Constitution and By-Laws: Dance Graduate Student Group

Constitution

Article I

Section 1 - Name: Dance Graduate Student Group

Section 2 - Purpose: The Dance Graduate Student Group (DiGS) will provide resources and financial support for the creation of work by graduate students in the Department of Dance at The Ohio State University. DiGS will also provide support for visiting movement artists and relevant scholars from outside the university to present work, teach workshops, and/or give lectures for the Dance Department and the wider Columbus arts community.

Section 3 - This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.

All voting members of DiGS must be graduate students enrolled at the Ohio State University in the Dance Department. Alumni and faculty are welcome to participate as non-voting members.

Article III - Organization Leadership:

President: The president will serve for a term of one year and will be responsible for leading group meetings, maintaining communication with members as well as with the larger university community, delegating specific responsibilities to group members, and applying for grants.

Vice-President: The vice-president will serve for a term of one year and will be responsible for overseeing the voting process for group decisions, setting the agenda for group meetings through communication with group members, maintaining the group calendar, and leading group meetings in the absence of the president.

Treasurer: The treasurer will serve for a term of one year and will be responsible for maintaining a group bank account, requesting funds, creating a group budget, tracking group income and expenses, and depositing and accessing group funds. The treasurer will take meeting notes in the absence of the secretary.

Secretary: The secretary will serve for a term of one year and will be responsible for taking meeting notes, maintaining the group’s web presence, and distributing
event announcements.

Article VI – Method of Selecting and/or Removing Officers and Members.

Membership is comprised of Dance graduate students currently enrolled in The Ohio State University Dance Department.

All officers must be in residence in Ohio for the entire academic year.

Officers are selected via an annual election in April. If an officer is unable or unwilling to continue with his/her duties, the president or vice president will initiate a special election. Officers will only be selected from the membership. Members interested in leadership will notify the vice-president of their desired position by March 31st. The vice-president will organize an election and notify members of the results by April 30th.

General members and elected leaders are expected to follow through with group responsibilities, project a professional image when representing DiGS, and maintain active and respectful communication with peers. In the event that a member or leader does not meet those expectations, members can file an official complaint with the president or vice president. A general meeting will then be organized as a hearing in which each member will have the chance to express their opinion and address the concern. A vote will then occur among all members (except the person in question) to decide if the member or leader will be put on probationary status or removed from leadership and/or the organization.

Article VII – Advisor(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria.

The group advisor will be a member of the Dance Department faculty. He/She will serve as a liaison between DiGS and the Dance Department and will be responsible for connecting DiGS with appropriate staff and resources provided by the Dance Department. In addition to completing the biannual training at the Ohio Union, the advisor shall serve as a sounding board for questions from the officers. The advisor may be asked to facilitate contact with potential speakers and/or artists.

Article VIII – Meetings of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency.

DiGS will meet twice per academic term (except summer) for general meetings. Additional planning meetings will be organized as needed for specific events.

Article IX – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.
Proposed amendments should be in writing, should not be acted upon but read in the general meeting in which they are proposed and should be read again at two subsequent general meetings and at the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. Approval will require at least two-thirds of voting members present. Major group decisions will be made with quorum present at a business meeting, which is at minimum 50% + 1 of voting members.

Article X – Method of Dissolution of Organization

Should there come a time when DiGS is no longer needed and/or student interest diminishes to the point where we are no longer able to maintain membership, the organization will be dissolved. Once any outstanding debts are paid from the organization accounts, remaining funding will be returned to the Ohio Union.

Article XI – Removal of members

If a member conducts his/herself in such a manner deemed detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization or is in violation of the OSU Student Code of Conduct, they can be removed through a majority vote of the other voting membership or unanimous vote of the officers, with the consultation of the advisor.

By-Laws

By-laws contain the standing (permanent) rules of procedure of an organization. Articles in the by-laws may be covered in appropriate detail in the constitution of very small organizations. However, most groups keep separate by-laws because they usually contain more detail and are subject to change more than that of the constitution and, therefore, may require different procedures for amending.

Provision for amendment of the by-laws should be somewhat easier than that of the constitution as rules of procedure should adapt to changing conditions of the student organization. When amending the by-laws, as with the constitution, previous notice of any changes is usually required to be given to the membership and should not be changed in the same meeting in which proposed. By-laws are more permanent, however, than passing a general motion, which may require only a simple majority vote of voters present at a general meeting of the membership (a quorum being present). By-laws cannot run contrary to the constitution.

Article 1 – Parliamentary Authority

Programming and other decisions will be made by a simple majority of those present.

Article II- Membership
All currently enrolled dance graduate students at The Ohio State University are eligible for membership. Interested students will contact the president to be added to the roster. Members must be in the Dance Department at The Ohio State University and must be graduate students.

Article III- Election / Appointment of Government Leadership

All current members are eligible for office. Members interested in leadership will notify the vice-president of their desired position by March 31st. The vice-president will create and disseminate an electronic ballot to current members and set a deadline for the ballots to be returned. The vice president will review the votes and notify members of the results by April 30th.

In the case of an officer being unwilling or unable to continue his or her service, a special voting process will be initiated by the president or vice president.

Article VI - Advisor/Advisory Board Responsibilities

The advisor does not need to be present at all meetings or events, although he/she is always welcome.

Article VII - Meeting Requirements

There will be two meetings per academic term, except for summer. These will be planned by the president. Other meetings will be planned as needed. Quorum will be 50% +1 of the total general membership.

Article VIII - Method of Amending By-Laws

Proposed amendments to the By-Laws will be in writing, should not be acted upon but read in the general meeting of the membership in which they are proposed, and then read again the general meeting in which votes will be taken. Approval of amendments requires at least 2/3 vote of the membership present (a quorum being present).