

# **Constitution of Korean Graduate Student Association at the Ohio State University**

## **Chapter I. General Provisions**

**Article 1 (Name)** The name of this association shall be “Korean Graduate Student Association at the Ohio State University,” with the acronym “KGSA.”

**Article 2 (Address)** The address of this association shall be Ohio Union, 1739 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43210.

**Article 3 (Purposes)** This association shall be a student organization at the Ohio State University, whose purposes shall be as follows:

1. To improve the academic and living conditions of Korean graduate students at the Ohio State University;
2. To raise the physical and mental capability of Korean graduate students at the Ohio State University;
3. To enhance mutual friendship among Korean graduate students at the Ohio State University;
4. To promote and share Korean culture;
5. To serve the local community.

**Article 4 (Non-Discrimination Policy)** This association shall not unreasonably discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, history of illness (including HIV/AIDS status), military status (including protected veteran status), national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or any other bases under the law in any of its aspects (including its activities, programs, admission, and employment).

## **Chapter II. Membership**

**Article 5 (Qualifications of Members)** (1) A Korean who falls under any of the following subparagraphs shall be deemed a member of this association and belong to the category specified in the relevant subparagraph:

1. Regular member: a person who is currently enrolled in the graduate school at the Ohio State University;
2. Honorary member;
  - (a) A person who is scheduled to enter the graduate school at the Ohio State University;
  - (b) A person who had been enrolled in the graduate school at the Ohio State University;

(c) A person who is in a status equivalent to the status referred to in subparagraph 1 such as a postdoctoral fellow, researcher, visiting scholar, faculty member, etc. affiliated with the Ohio State University;

(d) An accompanying family member of a person referred to in subparagraph 1 or subparagraph 2 (a) or (b) (the person needs not to be a Korean).

(2) Every currently enrolled Ohio State student may apply for membership even if the student does not have the qualifications prescribed in paragraph (1). In such cases, this association may, through a resolution passed by the executive board and in consideration of the purposes stated in Article 3, admit the student either as a regular member or as an honorary member.

**Article 6 (Rights and Duties of Members)** (1) All members shall have the right to attend events held by this association.

(2) All members shall have the right to present their opinions on events held by this association in writing. In such cases, this association shall, through a resolution passed by the executive board, notify the member of the review results unless any justifiable ground exists to the contrary.

(3) All members shall have the right to request this association to disclose the accounting documents of the current year in writing (“year” means the period based on the term of office of the president prescribed in Article 9 (2); hereinafter the same shall apply, even with regard to “annual”). In such cases, this association shall, through a resolution passed by the executive board, disclose the documents to the member unless any justifiable ground exists to the contrary.

(4) All members shall have the duty to pay fees charged by this association for attendance at events, etc.: Provided, that the fees must be set at a reasonable level.

(5) All members shall have the duty to observe this constitution.

**Article 7 (Leaving and Disciplinary Action)** (1) All members may leave this association by clearly expressing their will in writing.

(2) This association may, through a resolution passed by the executive board, suspend the qualification of a member for a prescribed period or expulse a member in each case of the following subparagraphs:

1. If the member has seriously violated the duties prescribed in Article 6 (4) or (5);
2. If the member has defamed this association or seriously impaired its dignity as a member.

### **Chapter III. Executive Officers, Executive Committee, and Adviser**

**Article 8 (Composition of the Executive Officers)** This association shall have the executive officers in each of the following subparagraphs:

1. President;

2. Vice president;
3. Treasurer;
4. Other Officers.

**Article 9 (Authority and Responsibility of the President)** (1) The President shall represent this association, and shall have the authority and responsibility to execute, direct, and supervise all the affairs of this association.

(2) The term of the President shall begin 15 days after the date of Spring Commencement each year and end 14 days after the date of Spring Commencement in the next year, and the President shall not hold the position twice in succession.

**Article 10 (Election of the President)** (1) The President shall be elected by universal, equal, direct, and secret ballot by the regular members, from among those who have obtained their qualifications as a regular member by no later than 70 days before the beginning of the term of the next President. This election may be conducted through an information and communications network.

(2) The incumbent President shall announce that this association recruits the candidates for the election of the next President, on two or more occasions, from 70 days to 55 days before the beginning of the term of the next President. This announcement shall include the content of paragraph 3.

(3) A person wishing to be a candidate for the election of the next President shall submit, by no later than 50 days before the beginning of the term of the next President, a document file that states the person's name, department/school, degree program title, year of admission, purpose, rough plan for the composition of the executive officers, election promise, and other matters the person takes as necessary for advertisement. Also, the person shall meet the minimal showing, by some appropriate means, with respect to the fact that the person has the qualifications as a regular member and will do so during the term of the next President.

