**=CONSITITUION AND BY-LAWS**

**CONSTITUTION**

**Preamble**

We, a group of college women men and non-binaries, organized as the premier African American LGBTQIA+ Organization. We bind ourselves together for the purpose of creating a safe space for Black OSU students who are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community. We want to provide a space for black students to come to us with problems that may occur with being queer in this world. We want to provide support, community, and a fun place where they can find comfort in being themselves. We also want to raise awareness of the specific struggles that come with being black and queer. We are inclusive to non-black members of the LGBTQIA+ community so that they may learn how to support us and be allies as well.

**Article I Name**

The name of the organization shall be The Black Queer Coalition.

**Article II Objectives**

The Black Queer Coalition shall have as its objective to foster community engagement for the advancement of equality & safety for members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

**Article III Membership**

The organization membership shall include only men/ women/ non-binaries attending The Ohio State University and surrounding collegiate institutions.

This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, The Black Queer Coalition expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf. If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at http://titleIX.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

The Black Queer Coalition has zero tolerance for hazing in any form and all members of the organization must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing.

Hazing is defined by the student code of conduct as:

*“Doing, requiring or encouraging any act, whether or not the act is voluntarily agreed upon, in conjunction with initiation, continued membership, or participation in any group, that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm or humiliation. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, use of alcohol, creation of excessive fatigue, and paddling, punching or kicking in any form. Failure to intervene, prevent, or report acts of hazing may constitute a violation of this section.*”

**Article IV Officers and Elections**

Section 1- Officers

The local executive board officers of this organization shall consist of a president, a vice president, a community engagement chair, a social activist chair, a social media chair, and a membership development chair.

Section 2 – Elections

The current executive board shall have begun the nominating and voting process no later than March of each year. This committee shall present a slate of eligible candidates to be voted on and elected at a regular chapter meeting in March of each year. Installation of officers shall be held at the conclusion of the April meeting. However, the appointed/elected officers shall begin working, closely with the officer in that current position after the March elections. This will ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities and competence in the office/position.

Section 3 – Length of Office

No officer shall be elected or appointed to serve more than (2) consecutive terms in the same office. A term is defined as one year from election or appointment.

Section 4 – Officer Vacancy

If an elected officer is unable to complete their term, the president shall appoint an active member to complete the officer’s term.

**Article V Executive Board**

Section 1 – Membership

Any member running for office must have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

Any officer that fails to attend meetings, programs, and to uphold the obligations of their position is subject to be removed from office for a time period deemed appropriate by the presidents. The officer does have a right to a hearing in which their side can be heard and presented to the executive board. The decisions met after the meeting will be by a 2/3 majority vote and only over-ruled by the President under extreme circumstances.

Section 2 – Duties of the Executive Board

The executive board shall have charge of the executive, financial, administrative, and public affairs of the organization.

Section 3 – Meetings

The Executive board shall meet determined by each board each year. There shall not be less than two (2) regular meetings of the Executive board held annually.

The organization shall hold meetings twice a month unless cancelled by the advisor, president, or vice president.

Any member that becomes out of order during a meeting will be asked to leave the meeting, or subject to disciplinary actions by Student Life at Ohio State University if actions are repeated and disrespectful in nature.

Section 4 – Recommendations for By-Laws

The executive board may recommend amendments to By-Laws and Constitution. All current chapter members also have the power to make, change, or act upon recommendations. They may also amend annual By-Laws in the harmony of the constitution.

**ARTICLE VI Meetings**

Section 1 – Meeting Time and Place

The Black Queer Coalition shall hold regular meetings at least once a month or as determined by the organization. The meeting time and place shall be up to the discretion of the organization as well.

Section 2 – Quorum

25% of the organization shall constitute a quorum for transacting business at a regular meeting. At least two of these members shall be organization officers.

**ARTICLE VII Amendments to Constitution**

Section 1 – Quorum

This constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the membership present at a regular meeting.

Section 2 – Procedure

1. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing. The proposed change(s) must be set forth in detail,and sent to the executive board through any officer 10 days prior to regular meeting.
2. The Executive Board shall immediately send each executive\ member copies of the change(s) 5 days prior to the regular meeting.
3. At a regular meeting, the proposed amendment(s) shall be read and voted upon by the assembled members. (Once changes are proposed and the organization is notified, voting should take place at next regular meeting.

