**Constitution of**

**The Africana Graduate Study Association**

**ARTICLE I - Name, Purpose, And Non-Discrimination Policy of The Organization**

Section I - Name:

The name of the organization shall be: The Africana Graduate Study Association (AGSA).

Section II - Purpose statement:

The purpose of the organization shall be:

1. To foster an intellectual space for graduate students whose research work/interest revolves around Africana Studies for them to discuss their research, coursework, writing, and general professionalization matters.
2. To further the awareness of Africana Studies on campus by supporting academic events and lectures that closely align with the interests and goals of our association and its members.

Section III - Anti-discrimination statement: This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons 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, Africana Graduate Study Association 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](mailto:titleIX@osu.edu).

**ARTICLE II - Member Selection**

Section I - Qualifications for Membership: Membership of AGSA is open to graduate students, post-doctoral students, and faculty members working on Africana Studies. Focused undergraduates are also welcome at most meetings. To be a voting member of the group, one needs to be currently enrolled as a graduate student at The Ohio State University. Faculty, staff, and individuals not currently enrolled are welcome, but cannot be officers or voting members of the organization.

**ARTICLE III - Officer Selection**: **Titles, Terms of Office, Type of Selection, and Duties of the Leaders.**

Section I - Titles: Within the organization, there will be a President, a Treasurer, an Event Coordinator, and a Secretary.

Section II - Terms of Office: All officers of the organization will have term lengths of one year, beginning in Autumn of the school year and ending at the commencement of the following school year. The new president will keep the organization going in the summer (however minimally necessary).

Section III – Election of Officers: The election of the officers will be held in a democratic manner, toward the end of the Spring semester. All voting members, having been members for one semester at least, are eligible to run for an office. There will be no nominations for candidates.

Section IV – Officer Titles and Duties: The officers of the organization will be responsible for the following duties:

* President: It shall be the duty of the President to be the official representative of this organization on The Ohio State University campus; actively promoting the organization’s purpose; ensuring that student group organizational and reporting requirements are fulfilled; assisting with planning and execution of meetings, events and activities.
* Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to attend to any financial responsibilities with Ohio State, actively promoting the organization’s purpose.
* Events Coordinator: It shall be the duty of the Events Coordinator to organize all the events of the Association, including the regular monthly meetings and any special events hosted by the Association.
* Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to take the minutes of meetings and oversee the general record-keeping of the Association.

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

A voting member or an officer of the organization can be removed from their position for any of the following reasons:

* If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of the organization, violates the organization’s constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization’s advisor.
* An elected officer of the organization 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, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization’s advisor.
* In the event that the reason for member or officer 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 V - Meetings of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency**

Section I - Meetings Times: Members of the organization shall meet once in a month. The first meeting of each semester shall be arranged by the officers of the previous semester. At this meeting, members will vote on and decide the frequency of meeting times for the current semester.

**Article VI - Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, Notice, and Voting Requirements.**

Section I - Proposals: Proposed amendments to the Constitution should be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee for review at least one week prior to the time when such amendment shall be voted on by the organization.

Section II - Notice: Proposed amendments will be disclosed to the general membership upon the next meeting time. Members will vote in an unambiguous manner on the amendment at hand and such amendment will be drafted into the Constitution, if it passes the discretion of the members.

Section III - Voting Requirement: The voting requirements will stand for the members needing to be enrolled as students. Another note, the vote has to be a 3/4-majority decision before it can become an official addition to the Constitution of the organization.

**ARTICLE VII - Method of Dissolution of Organization**

Section I - Reasons for Dissolution: The organization can be dissolved on the unanimous vote of the members at any time during its existence or by failing to renew its recognition as a Student Organization at The Ohio State University.

Section II: Disposing of Assets & Debts Upon Dissolution: Should the organization be dissolved, all remaining financial assets allotted to the organization shall be returned. All funds and/or equipment/merchandise that belong solely to the organization shall be dispersed amongst the member as the members see fit, through a democratic system for deciding who is awarded what. All remaining financial matters then become the responsibility of the treasurer and the Advisor to close the organization’s bank account and other financial type concerns of the said organization.