(4) In the event that one or more persons have become candidates for the election of the next President under paragraph (3), the incumbent President shall promptly decide on a certain day from 40 days to 30 days before the beginning of the term of the next President as the election day (this may be multiple days when deemed necessary) and announce that decision with the following materials by no later than seven days before the election day:

1. The date and time of voting set for no less than four hours (the time shall be reached by four hours even excluding the hours from 9 pm to 9 am);
2. The place of voting designated on or near the main campus (guidance on the voting procedure, instead, in case the election is to be conducted through an information and communications network);
3. The name, department/school, degree program title, and the year of admission of each candidate;
4. The document files that have been submitted by the candidates under paragraph (3);

5. Purport that only the regular members shall have the right to vote.

(5) The voting and ballot counting procedure shall be managed in a fair and transparent manner by the incumbent Executive Officers under the direction and supervision of the incumbent President: Provided, that one witness recommended by each candidate from among the regular members shall be permitted to witness the overall voting and ballot counting procedure.

(6) Where there are two or more candidates, the candidate who has obtained a majority of the valid votes shall be the elected person: Provided, that if two or more persons have obtained the largest votes, the elected person shall be decided from among those persons through a resolution passed by the incumbent Executive Committee.

(7) Where there is only one candidate, the agenda of the vote shall be whether to support or oppose the candidate, and the candidate shall be decided as the elected person only when the gross number of valid votes is 20 or more and the supporting votes constitute a majority of the valid votes.

(8) When the elected person is decided through election or a resolution passed by the Executive Committee under paragraph (6) or (7), the incumbent President shall announce it within three days after the date of the decision.

(9) In case no person has been elected as the next President due to the absence of a candidate or the only candidate's failure to be elected or by any other cause, the incumbent President shall announce it within three days after the day when the cause occurred. In such cases, the incumbent President shall have the authority and responsibility to appoint the next President.

(10) The incumbent President shall have the responsibility to sincerely disclose and hand over the entire records and materials on the operations, finances, etc. of this association (including user accounts related to information and communications networks and bank accounts) to the next President by no later than the day before the beginning of the term of the next President.

(11) The incumbent President shall give public notice of the result of the settlement of accounts (as of 10 days before the expiration of the term of his or her office) by no later than three days before the expiration of the term of its office.

(12) All regular members may raise an objection to the procedure or result of the election within 48 hours from the time of the announcement under paragraphs (8) or (9). In such cases, this association shall, through a resolution passed by the executive board, announce the abstract of the objection and the review results unless any justifiable ground exists to the contrary.

**Article 11 (Vice President, Treasurer, and Other Officers)** (1) The Vice President, Treasurer, and Other Officers shall be appointed by the President from among the regular members: Provided, that the will of volunteers shall be respected as much as possible in principle.

(2) The Vice President shall assist the President and shall act on behalf of the President in case the President is unable to perform its duties due to any accidents or occurrence of

vacancy.

(3) The Treasurer shall execute and manage the finances of this association with the approval of the President, shall act on behalf of the President and Vice President in case both are unable to perform their duties due to any accidents or occurrence of vacancy, and shall act on behalf of the Vice President in case the President is unable to perform his or her duties due to any accidents or occurrence of vacancy.

(4) The Other Officers shall support the President, Vice President, and Treasurer, under the order of the President, with respect to the affairs of this association.

(5) If the Vice President, Treasurer, or an Other Officer is to become a candidate for the election of the next President, he or she shall resign from the position of an Executive Officer before submitting the document file prescribed in Article 10 (3).

**Article 12 (Executive Committee)** (1) This association shall have the Executive Committee, which shall be comprised of the Executive Officers, and the President shall be the Chairperson thereof.

(2) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened by the President (jointly by the Vice President and Treasurer, though, in cases of a meeting for the proposition of removal of the President), and shall resolve the following matters with the attendance of no less than 1/5 of the total members (no less than two members, instead, in cases where the number of the total members is less than 10) and with an affirmative vote of no less than 1/2 of the members present (the President shall have a casting vote, instead, in cases of an equal vote): Provided, that the matters under subparagraphs 1, 2, 5, and 6 shall be resolved with the attendance of more than one half of the total members and with an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present, and the performance of the duties of an Executive Officer shall immediately be suspended once the matter under subparagraph 6 is passed with respect to the Executive Officer.

