

Texas A&M University
Graduate and Professional Student Council
Constitution

Adopted by the General Assembly May, 2002
Adopted by the Graduate and Professional Student Body April 2, 2002
Amended by the General Assembly September 2, 2014
Amended by the Graduate and Professional Student Body September 16, 2014
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Table of Contents

ARTICLE I. MISSION..... 3

ARTICLE II. NAME..... 3

ARTICLE III. GOALS 3

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP 3

 SECTION I. CLASSES AND SELECTION 3

 SECTION II. TERMS OF OFFICE 5

ARTICLE V. STAFF AND ADVISORS 6

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES 7

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS..... 7

ARTICLE VIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY 9

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES 9

ARTICLE X. CONSTITUTION CHANGE OR APPROVAL 9

 SECTION I. AMENDMENT AND REVISION 9

 SECTION II. NULLIFICATION 9

 SECTION III. CONSTITUTION REVIEW 10

Article I. Mission

The Graduate and Professional Student Council, serving as the graduate and professional student government at Texas A&M University, exists to work in cooperation with the Texas A&M University administration to ensure that their needs are understood and considered when campus policies concerning academic excellence, tuition and finance, and research are made.

Article II. Name

1. The name of the organization will be Graduate and Professional Student Council.
2. The name of the organization will be abbreviated, for unofficial usage only, as GPSC.

Article III. Goals

1. To serve as the voice of and represent all graduate and professional students of Texas A&M University.
2. To identify, share, and discuss issue pertinent to graduate and professional students in order to maintain academic freedom; improve the quality of instruction; develop and strengthen recruitment and retention programs; encourage training, fair compensation, and benefits; and ensure that quality student services are made available.
3. To be recognized as representing a unique population of Texas A&M University.
4. To establish and maintain open and effective communication with the University and its constituents.
5. To establish and maintain open and effective communication among the graduate and professional student body on issues that affect its members.
6. To serve as an outreach venue for graduate and professional students by providing opportunities for social interaction and service to the local community.

Article IV. Membership

Section I. Classes and Selection

1. Representatives
 - a. All of Texas A&M University academic departments and programs that grant graduate or professional degrees, as well as Graduate and Professional Student Council approved, Texas A&M University recognized non-departmental student organizations representing graduate and/or professional student issues not addressed by academic departments and programs that grant graduate and professional degrees, are eligible to provide up to three (3) Representatives to

serve as members of the Graduate and Professional Student Council General Assembly.

- b. Representatives must meet the following requirements:
 - i. Be in good standing with the University.
 - ii. Be seeking a graduate or professional degree from Texas A&M University.
 - iii. Must be a member of the department, program, or organization they are representing.
- c. Each eligible department, program, or organization should recognize one (1) Representative by the last meeting of the spring semester pursuant to the By-Laws.
- d. While Representatives may propose and debate business, they have no voting privileges within the General Assembly unless serving as a Delegate.

2. Delegates

- a. All Texas A&M University academic departments and programs that grant graduate or professional degrees, as well as Graduate and Professional Student Council approved, Texas A&M University recognized non-departmental student organizations representing graduate and/or professional student issues not addressed by academic departments and programs that grant graduate or professional degrees, are eligible to provide one (1) Delegate to serve as a member of the Graduate and Professional Student Council General Assembly.
- b. Delegates must meet the same requirements as Representatives.
- c. Each eligible department, program, or organization should recognize one (1) Delegate by the last meeting of the spring semester pursuant to the By-Laws.
- d. Delegates have voting privileges within the General Assembly.

3. Officers

- a. The Officers of the Graduate and Professional Student Council will be:
 - i. President
 - ii. Executive Vice President
 - iii. Vice President of Information
 - iv. Vice President of Finance

v. Vice President of University Affairs

- b. Officers are elected by the voting Delegates of the Graduate and Professional Student Council General Assembly.
 - c. Officers must meet the requirements for officers of a recognized student organization, as outlined by Texas A&M University Student Activities Office
 - d. Officers have voting privileges within the Graduate and Professional Student Council Executive Committee when it meets in Executive Committee.
4. Committee Chairs and Program Directors
- a. Any graduate or professional students of Texas A&M University can be appointed by the Graduate and Professional Student Council Executive Committee to serve as a Committee Chair or Program Director.
 - b. Committee Chairs and Program Directors must meet the same requirements as Officers.
 - c. Committee Chairs and Program Directors have no voting privileges within the General Assembly unless serving as a Delegate.
5. Liaisons
- a. Individuals representing various Graduate and Professional Student Council-approved entities that have the right to propose and debate business at General Assembly meetings.
 - b. Approved entities include all recognized organizations whose membership consists of a majority of graduate and/or professional students.
 - c. Liaisons have no voting privileges within the General Assembly.

Section II. Terms of Office

1. Delegates
- a. Delegates will serve a one (1) year term, beginning and ending in their term of office at the last meeting of the General Assembly in the spring semester.
 - b. Delegates are eligible for renewal.
2. Representatives
- a. Representatives will serve a one (1) year term, beginning and ending in their term of office at the last meeting of the General Assembly in the spring semester.

