Abya Yala Working Group Constitution

April 10, 2019

Article I - Name, Purpose and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization

Section 1: Abya Yala Working Group (AYWG).

Section 2: To create an inspiring and productive interdisciplinary environment for inquiry, dialogue and scholarship relating to the continent of Abya Yala at the Ohio State University. We will focus on the linguistic, cultural, and geographical indigenous territories, knowledges, and temporalities throughout Abya Yala and provide programming that encourages us to think together regarding common present and historical challenges. Through active interdisciplinary programming, members will enhance their understanding and appreciation of the diversity within the American continent, broaden their community of engaged scholars and activists working within these intersections, and gain personal and professional skills in leadership development.

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, political affiliation, race, language, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Article II - Membership: Qualifications and Categories of Membership

All faculty and graduate students enrolled at The Ohio State University may become members. Members will be granted voting rights.

Article III - Organization of Leadership: Titles, Terms of Office, Type of Selection, and Duties of the Leaders

Abya Yala Working Group will have an Executive Committee of three graduate students with the titles of President, Vice President, and Treasurer. This committee will be selected by popular membership vote at the end of Spring Semester. The Executive Committee will be in place effective upon completion of mandatory officer training until the end of the next Spring semester. All members of the Executive Committee will meet once a month to set meeting agendas, facilitate the programming of events, take care of related efforts.

President - will facilitate meetings, communicate with the advisor, work as an official member of the Abya Yala Working Group with faculty, help plan events, oversee official student group registration, and work with the treasurer to oversee financial management.

Vice President - will take the position of President if the President is not able, will assist in event planning, facilitate discussion and dialogue, and will keep track of meeting minutes as well as membership and attendance at events and meetings. Will support the President in crafting and distributing the official communication of the organization.

Treasurer - will oversee financial management, including, but not limited to, event expenses and fundraising.

Article IV - Executive Committee: Three Members Serving for One Academic Year

Maximum term of service for each position: one year.

Article V - Standing Committees: Names, Purposes, and Composition

Members of the executive committee will necessitate when standing committees will be necessary. The standing committees may arise from the need of certain executive members needing assistance from general body members on larger scale programs, or general input. Example standing committee may be an Events Committee led by the Vice President.

Article VI - Methods of Removing Officers and Members

General body members will be expected to represent the organization with dignity, respect, and enthusiasm. Executive committee members will be held to a high standard of ethical behavior and responsibility. Those with executive positions will be held responsible for carrying forth their duties and responsibilities by responsible communication through email or some other medium. In the consequence that an executive member cannot live up to the duties of the position then he or she will be asked to serve for enough time until another member can fill the role.

Article VII - Advisor: Qualification Criteria

The advisor of the Abya Yala Working Group will serve to provide historical and cultural context, as well as any necessary resources and guidance for the general members and executive committee. Active advisors will be expected to work closely with the executive committee to coordinate events, discussions, and other programs. The advisor will be expected to make an effort to be present at programs and/or other functions sponsored by the AYWG.

Article VIII - Meetings of the Organization: Required Meetings and their Frequency

General member meetings will be held at least once per semester (around the months of September and February) to collectively program the organization’s efforts and activities. Executive committee meetings will be held once a month. The executive meetings will be scheduled based on availability of the members and preferably of the advisor’s availability as well.

Article IX - Methods of Amending the 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 one subsequent general meeting and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. Approval should require at least two-thirds of voting members present (and to conduct any business an organization should have quorum present at a business meeting, which is at minimum 50% of members +1).

By-Laws

Article I - Election/Appointment of Leadership

Elections for executive positions will be held at the end of the spring semester for officers, effective upon completion of appropriate training, for the following year. Those who wish to be nominated will be required to obtain 1 vocal nomination at the general meeting held in February. All nominees must be present at the meeting. Nominees will be granted time between the meeting of their nomination and the following three to four weeks where an online, anonymous vote will take place. Nominated members are encouraged to submit statements of 100-200 words (maximum) for why they should be considered for the position. Successful nominees will be asked to participate in the following executive committee meetings at the end of the spring semester in order to provide a smooth transition of governance.

Article II - Meeting and Event Requirements

Members of the executive committee will be required to attend executive committee meetings as designated by the president. Failure to provide adequate reasoning for an absence will result in a first warning. A second warning will result in that member being asked to forfeit their position and responsibilities on the executive board. They will be allowed to serve until a new executive member is found.
General members will be expected to attend the general meetings and any events that the organization holds. General members will need to actively participate in the discussions held at each general meeting.

Article III - Methods of Amending By-Laws

By-laws may be amended by proposing in writing and reading the change at a general meeting of the membership and then bring the proposed change up for a vote at the next general meeting with a 2/3 majority vote of the membership present (a quorum being present).