



Constitution

Table of Contents

<u>CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL</u>	2
AMENDED March 16, 2018	3
ARTICLE I—NAME	3
ARTICLE II—OBJECTIVES	3
ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP	4
SECTION 1—MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA	4
ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS	4
SECTION 1 - ELIGIBILITY	4
SECTION 2—ELECTION OF OFFICE	4
SECTION 3—TERM OF OFFICE	5
SECTION 4—REMOVAL OF ELECTED EXECUTIVES	5
ARTICLE V - ADVISOR	5
ARTICLE VI—AMENDMENTS AND RATIFICATION	5
ARTICLE VII—NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATEMENT	6
ARTICLE VIII—STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION	6
ARTICLE IX—FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS	6
ARTICLE X—STATEMENT OF NON-HAZING	6
ARTICLE XI—STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH CAMPUS REGULATIONS	6
ARTICLE XII—DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF GSC EXECUTIVES, DIRECTOR & SENATORS	7
SECTION 1—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS AND DUTIES	7
SECTION 2—DIRECTOR POSITIONS AND DUTIES	8
SECTION 3—OFFICER AND DIRECTOR REQUIREMENTS	9
SECTION 4—EVALUATION PROCESS	9
SECTION 5—MEETINGS	9
SECTION 6—GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL SENATE	9
Article XIII-The Judicial Branch	11

Constitution of the Graduate Student Council

Amended March 16, 2018

Preamble

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

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

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

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

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 and Replacement of Elected Executives

The President or Vice Presidents may be removed from office 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.

The process for elected executive removal and replacement shall be specified in the by-laws.

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

Article V—Advisor

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

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

This is a not-for-profit organization.

Article VIII—Statement of Non-Discrimination

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

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

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

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

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 assisting 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 Communications
 - a. Assists with designing and maintaining GSC communications materials and website
 - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Communications and Marketing
3. Director of Marketing
 - a. Assists with designing and implementing GSC marketing initiatives
 - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Communications and Marketing
4. 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
5. Director of Internal Relations
 - a. Responsible for fostering relationships with parties within the university including but not limited to student organizations that serve graduate students, Student Government Association (SGA), and faculty and administration.
 - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Programming and Outreach
6. Director of External Relations
 - a. Responsible for fostering relationships with outside parties including but not limited to graduate student governments at other universities, local businesses, and elected officials.
 - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Programming and Outreach
7. Director of Legislative Affairs
 - a. Responsible for staying abreast of UNT policies as well as state and federal laws, and for providing the legal framework for GSC initiatives and for meetings with administration.
 - b. Help establish the priorities for programming at Legislative Action Day events and for discussions with elected officials.
 - c. Reports directly to the Parliamentarian.

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—Evaluation Process

Officers (both executives and directors) shall be evaluated no less frequently than once per semester through a formal, documented process. For VPs, this evaluation shall be completed by the President. For the President, this evaluation shall be jointly completed by the VPs. Directors will be jointly evaluated by both the President and the supervising executive officer, if applicable. Senate will have input on each position being evaluated.

Evaluations shall be completed using a prescribed form along with face-to-face meetings, and evaluation forms shall be stored through the term.

Section 5—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 6—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. Composition of the Graduate Student Council Senate
The Senate shall consist of 45 Senators. Each seat shall be apportioned to each college of the University of North Texas according to student population as reported in the previous Fall Semester with each college apportioned at least one seat in the Senate.
3. Election and Terms of Senators

Student Senators will be elected according to the rules and eligibility requirements established by the Graduate Student Council Bylaws. Student Senators must be enrolled in the constituency in which they have filed for election. Student Senate elections will be held in the spring semester in accordance with the Graduate Student Council Bylaws. The results of any Student Senate election will take effect in the immediately following long semester. Students Senators shall serve a term of two long semesters

4. Appointments

In the event that a Senator is unable to serve any portion of their term, or in the event that a vacancy arises, a student of the appropriate constituency may petition to fill the vacancy. All appointments are subject to a confirmation by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate and any rules established in the Graduate Student Council Bylaws with regards to Appointments.

5. 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.

6. Duties and Responsibilities of Senators

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

Represent graduate students in their college 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 committee 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

In the event of severe weather or a University-wide emergency, the Graduate Student Council President may postpone or otherwise reschedule any meeting to be held on the scheduled makeup meeting dates. Any such decisions must be announced at least one hour prior to the start time of the meeting unless the nature of the emergency is sudden and

requires immediate action (i.e., seeking shelter in a sudden tornado/high wind situation).

9. 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.