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

Section 1: Name: Interdisciplinary Graduate Film Studies Group (IGFSG) at OSU

Section 2: Purpose: In response to the needs of graduate students of various disciplines interested in film studies, the IGFSG’s goal is to provide opportunities for viewing, reading, and discussion, as well as support for filmmaking and cinema appreciation efforts throughout campus. Eventually, the club’s mission may expand, since the needs of graduate students invested in cinema studies at OSU are diverse. IGFSG will provide a forum for graduate students to learn from one another and form connections across disciplines while pursuing academic career development goals related to film studies.

Section 3: Non-Discrimination Policy: No participant in IGFSG or IGFSG-sponsored events shall suffer discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. In addition, all political perspectives are welcomed and respected at IGFSG.

Article II – Membership.

Only graduate students currently enrolled as Ohio State students are permitted to become active members with the privilege of voting in IGFSG’s decision-making process. Only active voting members may elect officers and vote on decisions. “Active” status is defined by attending at least 50% of the meetings and 75% of the events held by IGFSG. “Active” status can only be determined retrospectively by reviewing attendance records for at least one semester.

Whenever possible, all outcomes of decision-making processes will be determined by majority rule among the active voting membership. Otherwise, outcomes will be determined by agreement or vote among the officers.

Other members of the OSU community besides graduate students are encouraged to join the group as non-voting members and benefit from participating in its events.

Article III – Organization leadership.

Officers shall be chosen by mutual agreement or by election among active voting members based on interest and degree of participation and demonstrated commitment: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If there is no elected secretary, a secretary will be designated from among the officers for each meeting as necessary. Only active voting members may fill these offices.

If there is any disagreement among the voting membership regarding the population of these offices or regarding any other decision to be made, a vote or an election is to be held. Elections and other votes should be carried out anonymously online during a period lasting several days and using a system provided by the current officers. A system of nominations may be used if deemed necessary by the active voting membership. A simple majority determines the winner of an election. If there is a tie, both winners will share the office (as co-presidents, co-treasurers, etc.).

The terms for all IGFSG offices will last one academic year, beginning with the first week of school in the fall term and ending at the end of summer term (regardless of whether there are any summer activities planned). Officers may be re-elected or asked to return for additional years.

The duties of the officers as a group are to facilitate the participation of the membership in meetings and events that express IGFSG’s purpose statement.

The general duties of each officer, in addition to voting as active members, are as follows:

President: plan and lead meetings, communicate directly with faculty advisor, ensure that IGFSG is adhering to its constitution and bylaws and that officers understand and fulfill the training requirements demanded of Ohio Union student group leaders.

Vice-President: fulfill the president’s duties in the case of absence and lead publicity efforts.

Treasurer: manage the group’s funds.

Secretary: archive and take notes on all meetings, events, and media. Taking attendance and keeping track of which members have “active” status.

Article IV: Executive Committee

If deemed necessary by the officers, they may designate themselves as an Executive Committee that represents the membership, making decisions and conducting other business on its behalf without its direct involvement. All activities of the Executive Committee will be reported to the membership via the dissemination of reports via email or as updates at meetings.

Article V: Standing Committees

When IGFSG determines to plan an event, interested officers and members will sign up for a planning committee that may subsequently divide into subcommittees as necessary. The chairperson of a committee must be an active member.

Article VI: The Selection and/or Removal of Officers and Members

Any violation of the Constitution and Bylaws of IGFSG will result in the removal of an officer from office to membership or, in the case of a member, in prohibition from attendance of and participation in IGFSG meetings and events.

As stated in Article III, officers shall be chosen by mutual agreement among active voting members based on interest and degree of participation and demonstrated commitment. Only active voting members may fill these offices. The other criteria for determining eligibility for office include, but are not limited to: interest in and knowledge of film studies (also known as cinema studies, film theory, or cinema and new media studies); history of commitment to IGFSG; scholarly achievement in film studies; commitment to interdisciplinarity; knowledge of and adherence to OSU’s procedures and code of conduct.

An officer or member will be removed from office for violating OSU or Ohio Union Student Group policy and never under any circumstances as a form of discrimination as elaborated in Article I, Section 3. Violating policy is the only reason that an officer can be removed before the end of their term of service. A member can be barred from participation by vote among the active membership or by a unanimous decision among the officers. In the case of an officer, establishment of the violation must be pursued through official university channels (for example, through the Office of Student Conduct and Ohio Union Student Groups) and with the knowledge of the faculty advisor, the other officers, and the entire active membership. Frivolous attempts to remove an officer or member, as determined by unanimous decision among the officers, will result in complete loss of membership and participation privileges.

Article VII – Faculty Advisor

IGFSG was established in cooperation with the Film Studies program at OSU. Thus, in addition to being a member of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff, the faculty advisor must be affiliated with Film Studies and must be willing to act as liaison between Film Studies and IGFSG. The faculty advisor must fulfill the training requirement established for Ohio Union student groups. The faculty advisor will attend officer meetings as much as possible. Terms are one year in length. Multiple terms, successive or otherwise, are permitted but not required.

Article VIII – Meetings of the Organization

General meetings must be held at least once per term (except summer). Additional meetings, committee meetings, and meetings of the officers will take place as necessary. Special events planned by IGFSG are not to be counted as meetings. Meetings involve taking attendance, brainstorming, forming committees, explaining procedures, socializing, and discussing articles and media.

Article IX – Method of Amending Constitution

Any active member may propose an amendment of this constitution and its by-laws (in the event that there are by-laws added to this constitution). Proposals must be submitted in writing to the officers and faculty advisor. Proposed alterations of the IGFSG constitution and by-laws may only be presented to the active membership after a period of consideration among the officers. This period should be at least two weeks in length. The proposed changes cannot be voted upon during the same meeting at which they are first presented to the membership, but rather must be discussed at an additional meeting before being voted upon in an anonymous online vote. A substantial majority of 75% is required to accept the amendment.

Article X – Method of Dissolution of Organization

If there is insufficient interest in IGFSG to elect officers or attend meetings and events, the group should be dissolved and the last elected officers held responsible for required paperwork and the disposal of remaining debts and assets under the supervision of the last appointed faculty advisor.