out to Hunter Professors, offer, and undertake the creation, deployment, and maintenance of Open Source

- a. class materials,
- b. class websites, and
- c. solutions to classroom problems or inefficiencies *sui generis*.

Article III Membership

1. Membership is granted to any person in the Hunter College Community, regardless of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or disability.
2. Voting membership is granted to all members.
3. All members should make an effort to participate in the community and commit to sharing knowledge for the betterment of the community.
4. Voting membership will be suspended in the case of
 - a. a vote equal to or exceeding two-thirds of voting members, or
 - b. any disciplinary action by Hunter College against a member after due process.
 - c. any disciplinary procedures by the club after due process

Article IV Officers

In this article you should include sections: 1) Listing of officers, 2) Describe the method of nomination and election of officers, 3) Describe the duties of the elected officers. 4) Describe how officers may be removed/impeached.

Article V Committees

This article may merely describe the method of elections or appointing any committees; or, it may list specific standing committees, their membership, and purpose.

Article VI Meetings

This article should state the method for scheduling regular meeting days and hours, and for calling special meetings.

Article VII Quorum

This article should state the portion of the membership necessary to constitute a quorum.

Article VIII Amendment

This article should describe the procedure for proposing and voting upon amendments to the constitution.

Article IX Ideology

Preamble

It is quite possible that much of our intended audience is not familiar with the concept of “Open Source.” That won’t be an issue, however, as the very nature of the culture propagated by the Open Source movement is defined by inclusivity, freedom, and respect. All are welcome, and all will learn in due time.

Definition

Literally interpreted, the term ‘Open Source’ is relatively self explanatory – it is an adjective used to describe code which is available for view and use by anybody (code written by programmers is known as *source code*, which explains why the word *source* is included). Proponents of Open Source are drawn to it for a multitude of reasons, whether due to its inherent practicality (“*given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow*”), or from the point of view of social justice, as the Open Source community tends to be especially welcoming of those who have been historically marginalized.

History

Many great people have been involved in the creation of such a radical movement (yes, at the time of its inception the majority of businesses viewed software as something inherently proprietary). The history of computer science in general is very rich and dense, full of intriguing characters and lore – the Open Source movement is no exception.

It is left as an exercise to the reader to discover some of the many colorful characters – and those that leave a stain on the Open Source movement. Although Open Source has its fair share of negative figures, we must take that as an opportunity to learn and grow together as a community.