

Constitution for Kenshō: Asian Philosophy Reading Group

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

Section 1: Name:

(§1) Kenshō: Asian Philosophy Reading Group (Hereafter: Kenshō)

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 asian philosophy.

Section 3: Non-Discrimination Policy:

(§1) Along with The Ohio State University, Kenshō is committed to building and maintaining a diverse community to reflect human diversity and to improve opportunities for all. Kenshō 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) Kenshō 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, Kenshō 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.

Article II Membership: Qualifications and Categories of Membership

Section 1: Definition of Membership:

(§1) In accordance with the Purpose of Kenshō (Article I, Section 2, §1), any current student, faculty member, or alumni of The Ohio State University who is interested in asian philosophy and related endeavors is encouraged to participate.

(§2) A person is an active member of Kenshō if and only if that person attends more than two consecutive Kenshō 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 Kenshō (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 Kenshō to be detrimental to advancing the purpose of Kenshō (Article I, Section 1), is in violation of The Ohio State University's Student Code of Conduct, floats the Non-Discrimination Policy of Kenshō (Article I, Section 3) or any other of Kenshō's constitutional by-laws, or otherwise violates university policy, federal, state, or local law, then Kenshō has cause for removal of that member

(§2) If Kenshō 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 Kenshō's current advisor.

Section 2: Cause and Procedure for Removal of Executive Members

(§1) Any elected officer of Kenshō (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 Kenshō, 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 Kenshō (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 Kenshō 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 Coordinator), 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.

Section 3: Duties of the Executive Committee

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

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

(§3) The Advisor's duties include, but are not limited to, the following: provide guidance so that Kenshō 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 Kenshō in its selection of speakers.

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

Article V: Election / Selection of Kenshō Leadership

Section 1: Voting Procedure for Officers

(§1) The terms for the leadership offices consist 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 Kenshō. A person will be selected as an officer of Kenshō if and only if that person received a majority vote. No one person can hold more than once executive office in Kenshō. In the event of a tie, the advisor for Kenshō 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 Kenshō.

(§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 Kenshō 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 Kenshō's goals. Any member of the active membership of Kenshō can make a call to form a standing committee, the nomination of the standing committee's ranking member is open to any active member and subject to the approval of unanimous vote amongst all active members present at the meeting in which the committee is called for.

(§2) Once formed, the composition of 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 to provide a formal acknowledgment of the ranking member of the standing committee's efforts.

Article VIII Advisor: Qualification Criteria

(§1) The Advisor for Kenshō 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) Kenshō 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 Kenshō 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) Within two weeks of the initial proposal, the Coordinator must respond to the proposal the following way. The Coordinator must relate the leadership board's official view of the matter and put the amendment up for a vote among the active, voting membership. 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 Coordinator discussed the proposal in question.

(§2) If the proposal achieved a two-thirds majority in its favor, the Coordinator 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) Kenshō 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.