



COLLEGE *of*
CHARLESTON

GRADUATE STUDENT
ASSOCIATION

Constitution of The Graduate Student Association
for
The Graduate School of the University of
Charleston, South Carolina
at
the College of Charleston

Last revised 2020

Preamble

We, Graduate Students at the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina at the College of Charleston, do ordain and establish this Constitution to guide the administration of resources; to guide advocacy efforts; and to provide programming to enhance social, emotional, mental, and intellectual health; all focused on, but not limited to, the graduate student body at the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina at the College of Charleston.

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- I. Article I: Name
 - A. This organization shall be known as the Graduate Student Association (GSA here-in-after)
 - B. The names of the branches of the GSA shall be the Executive Leadership Team (ELT herein-after) and the Graduate Student Council (GSC herein-after)

- II. Article II: Purpose
 - A. The GSA 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.
 - B. The GSA is tasked with the following:
 - 1. Advocating to the senior-level administrator positions to improve the quality of the graduate programs, graduate research opportunities, and graduate student services.
 - 2. To facilitate the exchange of information and appropriate resources by providing a forum for discussion of issues in order to form a common association among graduate students.
 - 3. Creating social and service-based programming available to all graduate students to promote the improvement of graduate student life.
 - 4. Providing, distributing, and otherwise facilitating financial assistance to individual graduate students and graduate student organizations that are Recognized Student Organizations by the Division of Student Affairs (here-in-after RSOs).

- III. Article III: Membership
 - A. Graduate Student Association Membership
 - 1. Membership in the GSA shall include all degree-seeking and non-degree seeking graduate students enrolled in the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina. Graduate students matriculated as a Professional Development in Education (EDPD) students are not members of the GSA.
 - B. 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 Equal Opportunity Programs, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina 29424-0001.
 - C. 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.

IV. Article IV: Structure

- A. Two branches of GSA
 - 1. The ELT
 - 2. The GSC

V. Article V: Executive Leadership Team

- A. Responsibilities
 - 1. Coordinate all activities of the GSC and Committees.
 - 2. Oversee the management of the GSA budget.
 - 3. Advocate on behalf of graduate students.
 - 4. Create, uphold, and expand relationships with administrators across campus.
 - 5. Participate in all GSC and ELT meetings.
 - 6. Execute the responsibilities of their positions as outlined in the ByLaws.
- B. Positions
 - 1. President
 - 2. Vice President
 - 3. Treasurer
 - 4. Secretary
- C. Eligibility
 - 1. Graduate students seeking a position on the ELT must be currently enrolled in a graduate program (Master's or Graduate Certificate) at the College of Charleston.
 - 2. Graduate students matriculated as a non-degree student are not eligible for any position on the ELT.
 - 3. Graduate students matriculated as a Professional Development in Education (EDPD) student are not eligible for any position on the ELT.
 - 4. Graduate students matriculated in a joint graduate program whose home institution is not the College of Charleston are not eligible for any position on the ELT.
 - 5. Graduate students elected or appointed to the ELT may not simultaneously hold a leadership position of a RSO or other student organization. ELT members may not serve as delegates to the GSC.

D. Elections

1. The position of President and Treasurer shall be elected by the graduate student body at-large in the Spring semester no later than April 1, at a time to be determined by the ELT in consultation with the GSA Advisors. To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority (50% +1) of the vote. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, a runoff will be held with the candidate receiving the highest vote in the runoff being elected.
2. The positions of Vice President and Secretary shall be elected by the graduate student body at-large in the Fall semester no later than September 15, at a time to be determined by the ELT in consultation with the GSA Advisors. To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority (50% +1) of the vote. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, a runoff will be held with the candidate receiving the highest vote in the runoff being elected.
3. The ELT shall inform all graduate students of the opening of all nominations and the date of the elections.
4. In the event that there is a runoff election for president, voting polls for the runoff election shall be opened within two (2) business days of closing of the original election.
5. 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 their constituents.
6. In the event that a position on the ELT is not filled during an election period, the elected ELT member(s) will request to fill the position via appointment. The GSA Advisor(s) must approve this request prior to ELT action. If approved, there will be a call for nominations from all graduate students and interviews will be held to fill the vacant office(s). The ELT will then bring their selected candidates before the GSC to be ratified by a majority (50% +1) of the vote. If not approved, a new election will be held.
7. Members of the ELT shall be impartial and show no preference toward any candidate.

