



## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

### PREAMBLE

We, the graduate student body of The University of Akron, hereby set forth to structure an effective representative graduate student government in the interests of all substantive matters pertaining to the general welfare of The University of Akron graduate students, with the intention of providing advocacy in the formulation and application of University and community policies, and with the ambition of enhancing the quality of life for all graduate students, hereby institute Graduate Student Government at The University of Akron.

### ARTICLE I. IDENTITY

- SECTION 1.** Name: The governing body of graduate students at The University of Akron shall be known as Graduate Student Government, hereinafter referred to as GSG.
- SECTION 2.** Purpose: Act as the official representative body for the graduate student body enrolled at The University of Akron in compliance with this constitution and by-laws.
- SECTION 2.1** Exercise the right for open communication with University populations and provide advice to University administration, as appropriate, on decisions and concerns that affect the welfare of the graduate student body.
- SECTION 2.2** Responsibly provide information to the graduate student body on issues relevant to its welfare.
- SECTION 2.3** Allocate funds received from the Division of Student Affairs in compliance with the funding policies of the University and the GSG, as set forth.
- SECTION 2.4** To encourage networking at the social, academic, and professional levels among graduate students in all disciplines served by The University of Akron Graduate School.
- SECTION 2.5** Establish working relationships with academic colleges and departments among the University's graduate population.
- SECTION 2.6** Gather graduate student opinions concerning matters of interest to the graduate student body.

**SECTION 2.7** Be an available representative body in matters pertaining directly to graduate degree granting colleges and to The University of Akron Graduate School.

**SECTION 2.8** Appoint GSG representatives to Faculty Senate, Graduate Council, and any other appropriate University committees that require a graduate student representative, in order to ensure graduate student input is received on matters concerning the University and the graduate student body.

**SECTION 2.9** Create special commissions, when deemed necessary, and determine the structure and rules of said committees.

**SECTION 3.** Student Development Clause: Graduate Student Government shall maintain a current registration form; including a list of officers, addresses, the name(s) of the Faculty Advisor, and the most recent amended Constitution, with the Student Organization Resource Center (SOuRCe).

## **ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1.** Eligibility: All full and part-time graduate students from The University of Akron currently enrolled in graduate degree granting programs and in good academic standing, as determined by the standards of the Graduate School, shall be members of GSG.

**SECTION 2.** Role: All members are eligible for appointment on committees and commissions within GSG and the University community and are able to attend and vote on resolutions at Town Halls.

**SECTION 3.** Discrimination Clause: GSG shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, age, handicap, veteran status, or sexual orientation in the selection of its members or in its programs, unless federal or state law allows for such an exception.

## **ARTICLE III. LEADERSHIP**

**SECTION 1.** Executive Positions: The elected Executive Board of GSG is to be determined by general election and voted upon by eligible graduate students from the graduate student body and shall consist of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Each executive officer is given a seat on the GSG Central Committee.

**SECTION 1.1** President: The President shall be the principal executive office and shall supervise and control all of the business and affairs of Graduate Student Government. The President is responsible for corresponding between the Executive Board, senators, Advisors, Graduate School, and the graduate student body. The President is additionally responsible for the completion

of all financial documents which require the President's signature and authorization.

**SECTION 1.2** Vice President: In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President and when so acting, shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President or the Executive Committee.

**SECTION 1.3** Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and budgets of GSG. The Treasurer is also responsible for maintaining, reviewing, and revising EAF/SAF/PEG processes and policies and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President or the Executive Board.

**SECTION 2.** Senators: There shall be one representative from each degree granting college within The University of Akron's Graduate School to represent the interests of the graduate population within the colleges served. The current edition of the Graduate School Bulletin shall serve as a complete listing of eligible colleges. All senators have a seat on the GSG Central Committee.

**SECTION 3.** Advisor: GSG shall be advised by a full-time member of The University of Akron's graduate faculty or administration in accordance with the guidelines established by The University of Akron Office of Student Development. The faculty advisor shall have a one-year term. At the first Executive Board meeting of the year, a vote of confidence will be taken. A majority vote from the total seated executive membership shall be needed to continue the faculty advisor in office. If a new advisor is needed, the President will appoint a faculty advisor until the Executive Board nominates and votes on a new advisor.