**ARTICLE VIII Membership**

Section -1 Prerequisites

A candidate for active membership express interest to anyone on inside of the Black Queer Coalition

Members of the organization shall be an undergraduate working towards a four-year degree at The Ohio State University. Students attending surrounding four- or two-year institutions are also eligible to become a member provided reasoning to the Eboard.

In order to be an active member, they must have at least a 2.0 grade average and attend organizations meetings, programs, service, and events on a regular basis.

Section -2 Members

Membership shall not be limited to:

* Race/ethnicity
* Appearance
* Quantity
* Class Rank

Section – 4 Confirmation

No person coming into the organization shall be extended membership until valid proof of attendance to university or surround universities in Columbus.

**Article VIIII Duties**

**President**

The Basileus must be at least a sophomore. They must feel that they can lead the organization and it shall be their duty to preside over all meetings; appoint all committees not otherwise provided for; enforce due observance of the constitution, by-laws and regulations; to call special meetings; to have general supervision of the organization; to sign all orders of the payment of money for the treasurer (meaning the treasurer signs all paperwork unless it is their own); In case of a tie, they may cast the deciding vote in voting matters

**Vice President**

The Vice President should be at least a sophomore It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assist the Basileus, to serve in the place of the Vice President when they cannot be present. They must also report to President with any discrepancies within the organization.

**Secretary**

The Secretary shall carry on all official correspondence of the organization and take and distribute all the minutes of the meetings; they shall keep a file of the same and have a permanent record folder to be transferred to the succeeding Secretary. They must keep record of all sign-in sheets and provide new sheets for every program. They are also responsible for keeping file folders that contain the format for all programs.

**Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall receive all the monies and make all the disbursements as required by the constitution. They shall pay all bills as directed by the organization, take receipt for all money paid out and keep record of all receipts for money expenditures. They shall submit a written report in reference to financial conditions of the organization at every meeting and at the end of each school year to officers and eboard members. They also shall keep a permanent record to be turned over to the proceeding Treasurer.

**Community Service/Social Activism Chair**

The community service chair is responsible for scheduling at least two service/activism projects per semester, however, the quantity is unlimited. They are responsible for keeping record of all community/philanthropic events and informing the chapter of upcoming dates.

**Philanthropy**

The Philanthropy or Fund-Raising Chair is responsible for overseeing the implementation of projects and events that increase funds as well as developing a relationship with companies and organizations to aid us in the organization’s fundraising needs. Manage the fund-raising event and ensure that an effective publicity program is in place. Coordinate the donation of goods or services for an event.

**Social Media Chair**

The Social Media chair shall be in the charge of all promotion of social events and shall make sure that social events are advertised regularly on social media. They shall give reports at each meeting to keep the organization informed on upcoming events. They shall oversee all publicity for social events and shall have a committee to assist them.

**Membership Development chair**

The Membership Development chair shall be responsible for the making sure one membership development event is hosted each semester to boost membership. This person shall be the liaison between general body members and the eboard. They well express the needs of general body and work to implement what they believe to be helpful to the organization.

**Advisor(s) or Advisory Board:** Advisors of the Black Queer Coalition must be full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. If a person is serving as an advisor who is not a member of the above classifications, a co-advisor must be chosen who is a member of these University classifications. Responsibilities and expectations of advisors should be clearly and adequately described.

**Article X Finances**

Section 1 –Budget

At meetings, the organization shall determine all budgets for programs. Budgets will be approved by eboard members present and a majority vote will win. Any money outside of the budget will come out of pocket.

**Article XI Chapter Governance**

This Constitution and By-Laws governs the proceedings of the Black Queer Coalition subject to Roberts Rule’s of Order.

**Article VI Special Celebrations**

The organization shall celebrate national observances.

**Article XII Amendments to By-Laws**

These By-Laws may be amended during regular business meetings with the body or two-thirds of the membership present. This is provided that notices of each amendment have been submitted in writing to the members at general body meetings.