SECTION I – Constitution of the Boston College Philosophy Ph.D. Student Council

ARTICLE I – Purpose
1. The purposes and duties of the Philosophy Ph.D. Student Council [or ‘Council’] are: to facilitate communication between the Philosophy Department faculty and the Ph.D. students. The Council shall be responsible for canvassing the student body and communicating its concerns to the faculty, via the faculty Graduate Director;
2. to generally represent the interests of the Ph.D. student body;
3. and to represent the Ph.D. student body as part of the Philosophy Department Graduate Student Association [or ‘Philosophy GSA’] and fulfill all of the duties thereof (as articulated in Section II).
4. The Council shall possess the authority necessary to fulfill 1-3.

ARTICLE II – Membership, Duties
1. The Council shall consist of six members.
   1.1 Representatives: There shall be one member representing each of five groups of doctoral students. The groups shall consist severally of the students in their first, second, third, fourth, and fifth year or above of the Philosophy Program. In addition, there shall be one representative-at-large, who shall represent the entire doctoral student body.
   1.2 Chairperson: One of the five representatives shall act as a chairperson.
2. The Duties of a Representative
   2.1 Each representative, as well as the representative-at-large shall be responsible for gathering the concerns and proposals of the students whom they represent in the manner that they see fit and conveying them to the Council during a meeting.
   2.2 Each representative, but not the representative-at-large shall hold, ex officio, the office of Philosophy GSA representative and fulfill all of the duties thereof (as articulated in Section II).
   2.3 The representative-at-large shall hold, ex officio, the office of Philosophy GSA treasurer, and fulfill all of the duties thereof (as articulated in Section II).
3. The Duties of the Chairperson
   3.1 The chairperson shall be responsible for planning and communicating to the Council the times and places where the Council shall meet.
   3.2 The chairperson shall be responsible for setting the agenda for a Council meeting, and calling a vote on an item or proposal.
   3.3 The chairperson shall hold, ex officio, the office of Philosophy GSA chairperson, and fulfill all of the duties thereof.

ARTICLE III – Elections, Term-lengths
1. Election of Representatives
   1.1 Elections of the five representatives shall be held at the mandatory meeting of all Ph.D. students, held within the first two weeks of each Fall Semester.
   1.2 Any doctoral student may nominate a candidate for representative from among the students in his or her group, including him or herself.
1.3 Any student nominated may decline to be a candidate for representative of that group.
1.4 A representative shall be elected by a simple majority of those present from the group for which he or she has been nominated. Voting shall be anonymous, proceeding by paper ballot.
1.5 The term for a representative shall be one academic year.

2. Election of the representative-at-large
   2.1 Elections of the representative-at-large shall be held at the mandatory meeting of all Ph.D. students on the first Friday of every Fall Semester.
   2.2 Any doctoral student may nominate a candidate for representative-at-large from among all of the doctoral students, including him or herself.
   2.3 The representative-at-large shall be elected by a simple majority of all doctoral students present. Voting shall be anonymous, proceeding by paper ballot.
   2.4 The term for the representative-at-large shall be two academic years.

3. Election of the Chairperson
   3.1 Election of the chairperson shall be held at the first meeting of the Ph.D. Student Council in each academic year.
   3.2 Any representative may nominate a candidate from among the representatives, including him or herself.
   3.3 Any representative nominated may decline to be a candidate for chairperson.
   3.4 A chairperson shall be elected by a simple majority of those representatives present at the meeting.

3. Special Elections
   3.1 In the event that any representative, including the representative-at-large, should become unable or unwilling to perform his or her duties, the process of nomination and election of a new representative shall be organized and executed by the chairperson, according to 1.2-1.5. The newly elected representative will serve for the remainder of the term for the office of the one he or she is replacing.
   3.2 In the event that the chairperson should become unwilling or unable to perform the duties of chairperson but not of representative, the Council will choose for itself a new chairperson, according to 2.2-2.4. Any representative may call a meeting to elect a new chairperson.
   3.3 In the event that the chairperson is unable or unwilling to perform the duties both of chairperson and representative, one member of the Council shall organize and execute an election of a new representative according to 3.1, and subsequently the Council shall elect for itself a new chairperson according to 3.2.

Article IV—Meetings
1. Definition
   1.1 A meeting requires the presence of a quorum.
   1.2 A quorum consists in at least three representatives.

