

# University of Delaware Graduate Student Government Constitution

(Updated: 25 March 2020)

## **Preamble:**

We, the graduate students of the University of Delaware, believing in the right and the obligation to actively participate in the formation and execution of student and university policy, do hereby establish the University of Delaware Graduate Student Government. We strive to integrate the academic, professional, and social aspects of university life. Guided by the principles of democracy, we create this constitution of the organization to serve as the foundation for the implementation of these goals.

### *Section 1. Name of Organization*

- (a) This organization shall be known as the Graduate Student Government (hereafter called the GSG) of the University of Delaware (hereafter called the University). The GSG shall be the pre-eminent governance organization for students enrolled in graduate studies at the University.

### *Section 2. Statement of Purpose*

- (a) The GSG seeks to create a forum for graduate student advocacy while facilitating communication between students, faculty, and administration at the University. The GSG supports campus-wide activities promoting graduate student professionalism and collegiality. In addition, the GSG seeks to influence the course of the University (1) through representation on University committees, (2) by expressing views of the student body to the administration, and (3) by issuing statements of our position to the administration and media.

### *Section 3. Statement of Inclusion*

- (a) In an effort to create an atmosphere of inclusion and increase graduate student engagement, the GSG does not restrict membership or participation on the basis of race, nationality, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, veteran status, marital status, language, political affiliation, disability, or any other social or personal characteristic. The GSG believes an emphasis on diversity can enhance the overall experience of graduate students at the University as students learn to interact effectively and appreciate the various perspectives, talents, and abilities of others.
- (b) *University Nondiscrimination Clause:* The GSG agrees to adhere to all policies and procedures of the University and all local, state, and federal laws. Members will become acquainted with University policies and procedures as

provided in the official student handbook.

The GSG is a viable, functioning organization, composed of at least six full-time graduate students. The GSG does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, veteran, handicap status, or sexual orientation.

## **Article I. Membership**

### *Section 1. Membership*

- (a) Membership in the GSG shall be all students enrolled in graduate-level Academic Plans at any campus or satellite campus of the University. Membership roles are distinguished in Article I of the Bylaws.

### *Section 2. Legislative Voting Members*

- (a) Legislative voting shall be limited to those GSG members specified in Article I, Section 4 of the Bylaws.

### *Section 3. Officers*

- (a) The officers of the GSG, to be elected following Article IV, Section 2, shall consist of the President, the Vice President of Internal Affairs, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Vice President of Membership, the Secretary, and the Parliamentarian.

## **Article II. Structure**

The structure of the GSG shall consist of an Executive Branch and a Legislative Branch.

### *Section 1. Executive Branch*

- (a) The Executive Branch of the GSG shall consist of the Executive Council, the Committee Boards, and the members of each committee.

#### 1. The Executive Council

- a. The overall activities of the GSG shall be coordinated by the Executive Council which consists of the President, the Vice President of Internal Affairs, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Vice President of Membership, and the Secretary, and is chaired by the President.
- b. The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Executive Council are described in Article II, Section 2 of the Bylaws.

- c. It shall be the responsibility of each officer to report to the Senate at least twice each semester on the progress of their work.
- d. The term of office of all Executive Council members shall be one year. No member may serve more than two consecutive elected terms in the same office.

## 2. Committee Boards

- a. The GSG shall have two Committee Boards, the Internal Affairs Board and the Student Affairs Board.
  - 1. The Internal Affairs Board shall be chaired by the Vice President of Internal Affairs and shall consist of the committee chairs for each of the standing and ad hoc internal affairs committees.
  - 2. The Student Affairs Board shall be chaired by the Vice President of Student Affairs and shall consist of the committee chairs for each of the standing and ad hoc student affairs committees.
- b. The structure and meeting requirements for Board meetings are outlined in Article III of the Bylaws.

## 3. Committees

- a. The committee membership and organization requirements are outlined in Article III of this Constitution.

### *Section 2. Legislative Branch*

- (a) The Legislative Branch of the GSG shall consist of the Senate and the Parliamentarian.

#### 1. The Senate

- a. The Senate shall be the legislative body of the GSG.
- b. The Senate membership shall consist of one voting student senator from each of the University's graduate-degree awarding Academic Plans.
- c. Senator elections are outlined in Article IV, Section 3 of the

Bylaws.

