

Ignite Constitution

ARTICLE I: Name.

The name of the organization will be Ignite.

ARTICLE II: Purpose and Goals.

Section I: Purpose

Ignite seeks to glorify the Lord in every aspect of its existence by serving the incoming freshmen class and showing them their first glimpse of the body of Christ at the University of Texas at Austin.

“Glorify the Lord with me, let us exalt His name together.” Psalm 34:3

The purpose of Ignite is to provide a weekend of spiritual growth to freshmen (*Philippians 1:9-10*, “*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.*”) through the unity of the body of Christ (*I Corinthians 12:12*, “*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.*”) and to provide an outreach to freshmen (*I Timothy 4:7-8*, “*...train yourself to be godly, For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*”), allowing them to see God’s influence at the University of Texas at Austin.

Section II: Goals:

- 1) Ignite will provide a foundation for freshmen and an igniting of the Holy Spirit. The desire is for everyone to walk away with a deeper and a sincere love for God. Providing a firm foundation for one’s college career and a beginning point for freshmen to start school is a key to surviving many of the pressures that come with being on your own for the first time.
Ephesians 2:21-22, Ephesians 3:16-19, Acts 1:8
- 2) Ignite wants freshmen to see the strong Christian influence on campus and see how God is moving at the University of Texas at Austin. Knowing the direction to take and how to become involved at Texas is an important question many freshmen have. By showing them there are many Christian groups with the same goal, worshipping God, we hope they will find a place to make an Ignite.
Ephesians 4:4-6, Psalm 25:4-5, Psalm 18:32
- 3) Strong Christian relationships are essential in order to start college under proper influence. The retreat is designed for fellowship with other believers. Friendships will be established among freshmen as well as counselors, which will edify and encourage all groups involved. Time will be used for unity and worship in the Lord.
I John 1:7, Romans 14:19, Hebrews 3:13, John 4:23
- 4) Christian groups will be represented allowing freshmen an opportunity to talk with members from churches and Christian organizations. Promotion and favoritism of groups will not be tolerated.

There are many strong churches and Christian groups existing on and off campus and all groups will be emphasized equally.

I Corinthians 1:10, Psalm 133:1, Psalm 115:1

- 5) Through Ignite, a leadership experience will be provided for many Christians at Texas. In leadership, they will be trained to teach and share their faith as well as being challenged in their own spiritual walks to seek the Lord for His will and thereby glorify Him in all aspects of their lives.

Ephesians 4:11-13, Titus 1:7-9, I Timothy 3:1

Section III: History

Ignite was originally named Hook Up, and was founded in September 2002 as a product of the mission statement for Texas A&M's Impact. Since the foundation of Ignite in 2002, every August, incoming freshmen to Texas gather with current students to see how God is moving on the UT campus and in the city of Austin. These students are introduced to many churches in the Austin area as well as the multitude of Christian campus organizations. In the Fall of 2007, the name was officially changed to Ignite to more accurately represent our organization's purpose of igniting a desire in the hearts of incoming freshmen to seek God during their time at UT, and for the rest of their lives.

Section IV: Statement of Faith

1. We believe that there is one God eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Deut 6:4; Col 2:9; Heb 1:1-3; Ps 139; Mt 28:19)
2. We believe that the Bible is God's written revelation to man and that it is inspired, authoritative, and without error in the original manuscripts. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Isaiah 40:8)
3. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, death on the cross to provide for our only means of redemption, bodily resurrection and ascension into heaven, present ministry of intercession for us, and His return to earth in power and glory. (2 Cor 5:21; Phil 2:5-11)
4. We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, that He performs the miracle of new birth in an unbeliever and indwells believers, enabling them to live a godly life. (1 Cor 12:13; 1 Cor 2:10-13)
5. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but because of sin, was alienated from God. That alienation can be removed through God's grace alone by faith alone in Jesus Christ, apart from works. (Eph 2:1-10)

Section V: Vision

The vision of Ignite is to work towards uniting the Body of Christ together as we seek to see the Lord glorified on the UT campus. If the incoming freshmen class can enter UT united and passionate about God's glory, revival will truly take place. For it is only in the unity of the Body of Christ that God will be most glorified.

