Constitution for The Society for Kant and German Idealism

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

*Section 1*:Name:

(§1) The Society for Kant and German Idealism (hereafter: SHAGI)

*Section 2*: Purpose:

(§1) We aim to provide a platform that grants both graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to further participate in an academic, intercollegiate dialogue on Kant's critical philosophy, as well as the many authors he influenced.

*Section 3*: Non-Discrimination Policy:

(§1) Along with The Ohio State University, SHAGI is committed to building and maintaining a diverse community to reflect human diversity and to improve opportunities for all. SHAGI is committed to equal opportunity, affirmative action, and eliminating discrimination. This commitment is both a moral imperative consistent with an intellectual community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law.

(§2) SHAGI 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.

(§3) As a student organization at The Ohio State University, SHAGI 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/wp-content/uploads/policy115.pdf>

(§4) If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <https://titleix.osu.edu/> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at [titleIX@osu.edu](mailto:titleIX@osu.edu).

**Article II Membership: Qualifications and Categories of Membership**

*Section 1*: Definition of Membership:

(§1) In accordance with the Purpose of SHAGI (Article I, Section 2, §1), any current student, faculty member, or alumni of The Ohio State University who is interested in Kant’s critical philosophy and related endeavors is encouraged to participate. We especially encourage graduate students from The Ohio State University’s philosophy department to attend readings groups, forums, and presentations.

(§2) A person is an active member of SHAGI if and only if that person attends more than ten hours of SHAGI meetings a semester and is in good standing.

*Section 2*: Qualifications for Voting:

(§1) Voting shall be restricted to currently enrolled students who are active members of SHAGI (Article 2, Section 1, §1).

**Article III: Cause and Procedure for Removing Members and Executive Officers**

*Section* 1: Cause and Procedure for Removal for Members

(§1) If any member conducts themselves in such a manner deemed by the any active member of SHAGI to be detrimental to advancing the purpose of SHAGI (Article I, Section 1), is in violation of The Ohio State University’s Student Code of Conduct, floats the Non-Discrimination Policy of SHAGI (Article I, Section 3) or any other of SHAGI’s constitutional by-laws, or otherwise violates university policy, federal, state, or local law, then SHAGI has cause for removal of that member

(§2) If SHAGI has cause to remove a member, then that member can be removed through either a majority vote of the other voting membership (Article 2, Section 2, §1) or unanimous vote of the officers, under the counsel of SHAGI’s current advisor.

*Section 2*: Cause and Procedure for Removal of Executive Members

(§1) Any elected officer of SHAGI (Article IV, Section 1) 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 SHAGI, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws.

(§2) The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a unanimous affirmative vote of the other members of the executive board in consultation with the organization’s advisor. If there is no unanimous vote, then the officer’s removal will be determined by a two-thirds vote by the other voting members. If the cause of the officer’s removal is their violation of the Non-discriminatory policy of SHAGI (Article I, Section 3), or any otherwise egregious behavior, and is voted for removal by either the executive board or the voting membership, then that person will no longer be permitted to participate in SHAGI events.

(§3) 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**

*Section 1*: Membership of the Organization Leadership

(§1) The membership of the organization leadership is restricted to the members of the following offices. The Primary Leader (hereafter: The President), The Secondary Leader (hereafter: The Svengali Chair), Treasurer, and Advisor.

*Section 2*: Terms of the Executive Board, Qualifications

(§1) The leadership offices of the have the following term lengths: March of year N to March of year N+1. Their term will begin one week following the voting meeting (Article V, Section 1) until the week after the next year’s voting meeting. In the event of removal or graduation, special accommodations are met (Article V, Section 2)

(§2) There shall be no term limits for any leadership office.

(§3) The Svengali Chair (Secondary Leader) must be a current graduate student at The Ohio State University’s Philosophy Department. There is no such restriction on any other leadership office.

*Section 3*: Duties of the Executive Committee

(§1) The President’s duties include, but are not limited to, the following: determine the schedule of SHAGI meetings, spearhead recruitment and retention, maintain contact with the Office of Student Life, organize speakers, set and act as the primary facilitator for SHAGI’s goals, set the agenda for each meeting, and moderate disputes within SHAGI.

(§2) The Svengali Chair’s duties include, but are not limited to, the following: provide excellent council to the President in all matters related to the President’s duties, act as the liaison between the executive committee and the general non-office holding active members, appoint the ranking members of any standing committee.

(§3) The Treasurer’s duties include, but are not limited to, the following: maintain organized and accurate records pertaining to SHAGI’s financial domain, secure appropriate funding from the Office of Student Life and, if need be, organize fundraising efforts, coordinate SHAGI’s budget the goals of SHAGI.