- d. Each senator shall have responsibilities in order to maintain active standing, as outlined in Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws.

2. The Parliamentarian

- a. The chairperson of the Senate shall be the Parliamentarian, whose role is outlined in Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws.

### **Article III. Committees of the Senate**

#### *Section 1. Committee Organization*

- (a) GSG committees shall exist in two forms: standing and ad hoc committees.
  1. Standing committees fulfill necessary roles which ensure the continuous operation of GSG functions and reflect the GSG's values and initiatives.
  2. The standing committees of the GSG shall be:
    - a. Communications
    - b. Diversity
    - c. Elections
    - d. Events
    - e. Governance
    - f. Graduate College Council
    - g. Mental Health
    - h. Social
    - i. Student Life
    - j. Sustainability
  3. The GSG may assemble specialized committees, called ad hoc committees, that shall be provisional committees to manage temporary functions for the GSG and/or address topics of interest to the graduate student body that do not fall under the purview of the existing standing committees. Article III, Section 3 of the Bylaws delineates ad hoc committee creation and dissolution.

#### *Section 2. Committee Membership*

- (a) Committees shall be governed by a chair and must consist of at least two additional senators or members-at-large, with the exception of the Governance Committee. Officers may also take on membership and hold voting rights. Article III of the Bylaws delineates the respective roles and duties of

committee chairs and members.

## **Article IV. Elections and Appointments**

### *Section 1. Elections Committee*

- (a) The Elections Committee shall be the governing body of the elections process. The responsibilities of the Elections Committee are outlined in Article IV, Section 1 of the Bylaws.

### *Section 2. Officer and Senator Elections*

- (a) The Elections Committee shall coordinate all aspects of officer and senator elections.
- (b) Eligibility, terms of position, the elections timeline, and position vacancies are outlined in Article IV of the Bylaws.

### *Section 3. Committee Chair Elections*

- (a) Eligibility: All senators in active standing and any member-at-large who is a member of a committee are eligible to serve as that committee's chair(s).
- (b) Nomination and Election: All members of the committee shall meet before the second public GSG meeting and submit nomination(s) for chair(s) of their respective committee. The committee shall then elect their chair(s) through a vote by secret ballot, with simple majority determining the winner.
- (c) Appointments: If a committee is without a chair due to removal (as outlined in Article V, Section 3) or due to an unfilled chair position, the Executive Council may appoint a new committee chair by the date of the next public GSG meeting.

### *Section 4. Graduate College Council Representative Elections*

- (a) The Elections Committee shall coordinate all aspects of Graduate College Council Representative elections.
- (b) Eligibility: All students enrolled in a graduate-level Academic Plan may be nominated for a position on the Graduate College Council to fulfill the charge of representing the University's graduate student body in the goals, initiatives, discussions, and decisions of the Graduate College. Self-nominations are permitted.
- (c) Nomination and Elections: The nomination and elections procedure for Student Representatives to the Graduate College Council are outlined in

Article IV, Section 5 of the Bylaws.

## **Article V. Removal**

### *Section 1. Officers*

- (a) If an officer of the Executive Branch does not fulfill their duties as outlined in Article II, Section 2 of the Bylaws, the GSG shall follow the guidelines for removal outlined in Article V, Section 1 of the Bylaws.

### *Section 2. Senators*

- (a) If a senator does not fulfill their duties as outlined in Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws, the GSG shall follow the guidelines for removal outlined in Article V, Section 2 of the Bylaws.

### *Section 3. Committee Chairs*

- (a) If a committee chair or co-chair does not fulfill their duties as outlined in Article III of the Bylaws, the GSG shall follow the guidelines for removal outlined in Article V, Section 3 of the Bylaws.

### *Section 4. Graduate College Council Representatives*

- (a) If a Representative does not fulfill their duties as outlined in Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws, the VP of Membership shall recommend their removal to the Graduate College Council and follow the guidelines for further action outlined in Article V, Section 4 of the Bylaws.

## **Article VI. Amendments**

### *Section 1. Voting Procedure*

- (a) Changes to the Constitution require three-fourths Senate vote, and changes to the Bylaws require a two-thirds Senate vote.

### *Section 2. Amendments Procedure*

- (a) The procedure for amending the Constitution or Bylaws is outlined in Article VI, Section 2 of the Bylaws.