The long-range vision of Ignite includes having multiple sessions, reaching other campuses, and creating a National Board. We would like to reach every incoming freshman, and hold multiple sessions of the retreat in order to increase the spiritual growth and provide more one-on-one time. We would also like to spread Ignite to other college campuses in the state and in the nation. We would like to accomplish this by creating a National Board of Alumni to freely help whoever is interested in organizing, planning, and

praying over what this organization might look like on their specific campus. The leadership of Ignite will always focus on both spreading and promoting the vision of Ignite to the University of Texas at Austin first, but will also actively reach out to other campuses.

ARTICLE III: Structure of the Organization.

Section I: Definitions

- 1) Leadership: is an officer and is defined by this organization as all of the Executive Officers and Co-chairs.
- 2) Membership: is made up of Counselors and Prayer Team Members.
- 3) Staff: is all persons in the organization, including leadership and members.
- 4) Executive Officers: Also known as Exec, shall be defined as the leadership body of the organization, and the Director(s) will act as the leaders of the Executive Officers. The numbers of Executive Officers and their specific responsibilities will be left to the prayerful discernment of the Director(s).
- 5) Board of Directors: are current and/or graduated members of Ignite that give guidance and evaluation in spiritual, strategic, and financial matters relating to and involving Ignite directly to the directors.
- 6) Review Committee: will oversee cases of disciplinary problems relating to the violation of the staff contract. At a minimum the review committee members will be made up of one director, two executive officers, and one male and one female co-chair (non-partners). Additional members of the review committee will be added as seen necessary at the discretion of the Directors.
- 7) SMALL Group: is a group of freshman within a camp that will be lead by counselors within a given camp. This group will be used to discuss various issues that freshmen or counselors could/have faced.
- 8) Camp: is a group of staff members including: Co-Chairs, Prayer Team members, and Counselors. Freshmen will be placed into camps before the Retreat in August. The number of camps will be left to the prayerful decision of the Executive Officers.
- 9) Session: A session shall be defined as a length of time that a set number of camps will be at the Retreat in August. The number of sessions will be left to the prayerful decision of the Executive Officers.
- 10) Quorum: will consist of two-thirds of the Executive Officers. This must be met to conduct business, however, if changes to the constitution are proposed, all Executive Officers must be present to exact changes.
- 11) Regular meetings will take place weekly, and they are as followed:
 - a) Executive: weekly meetings where the Executive Officers meet and discuss the spiritual and logistical aspects of Ignite as according to each individual office.
 - b) Leadership: weekly meeting where the Executive Officers will inform the Co-Chairs of their responsibilities and duties. This time will be used to inform and prepare the leadership body how to better serve in this organization.
 - c) Prayer: semi-monthly meeting (alternating with Camp meeting) that will be conducted by the Prayer Exec but will be open to persons outside the organization. This will be a time to pray for the campus, the incoming freshman class, and all other prayer requests.
 - d) Camp: semi-monthly meeting (alternating with prayer meetings) among the individual camps and the members. This will be a time for the camp to be informed by Co-Chairs of the responsibilities for the upcoming week. This time will be used as preparation for the retreat in August.

- e) Prayer Team meeting: weekly meeting that will be conducted by the prayer team and open to all members of the organization. This time will be used cover all aspects of Ignite and allow the staff to grow in prayer and spiritual leadership.
- 12) Fall/Spring Training: These will be held during each semester and will be attended by all staff. The purpose of these meetings will be to educate and inform the staff of the retreat in August, and equip them with information and scenarios to prepare them for their role at the retreat.
- 13) Ministry Fair: is the gathering of churches and organizations at the camp site that will present and inform the incoming freshmen class of their church or organization. This occurs at the Retreat in August. The purpose of the fair is to expose the incoming freshmen class to the many different churches and organization in hopes that they serve in and get connected once they are back in Austin.
- 14) The Retreat: refers to the actual orientation retreat for the incoming freshmen, where all the staff members welcome in the incoming freshman. It is also used to refer to the actual camp grounds for were the retreat will be held, which will be determined each year by the Executive Officers.

