Graduate Student Association (GSA) - CONSTITUTION

The Graduate Student Association exists in accordance with the mission of Saint Louis University to support the development and growth of graduate students as persons fully constituted as active members of the University community, deserving to share in its life and governance. Realizing the special needs and talents of graduate students, the GSA exists to act as an advocate and to serve as a conduit to serve the needs and to provide assistance to the University administration as it seeks to realize the University’s mission. To this end this constitution is adopted.

Article 1: Name
The official name of the organization shall be the “Saint Louis University Graduate Student Association,” but the organization is also referred to as the “Graduate Student Association” or “GSA.”

Article 2: Purpose
- The Graduate Student Association will act as an advocacy group for individual and collective concerns relating to issues affecting graduate student life at the University.
- The GSA should encourage community and interaction among all graduate students.
- The GSA will act as a clearinghouse or forum for the dissemination of information to graduate students.
- The GSA will seek equitable representation and involvement from all graduate students.
- The GSA will attempt to provide support not elsewhere available to enhance the educational and professional development of graduate students.

Article 3: Implementation of Purpose
3.1 Communication
The GSA will inform graduate students of its functions and objectives, provide regular opportunities for networking through the general assembly meetings and informal gatherings, as well as maintain a website that provides a number of avenues for graduate students to communicate with each other and with the GSA.

3.2 Advocacy
The GSA will provide a pool of individuals to serve on university committees as representatives of graduate students. When needed the GSA will create and maintain an advocacy committee to address concerns raised by the General Assembly (GA) representatives or other graduate students. The committee will be charged with organizing these concerns and bringing them to the University faculty, staff, and administration.

3.3 Equity
The GSA will solicit department volunteers in an attempt to reflect department constituency.
3.4 Support
The GSA will provide support to enhance the educational and professional development of graduate students.

**Article 4: Membership**
The membership of the GSA is comprised of all graduate students at Saint Louis University whose departments collect and contribute their student activity fees to GSA’s University Account. (See Section 7 of GSA’s Bylaws.)

**Article 5: General Assembly**
5.1 The governing body of the GSA will be the General Assembly (GA).

5.2 The General Assembly is made up of graduate student departmental representatives whose departments collect and contribute their student activity fees to GSA’s University Account. (See Section 7 of GSA’s Bylaws.)

5.3 Each department or independent program of each school participating in the Graduate Student Association will be entitled to appoint one representative and one alternate to serve in the General Assembly.

   A. Each department is entitled to one vote; the departmental representative carries this vote. In the event of the representative's absence, the alternate is entitled to cast the vote.
   B. Representatives and alternates must be graduate students in good standing registered for the current semester and majoring in the department that they will represent.
   C. Any other registered full-time and part-time graduate students of the University are considered nonvoting members, entitled to information and participation at meetings.

5.4 The meetings of the GA will be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Article 6: Officers**
6.1 The officers of the Graduate Student Association are: 1 President, 1 Vice President, Frost (North) Campus, 1 Vice President, Health Sciences (South) Campus, 1 Treasurer, 1 Secretary, 1 External Affairs Officer, and 1 Graduate Administrative Assistant (Graduate Assistant)

6.2 Each officer must be a graduate student in good academic standing.

6.3 The officers comprise the Executive Board. The Executive Board acts when the General Assembly cannot be convened. All actions taken by the Executive Board are subject to approval by the General Assembly.
Article 7: Advisor
The advisor of the Graduate Student Association is the Associate Vice President for Graduate Education.

Article 8: Amendments to the Constitution.
8.1 Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Board or any voting member.

8.2 Amendments must be presented at the next meeting of the General Assembly.

8.3 Amendments must be voted on at the second meeting.

8.4 Amendments must pass by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.

Article 9: Ratification
Ratification of this Constitution must be by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the departmental voting members present.

(Last revision February 2014)