Constitution and By-Laws

of

Voices of the Black Academy

Constitution and Bylaws adopted:

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

**Section 1. Name**

Section 1. The organization shall be known as the Voices of the Black Academy, hereinafter also

referred to as V.B.A.

**Section 2. Purpose**

**Section 2.** Voices of the Black Academy is an ongoing symposium promoting interdisciplinary, academic scholarship and critical research of African-American and African Studies as it relates to the African Diaspora. V.B.A represents the multitude of students, young scholars, and professionals that recognize the need for an engagement into global condition of African descended peoples. As advocates for the interdisciplinary program of Black Studies, the primary objective of Voices of the Black Academy is to promote the continuity of Africana scholarship through academic publication, and correlate this knowledge to community outreach and involvement, especially within the Columbus and greater-Ohio community. V.B.A. has the expressed purpose of hosting and attending events, serves, and programs that builds community among OSU’s undergraduate and graduate populations.

**Section 2.2** Voices of the Black Academy is committed promoting academic scholarship and representation of all African American, minority, and underrepresented scholars in all fields of study, and to scholars of all ethnic backgrounds in the field of African American and African Studies.

**Section 2.3** Voices of the Black Academy seeks to establish an ongoing symposium addressing past and current issues within the African Diaspora.

**Section 2.4** Voices of the Black Academy seeks to act as a center for theorizing ideas and producing knowledge as it relates to the diasporic study of African peoples.

**Section 2.5**  Voices of the Black Academy seeks to represent the many faces and voices of young scholars and graduate students that theorize and expound on topics that concern the African American and African experience.

**Section 2.6** Voices of the Black Academy seeks to aid future scholars in research methodology and techniques associated with effective publication and scholarly dialogue within the academic community.

**Section 2.7**  Voices of the Black Academy seeks to sponsor an annual conferences that will bring together a conglomerate of scholars who seek to promote interdisciplinary, academic scholarship of African American and African Studies.

**Section 2.8** Voices of the Black Academy shall maintain and uphold a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in both membership and activities, in compliance with the University’s nondiscrimination policy. (See *The Ohio State University Nondiscrimination Policy*)

“The policy of the Ohio State University is that discrimination against any individual for reasons of race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national, origin, sex, age, handicap, or Vietnam-era veteran era status is specifically prohibited. Accordingly, equal access to employment opportunities, admissions, education programs, and all other *University activities* (emphasis added) is extended to all persons, and the University promotes equal opportunity through a positive and continuing affirmative action program.” **The Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct, 1996-1997 and Nondiscrimination Policy, Operating Manual, The Ohio State University (Number 1.10)**

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.1** The class of membership shall be comprised primarily of graduate students and advanced undergraduates.

**Section 1.2 – Antidiscrimination** This organization 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.

article III

officers/organizational leadership

**Section 1.1** V.B.A will be governed by an executive board consisting of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary (Corresponding/Recording), and Public Relations Chair. These persons shall be elected yearly by members of the organization.

**Section 1.2** The President shall:

1. Preside over all meetings of V.B. A. and of the Executive Committee.
2. Implement all decisions of V.B.A.
3. Appoint a time and place for regular and special meetings.
4. Serve as an ex-officio member to all committees.
5. Appoint other officers to serve as ex-officio members to particular standing and ad hoc committees.
6. Represent V.B.A. at University and community functions.

**Section 1.3** The Vice President shall:

1. Preside over meetings in the absence of the president.
2. Assume the presidency in the event it falls vacant.
3. Assume any duties V.B.A. or President directs.

d. Assume the duties of Treasurer, in the event the position is vacant.

**Section 1.4** The Recording Secretary (Corresponding/) shall:

1. Record the activities of the organization including meetings.
2. Maintain all active records of V.B.A.
3. Preside over V.B.A. meetings in the absence of the president and vice-president.
4. Serve as an ex-officio member of a committee assigned by the president.
5. Assume the duties of Corresponding Secretary, in the event the position is vacant.

**Section 1.5** The Corresponding Secretary shall:

1. Conduct the correspondence and all external communication of V.B.A.
2. Inform all V.B.A. members of all regularly scheduled meetings one week prior to the meeting.
3. Assume the duties of Recording Secretary, in his/her absence.

**Section 1.6** The Treasurer shall:

1. Handle all the finance of V.B.A. according to University policy.
2. Keep accurate records of the V.B.A.’s financial status.
3. Provide a written annual report of the V.B.A. receipts and disbursements for the membership.
4. Preside over V.B.A. meetings in the absence of the president, vice-president, and recording secretary.
5. Serve as an ex-officio member of a committee as assigned by the president.

**Section 1.7** The Archivist/Historian shall:

1. Maintain an audio and visual record of V.B.A.’s activities.
2. Maintain a standing history of the organization.

**Section 1.8** The Member at Large shall:

1. Represent V.B.A. in other University and community organizations and committees.
2. Assume such other duties as the office may require as deemed necessary by the executive committee.

article iv

executive committee

**Section 1.1** The Executive Committee of V.B.A shall consist of the President, Vice President/Editor, Secretary, Treasurer, Archivist, Web Master, Member-at-Large, Chair of each standing committee, and the Faculty Advisor. Executive Committee members shall have a graduate standing.

article v

standing committees

**Section 1.1** Voices of the Black Academy may create such standing or ad hoc committees as it deems necessary.

Article vi

advisor

**Section 1.1** The V.B.A Advisor is an appointed and/or elected faculty member of The Ohio State University.

**Section 1.2** The V.B.A Advisor shall hold the responsibilities of advising the activities and programs of V.B.A.

**Section 1.3** The Advisor is required to attend at least one (1) general body and executive board meeting per month.

**Section 1.4** The Advisor is expected to attend at least 50% of all activities coordinated and sponsored by V.B.A.

**Section 1.5** All publications and media publicized V.B.A must be presented to the Advisor, in conjunction with the Editor of V.B.A.

**Section 1.6** The Advisor has the power of veto – to allow or prohibit the carrying out of any actions decided upon by the governing body of the V.B.A or the Executive Committee.

article vii

meetings

**Section 1.1** Voices of the Black Academy as a whole (entire membership body) will meet no less than once per month on a schedule determined by the executive committee. Additional meetings may be scheduled as they become necessary. Individual committee meetings will be scheduled by the head of each committee at least once per month in regards to the planning and execution of events, agendas, publishing and the like. The Executive Board shall meet no less than once per month and may continue throughout the summer term with a minimum of two (2) meetings (via e-mail).

**Section 1.2** At least 2 V.B.A Executive Committee members shall attend Graduate Student Orientation (annually), and all faculty/student departmental meetings.

article viii

amending the constitution

**Section 1.1** Proposed amendments should be in writing, shall not be acted upon but read in the general meeting in which they are proposed, should be read again at a specified number of subsequent general meetings and the general meetings in which the votes will be taken, and should either require a two-third or three-quarter majority of voting members (a quorum) being present or a majority of two thirds of the entire voting membership of the organization, present or not. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently. (The Ohio State University, Student Organization Sample Constitution)

article ix

dissolution of the organization

requirements and procedures pending

By-Laws

requirements and procedures pending