Section II: Term of Office for Staff

- 1) The term of office for all persons in leadership shall begin upon their notification of selection and extends until end of their membership term as determined by the Executive Officers. The tenure of each leadership is as follows:
 - a) Directors will be selected on the 1st or 2nd week of the Fall semester and will continue in that capacity until the selection of the New Directors for the following year.
 - b) Executive Officers will be selected on the 2nd or 3rd week of the Fall semester by the new Directors, and will continue in that capacity until the selection of the New Directors for the following year.
 - c) Co-Chairs will be selected by the Executive Officers on the 4th or 5th week of the Fall semester and will continue in that capacity until the conclusion of the Retreat in August.
- 2) The membership for counselors and prayer team shall begin upon their notification of selection and extends until end of their membership term as determined by the Executive Officers. The tenure of each member is as follows:
 - a) Prayer Teams will be selected by the Prayer Exec and Directors in the 6th or 7th week of the Fall semester, and will continue in that capacity until the conclusion of the Retreat in August.
 - b) Counselors will be selected by the Co-Chairs on the 9th or 10th week of the Fall semester, and will continue in that capacity until the conclusion of the Retreat in August.

Section III: Leadership

- 1) Director
 - a) Eligibility
 - i) Must have served and completed at least one year as a member of Ignite Leadership; strongly suggested that he or she has previously been an Executive Officer.
 - ii) Must be enrolled as a student at The University of Texas at Austin from the time of selection through the fall and spring semester and be available to remain in Austin for the summer prior to Ignite.
 - iii) Must be in and remain in good standing with Ignite, remain in good conduct and academic standing with the University, and meet all University-sanctioned requirements.
 - b) Selection Process

The Directors will be selected by an application, interview, and evaluation process. Interviews of all applicants will be conducted by the outgoing Executive Body. If a member of the outgoing Executive Body is applying for Director he or she is not allowed to take part in the decision process.

- c) Responsibilities (entrusted to do)
 - i) Directors will be responsible for attending 3 meetings a week:
 - (1) Executive Officer meeting
 - (2) Leadership meeting with Co-Chairs
 - (3) Prayer Meeting
 - ii) Directors will also plan and coordinate both training sessions.
 - iii) Attend all sessions of the Retreat in August with given responsibilities.
 - iv) Directors will select new Executive Officers.
 - v) Directors will plan and organize the Co-chair selection process.
 - vi) Directors will be a part of the Co-Chair and Prayer Team selection processes
 - vii) Hold and lead Executive Officer Meetings
 - viii) During the year any questionable circumstance/situation will be brought to the Directors. The Directors will research the situation and if necessary appoint a review committee to make a decision.
 - ix) Directors will interview all potential new Directors at the end of their term.
 - x) Help recruit freshman.
- 2) Executive Officers
 - a) Eligibility
 - i) Must have served and completed the previous year on Ignite Staff.
 - ii) Must be enrolled as a student at The University of Texas at Austin from the time of selection through the spring semester.
 - iii) Must be in and remain in good standing with Ignite, remain in good conduct and academic standing with the University, and meet all University-sanctioned requirements.
 - b) Selection Process

