University of Delaware Graduate Student Government
Constitution

(Updated: 20 August 2015)

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) and shall be the pre-eminent governance organization for students enrolled in graduate studies at the University of Delaware.

Section 2. Statement of Purpose

(a) The Graduate Student Government seeks to create a forum for graduate student advocacy while acting as a conduit between students, faculty, and administration at the University. The GSG supports campus-wide activities facilitating graduate student professionalism and collegiality. The GSG also 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,
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 participation, the Graduate Student Government 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/personal characteristic. The GSG believes an emphasis on diversity can enhance the overall experience of graduate students at the University of Delaware as students learn to interact effectively and appreciate the various perspectives, talents, and abilities of others.

(b) University Nondiscrimination Clause: The organization agrees to adhere to all policies and procedures of the University and all local, state, and federal laws. Members will become acquainted with policies and procedures in the Official student handbook and other policies and procedures provided by the University.
This organization is a viable, functioning organization, composed of at least six full-time graduate students and we do 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 or professional studies at any campus or satellite campus of The University of Delaware. 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 Recording Secretary, and the Parliamentarian.

**Article II: Structure**

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

*Section 1. Executive Branch*

(a) The Executive Branch of the GSG shall consist of the Executive Council and the Committee Boards.

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 Recording 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 his/her 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 Student Affairs Board.

      1. The Internal Affairs Board shall be chaired by the Vice-President for Internal Affairs and shall consist of the committee chairs for each of the standing 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 student affairs committees.

   b. The structure and meeting requirements for Board meetings are outlined in Article III of the Bylaws.

Section 2: Legislative Branch

   (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 Academic Plans of the Graduate and Professional Schools of the University. The most current official list of Academic Plans as compiled by the Office of Graduate and Professional Education shall be considered binding for the purpose of determining eligibility for Senate membership.

   (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.

   (e) 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 senate functions and reflect the University’s values and initiatives.

2. The standing committees of the GSG shall be:
   a. Communications
   b. Diversity
   c. Events
   d. Governance
   e. Social
   f. Student Life
   g. Sustainability
   h. Elections

3. The Graduate Student Senate may assemble specialized committees, called ad hoc committees, to perform communicative, governing, or organization functions that will fulfill the needs of the GSG.
   a. Ad hoc committees are provisional assemblies that manage temporary functions of the senate not handled by the standing committees. For further detail on ad hoc committee creation and dissolution see Article III, Section 3 of the Bylaws.

Section 2: Committee Membership

(a) Committees shall be governed by a chair and must consist of at least two senators. Refer to Article III of the Bylaws for 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 both 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 and Appointments

(a) Eligibility: All senators in active standing and any member-at-large who is a member of the committee are eligible to serve as a committee chair(s).

(b) Nomination and Election: All members of the committee shall meet upon the first session of GSG and submit nomination(s) for chair(s) of their respective committee. The committee shall then elect their chair(s) through a vote.

(c) Appointments: If a committee is without a chair due to removal (see Article V, Section 3) or due to an unfilled chair position, the Executive Council may appoint a new committee chair.

Article V. Removal

Section 1: Officers

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

Section 2: Senators

(a) If a senator does not follow their duties outlined in Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws, the GSG should 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 follow their duties outlined in Article III of the Bylaws, the GSG should follow the guidelines for removal outlined in Article V, Section 3 of the Bylaws.

Article VI. Amendments

Section 1: Procedure

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

Section 2: Procedure

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