E. Regulations Regarding Candidate Eligibility

1. Candidates seeking election to the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary must be a currently enrolled in a graduate program (Master's or Graduate Certificate) at the College of Charleston 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. If a candidate is in their first semester and has no institutional GPA, a letter of support from their Graduate Program Director can be substituted.
2. Candidates seeking election to the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary must submit an election packet to be viewed by the current ELT by the deadline advertised. The election packet shall include a biographical statement of no more than one page, a statement of goals, and a petition signed by 10 current graduate students. No more than five signatures can be from GSC Delegates.

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 ELT position has no candidates, an 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 their constituents.

4. No more than two of the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary shall be filled by students in the same graduate program.

F. Regulations Regarding Campaign Funds and Expenses

1. No candidate may use GSA funds or campus resources obtained from the College of Charleston or the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina for their campaign. No RSOs shall use student allocated monies to endorse a candidate. In such a case, the RSO in question may lose its allocated funds as deemed necessary by the ELT. RSOs may raise their own revenue to support a candidate.

2. All candidates may spend up to \$100.00 of their own assets in addition to funds raised, which may not exceed \$25.00 per donor. The candidate shall submit a copy of all expenses and donations, and all receipts to the GSA Advisor(s). Total campaign expenditures shall not exceed \$200.00 for ELT Candidates.

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

4. All receipts must be itemized, and no non-itemized receipts shall be accepted by the outgoing ELT.

5. The outgoing ELT 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.

G. Regulations Regarding Campaign Literature

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.

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.

3. Campaign literature shall be defined as any printed or electronic material to be posted or distributed.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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

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.

H. Definitions of Results and Vote Tabulation

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

a) A candidate for a single ELT position must receive a majority (50% +1) of all the votes cast for that candidate to be declared the winner. In such elections where a candidate for President 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. In such elections where a candidate for Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Advocacy, and Vice President of Programming does not receive a majority, a run-off election shall be held at the first meeting of the GSC with the two candidates receiving the highest percentages of the vote.

b) 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.

I. Online Voting

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.

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 ELT with assistance from the Office of Student Life in the Division of Student Affairs.
3. Tampering with the online voting system will result in the disqualification of a candidate and/or referral to the Dean of the Graduate School.

J. Installation

1. Newly elected or appointed ELT members shall be installed during the next scheduled meeting of the GSC following their election or appointment. Installation of all ELT members will take place no later than October 1.
2. The period of time between the candidate's election or appointment and the installation shall be used as a period of apprenticeship in which they shall work with the outgoing officers.
3. The oath of office shall be administered by the Dean of the Graduate School (or Dean's designee), and shall read:
I (state your full name) swear to uphold the Constitution 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 at the College of Charleston 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 College of Charleston.
4. After taking the oath of office the ELT member shall sign a copy of it to signify their understanding of it.
5. Upon election or appointment to the ELT of a GSC member, their respective seat in the GSC becomes available to be filled by another delegate from the same graduate program.

K. Accountability

1. All ELT members shall be held accountable by other ELT members and the GSC for completing their duties as set out in the ByLaws.
2. Should an ELT member be challenged on completing their duties as set out in the ByLaws, they shall be subject to disciplinary procedures as set out within the ByLaws.
3. Any ELT member or Delegate may challenge an ELT member for violating the Constitution, and shall be subject to impeachment proceedings and possible removal.
 - a) The Administration and Oversight Committee shall be required to find and provide evidence the Executive Board member has violated the Constitution.
 - b) The challenged ELT member shall be required to provide evidence that they have not violated the Constitution.
 - c) In the next GSC meeting after the challenge has been issued, the GSC shall ask questions of the Administration and Oversight Committee and subsequently the challenged ELT member(s).

4. Once all questions have been answered, the GSC shall vote on whether to proceed to voting to impeach the challenged ELT member or whether to postpone the vote in order to evaluate additional information. A simple majority vote is required to hold an impeachment vote.
 - a) If a simple majority vote is not achieved, the proceeding ends.
 - b) If a simple majority vote is achieved, the proceeding continues to a vote of the GSC.
5. A secret ballot vote on impeachment shall be taken at the next regular GSC meeting. The ballots shall be counted by the GSA Advisor(s). A two-thirds majority vote of the GSC is required for impeachment.
6. All impeachment proceedings shall be facilitated by the Administration and Oversight Committee Chair and the President, who may designate additional ELT members to assist in the proceedings.
7. At a minimum, all challenges to members of the Executive Board must be seconded by a Delegate, be put in writing, and sent to the President, the Vice President, and to the GSA Advisor(s).
 - a) Should the challenge be to the President AND the Vice President, the challenge shall be made to at least one of the other ELT members.
 - b) Should the challenge be to the President, and all the ELT members, the challenge shall be made to the GSA Advisor(s).
8. Should the challenged Executive Board member be found lacking in their duties or adherence to the Constitution, they shall be removed from office effective immediately.