All Executive Officer positions will be filled through an application, interview and evaluation process, conducted by the outgoing Director, incoming Director, and outgoing Executive Officer of the respective position. Because of the number of Executive Officers the final decision is left to the prayerful discretion of the new Directors, the positions may change.
 - c) Responsibilities
 - i) Executive Officers will be responsible for attending 3 meetings a week
 - (1) Executive meeting,
 - (2) Leadership meeting with the Co-Chairs, once they are chosen, and
 - (3) Prayer meeting
 - ii) Each Executive Officer will be responsible for helping the Directors with specific tasks, assigned in a specific position. The number of Executive Officers and their duties will be left to the prayerful discernment of the Directors, but must include:
 - (1) Financial
 - (2) Administrative
 - (3) Male Leadership Trainer
 - (4) Female Leadership Trainer
 - (5) Prayer
 - (6) Fundraising
 - (7) Publicity
 - (8) Media
 - iii) Attend both staff training sessions and executive training sessions.
 - iv) Attend all sessions of the retreat in August with given responsibilities.
 - d) The duties of an Executive Officer also include but are not limited to:
 - i) Help recruit freshman
 - ii) All officers will be a part of the selection process of Co-Chairs

- iii) Supervise selection processes
- iv) The responsibilities given in their position as an Executive Officer
- 3) Co-Chair
 - a) Eligibility
 - i) Must be enrolled as at student at The University of Texas at Austin from the time of selection through the spring.
 - ii) Must be in and remain in good standing with Ignite, remain in good conduct and academic standing with the University, and meet all University-sanctioned requirements.
 - b) Selection Process
 - i) All Co-Chair positions will be filled through an application, interview and evaluation process, and conducted by the Executive Officers.
 - c) Responsibilities
 - i) A Co-Chair will be required to attend 2 meetings a week (alternating camp/prayer meeting):
 - (1) Leadership Meeting with the Executive Officers
 - (2) Specific camp meeting with their camp
 - (3) Prayer meeting
 - ii) Attend both training sessions.
 - iii) Attend specific sessions of the retreat in August with given responsibilities.
 - d) The duties of a Co-Chair also include but are not limited to:
 - i) Each Co-Chair will be assigned to guide, help, and lead a specific number of counselors and prayer team that are placed into their camp.
 - ii) Selection Process of the counselors.
 - iii) Leadership of their individual camp.
 - iv) Regular counselor training and preparation for the retreat.
 - v) Help recruit freshmen.

Section IV: Membership

- 1) Counselors
 - a) Eligibility
 - i) Must be enrolled as a student at The University of Texas at Austin from the time of selection through the spring semester, and remain in the Austin area through the Fall following Retreat in August.
 - ii) Must be in and remain in good standing with Ignite, remain in good conduct and academic standing with the University, and meet all University-sanctioned requirements.
 - b) Selection Process

All counselor positions will be filled through an application, interview and evaluation process, conducted by the Co-Chairs and supervised by the Leadership Trainers.
 - c) Responsibilities
 - i) A Counselor will be required to attend 1 meeting a week (alternating camp/prayer):
 - (1) Specific camp meeting with their camp
 - (2) Prayer meeting
 - ii) Required to attend both staff training sessions and co-chair training session.
 - iii) Attend specific sessions of the retreat in August with given responsibilities.
 - iv) Facilitate a discussion group, small Group, at the retreat
 - v) Be in Austin the Fall after their Ignite session for follow up with small Group
 - vi) Expected to continue the role of counselor to their given freshman during the following Fall semester.
 - vii) Be dedicated to a group of freshmen's spiritual growth during the summer and into the Fall
 - viii) Help recruit freshmen

- 2) Prayer Team
 - a) Eligibility
 - i) Must be enrolled as a student at The University of Texas at Austin from the time of selection through the spring semester.
 - ii) Must be in and remain in good standing with Ignite, remain in good conduct and academic standing with the University, and meet all University-sanctioned requirements.
 - b) Selection Process

Prayer team positions will be filled through an application, interview and evaluation process, conducted by the Prayer Exec and the Director.
 - c) Responsibilities
 - i) A Prayer Team member will be required to attend 2 meetings a week (alternating camp/prayer):
 - (1) Specific camp meeting with their camp
 - (2) Prayer meeting
 - (3) Prayer Team meeting
 - ii) Required to attend both staff training sessions, and prayer training session.
 - iii) Attend specific sessions of the retreat in August with given responsibilities.
 - iv) To pray for the planning and preparation of Ignite
 - v) Help recruit freshmen

