The Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina at the College of Charleston
Graduate Student Association
Constitutional By-Laws
Last Revised January 2016
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PREAMBLE

The graduate students of the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina at the College of Charleston so establish this Constitution for the preservation and improvement of a democratic Graduate Student Association of the Graduate School. It shall be the purpose of this Constitution and the resolutions legally adopted hereunder to serve as the guiding documents for the Graduate Student Body at the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina. This Constitution shall define the structure of the Graduate Student Association, which consists of the Executive and Council branches.
ARTICLE I - Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

This organization shall be known as the Graduate Student Association (GSA) of the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina, and shall be the preeminent governing organization for students enrolled in the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina at the College of Charleston.

Section 2: Definitions

- The term Graduate Student Association (or GSA) refers to all full-time and part time students enrolled in the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina at the College of Charleston.
- The term Executive Board refers to the elected President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- The term Graduate Student Council (GSC) refers to appointed sub-organization delegates and elected Executive Board members. With the exception of the President, these are the voting members of the GSA.

Section 3: Purpose

The purposes of the Graduate Student Association shall be:

1. To provide a common association among graduate students and graduate student associations in all divisions and departments of the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina.
2. To work with the college administration and other commissions in order to improve the quality of the graduate programs, graduate research opportunities, and graduate student services.
3. To promote the improvement of graduate student life including the provision of academic, professional, social, cultural, and recreational programs.
4. To represent the interests of graduate students in all college activities and to facilitate the exchange of information between the college governance structure and the graduate students.
(5) To provide a forum for discussion of internal and external issues which are of concern to graduate students.

(6) To facilitate the exchange of ideas, information, and appropriate resources among other student groups.

(7) To co-sponsor programs with other student organizations within and outside the College of Charleston.

(8) To maintain a budget for graduate student purposes and to distribute funds, at the discretion of the elected Executive Board and appointed faculty advisors, for use by graduate student organizations.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section 1: Graduate Student Association Membership

• Membership in the GSA shall include all full-time and part-time graduate students enrolled in the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina.

Section 2: Graduate Student Council Representation

• Each organization shall have 2 delegates who will serve as members of the GSC.
• Only appointed delegates shall have voting privileges.

Section 3: Discrimination Clause

The Graduate Student Association and the College of Charleston are committed to providing leadership in the attainment of equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, or other legally protected classification. This effort is in compliance with all federal and state laws, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 as amended. Inquiries should be directed to the Office of Human Relations and Minority Affairs, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina 29424-0001.
Section 4: Hazing

This organization complies with all State and Federal laws and College of Charleston policies on hazing. This organization recognizes hazing to be any action taken or situation created to inflict physical or mental discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule upon an individual or group. Further, the members of this organization understand that any individual or group found responsible for hazing will be subject to disciplinary action, which may result in probation, suspension or revocation of Graduate Student Association recognition.

ARTICLE III - Elections

Section 1: Executive Board Elections

1.1 Elections within the Graduate Student Association will be held in the Spring semester of each year for four executive officer positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The dates of the election will be determined by the Graduate Student Association’s Executive Board.

1.2 The Executive Board shall inform all divisions or programs not currently represented on the GSC of the opening of nominations.

1.3 In the event that there is a runoff election for any position, voting polls for the runoff election shall be opened within two (2) business days of closing of the original election.

1.4 In the event that a candidate should seek a position unopposed, that candidate must still participate in the campaigning process and will also be listed on the ballot to be elected by his/her constituents.

1.5 In the event that an office of the Executive Board is not filled in the Spring semester, the elected officers will request nominations from all graduate students and hold interviews in the Fall to fill the vacant office. The Executive Board will then bring their selected candidates before the GSC to be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote.

1.6 Elections for all Graduate Student Association Executive offices shall be conducted by the Executive Board, representative from the Graduate Student Council, and the Judiciary Committee.
1.7 Members of the Executive Board shall be impartial and show no preference toward any candidate.

**Section 2: Regulations Regarding Candidate Eligibility**

2.1 Candidates seeking election to any Graduate Student Association Executive Board Office must be an enrolled graduate student at the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina, with at least one year remaining in their program of study. These students must be in good disciplinary standing with the College of Charleston and must have attained a 3.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average at the time they seek election. Candidates must submit an application package to be viewed by the current Executive Board and one month before the scheduled elections. The application packet shall include a background statement of no more than one page along with a statement of goals and a petition signed by ten graduate students from the Graduate School, no more than five signatures can be from Graduate Student Council members.

