CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY BLACK GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I
Name & Definitions

Section 1: Name
A. This organization shall be known as the Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA), in affiliation with the National Black Graduate Student Association (NBGSA).

Section 2: Quorum
A. A quorum shall be defined as one-half (1/2) of the active members of BGSA.
B. A quorum must be attained for all general body meetings in order to conduct business of the BGSA.

Section 3: Two-Thirds Vote & Majority
A. A two-thirds vote shall be defined as two-thirds (2/3) of the BGSA members present in accord.
B. A majority shall be defined as one-half (1/2) of the BGSA members present plus one (50% +1) being in accord.

ARTICLE II
Purpose

Section 1: Mission Statement
The mission of the BGSA is to:
A. encourage scholarly and professional attitudes and performance among Black graduate students;
B. promote participation in advanced study for Black graduate students;
C. promote activity interchange between Black graduate students of Purdue University and those of other colleges and universities;
D. provide a forum for the discussion of grievances, issues, etc., of direct concern to Black graduate students; and
E. provide a professional and social opportunity for networking among Black graduate students at Purdue University.
ARTICLE III
Definition of Membership

Section 1: Eligibility
A. Membership and participation is encouraged for all Black graduate students, as well as graduate students of all ethnic backgrounds, of Purdue University.

B. Membership shall be of three classes:
   I. an active member, defined as a person who is working to complete an advanced degree from Purdue University and has fulfilled the financial requirements for membership as outlined in the Bylaws, Section 1.
   II. an alumni member, defined as a person who has previously attended Purdue University and served as an active member of BGSA
   III. an honorary member, defined as a person who has contributed to BGSA objectives. The title “Honorary Member” will be conferred by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.

Section 2: Non-discriminatory Policy
A. Membership and participation are free from discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.

ARTICLE IV
Officers & Division of Powers

Section 1: Branches of the BGSA
A. The BGSA shall be comprised of three branches: an Executive board, committees, and an advisor.

Section 2: The Executive Board
A. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Webmaster, and the committee chairs.

Section 3: Officers
A. The Executive Board of the BGSA shall compose of the following officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Webmaster.

Section 4: Committees
A. The committees of BGSA include: Academic and Professional Development, Banquet, Community Service, Fundraising, Membership, Social, and the Undergraduate Outreach Committee.

Section 5: Advisor
A. The Advisor advises the membership on how to handle issues and concerns. This person is also responsible for assisting with the identification of programs
and opportunities that further enhance personal and professional development of Black graduate students.

B. Election of the advisor shall be outlined and defined in the Bylaws, Section 3.

\textbf{ARTICLE V}

\textbf{Officers and Duties}

\textbf{Section 3: Officers and Their Duties}

\textbf{A. President}

\begin{enumerate}
\item The President shall preside over all meetings of the Association and in doing so shall be responsible for seeing that orderly parliamentary procedures are maintained.
\item The President shall serve as the official representative of the Black Graduate Student Association to the University.
\item The President under the advice of the Executive Board shall appoint committee chairs and the webmaster.
\end{enumerate}

\textbf{B. Vice-President}

\begin{enumerate}
\item The Vice President shall preside in the absence, or the inability of the President.
\item The Vice President shall assist the president in any necessary duties.
\item The Vice President shall also insure the proper performance of all administrative duties, the proper operation of all committees, and the timely submission of all reports to the President and the Executive Board.
\end{enumerate}

\textbf{C. Treasurer}

\begin{enumerate}
\item The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Association and shall regularly report finances to the executive board.
\item The treasurer keeps accounts, deposits the organization’s funds, and makes expenditures in a manner approved by the Business Office for Student Organizations.
\item The Treasurer must also present a financial report at the end of each month.
\end{enumerate}

\textbf{D. Recording Secretary}

\begin{enumerate}
\item The Recording Secretary shall be the chief records officer of the Association.
\item The Recording Secretary shall be ultimately responsible for taking and maintaining the minutes of the BGSA meetings.
\end{enumerate}

\textbf{E. Corresponding Secretary}
I. The Corresponding Secretary shall be the chief communications officer of the Association.

II. The Corresponding Secretary shall also be responsible for all correspondence among BGSA members.

F. Webmaster
   I. The Webmaster shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the BGSA website.
   
   II. The Webmaster shall also be responsible for photography and videography of all BGSA sponsored events.

ARTICLE VI
Amendments

Section 1: Ratification to the Constitution
   A. Ratification of the constitution shall occur upon a two-thirds vote of the active membership.
   
   B. All amendments to the constitution and bylaws are subject to the approval of the Office of the Dean of Students.

BYLAWS OF THE BGSA

Section 1:
   A. Bylaws shall govern the specific duties of the Executive Board and Committees.
   
   B. Bylaws shall govern the procedures for conducting business at meetings of the BGSA.
   
   C. Bylaws shall be ratified by an assenting majority vote of the active membership.
   
   D. Bylaws shall amplify and clarify other specific necessities as may be required.
   
   E. Ratification of any amendment to the bylaws shall be subject to a majority vote of the active membership.

Revised August 15, 2012