ARTICLE V: Advising

Section I: Board of Directors

- 1) The Board of Directors are current and/or graduated members of Ignite that give guidance and evaluation in spiritual, strategic, and financial matters relating to and involving Ignite directly to the directors.
- 2) Board of Directors Expectations:
 - a) It is important that the members of the Board of Directors be familiar with the activities of the organization and the spiritual matters involved and has (or be willing to obtain) an appropriate level of experience, resources, and knowledge related to those activities and the mission of the organization.
 - b) The Board of Directors is to give advice, to the Directors in regards to major decision making. The Board of Directors' purpose is to give advice and support the Director in their decisions and help keep focus on the overall goal and purpose of the ministry.
 - c) The Board of Directors will be expected to meet with the Directors twice a year to discuss expectations and goals for the organization.

ARTICLE VI: Removal/Discipline.

All leadership and members of Ignite are expected to uphold the responsibilities, requirements, and expectations associated with their respective positions, contracts and any other requirement that will be placed upon them by leadership as outlined in this constitution or from the *by-laws*. Individuals who fail to do so may be disciplined or removed from their position. Also failure to uphold certain signed and agreed upon documents that could include: a statement of belief agreement, an above reproach agreement, and/or a behavioral contract, could be grounds for discipline or removal.

Section I: Removal/Discipline of a Director

All disciplinary procedures for the directors will be handled through a review committee. A director may be removed from office if they fail to fulfill their duties as outlined within the Constitution. The director(s) in question is to be informed in advance of these expectations and the responsibility of being in leadership. Should a director(s) position be reviewed for possible removal, he/she will be given an opportunity to account for their situation to the review committee. The review committee will evaluate the situation after hearing from the Director in question and will make a decision expeditiously, with the advice of the Board of Directors. The Director will be contacted as to the outcome of the situation by the person who will oversee the review committee. If the person in question is removed then the remaining Director will then choose someone from the Executive Officers to replace the Director removed for the remaining term. All procedures for the review committee will be defined in the *by-laws* of Ignite.

Section II: Removal/Discipline of an Executive Officer

All disciplinary procedures for the Executive Officers will be handled through the Directors in the review committee process. Any member may be removed from office if they fail to fulfill their duties as outlined within the Constitution. The member in question is to be informed in advance of these expectations and the responsibility of being in leadership. Should a member's position be reviewed for possible removal, he/she will be given an opportunity, to account for their situation to the Directors. The Directors will review the situation after hearing from the member in question and make a decision expeditiously, with the advice of the Board of Directors. The member will be contacted as to the outcome of the situation by the person who will oversee the review committee. In the case of removal of someone on leadership the position will be filled as soon as possible at the discretion of the current Directors. All procedures for the review committee will be defined in the *by-laws* of Ignite.

Section III: Removal/Discipline of a Co-Chair, Counselor and Prayer Team

All disciplinary procedures for positions of Co-Chair, Counselor and Prayer Team will be handled through a review committee. Any member may be removed from office if they fail to fulfill their duties as outlined within the Constitution. The member in question is to be informed in advance of these expectations. Should a member's position be reviewed for possible removal, he/she will be given an opportunity, to account for their situation to the review committee. The review committee members will review the situation after hearing from the member in question and make a decision expeditiously. The member will be contacted as to the outcome of the situation by the person who will oversee the review committee. In the case of removal of a member the position will be filled as soon as possible at the discretion of the current Directors. All procedures for the review committee will be defined in the *by-laws* of Ignite.

Section IV: Vacancies

All vacancies will be filled at the discretion of the directors, whether through formal application process or direct selection.

ARTICLE VII: Finances

Section I: Dues

Dues shall be determined per academic year by the Finance Executive Officer, and will be collected from all members of this organization.

Section II: Financial Transactions

All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this organization at the Student Organization Bank.

ARTICLE VIII: Amendments

Section I: Amendment of the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution will be proposed based on the discretion of the Executive Officers and may occur at the time deemed necessary. It will take a unanimous vote of the Executive Officers to pass an amendment.