2.2 To be eligible to run for the position of President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, a student must have attended 4 or more Graduate Student Council meetings; 2 or more for students who enroll in a graduate program in January.

2.3 There shall be a one (1) year term limit. No member of the GSA should be able to hold the same office more than one year unless there are no candidates for the office. In the event an Executive Board Office has no candidates, the outgoing Executive Officer shall become eligible for re-election for an additional one (1) year term if they are enrolled in the following academic year, in good disciplinary standing with the College of Charleston, and have maintained a 3.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average. The outgoing Executive Officer shall participate in the campaign process and will be listed on the ballot for re-election by his/her constituents.

2.4 No more than two Executive Board members shall be allowed per graduate program.

**Section 3: Regulations Regarding Campaign Funds and Expenses**

3.1 No candidate may use GSA funds or campus resources obtained from the College of Charleston for his/her campaign.

3.2 No organizations shall use student allocated monies to endorse a candidate. In such a case, the organization in question may lose its allocated funds as deemed
necessary by the Executive Board, Treasurer, and Allocations Committee. Organizations may raise their own revenue to support a candidate.

3.3 All candidates may spend up to $50.00 of their own assets in addition to funds raised, which may not exceed $25.00 per donor. All donations must be presented in the form of a check to the candidate. The candidate shall submit a copy of the check, campaign expense forms, and all receipts to the Elections Commission. Total campaign expenditures shall not exceed $100.00 for Executive Council Candidates.

3.4 No candidate shall pool campaign expenses with any other candidate so as to achieve a greater sum of expenditures then they are allotted individually.

3.5 All receipts must be itemized, and no non-itemized receipts shall be accepted by the outgoing Executive Board.

3.6 The outgoing Executive Board shall audit the expenses and donations of each winning candidate, prior to certifying them as a winner, to ensure that receipts have been submitted for all expenses and that they do not exceed the maximum expenditures allowed.

Section 4: Regulations Regarding Campaign Literature

4.1 All campaign literature to be posted must be registered and counted by the outgoing Executive Board. Failure to register flyers and/or banners to be posted shall result in removal and the possibility of a candidate’s disqualification. Posting means that anything taped, glued, stapled, or otherwise with a permanent or semi-permanent intent displaying campaign literature in a public place.

4.2 Distributing shall be defined as the active circulation of campaign literature to individuals. Graduate Student Association candidates must be clear on their literature to indicate that they are running for a Graduate or GSA position so as not to confuse candidacy with an SGA candidate.

4.3 Campaign literature shall be defined as any printed material to be posted or distributed, or emails sent.

4.4 There shall be a one hundred (100) count limitation on the posting of flyers, which are campaign literature larger than a handout and up to the dimensions of a full page (8.5in x 11in). There will be a handouts limitation of one hundred fifty (150), which cannot be posted and must be the size of a quarter of a full page (4.25in x 5.5in). Only five (5) posters may be posed (22in x 28in). Only
three (3) banners may be posted (76in x 80in). Candidates may not send more than one (1) email per week.

4.5 No candidate shall pool their allocated amount of campaign literature with another candidate as to achieve a greater amount of campaign literature than they are allotted individually in Section 3.3. If either by their declaration, or if in the opinion of the Judiciary Committee, candidates appear to be coordinating campaign literature, so as to express support for one another, then campaign literature may be removed or taken down.

4.6 No flyers, banners, and/or other campaign material shall be attached to glass, wallpaper, painted walls, trees, brick sidewalks, lampposts, benches, or any other surface that could be damaged by such attachment. No self-adhesive materials should be affixed to campus property. Candidates shall not violate the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston, Article 4 Part 2, Section 54-404 (also known as the Snipe Policy), or any other municipal codes.

4.7 No campaign literature shall be approved once the election polls have opened.

4.8 There shall be no campaigning inside of the Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library, The Grice Marine Laboratory Library, the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture or within the first floor of the Stern Student Center.

Section 5: Definitions of Results and Vote Tabulation

5.1 A candidate shall be declared the winner in an election by meeting the following requirements:

- A candidate for a single Executive Board position must receive a majority (50% +1) of all the voted cast for that candidate to be declared the winner. In such elections where a candidate does not receive a majority, a run-off election shall be held within two business days with the two candidates receiving the highest percentages of the vote.

5.2 Election results, including the number of votes that each candidate receives, shall be posted online for every office, and candidate petitions shall remain on file for one month in the event of a contestation.
Section 6: Online Voting

6.1 The right to vote shall not be denied to any graduate student currently enrolled in the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina, regardless of the number of hours carried.