**SECTION 4.** Departmental Liaisons: All departments are entitled to appoint a voluntary departmental liaison between the GSG Central Committee and their departments. Department liaisons are not mandatory roles and will not be appointed in the event of a vacancy. Departments may nominate a liaison or students may self-nominate to become a liaison in the spring semester of each year during the GSG election period. Senators may welcome liaison nominations following this period at their discretion. The senator from the respective college is responsible for identifying, approving, and communicating with liaisons. Liaisons can meet together with or without their senators, as they deem necessary, and offer recommendations to their senator to bring forth to the Central Committee for consideration.

## **ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1.** Central Committee Meetings: Central Committee meetings will be conducted to perform the day-to-day operations of GSG, including making all financial decisions for the organization. There shall be at least one meeting per month of the Central

Committee, separate from the GSG Town Hall Meetings. A special meeting of the Central Committee may be called to order on the agreement and ratification of two Central Committee Members. The designation of open or closed sessions shall be determined during the request of the meeting.

**SECTION 1.1** Quorum: Quorum to conduct business at Central Committee meetings shall be a minimum of 1 member of the Executive Board and 2 senators.

**SECTION 2.** Town Hall Meetings: Town Hall Meetings will be conducted to inform and educate the graduate student body on issues of interest, while further allowing graduate students the opportunity to suggest and contribute to the discourse on major policies impacting the graduate student body at The University of Akron. There shall be at least two town hall meetings per fall and spring semester.

**SECTION 2.1** Quorum: Quorum to conduct business at Town Hall meetings shall be a minimum of 1 member of the Executive Board and 2 senators.

## **ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** Proposal: Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed by the GSG Executive Board or by a petition of 25 graduate students at The University of Akron. Proposed amendments shall be presented via resolution and disseminated to the graduate student body for review at least five days prior to the Town Hall meeting or Central Committee meeting in which they are to be considered.

**SECTION 2.** Approval: Proposed amendments shall be adopted by a three-fourths majority vote of the voting membership of GSG present at the particular Town Hall meeting or Central Committee meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI. RATIFICATION**

**SECTION 1.** Review: GSG shall examine and ratify this Constitution every year.

**SECTION 2.** This Constitution will be ratified by 50% + 1 majority vote of those eligible GSG members at the first Town Hall Meeting of the fall semester. Ratification is the adoption of the final form of this Constitution and By-laws and is not to be confused with the adoption of amendments as outlined in Article V of this Constitution and Article V of the By-Laws of this Constitution.

**SECTION 3.** Upon being ratified, the revised Constitution will be in effect and a copy, electronic or otherwise, must be sent to the Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice President of Student Affairs for reference.



## THE BY-LAWS OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

### ARTICLE I. ELECTIONS

- SECTION 1.** Timeline: GSG will conduct elections for Executive Board and senators in the spring semester of each year by means of an electronic ballot.
- SECTION 2.** Nominations: Any member of GSG, may be nominated for a position on the Executive Board or to fulfill the role of senator, so long as they are able to fulfill the one-year term. Graduate students who meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Article II of this Constitution are welcome to self-nominate.
- SECTION 3.** Voting: Executive positions are voted on by all members whereas senators may only receive votes from the graduate student population of their respective college. The winner shall consist of the individual receiving the most votes. In the event of a tie, a second vote will be conducted between the candidates receiving the same vote.
- SECTION 4.** Supervision: The faculty advisor shall assist in overseeing the elections of the Executive Board.

### ARTICLE II. LEADERSHIP

- SECTION 1.** Executive Vacancy: Any vacant positions on the Executive Board or among the senators will be appointed by the President. The Central Committee shall be charged with selecting a new President should a vacancy arise. All vacancy appointments shall be confirmed by a closed-ballot 50%+1 majority vote of those present at the next Town Hall meeting when quorum is met.
- SECTION 2.** Senator Vacancy: The President of GSG has the authority to fill senator vacancies. These appointments must be confirmed by a closed-ballot majority vote of members present at the following Town Hall.
- SECTION 3.** New Executive Positions: The President can issue an executive order establishing new executive positions, as deemed necessary. Orders should contain term of office, election and appointment procedures, name of office, and the duties of said office.
- SECTION 3.1** Such appointments need be confirmed by a closed-ballot majority vote of the members of GSG present at the following Town Hall.