L. Successions of the ELT

1. In the event that the President is unable to fulfill their term in office, the Vice President shall assume the office of President. A new Vice President shall be filled at the next meeting of the GSC following the vacancy.
2. In the event that the Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary is unable to fulfill their term in office, the vacancy shall be filled at the next meeting of the GSC following the vacancy.
3. Voting for vacant positions on the ELT 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 ELT member shall be elected by simple majority vote.
4. In the event that more than half of the ELT is unable to fulfill their term in office, a special election will be held. The graduate student body at-large will vote in this special election. The special election will follow all regulations that are required during a normal election.

M. Compensation

1. All ELT members shall receive compensation for their services, the amount of which shall be determined by the GSA Advisor(s).

2. All ELT member compensation may be withheld up to 50%—by vote of the rest of the GSC and at the recommendation of the GSA Advisor(s)—for failing to complete their duties. At the discretion of the President, such withholding may be returned to the Executive Board member should they successfully return to completing their duties and make up for their earlier lapse.
3. Should an ELT member be impeached or resign, they shall forfeit the remainder of their compensation.

VI. Article VI Graduate Student Council

A. Composition

1. Voting Members

a) The GSC shall consist of one voting Delegate per Graduate Program.

b) Graduate Programs are defined as those designated by the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina at the College of Charleston.

c) Delegates from each Graduate Program must be officially confirmed by the President at the beginning of the first meeting of the semester.

(1) THE PROCESS FOR SELECTING DELEGATES SHALL BE RELEGATED TO EACH GRADUATE PROGRAM.

(2) SHOULD A GRADUATE PROGRAM NOT APPOINT THEIR DELEGATE BY THE FIRST GSC MEETING OF EITHER SEMESTER, THEN THE VICE PRESIDENT SHALL INITIATE ACTION TO FILL THE SEAT BEFORE THE SECOND GSC MEETING.

(3) SHOULD NEITHER THE VICE PRESIDENT NOR THE GRADUATE PROGRAM BE ABLE TO FILL THE SEAT BY THE SECOND MEETING, THAT GRADUATE PROGRAM SHALL LOSE THAT SEAT FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THAT SEMESTER.

(4) NO GSA FUNDING IS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND RSOs FROM GRADUATE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE NO DELEGATE.

(5) THE GSC MAY NULLIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF A DELEGATE FROM ANY GRADUATE PROGRAM SHOULD THEY FIND THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DELEGATE WAS DONE UNFAIRLY OR VIOLATED THE CONSTITUTION OR BYLAWS OF THAT GRADUATE PROGRAM.

2. Ex Officio Members

a) All members of the ELT.

b) GSA Advisor(s) in the office of the Dean of the Graduate School. GSA Advisor(s) may be counted towards quorum but may not vote.

3. Ad Hoc Members

a) A graduate student leader of an RSO that does not represent a specific department, or program—may become Ad Hoc members. Ad Hoc members may vote with the GSC upon approval of their membership.

(1) EACH SAID ORGANIZATION MAY ONLY HAVE ONE (1) AD HOC MEMBER.

(2) THE GSC MAY, AT ITS DISCRETION, REMOVE EXISTING AD HOC MEMBERS. NEW AD HOC MEMBERS CAN BE APPROVED TO REPLACE REMOVED MEMBERS.

B. Duties

1. The GSC shall meet a minimum of four times in the fall semester and four times in the spring semester.

a) The minimum four meetings each semester must occur during instruction days as set forth in the University's Academic Calendar.

b) Meetings shall be no less than twenty-one (21) days apart, and no more than thirty-one (31) days apart.

c) All Delegates are required to attend every meeting or must send a proxy (and notify the Vice President in doing so).

