



## Constitution

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# Constitution of the Graduate Student Council

Amended March 7, 2016

## Preamble

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We, the Graduate Students of the University of North Texas, in order to promote the interests and opinions of the Graduate Student Body, to undertake and promote programs and projects which are of benefit to the Graduate Student Body, to serve as the official graduate student government of the Graduate Student Body on matters of Graduate Student welfare, campus policy, and the implementation of this policy, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Graduate Students, by the Graduate Students, and for the Graduate Students as the binding Constitution of the Graduate Student Body and the Graduate Student Council.

## Article I—Name

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The organization of the Graduate Student Body as a whole at the University of North Texas Denton campus shall be known as the Graduate Student Council.

The organization is a student organization at the University of North Texas.

## Article II—Objectives

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The purposes for which the Council is organized are:

To serve as the central and all encompassing graduate student organization on campus.

To serve graduate students by facilitating communication between graduate students and the University of North Texas administration.

To recognize, foster, and promote outstanding leadership and high academic achievement among graduate, doctoral, and professional students.

To encourage and support other organizations at the University of North Texas.

To provide a forum for the presentation of innovative ideas to the benefit of the University community.

To support professional development, networking opportunities, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration.

## Article III—Membership

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### Section 1—Membership Criteria

Membership in this organization is limited to any graduate student who is currently enrolled at the University of North Texas.

Membership is open to all students without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, political affiliation, disability, marital status, ancestry, genetic information, citizenship, or veteran status.

## Article IV—Officers

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### Section 1—Eligibility

To be eligible to serve as an officer of this organization, an active graduate student member shall possess (at the time of election and during their term of office) at least the minimum requirements regarding enrollment, GPA, and disciplinary standing as stated in UNT Policy 18.4.2 (Student Organization Policy).

An active graduate student member who fails to meet any one of the requirements is automatically ineligible to serve as an officer until all criteria are met.

### Section 2—Election of Officers

The officers of this organization are the president, vice president of administration and finance, vice president of programming and outreach, and vice president of communications and marketing.

Officers will be elected by majority vote (either written or electronic) by GSC members voting.

Election of officers will take place in April of the spring semester.

### Section 3—Term of Office

Officers will assume office for the period of one year beginning June 1.

All officers shall comprise the Executive Committee of the organization.

The Executive Committee may meet in addition to regular organization meetings, and shall appoint such committees that are needed to carry out organizational goals.

### Section 4—Removal of Elected Executives

The President or Vice Presidents may be removed from office by an absolute two thirds (2/3) majority vote of members of the Graduate Student Body voting in an election called by an absolute two thirds (2/3) majority vote of all seated Senators or such an election called by a verifiable petition of two hundred (200) members of the Graduate Student Body.

A removal election shall not coincide with a regular Student Election.

## Article V—Advisor

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The advisor shall be selected by the officers.

To be eligible to serve as the advisor, the person must be a full-time UNT faculty or staff member.

The advisor has no term limit as long as they remain eligible.

## Article VI—Amendments and Ratification

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Amendments to this constitution or bylaws must be submitted in writing at a regular meeting of the organization.

This constitution and bylaws may be amended by 2/3-majority vote of those voting.

Voting on amendments must be conducted after a minimum notice of 2 weeks.

Ratification of this constitution shall become effective upon approval by a 2/3-majority vote of those voting.

## Article VII—Not-for-profit Statement

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This is a not-for-profit organization.

## Article VIII—Statement of Non-discrimination

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This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of age, color, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, national origin, disability or handicap, race, religion, sexual orientation, Vietnam Era veteran status. This policy will include, but is not limited to, recruiting, membership, organization activities or opportunities to hold office.

## Article IX—Financial Obligations

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A specific member or members, designated by this organization shall be responsible for payment in full of all debts accumulated by the organization not covered by funds on deposit.

## Article X—Statement of Non-Hazing

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This organization will not engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or person attending the institution.

## Article XI—Statement of Compliance with Campus Regulations

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This organization shall comply with all University and campus policies and regulations and local, state, and federal laws.

## Article XII—Duties & Responsibilities of GSC Executives, Directors & Senators

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### **Section 1—Executive Committee Positions and Duties**

1. President
  - a. Coordinates all activities of the organization
  - b. Presides over the GSC Senate

- c. Liaison to University community
  - d. Appoints GSC Directors
  - e. Calls regular and special meetings
  - f. Appoints GSC representatives to University & organizational committees as requested
  - g. Presents annual budget request for Student Service Fee Committee
2. Vice President, Administration and Finance
    - a. Assumes duties of president, when necessary
    - b. Maintains accurate and current account of all organizational funds
    - c. Manages GSC budget and resource allocation processes
    - d. Is responsible for preparing annual budget request for Student Service Fee Committee hearings
    - e. Maintains records of GSC Executive meetings
    - f. Reports directly to GSC President
  3. Vice President, Programming and Outreach
    - a. Coordinates professional development and social activities
    - b. Coordinates programming partnerships with other University entities
    - c. Manages and identifies new community outreach and service opportunities for GSC constituents
    - d. Reports directly to GSC President
  4. Vice President, Communications and Marketing
    - a. Is responsible for all GSC print, electronic communications, and website
    - b. Is responsible for marketing GSC initiatives to relevant target audiences
    - c. Reports directly to GSC President
  5. Parliamentarian
    - a. Appointed by the Graduate Student Council President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Graduate Student Council Senate.
    - b. Assists the Graduate Student Council President with Senate meetings by taking minutes, keeping time on agenda items, and assist with motions.
    - c. Assists Senators with the drafting of bills and resolutions.
    - d. Reports directly to GSC President