## ARTICLE III. COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- SECTION 1.**     **GSG Central Committee:** The Central Committee is responsible for reviewing all funding requests, as well as other day-to-day business of GSG. The Central Committee is chaired by the President of GSG with additional seats to be filled by the Vice President, Treasurer, and college senators. All actions of the GSG Central Committee become effective immediately upon being passed by majority vote of those present when quorum is met and will be confirmed at the following Town Hall Meeting. The President only votes in the event of a tie.
- SECTION 2.**     **Standing Commissions:** GSG shall establish standing, or permanent, commissions to represent the interests the entire graduate student population, and to address the specific areas of concern to the entire graduate student population and to aid in the internal operation and administration of GSG. All standing commissions will be under the direction of the Vice President and chaired by any member, upon appointment by the President. Minimum eligibility for all members of GSG commissions and The University of Akron standing commissions shall be determined by Article II of this Constitution.
- SECTION 3.**     **Special Commissions:** Special commissions of GSG may be established to address specific areas of concern within the graduate student population, such as a concern that only impacts a particular college or smaller demographic within the graduate student body, and shall be chaired by a member of the Central Committee, preferably the appointed or elected senator to whom the issue most directly relates.
- SECTION 4.**     **Formation of Commissions:** Commissions shall be proposed via resolution following the demonstrated and continued need of that commission. The resolution must include the purpose, responsibilities, and eligible membership of the commission. Members of the commission, at the time of adoption, shall be outlined in the resolution, appointed by the President upon consultation with the Central Committee, and confirmed by the following Town Hall Meeting.
- SECTION 5.**     **Dissolution:** When the purpose of a commission no longer supports the mission of GSG, Student Affairs, The University of Akron, or can no longer be of service to any of the above, a commission shall be dissolved upon concurrence of a majority of the total voting membership of GSG present at the Town Hall meeting at which it is proposed.

## ARTICLE IV. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- SECTION 1.**     **Dues:** There shall be no membership dues for membership in GSG.
- SECTION 2.**     **Financial Governance:** GSG will manage its own finances, primarily by the Treasurer, in accordance to the rules and regulations prescribed by The University of Akron.

- SECTION 3.** Funding: The main source of funding will be the Division of Student Affairs.
- SECTION 4.** EAF/PEG/SAF Allocations: All funding procedures for research, group and/or individual travel, operating budgets, and programming shall be executed by the GSG Central Committee in compliance with the procedures set forth by the Division of Student Affairs and GSG.
- SECTION 5.** Appeals: Appeals of all funding decisions, not fully funded upon initial review for graduate student organizations and individual graduate students, must be filed in writing within five calendar days with the Division of Student Affairs. Appeals must clearly explain why full funding should be reconsidered and will be handled at the next Central Committee meeting after consultation with the Division of Student Affairs.

**SECTION 5.1** If the next scheduled Central Committee meeting does not occur prior to a period of time in which the appealed funding can have a direct impact on the use of the requested funds, a special Central Committee meeting may be called for review of the appeal at a time that works for both the appealing group and Central Committee members. Representatives from the appealing group must attend to make a case for the need of the funding and representatives of the Central Committee will be able to explain their rationale for approving or denying the funding. At this meeting a final determination will be made whether to grant the appeal by a simple majority vote of the Central Committee. Individuals/groups may only appeal once per request for funding that is denied.

**SECTION 5.2** If the appealing group fails to send representatives to the Central Committee meeting at which the appeal will be reviewed, the appeal will automatically be denied.

## **ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS**

- SECTION 1.** Proposal: Amendments to these By-Laws shall be proposed by the GSG Executive Board or by a petition of 25 graduate students at The University of Akron. Proposed amendments shall be presented via resolution and disseminated to the graduate student body for review at least five days prior to the Town Hall meeting or Central Committee meeting in which they are to be considered.
- SECTION 2.** Approval: Proposed amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting membership of GSG present at the particular Town Hall meeting or Central Committee meeting.