2. Frequency and Scheduling
   1.1 The Council shall meet at least three times during the course of each academic year.
   1.2 Meetings will take place during the third week of each Fall Semester; during the second week of each Spring Semester; during the second week following the Philosophy Graduate Conference.
1.3 The times and locations of meetings shall be set by the chairperson.

3. Decisions
   3.1 The Council must vote on whether to convey any item of concern or proposal to the Graduate Director, and whether to accept or take action on any other proposal.
   3.2 Only elected representatives may vote, except for
   3.3 the representative-at-large, who may vote only in those instances in which there is a tie.
   3.4 A decision is binding if it receives the votes of a simple majority of those representatives present.

4. Any graduate student in philosophy may attend and speak at any meeting, but only elected representatives may vote.

Article V—Amendment Procedures
1. Section I shall be amended only during a meeting of the Council in which all members are present and when an proposed amendment receives a simple majority of votes.

Section II—Constitution of the Boston College Philosophy Graduate Student Association

Article I—Purpose
1. The purposes and duties of the Philosophy GSA are: to represent and advocate for of the interests of all philosophy graduate students as a duly constituted chapter of the Boston College Graduate Student Association [or ‘BC GSA’],
2. to institute and/or maintain and delegate responsibility for organizing events of both academic and non-academic natures, among which are included the annual Graduate Conference and Contemporary Philosophy Workshop,
3. and to generally represent the interests of the entire philosophy graduate student body.
3. The Philosophy GSA shall possess the authority to fulfill 1-3, including the sole authority to distribute funds allotted to the philosophy department by the BC GSA.

Article II—Membership, Duties
1. The Philosophy GSA shall have eight members. Seven members shall serve as representatives and the eighth as treasurer.
   1.1 Five of the representatives shall be the representatives serving on the Ph.D. Student Council [see I.II.2.2].
   1.2 Two of the representatives shall be chosen from among M.A. Council members, in whatever manner it sees fit.
   1.3 The treasurer shall be the representative-at-large of the Ph.D. Student Council [See I.II.2.3].
   1.4 The chairperson shall be the chairperson of the Ph.D. Student Council [See I.II.3.3].
2. The Duties of a Representative
2.1 Each representative shall be responsible for gathering the concerns and proposals of the students whom they represent in the manner that they see fit and to convey them to the Philosophy GSA during a meeting.

2.2 Each representative shall, according to his or her judgment, make decisions, including those concerning philosophy graduate student events, that best serve the interests of the entire graduate student body.

3. The Duties of the Treasurer

3.1 The treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining a budget and records of financial transactions.

3.2 The treasurer shall be responsible for attending all BC GSA meetings that are pertinent to the financial status of the Philosophy GSA.

3.3 The treasurer shall be responsible for aiding those seeking reimbursement for Philosophy GSA approved expenditures.

4. The Duties of the Chairperson

4.1 The chairperson shall be responsible for planning and communicating to the Philosophy GSA members the times and places where the Philosophy GSA shall meet.

4.2 The chairperson shall be responsible for setting the agenda for a Philosophy GSA meeting, and calling a vote on an item or proposal.

Article III—Meetings

1. Definition

1.1 A meeting requires the presence of a quorum.

1.2 A quorum consists in the presence of at least three of the representatives from the Ph.D. Student Council and one of the representatives from the M.A. Council.

2. Frequency and Scheduling

1.1 The Philosophy GSA shall meet at least three times during the course of each academic year.

1.2 The dates for these meetings are as follows: The second Friday of each Fall Semester; the second Friday of each Spring Semester; the second Friday following the Philosophy Graduate Conference.

1.3 The times and locations of meetings shall be set by the chairperson.

3. Decisions

3.1 The Philosophy GSA must on vote whether to accept or take action on any proposal.

3.2 Only representatives [see II.II.1] may vote, except for

3.3 the treasurer, who may only vote in those instances in which there is a tie.

3.4 A decision is binding if it receives the votes of a simple majority of those representatives who are present.

4. Any graduate student in philosophy may attend and speak at any meeting, but only Philosophy GSA representatives may vote.

Article IV—Amendments

1. Section II shall be amended only when a proposed amendment receives a simple majority of all members of the Philosophy GSA, which majority must also include at least one M.A. representative.