

The Constitution of the MWSU Graduate Student Association

PREAMBLE

The Graduate Student Association representing the graduate student body of Missouri Western State University is hereby created in order to render assistance to graduate students in their pursuit of academic achievement and excellence. This organization shall not be a separate governing or disciplinary entity over the graduate student body.

The Graduate Student Association is a representative organization and shall strive to maintain open communication between the administration and the student body. It shall inform the administration of the special needs of the graduate students and inform the student body of administration policies and decisions.

The Graduate Student Association understands and is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities of abiding by Missouri Western State University policies.

The Graduate Student Association does hereby establish this Constitution in order that our purpose be realized to its fullest extent.

Article I - Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the MWSU Graduate Student Organization henceforth referred to as GSA.

Section 2: The purpose of the GSA is to advocate for the needs of and inform graduate students at MWSU.

Article II - Membership

Section 1: Joining the GSA

Every registered graduate student who is in good academic standing (overall GPA of 3.0 or higher) is considered a member of the GSA.

Section 2. Active Voting Membership

All registered graduate student who are in good academic standing active voting members shall be active voting members.

Section 3: Inactive Membership

Clause 1: Inactive membership shall be extended to all members who are not in good academic standing (over GPA less than 3.0).

Clause 2: Inactive members will not be allowed to vote, or serve as elected officials.

Section 4: Eligibility for Membership

Any graduate student, who is currently enrolled at MWSU is eligible for membership in the GSA.

Section 5: Membership Responsibilities

Clause 1: All active voting members will receive one vote for all business placed before them.

Clause 2: All active voting members may serve on a committee and be officers of the association.

Section 6: Statement of Non-Discrimination

Clause 1: The GSA will not discriminate against any student seeking membership in the organization on the basis of affiliation, age, creed, disability, gender, ideology, political beliefs, sexuality, social class, race, or for any other reason not stated.

Clause 2: The GSA views diversity as a source of strength and as a valuable resource, so people from all walks of life are encouraged to join.

Article III - Officers

Section 1: The GSA will be governed by four officers.

Section 2: The President

Clause 1: He or She will be responsible for setting the agenda for all business meetings of the GSA, which shall be subject to the approval of the members present.

Clause 2: He or she shall determine, with the advisor, the number of meetings for each semester.

Clause 3: He or she shall vote only in the event of a tie.

Clause 4: He or she shall call all meetings to order, and shall adjourn all meetings as necessary.

Clause 5: He or she shall be a member of the MWSU President's Leadership Council, and he or she shall attend all meetings of said council.

Clause 6: He or she shall publish the agenda for all meetings two days in advance on the GSA listserv.

Section 3: The Vice President

Clause 1: He or she shall assume the office or responsibilities of the President in the event the Presidency shall become vacant or should the President be absent for any reason.

Clause 2: He or she shall be responsible for assigning members to each committee.

Clause 3: He or she shall be responsible for organizational

marketing.

Clause 4: He or she shall be responsible for assisting the president with parliamentary procedures.

Section 4: The Secretary

Clause 1: He or she shall be responsible for recording minutes for all meetings.

Clause 2: He or she shall be responsible for keeping a record of all committees.

Clause 3: He or she shall be responsible for keeping a roster of all members and recording attendance at all meetings.

Clause 4: He or she shall be responsible for approving all GSA publications and organization communications.

Clause 5: He or she shall publish the minutes of all meetings on the GSA listserv, no more than two days after the meeting in which they were recorded.

Section 5: The Treasurer

Clause 1: He or she shall be responsible for assessing all dues and keeping records of all finances.

Clause 2: He or she shall be responsible for planning and coordinating fundraising events.

Clause 3: He or she shall be responsible for planning the budget of the GSA and for keeping records of all funds in the budget.

Clause 4: He or she shall work with the Advisor to ensure that all funds are administered properly and keep track of all receipts.

Section 6: Executive Officers must be in attendance at 75% of all meetings during a given semester.

Section 7: Executive Officers must be currently enrolled graduate students in good academic standing.

Article IV - Operations

Section 1: Voting Eligibility

Clause 1: Those members meeting all requirements of active membership as set forth in Article II will be granted voting privileges.