2. The GSC shall vote to do the following:

a) Approve the subsequent FY budget

b) Pass changes or additions (hereinafter "changes") to the Constitution

c) Pass changes to the ByLaws

d) Pass proposed Resolutions or Referendums

e) Confirm any appointments to the ELT

f) Confirm the proposed slate of Committee Chairs

g) Enact or carry out any other GSC procedures or initiatives contained within the Constitution or ByLaws

3. Delegates shall devote a minimum of 8 hours per semester by:

a) Serving on two standing committees and assisting Committee Chairs with any projects for which they request support

b) Volunteering to help at an event

4. Delegates shall communicate with their constituents on the following:

a) Updates on current GSA initiatives

b) Provide information on passed or upcoming resolutions

c) Solicit feedback on upcoming resolutions, referendums, or initiatives

d) Upcoming deadlines, events, and any other programming associated with the GSA

e) Any additional information not covered in the Constitution or ByLaws at the request of the ELT

5. GSC Meeting Attendance

a) All Delegates from each Graduate Program must attend at least 75% of GSC meetings each semester to keep the Program in good standing.

- b) Should a Delegate be unable to attend, they must alert the Vice President, and they must designate a proxy
- c) Delegates that fail to attend 75% of meetings each semester shall have all student grants and RSO funding requests from that Delegate's Graduate Program withheld until their attendance resumes
- d) Should a Delegate miss the last meeting of the Spring semester—regardless of whether they have missed any other meeting that semester—their absence will negatively impact their academic unit's funding for the subsequent academic year

6. Delegates who fail to perform their duties or who abuse their position for personal ends may be penalized in any of the manners delineated in the nonexclusive list below:

- a) Removed from their position by their constituents
- b) Removed from their position by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the GSC
- c) Have funding to their Graduate Program withheld with notification sent to their constituents
- d) Face disciplinary procedures under the Division of Student Affairs
- e) Jeopardize their Graduate Program's funding for the remainder of the semester, year, or the following academic year

7. Delegates shall be put on notice if they are falling behind in their responsibilities; the notice shall be verbal and written via an official electronic or otherwise written communication

C. Voting

1. Quorum

- a) Quorum is defined as fifty-percent (50%) of the total number of Delegates in a given semester (rounded down)
- b) Quorum is required for any vote to be valid.
- c) For any vote, Delegates may choose to cast an "abstain" vote.
 - (1) AN ABSTAIN VOTE COUNTS TOWARDS QUORUM.
 - (2) ABSTAIN VOTES DO NOT AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE.
 - (3) REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OF VOTE BEING CONDUCTED, DELEGATES WHO CAST AN "ABSTAIN" VOTE SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE ITSELF.

2. Two-Option Vote

- a) A simple majority of affirmative or negative voters (50% + 1) is required to pass a Resolution or any changes to the ByLaws.
- b) A two-thirds (2/3) vote of affirmative or negative voters is required to pass a Constitutional Amendment.

3. Multi-Option Vote

- a) For non-Constitutional Amendment votes with three or more options, the Borda Method shall be used.

(1) DELEGATES SHALL RANK EACH OPTION IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE, WHERE A "1" INDICATES EACH DELEGATE'S FIRST CHOICE.

(2) EACH OPTION SHALL BE GIVEN POINTS BASED ON THE RANK ASSIGNED, WHERE OPTIONS RANKED "1" SHALL RECEIVE 1 POINT, OPTIONS RANKED "2" SHALL RECEIVE 2 POINTS, ETC.

(3) THE OPTION WITH THE LOWEST SCORE SHALL WIN.

(4) AT A MINIMUM, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION SHALL TALLY THE VOTES; THEY MAY REQUEST ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ELT TO ASSIST.

b) For Constitutional Amendments, the Borda Method shall be used.

(1) THIS METHOD SHALL BE USED TO NARROW THE VOTE DOWN TO TWO OPTIONS.

(2) THE SAME PROCEDURE AS FOR NON-CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS APPLIES, EXCEPT FOR THE TWO (2) OPTIONS WITH THE LOWEST SCORES SHALL BE USED TO CREATE A TWO-OPTION VOTE.

c) In the event of a tie, only the tied options shall be used to conduct another round of voting in accordance with either the Two-Option Vote procedure or the Multi-Option Vote procedure until there is a clear winning option.

D. Meetings

1. All GSC meetings shall be open to all graduate students. All graduate students in attendance who are not members of the GSC may participate in the meeting but may not vote.

2. Non-members may be invited to make presentations to the GSC and may lead discussions or question and answer sessions limited to their presentation.

3. 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.

