2017-2018 Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) Constitution

I. Purpose
The Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) is an interdisciplinary graduate student organization designed for Black graduate students to know and support each other both inside and outside of Brandeis University. BGSA aims to meet the professional, academic, and social needs of the Black graduate students through the following two avenues: (1) provide professional networking opportunities and scholarly activities through; guest speakers, alumni and related events and meetings on and off campus and (2) provide social opportunities within healing spaces for members to relax and relate through recreational entertainment. BGSA also aims to connect with the black undergraduate community to foster a pipeline to graduate school through mentorship and social activities. Lastly, GSA's work is to be engaged in working with the Brandeis community to maintain an inclusive environment.

II. Membership
Membership into BGSA is open to the Brandeis graduate community with a focus on Black graduate students’ narratives. One gains membership by signing up to the BGSA listserv, this can be done at any BGSA event, meeting and/or sending a request email to bgsa@brandeis.edu.

III. Officers
a. President
   i  Coordinate club meetings, provide overall leadership to the club, assist all executive officers, reviews all financial requests
   ii  Facilitate all general and executive board meetings
   iii Work directly with the GSA Advisor (Steven Weglinski) to ensure the club is operating within the expectations of Brandeis, and the BGSA Faculty Advisor (Maria Madison)
   iv  Maintains contact with the National BGSA
   v  Act as chief spokesperson of BGSA, as well as build and maintain partnerships and relationships throughout the Brandeis Community (i.e. departments, administrations, student groups, etc.) and community partners
   vi Remains fair and impartial during organizational decision making processes
   vii Provides encouragement and motivation to fellow officers and organization members
b. Vice President
   i  Provide support for club events, facilitate the election of officers, recruits new members
ii Assists the President, and assumes the duties of the President in his or her absence
iii Work with the Treasurer to establish budgets for events, etc.
iv Serve as the liaison for other minority graduate school organizations
v Foster and facilitate intentional relationships and programming for all graduate schools at Brandeis
vi Remains fair and impartial during organizational decision making processes
vii Provides encouragement and motivation to fellow officers and organization members
c. Treasurer
   i Keeps all financial records of BGSA, meets with the GSA Advisor (Steven Weglinski) on a regular basis to review account balances, prepares and submits all budget requests for funds
   ii Maintains financial history of organization, advises members and officers on financial matters (i.e. vendors cost)
   iii Remains fair and impartial during organizational decision making processes
d. Secretary
   i Keep detailed minutes of all meetings and other club documents, notifies all members of meetings
   ii Responsible for reserving space for general meetings, executive board meetings and BGSA events, keeps record of all members and activities of the organization
   iii Remains fair and impartial during organizational decision making processes
e. Publicist
   i Responsible for club marketing such as creating flyers, maintaining the club’s media sites (i.e. facebook and webpage), etc.
   ii Responsible for updating pictures, event announcements, etc. to cultivate an engaged membership
   iii Work with Secretary to prepare BGSA’s calendar of events
   iv Remains fair and impartial during organizational decision making processes
f. Event Coordinator(s)
   i Position arises on an as needed basis for BGSA events

IV. Meetings
BGSA will hold regular theme meetings **once a month** with **weekly** informal social gatherings (i.e. drinks at the Stein or off-campus, booking a study/family space at the ICC or Kutz Hall from 12pm-2pm). BGSA Executive board will meet bi-weekly with each Board member presenting an account of their activities for the club.
V. **Election of Officers**
BGSA will hold officer elections at the end of each school year, spring semester, for the positions of President and Vice-President. The remaining positions are to be filled at the beginning of the fall semester. Officers should be a representation of most of the Brandeis graduate schools.

VI. **Constitution Amendments**
BGSA Constitution Amendments will be decided in the future if the need arise by the BGSA members based on majority vote.

VII. **Statement of Non-Exclusivity**
The Black Graduate Student Association is open to all members of the Brandeis Community. The Black Graduate Student Association does not discriminate against members on the basis of race, color, ancestry, religious creed, gender identity and expression, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, genetic information, disability, political affiliation, ideology, veteran status or any other category protected by the law.