**Intersections: The Graduate Organization of the Department of Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies**

**Constitution and Articles of Operation**

***Article l - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.***

* **Name:** Intersections
* **Purpose:** Intersections is a graduate student organization based in the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Its purpose is to foster opportunities for graduate students in the department through meetings and professional/social events for networking and professional development, as well as to offer WGSS graduate students a liaison between fellow graduate students and faculty/staff in the department to address ideas and concerns. Other primary purposes include offering support for graduate students in WGSS at all different junctures of their graduate school trajectory as well as fostering relationships with graduate students in other interdisciplinary departments.
* **Non-Discrimination Policy:** 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, Intersections 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**.**

***Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.***

* **Membership Standing**: Voting membership of Intersections is limited to currently enrolled Ohio State students. Others non- student members, such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc., may become members, but only as non-voting associate or honorary members.
* **Membership Participation:** Voting members of Intersections are required to attend two Intersections meetings during the course of an academic year. Voting members will have a say in what professional development, speakers, informal mentorship and social programming Intersections has to offer for graduate students, particularly in the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department. Intersections welcomes the membership of voting members from graduate students in other interdisciplinary departments including from the Comparative Studies Department and the Department of African American and African Studies.
* **Primary Student Membership:** As required by the Guidelines for Student Organizations, 90% of the membership of a student organization must include current Ohio State University students. Active members and Executive Committee are able to make decisions regarding the membership of community and other non-student members of an organization. Community or other non-student members may be temporarily suspended with a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

***Article III – Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers***

* **Grounds for Member Removal:** If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization’s constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct or university policy, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the membership in consultation with the organization’s advisor. Every effort should be made toward restorative justice before such an action should be deemed necessary. Any vote taken for active removal should be conducted within a month of the complaint being brought forward.
* **Grounds for Officer Removal:** Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct and university policy. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the membership in consultation with the organization’s advisor.
  + **FERPA Corollary:** In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), the executive board, in consultation with the organization’s advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

***Article IV - Organization Leadership:*** *Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.*

* **Required leadership positions:** 
  + **Co-Presidents** (2): Co-presidents will attend all required training by the University. Co-presidents will assume primary responsibility for communication among Intersections members, will facilitate programming at the suggestion of membership, will organize and plan meetings, and will facilitate smooth and timely transition of leadership. They will also act of primary liaison between Intersections members and faculty/advisory staff. Co-presidents are elected by Intersections members; transitions should begin with elections in the beginning of March. Co-presidents will serve for one academic year.
  + **Treasurer**: Treasurers will attend all required training by the University. Treasurers will be responsible for handling all fiscal matters. They will act as chief intermediary to the Office of Student Life on behalf of Intersections. Treasurers are elected by Intersections members; transitions should begin with elections in the beginning of March. Treasurers will serve for one academic year.
  + **Secretary**: Secretary will be responsible for taking and disseminating meeting minutes among Intersections membership. They will be responsible for communications among members of individual committees and/or activity planning groups. Secretaries are elected by Intersections members; transitions should begin with elections in the beginning of March. Secretaries will serve for one academic year.
  + **Advisor**:  Advisors will attend all required training by the University. Advisors will primarily be responsible for assisting co-presidents with programming and will foster a collegial relationship between faculty and grad students. Faculty advisors will be agreed upon by members of Intersections through a majority election.

***Article V- Election / Selection of Organization Leadership***

* **Nominations:** Elections will take place in early March. The call for nominations to Intersections membership will go out no later than the second week of February, thereby giving the nominees sufficient time to accept or decline nomination as they see fit.
* **Elections:** Elections will be undertaken at a regularly scheduled Intersections meeting and will determine the positions of Co-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer and will nominate a new advisor as necessary.
* **Resignations and Impeachment:** In the case of resignations or impeachments, emergency elections will be called at the discretion of the senior member or members.

***Article VI - Executive Committee: Size and composition of the Committee.***

* **Intersections Ethos:** Given the organization and ideals of Intersections as a collegial environment wherein graduate students in the Department of Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies may collaborate and engage in professional and social development together, the existence of an executive committee as such is not necessary or desired.
* **Member Participation:** Graduate students will participate in Intersections programming at their own discretion, and may be as engaged or as disengaged as their schedules and inclinations allow. In an effort to make the organization as non-hierarchical in operations as possible, we decline to formalize the organization whereby operations may occur.

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

* **Advisor Qualifications:** Advisors of student organizations 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.
* **Advisor Responsibilities:** Responsibilities and expectations of advisors include but are not limited to fostering a congenial relationship between faculty and graduate students, assistance and advising with Intersections programming, fostering formal and informal mentorship, and attending training as required by the University.

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

* **Meeting Requirements:** Two general meetings and attendance and good faith effort to attend all other Intersections programming may be required for membership each academic term except for summer.

***Article IX – Attendees of Events of the Organization: Required events and their frequency.***

* **Expectations of Professionalism:** The primary objectives of Intersections as an organization are centered around the professional development of graduate students in the Department of Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies. As such, all conduct by members within the organization will be held to the same standard of professionalism and collegiality as would be expected in any other professional setting.
* **Commitment to Restorative Justice:** Any interpersonal grievances occurring among members of Intersections which might impede the working of the organization will be mediated according to the tenets of restorative justice as outlined in the codes of conduct of the Graduate School and the Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies more broadly. We commit ourselves to an anti-punitive means of conflict resolution when- and wherever possible.

***Article X – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.***

* **Amendment of Constitution*:*** Any proposed amendments should be presented to the organization in writing and should not be acted upon when initially introduced. Upon initial introduction, the proposed amendments should be read in the general meeting, then read again at the next two general meetings and the third general meeting in which the votes will be taken, and requires a majority of the entire voting membership of the organization, present or not. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.

***Article XI – Method of Dissolution of Organization***

* **Procedures for Voting for Dissolution**: All Intersections members must vote and reach at least a two-thirds consensus about dissolution of the organization. An Intersections can propose dissolution at a general meeting but such a proposal will not be acted upon immediately. Instead, a specific meeting with the intention of voting about dissolution will be called for by the senior members of the organization and requires a quorum present.
* **Handling of Residual Assets and Debts:** Should any organization assets and debts exist, appropriate means for and responsibility of disposing of these assets and debts falls upon the treasurer based upon their training by the University. This includes the return of any residual operating funds to the University.

**Notification of Student Activities:** Upon the official dissolution of the organization, Student Activities staff must be contacted to remove organization information from website.