6.2 Currently enrolled graduate students at the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina may vote online through the approved application. The GSA online voting system shall be administered by the current Executive Board.

6.3 Tampering with the online voting system will result in the disqualification of a candidate and/or referral to the Dean of Students.

Section 7: Disqualification

7.1 All disciplinary action against candidates, including warning and/or disqualification, shall fall under the discretion of the Judiciary Committee.

7.2 Rules outlining campus elections must be observed by all candidates.

7.3 Candidates disqualified from the election shall be barred from participating. No candidates shall be barred from participating who has an appeal pending.

7.4 A new election may be called, at the discretion of the Executive Board and Judiciary Committee, if a candidate is disqualified after the election is held. The new election shall consist of the names of only those qualified remaining.

Section 8: Contestation of Elections

8.1 Any candidate may contest the election by submitting to the Judiciary Committee a written statement requesting an investigation and specifying alleged irregularities. The written statement must be submitted within (1) month following the closure of the election polls.

8.2 Reasons for contestation include, but are not limited to, the following: Illegal balloting, violating of election procedures, violation of election regulations, violation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Graduate Student Association, violation of state, local, or federal laws, or grossly unethical campaign practices as defined by the Judiciary Committee.

8.3 The Judiciary Committee shall investigate and hear all election contestations. If the Judiciary Committee believes that sufficient cause exists, it may order a new
election, either in full or in part. If insufficient evidence is presented, the election shall stand.

8.4 Both candidates are responsible for presenting their own witnesses, if any, at the hearing.

8.5 The Judiciary Committee has the final decision on whether an election will stand based on the evidence provided.

Section 9: Installation

9.1 Graduate Student Association Executive Board Officers shall be installed following the spring elections on May 16th.

9.2 The period of time between the candidate’s election and the installation shall be used as a period of apprenticeship in which they shall work with the outgoing officers.

9.3 The oath of office shall be administered by the Past President of the Graduate Student Association, or other representative such as the Dean of the Graduate School or the President of the College of Charleston, and shall read:

I (state your full name), swear to uphold the Constitutional Bylaws of the Graduate Student Association, endeavor to the best of my ability to promote the general welfare of the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina and its students at all times, exercise the power and duties of my office in a manner befitting the reputation and good standing of this institution, and shall at all times refrain from activities which may bring shame and/or disgrace to my office and the Graduate School at the College of Charleston.

9.4 After taking the oath of office the candidate shall sign a copy of it to signify their understanding of it.

9.5 Upon election to the Executive Board of a GSC member, their respective seat in the GSC becomes available to be filled by another delegate from the same program. Each graduate division or program of the college shall be responsible for coordinating its own procedures for selecting delegates to the GSC. It is recommended that the Executive Officers hold a leadership (but not a voting delegate) position within their respective sub-organization for purposes of example and consistency.
Section 10: Successions of the Executive Board

10.1 In the event that a President is unable to fulfill a term in office, the Vice President shall assume the office of President. A new Vice President shall be elected at the next meeting of the GSC following the vacancy of the Vice President.

10.2 In the event that the Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary is unable to complete a term, the position will be filled at the next meeting of the GSC following the vacancy of that position.

10.3 Voting for vacancy positions on the Executive Board shall occur by nomination of a GSC delegate or committee member followed by a second. Each candidate will then be allowed a two minute verbal presentation. When all candidates have spoken, voting will occur by secret ballot. The new Executive Board member(s) shall be elected by simple majority vote.

10.4 The term of newly elected Executive Board member(s) filling a vacancy on the Executive Board shall not exceed the original term of the seat that was vacated.

10.5 In the event of a vacancy on the Executive Board at a period during the year when a meeting of the GSC is not possible, the President shall have the power to appoint the person to fulfill the position until an election can be held. Such interim Executive Board members have to be officially elected to their positions by a simple majority vote by the GSC by the next meeting of the GSC following the vacancy of the position. Other qualified graduate students within the Graduate School may run for the same position at the time of this meeting.

Section 11: Impeachments on the Executive Board

11.1 In the event that a member of the Executive Board fails to faithfully discharge the duties of their office, they may be removed from their office in the following manner:

(a) A motion to initiate impeachment proceedings is made at a regular meeting of the GSC. All motions for impeachment shall be recognized by the President. If a simple majority of the GSC does not vote to continue impeachment, the matter is dropped. If a simple majority votes in favor of continuing impeachment proceedings, then an impeachment hearing will be held between one and two weeks from the date of the motion for impeachment.
(b) The impeachment hearing of the GSC will be structured so as to allow charges to be elaborated and a defense to be stated. The report of the impeachment hearing shall be distributed to all GSC delegates prior to the next regular GSC meeting.