(§4) The Advisor’s duties include, but are not limited to, the following: provide guidance so that SHAGI meets both its specific, semester-dependent goals as well as its broader purpose, in the event of an leadership member’s removal (Article IV, Section 2) counsel the remaining executive members in the replacement of an officer, aid SHAGI in its selection of speakers.

(§5) The members of the executive committee are expected coordinate with each other so that all of the responsibilities necessary for the maintenance and growth of SHAGI are met.

**Article V: Election / Selection of SHAGI Leadership**

*Section 1*: Voting Procedure for Officers

(§1) The terms for the leadership offices consists of the week after the voting meeting until the next voting meeting. Voting meetings must occur once annually every March, the exact date in which will be determined at least two weeks in advance by the active members, typically each February.

(§2) Selection for an executive member will be determined by the active voting membership of SHAGI. A person will be selected as an officer of SHAGI if and only if that person received a majority vote. No one person can hold more than once executive office in SHAGI. In the event of a tie, the advisor for SHAGI will determine the winner.

*Section 2*: Emergency Replacement of Officers

(§1) In the event that the leadership officer will no longer be a current student at the end of the spring semester in which their term as an officer begins, then that person must nominate an interim member to hold the office after their status as a student ends until the new March voting meeting. Once nominated, the majority vote of the executive board of the interim term will determine whether the nominee is selected. This nominated member must not be a current member of the interim executive committee but must be an active member of SHAGI.

(§2) In the event of the removal of an executive member (Article II, Section 2), an emergency voting meeting will occur and act in accordance with the voting procedure expressed at (Article V, Section 1).

**Article VI: Executive Committee: Size and Composition**

(§1) The Executive committee is composed of those who hold the leadership offices (Article IV, Section 1) and the ranking members of any SHAGI standing committee.

**Article VII: Standing Committees**

(§1) Formation: A standing committee can be formed for any purpose deemed necessary by the active membership to accord with SHAGI’s goals. Any member of the active membership of SHAGI can make a call to form a standing committee, but the nomination of the standing committee’s ranking member is restricted to the President and subject to the approval of only the Svengali Chair.

(§2) Once formed, the composition of a the standing committee is subject to the approval of the standing committee’s ranking member.

(§3) The standing committee will be dissolved once the executive committee has determined by majority vote that the purpose of the standing committee has been achieved. If deemed necessary, the leadership office holders are encouraged provide a formal acknowledgment of the ranking member of the standing committee’s efforts.

**Article VIII Advisor: Qualification Criteria**

(§1) The Advisor for SHAGI shall be a full-time member of The Ohio State University’s faculty or Administrative and Professional staff.

(§2) This person must be able to perform the duties outlined (Article IV, Section 3, §4) as well as attend bi-annual training determined by the Office of Student Activities.

**Article IX: Meetings and Events**

(§1) In addition to the requirements expressed (Article II, Section 1, §2), all active members are expected to attend the annual voting meeting, any emergency voting meeting, and provide input when members of the executive committee determine input from the non-executive committee is necessary, as far as reasonable.

**Article X: Conflict Resolution**

(§1) SHAGI reserves the right to address member or even attendee behavior where the member or event attendee’s behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization’s constitution.

**Article XI: Method of Amending Constitution**

*Section 1:* Amendment Change Proposal and Notification

(§1) To change or otherwise amend the existing SHAGI constitution, any active member must submit in writing to the executive committee the precise nature of the change or amendment, the motivations for such a change or amendment, and what the current constitution does not adequately achieve relevant to the proposed change or amendment.

(§2) The Svengali Chair must review the proposal and advise the President of its merits or demerits, orally, in private, and at a low volume.

(§3) Within two weeks of the initial proposal, the President must respond to the proposal the following way. The president must relate the leadership board’s official view of the matter and state whether the proposal merits a vote among the active, voting membership. If it is determined to merit a vote, then the original proposer may be given a small amount of time, determined by the President, to discuss the proposal. No further action will take place until the voting meeting.

*Section 2*: Voting Procedure for Changes or Amendments to the Constitution

(§1) Whether the proposal will be adopted will be determined by a two-thirds majority vote no later than the second meeting following the meeting where the President discussed the proposal in question.

(§2) If the proposal achieved a two-thirds majority in its favor, the President must, at the earliest reasonable time, revise the constitution and submit it to review by the Office of Student Activities for final approval.

**Article XII: Method for Dissolution**

(§1) SHAGI shall only be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote with a *quorum* of two-thirds of its active membership, subject to the approval by the Advisor.

(§2) In the event of dissolution, the members of the executive committee are responsible for notifying the Office of Student Activities as soon as reasonably possible.