VII. Article VII Committees

A. Standing Committees

1. Standing Committees are permanent committees necessary to run essential aspects of GSA. These committees are as follows:

a) Appropriations Committee

b) Administration and Oversight Committee

c) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

d) Graduate Student Life Committee

e) Community Service and Social Events Committee

B. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Ad Hoc Committees are committees that may be created at any time by an ELT member or at the request of a Delegate (which must be seconded).
 2. These committees shall be temporary in nature and shall not last beyond the end of the Academic Year in which they are proposed.
 3. These committees may be proposed during the following Academic Year to be reinstated.
 4. Each proposed Ad Hoc Committee must have a clearly stated purpose and clearly set forth tasks. This information must be submitted in writing to the President.
 5. The creation of Ad Hoc Committees must pass a GSC vote.
- C. Committee Meetings
1. Committees shall meet at minimum once a month during the GSC meeting.
 2. Committees shall meet at the request of the GSC or ELT as needed.

VIII. Article VIII Finances

- A. Funding for Students
1. Any currently enrolled student in a graduate program at College of Charleston who is a member of a program with a GSC Delegate in good standing is eligible to receive a GSA student research grant, research presentation travel grant, or professional development travel grant.
 2. The application process will be announced to and open to all eligible students at least one month prior to each application deadline.
 3. To apply for funding through the GSA grant program, a student must complete an official application.
 4. Applications will be collected, reviewed, and awarded by the ELT at least three times per year.
 5. Funding recipients shall attend the GSC meeting following their travel or project completion to comment on their experience supported by GSA funds.
 6. Alternatively, funding recipients may write a guest entry on the GSA Blog about their experience.
- B. Funding for RSOs
1. Approval of funding for RSOs must be made by the ELT and then ratified by a simple majority of the GSC.
 2. In order for an organization to be eligible for financial assistance from the GSA, they must complete the annual registration process, participate in the GSA as an approved graduate student organization for one semester, and submit a budget request to the Appropriations Committee at the beginning of each semester. Failure to register annually shall result in ineligibility to request new monies outside of the allocated budget previously approved by the Appropriations Committee.
 3. All organizations receiving funding are eligible to request new monies from contingency with justification.
 4. Any newly recognized organization not yet receiving funding is eligible, at the discretion of the Appropriations Committee, to utilize funds from the contingency fund to further the stated aims of the organization.

IX. Article IX Amendments

A. Constitutional Amendments

1. The Constitution may be amended as necessary to reflect the wills and needs of the graduate student body.
2. All Constitutional Amendments must be proposed by an ELT member or a Delegate, and must be seconded by a Delegate.
3. All Constitutional Amendments shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of affirmative or negative votes cast.
4. Constitutional Amendments shall take effect the subsequent semester, except for changes to ELT positions which shall be implemented after the subsequent election cycle.

B. Bylaw Amendments

1. The ByLaws may be amended as necessary to reflect the wills and needs of the graduate student body and to adhere to University policies.
2. All Bylaw changes must be proposed by an ELT member or a Delegate.
3. All Bylaw changes shall require a majority GSC vote of the affirmative or negative votes cast.
4. Bylaw Amendments shall take effect the subsequent semester

C. General Amendment Procedure

1. Additions, amendments, or deletions to the Constitutional and By-Laws shall be made in the following manner:
 - a) 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.
 - (1) A MOTION AND A SECONDED MOTION ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PROPOSAL OF ANY AMENDMENT. IF THE MOTION IS PASSED BY THE VOTE OF GSC MEMBERS PRESENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT SHALL THEN SUBMIT A TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE GSC PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING.
 - b) Second reading shall precede the vote on the proposed change at the next regular meeting of the GSC.
2. Formal Review
 - a) A formal review of the Constitution and ByLaws shall be done periodically at the discretion of the current ELT or GSA Advisor(s).
 - b) Any proposed amendments shall follow the procedures established in Section 1.
3. Temporary Suspension
 - a) Temporary suspension of any existing article of the Constitution or ByLaws 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 VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION, 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 ELT TO PROCEED, OTHERWISE THE MATTER IS DISMISSED.
- (2) OPEN DISCUSSION BY PRESENT GSC MEMBERS SHALL PRECEDE THE VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ARTICLE FOR TEMPORARY SUSPENSION BY A TWO-THIRDS (2/3) MAJORITY VOTE.

X. Article X Adoption

- A. This Constitution and its Amendments shall be effective in the following semester upon ratification by the GSC and the approval of the ELT.