(c) A secret ballot vote on impeachment shall be taken at the next regular GSC meeting. The ballots shall be counted by members of the Executive Board not under impeachment and the Faculty Advisor. A two-thirds majority vote of the GSC or their proxies present is required for the impeachment.

Section 12: Successions and Impeachments on the GSC

12.1 If a member of the GSC is unable to fulfill a term in office, another delegate may be sanctioned by the respective graduate program to become the new GSC delegate of that program.

12.2 In the event that a GSC delegate fails to faithfully discharge the duties of their office, the Executive Board may recommend to the respective graduate program that a new GSC delegate be chosen to represent them in the GSC.

12.3 In the event that a Committee Chair is unable to fulfill a term in office, the Executive Board shall elect a new chair to be ratified by majority vote of the GSC.

12.4 In the event that Committee Chair fails to faithfully discharge the duties of their office they may be removed from their position by a simple majority vote by the GSC.

ARTICLE IV - Governance

Section 1: Governance

• The governance of the GSA will consist of a Graduate Student Council (GSC) led by an elected Executive Board. The Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina at the College of Charleston shall advise the GSC.

• Members of the Executive Board and GSC must be in good academic standing as deemed by the college. If any member of the Executive Board or GSC drops below good academic standing, he or she will be replaced according to procedures found in the GSA Bylaws.
Section 2: Graduate Student Council

- The GSC shall consist of the two voting delegates (or their proxies) from each graduate student member organization.
- Organization delegates shall be responsible for:
  1. Attending all GSC meetings or sending a proxy in their place.
  2. Representing the concerns and needs of their constituency.
  3. Actively serving on at least one committee.
  4. Attending at least one GSA event per semester.
  5. Providing their constituents with meeting minutes upon request.
  6. Promoting and advertising GSA events and meetings to their constituents.
  7. Serving as a voting member of the GSC.
- The GSC shall only recognize GSC organization delegates (or their proxies) if they are sanctioned by the graduate students of the organization they represent.

Section 3: Executive Board

- An Executive Board consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall coordinate the overall activities of the GSC.
- The Executive Board will ensure that graduate students are consistently represented in all pertinent committees of the College of Charleston including but not limited to the Graduate Council and faculty senate.
- Terms on the Executive Board shall run one year from May 15th to May 15th.
- The Executive Board members shall receive compensation up to, but not to exceed 5.0% of the total budget. The total amount of 5.0% shall be divided equally among the four Executive Officers. The Graduate Student Council can withhold up to 50% of this amount upon a two-thirds vote.
- Each outgoing Executive Board member shall be responsible for the continuity of his or her office.

Section 4: The President

The President shall:

  1. Be the chief executive officer of the GSA.
(2) Chair the Executive Board.
(3) Be the official representative of the graduate student body.
(4) Plan and conduct GSC elections, unless running for reelection, in conjunction with the Executive Board, representatives from the GSC, and the Judiciary Committee.
(5) Be responsible for the continuity of the GSA.
(6) Be a non-voting member of the GSC except in the case of a tie.
(7) Have the right to veto motions passed by the GSA, however this can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the GSC.

Section 5: The Vice President

The Vice President shall:

(1) Assist the President in the execution of GSA policies and operations.
(2) Plan and conduct a constitutional review annually or as needed.
(3) Act in lieu of the President if the President is unable to perform the duties of the office and shall succeed the office if a vacancy occurs.
(4) Act as Parliamentarian and enforce Parliamentary Procedure.
(5) Organize and support the committee chairs, ensuring that committees are fulfilling their roles and head the Judiciary Committee.
(6) Preside over meetings of the GSC.
(7) Be a voting member of the GSC.

Section 6: The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

(1) Be in charge of all monetary affairs of the GSA including record keeping and timely depositing/distribution of funds.
(2) Ensure the GSA checkbook is continually and accurately balanced.
(3) Develop, present, and maintain an operating budget with the assistance of the Appropriations Committee.
(4) Report on finances of the GSA at the monthly council meetings.
(5) Be involved with any fundraising projects deemed desirable or necessary by the GSC.

(6) Chair the Appropriations Committee.

(7) Review any budget reallocation and contingency fund requests with the assistance of the Executive board.

(8) Be a voting member of the GSC.