1. Proposition of a motion for amendments to this constitution;
2. Proposition of dissolution of this association;
3. Whether to admit a person as a regular member or an honorary member under Article 5 (2);
4. Measures for an opinion presented under Article 6 (2), a request for disclosure under Article 6 (3), an objection raised under Article 10 (12);
5. Expulsion or suspension of the qualification of a member under Article 7 (2);
6. Proposition of removal of an Executive Officer who has seriously violated this constitution or whose performance of the duties has been highly inappropriate;
7. Decision of the elected person under the proviso of Article 10 (6);
8. Confirmation of an overview of the annual project plan to be reported at the ordinary general meeting under Article 15 (2);
9. Settlement of fees under Article 6 (4);
10. Decision to convene an extraordinary general meeting for a resolution of any matters deemed necessary other than the matters under subparagraphs 1, 2, and 6;
11. Other matters referred to the Executive Committee as they are deemed necessary by

the President.

(3) Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held by means of a remote communications system and by means of asynchronous communication: Provided, that attendance or exercise of the voting rights shall not be delegated.

**Article 13 (Adviser)** (1) The Adviser shall be appointed by the President from among the members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff at the Ohio State University.

(2) The President shall consult the Adviser about important matters such as the removal of Executive Officers under Articles 12 (2) 6 and 16 (1) 3 and the expulsion or the suspension of the qualification of a member under Article 7 (2).

(3) The Adviser shall have the responsibility to guide and advise on matters related to the operation of this association, by responding to the consultation prescribed in paragraph (2), etc.

## Chapter IV. General Meetings

**Article 14 (Establishment and Composition)** This association shall have general meetings, which shall be comprised of the regular members, and the President shall be the Chairperson thereof.

**Article 15 (Categories and Convocation)** (1) General meetings shall be classified into ordinary general meetings and extraordinary general meetings.

(2) The Chairperson shall convene an ordinary general meeting within 60 days after the first day of Autumn semester classes each year, and shall report such things as the overview of the annual project plan confirmed by a resolution passed by the Executive Committee at that ordinary general meeting.

(3) The Chairperson shall convene an extraordinary general meeting in the following cases:

1. If amendments to this constitution, dissolution of this association, or removal of an Executive Officer have been proposed under Article 12 (2) 1, 2, or 6;
2. If an extraordinary general meeting has been decided to be convened, by a resolution passed by the Executive Committee, under Article 12 (2) 10;
3. If 20 or more members of general meetings have requested the convocation of a general meeting by submitting to the Chairperson a document that states the agenda for the meeting and grounds for convening the meeting with joint signatures of those members (in case the agenda and grounds happened to be amendments to this constitution, dissolution of this association, or the removal of an Executive Officers, it shall be deemed that a motion corresponding to it has been proposed).

(4) The convocation of a general meeting shall be announced by no later than seven days before the date of the meeting, with the date and time of the meeting and the agenda and

reason for the meeting: Provided, that the convocation may be conducted by means of some other suitable method in cases of urgency, notwithstanding the above time limit.

**Article 16 (Matters for Resolution)** (1) The general meeting shall resolve the following matters with an affirmative vote of the members present: Provided, that the matters under subparagraphs 2 and 3 shall be resolved with an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present.

1. Amendments to this constitution;
2. Dissolution of this association;
3. Removal of an Executive Officer who has seriously violated this constitution or whose performance of the duties has been highly inappropriate;
4. Other matters referred to general meetings by a resolution passed by the Executive Committee under Article 12 (2) 10.
5. Other matters referred to general meetings by members of general meetings under Article 15 (3) 3.

(2) Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held by means of a remote communications system: Provided, that attendance or exercise of the voting rights shall not be delegated.

## **Chapter V. Finances**

**Article 17 (Income)** The income of this association shall consist of fees, donations, funds from the Ohio State University, and other sorts of income.

**Article 18 (Expenditure)** The expenditure of this association shall be made within the scope of the purposes prescribed in Article 3 and the breakdown thereof shall be recorded and evidenced in a transparent manner.

**Article 19 (Fiscal Year)** The fiscal year of this association shall begin 15 days after the date of Spring Commencement each year and end 14 days after the date of Spring Commencement in the next year.

**Article 20 (Liquidation Procedure)** In case of dissolution of this association, the liquidation of its assets shall be subject to the provisions of the relevant laws.

## **Chapter VI. Supplementary Provisions**

**Article 21 (Supplementary Provisions)** (1) Matters not clearly prescribed in this constitution shall be governed by customary practices and sound reasoning.

(2) The operation of this association shall respect the regulations set by the Ohio State University. In exceptional cases where there is a clear conflict between those regulations and this constitution, and the circumstance is so urgent and unavoidable that there is no

time to wait for the revision of this constitution with regard to that conflict, those regulations may be deemed to take precedence over the relevant provisions of this constitution.