Preamble

Recognizing that Black Students are underrepresented at all levels in higher education and are faced with challenges that are unique to students of color, the Black Graduate Students of Kent State University do hereby organize the Black Graduate Student Association to provide social and academic mediums of support.

Article I - Name and Type of Organization

The organization shall be referred to as the Black Graduate Students Association (BGSA), a non-profit student led organization.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of BGSA is to meet the professional, social, and academic needs of Black graduate students. Our organization recognizes graduation with Masters or Ph.D. as a top priority. Subsequently this organization is dedicated to the promotion of academic excellence, mentoring, professional guidance, and social support that will enhance the scholarship of Black graduate students at Kent State University. Most importantly we plan to use these tools to empower our community and assist with opening the doors to higher education to more individuals from culturally diverse backgrounds. Third we wish to provide a place of refuge where Black students are encouraged to share ideas, concepts, and frustrations. Finally we aim to provide social opportunities for members to relax and relate through recreational and scholarly entertainment.

Article III - Membership

Section 1

1. Membership will be divided into two categories.

   a. Associate (non-voting) membership will be open to all graduate and professional students attending Kent State University. This status is also extended to all Kent State University faculty and staff.

   b. Active (voting) membership will be extended to all graduate and professional students that have paid their dues for the current academic year.

Section 2
It is understood that all members will be abide by the constitution.

**Section 3**

BGSA recognizes the importance of diversity in academia and subsequently shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, veteran status, sexuality, religious affiliation, nationality or ethnic origin.

**Article IV- Administration**

**Section 1**

The executive committee of BGSA shall consist of:
- a. 2 Co-chair persons
- b. Treasurer
- c. Secretary
- d. Program Chair

**Section 2**

The Executive Committee shall:
- a. Be held accountable to the General Body and none of its acts shall conflict with the goals and objectives of the organization or the decision that have been voted on by full members,
- b. Define the objectives and goals of the organization for each year, and
- c. Determine policy and administer BGSA affairs.

**Section 3**

The chairperson and treasurers are the only persons with the authority to make transactions on BGSA accounts.

**Section 4**

Under no circumstances shall the Executive Committee spend more than a specified amount of BGSA funds between General Body meetings without permission and approval from the General Body. The specified amount of annual dues for the next academic year will be determined by the incoming Executive Committee before the end of the fiscal year.

**Section 5**

The BGSA agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the Center for Student Involvement (CSI), its executive committee and the finance board. The constitution, amendments to it and the by-laws of the organization shall be subject to the review by the CSI Executive committee to insure that they are in accordance to the aforementioned rules and regulations.

**Article V- Officers**

**Section 1**

All members of the executive committee must be an active member of the BGSA.

**Section 2**

Each full member of the BGSA is entitled to one vote.
Section 3
In general, all decisions shall be made by the majority vote of those full members present.

Section 4
In any instance of an emergency (decided by one or both of the chairpersons) a decision shall be made by a majority vote of the entire Executive Committee. In the rare event that this happens the decision must be reported in writing before the next meeting or at the next general body meeting.

Section 5
Voting by proxy is only allowed during elections.

Section 6
Elections:
   a. Nomination and election of officers shall take place prior to the last general meeting of Spring Semester.
   b. The executive meetings shall appoint a parliamentarian prior to the second-to-last meeting of the spring semester, who shall supervise elections, count ballots, and announce election results in a timely manner.
   c. A candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast to be elected.
   d. In the event that there is a tie, there will be a revote for the two top candidates.

Section 7
Active members of BGSA reserve the right to impeach any officer or committee chair by a two-thirds majority vote of the full membership.

Article VI- Duties of Officers

The duties of the elected officers are:

a. Co-Chair persons
   • Are responsible for the day to day functioning of the organization.
   • Shall call and chair Executive Committee and General Body meetings.
   • Shall ensure and facilitate effective communication between the committees and General Body meetings.
   • Shall be the primary representatives of the BGSA in all campus and professional relations.

b. Treasurer
   • Shall maintain and update BGSA’s financial records and accounts.
   • Shall be responsible for recording the organizations financial transactions and for reporting a monthly statement and a yearly report for its account.

c. Secretary
• Shall facilitate ordinary business of the organization.
• Shall maintain and update the organization’s mailing list.
• Shall record and report minutes at all meetings.
• Shall be responsible for handling mailings and other internal communications with the General Body.

d. Program Chair:
• Increase the level of service to and interaction between local colleges, Kent, Portage County, international Black community and BGSA members
• Enhances awareness of events and happenings of the BGSA to members of the KSU, Kent, and Portage County Communities.

Section 1
General body meetings shall be held at least once a month.

Section 2
Executive board meetings shall be held at least twice a month.

Article VII- Amendments

Section 1
Amendments to this constitution may be made by:
   a. Proposal (at least verbally) during the course of General Body meetings
   b. Full members only

Section 2
A written draft of the specified amendment must be made available to the General Body at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which it will be voted on.

Section 3
A two-thirds majority vote of the full membership present at the General Body meeting is necessary for any amendments to be made to this document.

Membership is divided into two categories:

1. Associate (non-voting) membership will be open to all graduate and professional students attending Kent State University. This status is also extended to all Kent State University faculty and staff.

2. Active (voting) membership will be extended to all graduate and professional students that have paid their dues in the amount of $10 for the current academic year.

Dues can be paid in the form of cash or check at general body meetings. Please be advised that you’re not required to pay dues to attend BGSA general body meetings or events.