Section 7: The Secretary

The Secretary shall:

(1) Maintain all official records of the GSA, including membership, agendas, and minutes.

(2) Notify GSC delegates of scheduled meetings.

(3) Take roll and manage the attendance policy.

(4) Handle all GSA correspondence.

(5) Process new organization requests.

(6) Maintain an up to date email contact list of all graduate students.

(7) Be a voting member of the GSC.

ARTICLE V - Committees

Section 1: Committee Formation

• Committees shall be made up of at least three GSC delegates or graduate students at the Graduate School who wish to participate.

• All committees will be chaired by a member of the GSC who will report to the Vice President with the exceptions of the Judiciary Committee, which will be chaired by the Vice President, and the Appropriations Committee, which will report to and be chaired by the Treasurer.

• Committee chairs will be selected by the members of the Executive Board to be ratified by majority vote of the GSC.
• Committee members shall become so by volunteering for a particular committee with discretion of the committee chair acting as the deciding factor of membership for that committee.

• All committee members are expected to participate in and contribute to all activities of their committee.

• Permanent committees may only be established or removed by amendment to the Constitution of the GSA. Permanent committees shall be added only when there is an expectation that the business of the committee will become an integral part of the GSA for an extended period of time.

Section 2: Graduate Representation Committee

• The Graduate Representation Committee, having unlimited membership, shall work with the college to maintain high standards within academia, help provide academic resources to graduate students of the college, and work towards assessing problems, establishing, and maintaining solutions for all graduate student issues of main concern (as determined by the GSC) outside of academia.

• This committee shall also be responsible for planning and coordinating any academic activities that may involve multiple graduate programs within the college, such as but not limited to, a Graduate Student Research Seminar.

Section 3: Appropriations Committee

• The Appropriations Committee shall be chaired by the GSA Treasurer and shall oversee the allocation of funds from the college to each graduate organization. They shall also oversee the allocation of money for GSA programs, social activities, and funding for enrolled graduate students in the college.

• The committee shall be responsible for the preparation of a balanced budget each year for the following academic year to be approved by a simple majority of the GSC at the April meeting. An adjusted budget accounting for funds allocated to the GSA will be approved by a simple majority of the GSC at the first meeting of the new academic year.

• Membership shall be restricted no more than ten people, preferably the respective Treasures of each organization. No more than two persons from the same graduate program may serve on the committee at the same time.
Section 4: Social Activities Committee

• The Social Activities Committee, having unlimited membership, shall be responsible for any non-academic activities that may involve multiple graduate student organizations.

• This committee shall also be responsible for planning and coordinating at least one graduate student social activity per month as well as at least one event per year in partnership with another Charleston college or university.

Section 5: Community Outreach Committee

• The Community Outreach Committee, having unlimited membership, shall be responsible for all service oriented activities relevant to the GSA and the college.

• This committee shall coordinate graduate student efforts to perform outreach activities in the College of Charleston and surrounding communities.

Section 6: Ad hoc Committees

• Ad hoc committees shall have limited membership, and be established to address specific issues or concerns that affect the graduate community, and which are not already within the jurisdiction of any permanent committees.

• Ad hoc committees shall be recommended by the Executive Board and established by a simple majority vote of the GSC. Ad hoc committees shall be dissolved at the recommendation of the Executive Board and by a simple majority vote of the GSC.

• The Executive Board shall charge ad hoc committees with a specific mission, time requirements, and directions for the committee’s product.

Section 7: Judiciary Committee

ARTICLE VI - Meetings

Section 1: Meetings of the Executive Board

• The Executive Board shall meet at least twice monthly, once as an Executive Board and once with the entire GSC, and shall participate in any emergency meetings of the GSC.
Section 2: Meetings of the GSC

- The GSC shall meet at least once monthly.
- GSC meetings are open to the public.
- Special meetings may be called by the President as needed and also may be scheduled by the GSC at a regular meeting.
- Meetings shall follow parliamentary procedure as defined by Robert’s Rules of Order in all cases where such rules are applicable and are not inconsistent with the special rules of order in this constitution.
- At least one half of the members of the Graduate Student Council are required for quorum. A majority of the voting members must approve a motion for it to be passed.

Section 3: Committee Meetings

- Committees shall meet at each monthly meeting of the GSC and/or at the request of the GSC or Executive Board.

