

Indiana University, Graduate Students in African Studies Program's Constitution

Preamble

The name of this organization shall be Graduate Students in African Studies hereafter referred to as GSAS. It is purely a non-profitable students' organization situated at the Indiana University in Bloomington.

We, the graduate students in the African Studies Program of the Indiana University, desirous for a common intellectual nexus of fraternity and professional camaraderie, forged in a harmonious atmosphere of shared values of love, dignity and respect for all, do hereby resolve to form an organization for the purpose of attaining the foresaid along with contributing to intellectual forums in relation to African Studies as well as bringing greater awareness to the program.

The objectives of the organization shall be:

- a) To promote interest in the study and research of African cultures and peoples.
- b) To provide fellowship among students and faculty.
- c) To represent students' needs and interests at all times whenever required.
- d) To provide a forum for the presentation of innovative ideas to benefit the University community.
- e) To foster collegiality among members by holding occasional communal social recreation and entertainment.
- f) To engage in fundraising and volunteering in the IU community as well as the broader community for awareness and rapport.

ARTICLE I – Membership

- 1) Active membership shall be limited to registered IU graduate students of the African Studies Program and contingent on payment of dues.
- 2) Non-students of the program may be accepted as associate members, but may not vote or hold office.

ARTICLE II – Statement of Non-discrimination

This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or veteran status. This policy will include, but not be limited to recruiting, membership, organization activities, or opportunities to hold office

ARTICLE III – Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

ARTICLE IV – Statement of University Compliance

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state, and federal laws

ARTICLE V – Executive Officers

The officers of this organization shall consist of: President, vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee Representative who shall form the Executive Board.

Executive Board

A. President

1. Shall coordinate all activities of the organization.
2. Shall liaison to University community.
3. Shall be the official representative of organization.
4. Shall call for regular and special meetings as necessary.
5. Shall preside at meetings.
6. Shall foresee the preparation of agenda for meetings.

B. Vice President

1. Shall assume duties of president, when necessary.
2. Shall assist president in coordinating activities of the organization.
3. Shall preside in the absence of the president.

C. Secretary

1. Shall maintain accurate and current information of the organization and membership.
2. Shall assist president and vice-president to coordinate activities of organization.
3. Shall keep accurate minutes of meetings and correspondences.
4. Shall keep members informed of schedules of meetings and any other events
4. Keep attendance records for meetings.

D. Treasurer

1. Shall be responsible for the handling of all financial matters.
2. Shall maintain accurate and current account of all organizational funds.
3. Shall be responsible for receipts and disbursements of funds as required by the organization.
4. Shall sign all checks in conjunction with one of the other officers of the Executive Board.

E. Executive Committee Representative

1. Shall be the liaison to faculty of African Studies.
2. Shall be responsible for communicating important events as suggested by faculty to members of GSAS.
3. Shall be responsible for attending faculty meetings to report on key upcoming events and policies that would contribute or benefit GSAS as an organization.
4. Shall be responsible for keeping advisor current on organization activities.

ARTICLE VI - Advisor

The organization shall choose an appropriate Faculty member of the University to serve as advisor for the organization. He/she may attend meetings but shall not have any voting right. As advisor he/she will provide guidance and counsel to the organization in all its affairs whenever

necessary. He shall mediate in all disputes and settle differences between members for the harmonious running of the organization. He/she will be responsible for agreeing to and co-signing all financial transactions of the organization after review of spending purposes.

ARTICLE VII – Meetings

Executive Officers will attend meetings to discuss the progress of the organization biweekly, or as called by the elected President. General meetings of the organization shall be held monthly. For the purpose of conducting any successful business at such meetings a quorum of 3/4 voting members shall be required. Meetings will be advertised via departmental bulletins and email notifications.

ARTICLE VIII - Elections and voting procedures

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- a) Nominations for election to any of the positions shall be announced and recorded by the Secretary at the appropriate time.
- b) Officers shall be elected yearly by electronic balloting, with each active member casting a vote. A majority of votes cast will constitute victory.
- c) Election of officers will take place during the (---) week of the fall semester.
- d) Officers will assume office for the period of one year.

II. Recall of Officers

- a) Officers are subject to recall for malfeasance in office.
- b) Recall procedures will be initiated at the request of not less than five active members who have fully paid all dues up to date.
- c) A hearing will be conducted at a regular general meeting for the presentation and discussion of evidence from all concerned parties.
- d) A majority of active members voting after the successful conduction of the hearing will be necessary for the removal of a recalled officer.

ARTICLE IX – Dues & Budget

At the beginning of each semester a majority of voting members of this organization may determine reasonable dues and fees to be paid by each member. Dues will be collected and the budget will be maintained by the elected Treasurer of the organization.

ARTICLE X – Finances

Finances will be maintained by the elected Treasurer of the organization. The appointed advisor will be responsible for agreeing to and co-signing all financial transactions of the organization after review of spending purposes. GSAS will be in compliance with the Student Organization Accounts office policies and procedures. Should the group should dissolve, the remaining funds should go towards and African Studies affiliate or department or as decided by the faculty advisor.

ARTICLE XI – Personal Gain Clause

This organization shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to the organization, not individual members. *Individual students may not receive money from a student organization event for personal gain.*

ARTICLE XII – Amendment

This constitution and any bylaws thereof, shall become subject to amendment only after a thorough procedure has been followed, in the form of publication, general discussion and a majority of $2/3$ of votes (members present) cast in favor of it.

ARTICLE XIII – Ratification

If more than a majority of those present is desired to ratify this constitution, then this article must be included.