Section 2: Election Process:

Clause 1: All officers shall be elected by a majority vote of eligible active voting members of GSA who participate in a given election..

Clause 2: All elections will be held on an annual basis during the first month of the Spring semester.

Clause 3: Officers will be elected to serve a one year term for the following academic year.

Clause 4: The President will take nominations from the floor, the nomination process must be closed and the movement seconded. The nominated parties will be allowed to vote.

Clause 5: All voting shall be done by secret ballot to be collected and tabulated by the Secretary and one voting member of GSA appointed by the outgoing President.

Clause 6: Voting will be done over a period of one week with results posted at the end of the voting period.

Clause 7: Officer vacancies will be filled by special election unless otherwise stated. (See Article III, Section 3, Clause 1)

Article V - Committees

Section 1: Committees will be established by a majority vote as needed to assist the organization's officers or to complete special projects.

Article IV - Finances

Section 1: Unless passed by a simple majority of active voting members, the GSA will collect no membership dues.

Section 2: The budget shall be approved at the beginning of each semester and shall be comprised of dues and funds raised through fundraising projects.

Section 3: All funds will be disbursed with the oversight of the advisor, who shall be responsible for administering the GSA's on campus account.

Section 4: The GSA will use its funds to pay for events.

Article VII - The Advisor

Section 1: The GSA will have one advisor from the faculty, staff or administration who must complete an advisor agreement with the Center for Student Engagement at the beginning of each year.

Section 2: The term of office for all advisors will be one year. Service will be renewed upon completion of the advisor agreement.

Section 3: The faculty/staff advisor for the GSA will be responsible for meeting all obligations stated in the student organization handbook.

Article VIII - Affiliation

Section 1: The GSA will maintain a relationship with Student Government Association, the governing body of all students and student organizations at MWSU. The GSA will adhere to the regulations outlined in the SGA constitution and bylaws.

Article IX - Impeachment or Removal

Section 1: Officers may be impeached for failure to complete their responsibilities.

Section 2: Any member may file a letter of impeachment with the advisor of the GSA which must outline the reasons for which an officer should be impeached.

Section 3: Upon receipt of a letter of impeachment, the advisor will call a special meeting where the GSA will review evidence and hear the testimony of all members regarding the officer in question.

Section 4: The officer who is subject to impeachment must abstain from impeachment proceedings, but has the right to be present at the proceedings.

Section 5: Vote of confidence

Clause 1: At the end of an impeachment hearing the organization will vote on a verdict.

Clause 2: A vote of confidence will result in the impeachment charges being dropped.

Clause 3: A vote of no confidence will result in a successful impeachment.

Clause 4: If an officer receives a vote of no confidence but does not resign, the organization must vote to remove him or her from his or her position.

Clause 5: A vote of no confidence requires a 2/3 majority vote of quorum to remove the officer.

Article X - Rules of Procedure

Section 1: Meetings will be conducted according to the most current version of Roberts Rules of Order and will follow the basic procedure set forth below:

- Call to order by the President

- Attendance
- Old business
- New business
- Dismissal by the President

Article XI – Regulations

The GSA will adhere to all policies and procedures outlined in the MWSU student handbook and the MWSU student organization handbook. Furthermore, the GSA will adhere to all federal, state and local laws.

Article XII - Amendments

Section 1: The Constitution is binding to all members of the GSA, but the Constitution is not binding unto itself.

Section 2: Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed in writing by any voting member of the GSA at any meeting at which one-half plus one ((1/2) +1) of the voting members are present. These amendments will be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Section 3: All amendments must be approved by the student senate.

Section 4: Proposed amendments will become immediately effective following approval of one-half plus one ((1/2) +1)-majority vote of active members.

Section 5: If the SGA does not approve an amendment that amendment will be retroactively revoked.

Article XIII - Bylaws

Section 1: The GSA shall have the right to enact Bylaws for the governance of the organization.

Section 2: Said Bylaws shall be enacted by a simple majority vote of the membership.

Section 3: Said Bylaws shall be amended only by a simple majority vote of the membership.

Section 4: All powers not directly treated in this Constitution, shall be treated and governed under the organization's Bylaws.

Article XIII – Dissolution

This organization will dissolve if no member participates in the annual student organization orientation and registration process facilitated by the Center for Student Engagement.