



**Literature and Folklore in Greater China (LFGC)
Constitution and By-laws**

Article I - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy

Section 1 - Name

Initial meetings among potential members were held under the title “Group for Regional and Ethnic Studies in China (GRESO).” Starting from February 17, 2016, the group was renamed as "Literature and Folklore in Greater China (LFGC)" in order to be more reflective about the relationship between Han and ethnic minority literatures in China.

Section 2 - Purpose

LFGC organizes bi-weekly reading groups, online discussions, research workshops and guest lectures for graduate students across departments. LFGC sponsors events that focus on the study of local, ethnic, traditional, popular or serious literary texts or speech events in and beyond China.

Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy

LFGC 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

Currently enrolled Ohio State graduate students staying active in LFGC community automatically become voting members. They will lose membership after they have graduated. Faculty, alumni and visiting scholars are encouraged to become non-voting honorary members.

Article III - Organization Leadership

Section 1 - Titles and Duties

LFGC officers work closely as a team and share responsibility for the administration of activities, with only the exception of the treasurer’s control over financial matters.

The president schedules and presides over leadership meetings, bi-weekly reading groups and online discussions; creates and expands reading lists; communicates with

the advisor; writes email updates; manages LFGC website; oversees all organizational activities.

The vice president helps to facilitate and organize research workshops and guest lectures; creates and prints flyers (using the \$250 annual printing quota in the Resource Room in Ohio Union); supports the president as needed.

The treasurer controls and keeps account of organization funds and ensures they are used according to the needs of the organization and the rules set forth by the Council on Student Affairs and the Ohio Union.

Section 2 - Terms of Office

Officers for the following academic year are elected by LFGC members in February (at the beginning of spring semester). Ideally, an officer only serves one term (one academic year), but may serve again if no other members run for election to his or her position, as long as he or she is enrolled in the following academic year.

Section 3 - Election Procedures

During the spring semester, the current leadership will ask for nominations for the new officers serving the following academic year. All voting members can self-nominate or nominate other member(s) for certain position(s). Nominees must accept their nomination to run for a position. There is no limit on how many people one may nominate and one may nominate one person for multiple positions. However, each member will only be able to vote for one person per each position.

Each candidate is encouraged to write a brief statement as to his or her goals for LFGC and how he or she would work to reach those goals in the position he or she is running for. Officer positions are decided by a majority of anonymously cast ballots.

Section 4 - Method of Removing Officers

General members and elected or appointed leaders are expected to meet certain standards and conduct themselves in a way that reflects well on the organization. In the event that a member or leader does not meet those expectations, fails to fulfill his or her duties, or in the case of academic misconduct, the committee may discuss the possibility of probation or removal from office. All other committee members must agree unanimously upon appropriate actions to be taken depending on the individual case.

Article VII - Advisor

The LFGC advisor may be a lecturer or faculty member whose expertise is related to the study of literature and folklore in greater China.

Article VIII - Meetings

Leadership meetings, bi-weekly reading groups and online discussions should be held on a regular basis, with the exception of the summer semester, according to the needs of LFGC members. The primary purpose of meetings is to strengthen the sense of community among graduate students on Chinese literature track.

Section 1 - The Reading Group

An attendee of the bi-weekly reading group does not have to feel embarrassed by showing up without participating. But if one proposes to discuss a reading materials of one's own interest, one is supposed to talk more, to help other members read efficiently, and to bring up things that might make for good discussion.

The goal for reading journal articles/book chapters is to find out research methodologies one can imitate for one's own dissertation/thesis. Discussion leaders of journal articles or book chapters are expected to create summaries and questions before actual meetings.

The goal for reading high theories is to gain vocabulary and analytical tools. Discussion leaders of theoretical materials are expected to create a glossary that attendees can take home with, and are expected to contextualize those theories in the "greater China" context.

The goal for reading primary materials is to practice close reading skills. It would be great if the text is multi-layer and complicated enough for intellectual exercise.

Section 2 - The Online Discussion

Online discussions are complementary to face-to-face meetings. By doing this LFGC is able to involve members who are not able to make the actual meeting. The format of online discussions resembles a mailing list service. A member who wishes to post should send the content to the person in charge. And the person in charge should create a digest of discussion in a timely manner.

Section 3 – The Writing Workshop

As needed participants will organize writing groups to encourage dissertation progress and receive constant feedback from peers.

Article IX - Method of Amending Constitution

Proposed amendments must be in writing, must not be acted upon but read in the committee or general meeting in which they are proposed. Approval requires at least two-thirds of voting members present.

Article X - Method of Dissolution

Dissolution of the organization must be agreed upon by a two-thirds vote among general members. All debts must be paid before LFGC's dissolution. All assets must be relinquished to the Ohio Union.

It is in keeping with the goals and responsibilities here stated that the LFGC leadership adopts this constitution.