Section 4: Attendance and Proxies

- Organization delegates must attend all meetings or arrange for an alternate to represent their organization as a proxy.
- If a delegate is unable to attend a meeting of the GSC, he or she shall appoint a graduate student of that department as proxy, and inform the Secretary of this in writing prior to the start of the meeting. Following the acceptance of the proxy by the Executive Board, the proxy shall assume all duties and privileges of the delegate for the duration of the meeting.
- The Judiciary Committee has the power to dismiss delegates for failure to comply with the attendance policy.

ARTICLE VII - Finances

Section 1: Funding for Students

- Any currently enrolled student in the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina who is a member of an active GSA sub-organization
or who has attended at least two monthly meetings of the GSC per semester is eligible to receive a GSA student research grant, if his or her representative organization’s delegates have complied with the attendance policy outlined in Article VI Section 4.

- The application process will be announced to and open to all eligible students at least one month prior to each application deadline.
- To apply for funding through the GSA grant program, a student must complete an official application and has either personally attended at least two (2) GSC meetings or is a member of a participating organization within the GSC.
- Applications will be collected, reviewed, and awarded by the Appropriations Committee, Executive Board, and Faculty Advisor at least three times per year.
- Funding recipients shall attend the GSC meeting following their travel or project completion to comment on their experience supported by GSA funds. Alternatively, funding recipients may write a guest entry on the GSA Blog about their experience.

Section 2: Funding for organizations

- Approval of organizations must be made by the Executive Board and faculty advisor and then ratified by a simple majority of the GSC.
- In order for an organization to be eligible for financial assistance from the GSA, they must complete the annual registration process detailed in the Graduate Compass, participate in the GSA as an approved graduate student organization for one semester, and submit a budget request to the Appropriations Committee in the spring term. Failure to register annually shall result in ineligibility to request new monies outside of the allocated budget previously approved by the Appropriations Committee.
- Any organization that requests funding from the GSA that is specific to a single program of the graduate school must have active delegates serving in the GSC and must be represented at every meeting of the year.
- All organizations receiving funding are eligible to request new monies from contingency with justification.
- An established organization lacking representation shall be subject to restricted annual budget propositions to the Appropriations Committee for the following year or until such a time that organization representation improves. These organizations shall remain eligible to request new monies with justification.
• All organization treasurers (or an appointed proxy familiar with their proposed budget) are expected to be in attendance at the annual budget meeting in the spring semester. Any organization without representation at the meeting forfeits the right to justify their proposed budget and shall be subject to funding reductions as recommended by the Appropriations Committee and approved by the Executive Board and Faculty Advisor.

• In order for a sub-organization’s members to be eligible for funding from the GSA, that organization must be in compliance with the attendance policy outlined in Article V Section 4.

• Additionally, any organization that is not in compliance with the attendance policy will be subject to probation and may not renew their funding for at least one semester or as determined by the Executive Board and the Judiciary Committee in joint council.

ARTICLE VIII - Policies

Section 1: College policies

• This organization shall abide by all applicable policies contained in the College of Charleston student handbook.

• The GSA is not authorized to determine the policies or business of other student organizations.

ARTICLE IX - Constitutional Amendments

Section 1: Procedures

Additions, amendments, or deletions to the Constitutional By-Laws shall be made in the following manner:

(1) First reading to introduce a proposed change shall be made at a meeting of the GSC after it has been reviewed and suggested by the Vice President. A motion and a seconded motion are required for the proposal of any amendment. If the motion is passed by the vote of the majority of the Council members present, the Secretary shall then submit a text of the
proposed amendment to all the members of the Council prior to the next meeting.

(2) Second reading shall precede the vote on the proposed change at the next regular meeting of the GSC. Changes to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the GSC delegates at the regular GSC meeting.

Section 2: Formal Review

• A formal review of the Constitutional By-Laws shall be done periodically at the discretion of the current Executive Board.
• Any proposed amendments shall follow the procedures established in Section 1.

Section 3: Temporary Suspension

Temporary suspension of any existing article of the Constitution shall be enacted in the following manner:

(1) A motion and seconded motion shall be made to propose a temporary suspension of an existing article of the constitution or the bylaws. The article in consideration of temporary suspension shall be read by the Secretary, and the mover (individual that makes the motion) shall then provide justification for their motion and the length of time which the suspension should remain in effect. A motion must have a unanimous affirmative vote by the Executive Board to proceed, otherwise the matter is dismissed.

(2) Open discussion by present Graduate Student Council members shall precede the vote on the proposed article for temporary suspension by a two-thirds majority vote.

ARTICLE X – Adoption

This Constitution and its Amendments shall be effective immediately upon ratification by the Graduate Student Council and the Approval of the Executive Board.