Comparative Studies Graduate Student Group

The Ohio State University

Department of Comparative Studies

451 Hagerty Hall

1775 College Road

Columbus, Ohio 43210

The Constitution of the Comparative Studies Graduate Student Group

April 15, 2025

**Officers 2021-2022 Academic Year:**

Primary Leader: Karin Ikeda

Secondary Leader: Patrick Dunn

Treasurer: Patrick Dunn

Advisor: Mark Anthony Arceño, Department of Comparative Studies

**Article I**

Section 1: Name

The name of the organization shall be “Comparative Studies Graduate Student Group.”

Section 2:Purpose

The purpose of the organization shall be to provide all graduate students affiliated with the Department of Comparative Studies at the Ohio State University with intellectual, academic, professional, social, and emotional support.

Section 3: Non-Discrimination Policy

This organization does not discriminate against – or tolerate discrimination against – any individual(s) 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.

**Article II**

Membership

Voting membership shall be limited to currently enrolled graduate students in the Ohio State Department of Comparative Studies. Others, such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc., are encouraged to become non-voting associate or honorary members.

Rights

The rights of a member shall be:

-To participate in any and all activities of the organization;

-To be recognized and allowed to voice an opinion;

-To vote in all motions, issues, and resolutions;

-To vote in elections of officers; and

-To be elected or appointed as an officer, chair, manager, or director, in accordance with the constitution of the organization.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of members shall be:

-To attend meetings of the organization; and

-To assist in activities of the organization.

Dues

This organization holds the option of implementing dues at a later date.

**Article III**

Methods for Removing Members and Officers

Any member or officer may be nominated for removal. Any member or officer so nominated will have the opportunity to speak on their own behalf at a general meeting of the organization, or through e-mail relay (at the discretion of the serving officers and/or advisor if the request is removal of an officer) and those in favor of removal will have the opportunity to speak in favor of the removal.

CSGSG’s non-discrimination policy prevents the removal of any member or officer based on the listed statuses described in the policy.

Removing a Member

If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this 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. Additionally, if a member is considered to be acting as a hindrance to student group meetings, organizing, or general member comfort, a request can be made to the president for that student’s removal—president will make good faith effort to gather votes from member body to decide on that student’s removal. A simple majority from gathered votes will be used to determine student’s removal from roster and officers will be responsible for refusing removed student access to meetings, group votes, etc.

Removing an Officer

Any elected officer of the chapter 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. A request for removal of an officer should be made to any non-offending officer and the group’s advisor. For removal, non-offending officer(s) and the advisor are responsible for putting the offending officer’s removal to vote and will make a good faith effort to solicit votes from a simple majority of student group members. Non-offending officer(s) and advisor may act for the offending officer’s removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the responding members.

**Article IV**

Organization Leadership

Primary Leader

The duties and powers of the Primary Leader shall be as follows:

-To act as spokesperson for the organization;

-To preside over all general meetings;

-To use their experience and knowledge to make any administrative decisions not delineated in this constitution;

-To make room reservations, if necessary;

-To interact with OSU faculty, such as those in the Comparative Studies Department; and

-To contact the advisor.

Secondary Leader

In the Primary Leader’s absence, the Secondary Leader shall preside; in the S.L.’s absence, the Treasurer shall preside; in the absence of all officers, no motions may be proposed or passed.

Treasurer

The duties and powers of the Treasurer shall be as follows:

-To oversee and operate the financial matters of the organization;

-To submit at every meeting a financial report on the status of the organization;

-To seek out and request any and all available sources of funding both inside and outside of the university; and

-To return university books at the end of the year for auditing.

Advisor

The advisor is responsible for approving group requests and general supervision of group decisions, event organizing, and activities.

**Article V**

Election/Selection of Organization Leadership

Elections of officers shall be through voluntary request to hold a position and approval of a simple majority of voting members. Elections will be held during a general meeting, or via e-mail, at the end of each Spring semester. Nominations from current officers will also be considered but will hold no more weight than votes from other voting members. In the event that no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates compete in a run-off election. In the event of a tie, priority will be given to a new officer (student who has not yet held an officer position with the Comparative Studies Graduate Student Group), and the advisor will have final decision-making authority in the event that both candidates are new, or the tie is not otherwise resolved.

Members and officers of Comparative Studies Graduate Student Group (CSGSG) must be graduate students in the Department of Comparative Studies. Any graduate student in Comparative Studies can become a member of CSGSG by requesting that an officer of the organization add their name to the organization roster. Members can nominate themselves for officer positions.

Resignation

If an officer resigns, nominations shall be received from the floor and the election of a new officer shall take place at a general meeting. If the resignation occurs late in the year or the Executive Committee does not feel any possible applicants are available, the Committee will take over the duties of the resigned officer.

**Article VI**

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall comprise the listed officer positions—President, Secondary Leader, Treasurer, and Advisor. The Executive Committee represents the general membership, conducts business of the organization between general meetings of the membership, and reports its actions at the general meetings of the membership and/or via e-mail. The Committee may create an elected position and/or additional officer position(s) if they deem it necessary.

**Article VII**

Standing Committees

There are no Standing Committees for the Comparative Studies Graduate Student Group.

**Article VIII**

Advisor

The advisor of the organization must be a full-time member of the university faculty or administrative/professional staff. The advisor will be selected by the Executive Board, pending acceptance by the proposed faculty member and a simple majority of the membership-at-large.

The duties and powers of the Advisor shall be as follows:

-To attend some meetings of the organization;

-To be available for consultation regarding group activities;

-To be familiar with university policies and procedures;

-To be prepared for major problems or emergencies; and

-To act as a liaison between the organization and the department administration and to advocate for the organization, if necessary.

**Article IX**

Meetings

-In general, meetings, issues, motions, and elections shall be discussed and voted upon through in-person meetings—arranged as needed—and/or via e-mail to the membership-at-large.

-Meeting dates will be decided as needed, with at least two (2) meetings scheduled per academic year. If there is a change to the meeting time, or if a new meeting is called, notification must be given at least two days prior to the date of the meeting.

**Article X**

Attendees of Events/Meetings

The organization reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where the member or event attendee’s behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization’s constitution. This may mean removing/requesting removal of disruptive individual from event or meeting, and may extend to removal from membership.

**Article XI**

Amending

The Constitution may be amended by holding a vote by membership-at-large, with a two-thirds majority of the Voting Members passing the amendment.

**Article XII**

Dissolution

The organization may be dissolved by holding a vote at two consecutive meetings at which all Officers, in addition to a two-thirds majority of the Voting Members present, elect to dissolve the organization.