## **Section 2—Director Positions and Duties**

1. Director of Programming
  - a. Assists with organizing and executing GSC social events
  - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Programming and Outreach
2. Director of Outreach
  - a. Assists in identifying and maintaining partnerships with communities in Denton and the surrounding area

- b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Programming and Outreach
- 3. Director of Communications
  - a. Assists with designing and maintaining GSC communications materials and website
  - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Communications and Marketing
- 4. Director of Marketing
  - a. Assists with designing and implementing GSC marketing initiatives
  - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Communications and Marketing
- 5. Director of Administration
  - a. Assists with the management of the organization, including planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, and budgeting internal affairs
  - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Finance and Administration

### **Section 3—Officer and Director Requirements**

Officers of this organization must meet the following requirements

1. Have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and meet that minimum GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment, and the semesters during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, the prospective officer must hold at least part-time status for graduate students for the semesters under consideration.
2. Be in good standing with the university and be enrolled for at least part-time status for graduate students.
3. Be ineligible to hold office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in 1 and 2 as listed above.

### **Section 4—Meetings**

Meetings will be open to all graduate students, faculty, and the Student Activities and Organizations representatives. A notice of at least 2 weeks will be given prior to all meetings. The meetings are to be organized and controlled by officers and active members.

### **Section 5—Graduate Student Council Senate**

1. Purpose of the Senate
 

To provide a forum for representation of graduate students and the discussion of issues relevant to the graduate student body.
2. Selection of Senators
 

The Chair or Graduate Advisor of every academic department in the



university that has graduate students shall notify the Graduate Student Council of their elected senator. Each eligible department is entitled to one seat in the Graduate Student Council Senate.

### 3. Qualifications for Senators

Must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and meet that minimum GPA in the semester immediately prior to their appointment, the semester of appointment, and the semesters during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, the prospective Senator must hold at least part-time status for graduate students for the semesters under consideration.

Must be in good standing with the university and be enrolled for at least part time status for graduate students.

Will be ineligible to hold office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in 1 and 2 as listed above.

### 4. Duties and Responsibilities of Senators

Provide an official channel of communication between the Graduate Student Council and the department represented by the Senator.

Represent graduate students in their academic department through communicating issues relevant to and advocating for those students.

Attend all scheduled meetings of the Graduate Student Council Senate.

Serve on at least one university committees representing the graduate student perspective of university life.

Serve on or chair at least one GSC Standing Committee to work toward generating solutions for issues important to the graduate student community.

### 5. Recall of Senators

Student Senators may be recalled and removed from the Student Senate by the Graduate Student Body by a simple two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting members of their constituency after such

a vote is called by a verifiable petition of fifty one percent of their constituency.

Student Senators may also be removed from the Student Senate by majority vote of all seated Senators on the grounds of neglect of office, absence from Student Senate sessions, moral turpitude, dereliction of duty, or gross malfeasance of Office.

## 6. Meetings

Regular meetings of the Graduate Student Senate shall be scheduled once a month during the academic year by the Graduate Student Council President.

Only Senators shall have voting privileges during Graduate Student Senate meetings.

All meetings shall be presided over by the Graduate Student Council President.

The Graduate Student Council President may call emergency meetings of the Senate under extenuating circumstances to consider urgent business as long as 24 hours' notice is given to Senate members.

## 7. Summer Senate

The Summer Senate shall consist of ten (10) Senators who have been selected to serve on a regular Senate term, which includes the Spring semester immediately preceding or the Fall semester immediately following the Summer term in question.

These Senators shall be identified by the President on a volunteer basis and must be elected by a simple majority vote of the GSC Senate.

The Summer Senate shall exercise all duties and powers of the GSC Senate to exclude the impeachment and removal of the GSC President, Vice Presidents, and Parliamentarian.

# Article XIII - The Judicial Branch

## Section 1: Composition of the Judiciary

The Judicial Branch shall consist of the seven-member Supreme Court and the Advocate General.

### **Section 2: Composition of the GSC Supreme Court**

1. The GSC Supreme Court shall consist of seven Justices appointed from the Graduate Student Body by the GSC President who are in good standing with the University and who are not a current Senator or member of the Executive Branch. These justices must be confirmed by a simple majority vote of the GSC Senate.
2. The Supreme Court will elect from their number a Chief Justice to preside over all judicial proceedings and administer the business of the Judicial Branch.

### **Section 3: Terms of Justices**

Supreme Court Justices shall be appointed to serve terms coinciding with the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters of one academic year.

### **Section 4: The Advocate General**

1. The Advocate General shall be appointed by the GSC President to serve a term coinciding with the Fall, Spring, and Summer Semesters of one academic year. The Advocate General must be confirmed by a simple majority vote of the GSC Senate.
2. The Advocate General will advise the Graduate Student Council in legal matters and represent the GSC in judicial proceedings before the Supreme Court.
3. The Advocate General must be in good standing with the University.

### **Section 5: Jurisdiction**

1. The Supreme Court shall have binding original jurisdiction over disputes arising over this Constitution, the Graduate Student Council Bylaws and its component documents, actions of the GSC Senate, and GSC Elections.
2. The Supreme Court shall have non-binding jurisdiction over disputes brought before it by Graduate Students or Graduate Student Organizations.

### **Section 6: Procedures of the Judicial Branch**

1. The procedures of the Judicial Branch shall be enumerated in the Graduate Student Council Bylaws.
2. The Supreme Court shall meet regularly at least once per month, unless it has no business to consider.