- b. Representatives are eligible for renewal.
- 3. Officers
 - a. Officers will serve a one (1) year term, beginning and ending in their term of office at the last meeting of the General Assembly in the spring semester.
 - b. Officers are eligible for re-election.
- 4. Committee Chairs
 - a. Committee Chairs will serve a one (1) year term, beginning and ending in their term of office at the last meeting of the General Assembly in the spring semester.
 - b. Committee Chairs are eligible for renewal.
- 5. Program Directors
 - a. Program Directors will serve a one (1) year term, beginning and ending in their term of office at the last meeting of the General Assembly in the spring semester.
 - b. Program Directors are eligible for renewal.
- 6. Liaisons
 - a. Liaisons will serve a one (1) year term, beginning and ending in their term of office at the last meeting of the General Assembly in the spring semester.
 - b. Liaisons are eligible for renewal.

Article V. Staff and Advisors

1. Staff hired by the Graduate and Professional Student Council will perform duties as assigned by the President or Executive Vice President.
2. The Advisors of the Graduate and Professional Student Council will be a person appointed by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies and a person appointed by the Offices of the Dean of Student Life.
3. Advisors will meet and follow all University advisor requirements, while additionally working closely at all times with the Executive Committee, advising all members of the Graduate and Professional Student Council about university rules and regulations, helping to maintain good order at all Graduate and Professional Student Council functions, aiding in the transition of Officers, and working to realize the goals of the Graduate and Professional Student Council.

Article VI. Committees

1. Executive Committee

- a. The voting members of the Executive Committee will consist of the Officers.
- b. Standing Committee Chairs and Graduate and Professional Student Council Advisors are non-voting members of the Executive Committee.
- c. The Executive Committee, by vote, may appoint additional non-voting members to the Executive Committee.
- d. The Executive Committee may speak for the Graduate and Professional Student Council during the summer term. All decisions during such time require a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee for approval.
- e. The Executive Committee will annually examine the Constitutions and By-Laws of Non-Departmental Organizations to determine if any practices are inconsistent with the mission and/or goals of the Graduate and Professional Student Council and report such findings to the General Assembly and initiate a review, if necessary.

2. Standing Committees

- a. Exist as per By-Laws.

3. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Created as per By-Laws.

4. Special Committees

- a. Exist as per By-Laws.

Article VII. Meetings

1. Business Meetings

- a. Business, Stated, or General meetings of the Graduate and Professional Student Council General Assembly will be open to the public unless a closed session is called by unanimous consent of the active Delegates present and voting.
- b. Meetings will be held the first and third Tuesday of every month of the fall and spring semesters.
- c. Meetings will be held in both the fall and spring semesters, except when classes are not in session. Meetings will not be held during the summer semester.

- d. The Executive Committee may, with due cause, cancel meetings.
- e. Two (2) consecutive meetings cannot be cancelled without approval by the General Assembly.
- f. To be considered an official meeting, the membership must be informed via the standard mass communication medium at least five (5) days in advance.

2. Special Meetings

- a. Special meetings of the Graduate and Professional Student Council General Assembly will be open to the public unless a closed session is called by unanimous consent of the active Delegates present and voting.
- b. Special meetings will be held when scheduled by the Executive Committee only during fall and spring semesters.
- c. No special meetings will be held when classes are not in session.
- d. The Executive Committee may, with due cause, cancel meetings.
- e. Two (2) consecutive special meetings cannot be scheduled and/or cancelled without approval by the General Assembly.
- f. To be considered an official special meeting, the membership must be informed via the standard mass communication medium at least five (5) days in advance.

3. Executive Committee Meetings

- a. Executive Committee meetings will be closed to the public. Meetings are only open to Executive Committee members and invited guests.
- b. Meetings will be held the second and fourth week of every month of the fall and spring semesters.
- c. The Executive Committee may, with due cause, cancel meetings.
- d. The Executive Committee may schedule other meetings as necessary.
- e. To be considered an official Executive Committee meeting, the Officers must be informed via a standard mass communication medium at least two (2) days in advance.
- f. Attendance at the beginning of an Executive Committee meeting of a simple majority of voting members in good standing according to the By-Laws constitutes a quorum.

Article VIII. Parliamentary Authority

1. The Executive Committee will determine each semester the form of parliamentary procedure that will be used at meetings.
2. The methods chosen will be distributed to the membership each semester.
3. The Executive Vice President is charged to facilitate the effective, professional, and efficient exchange of information and to conduct Business and Special meetings in such a manner as to accomplish the goals of the Graduate and Professional Student Council.
4. The Executive Vice President is the final authority in deciding procedural matters in all Business and Special meetings.
5. The Executive Committee will have the authority to modify the parliamentary procedures as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee to facilitate conducting Graduate and Professional Student Council business.

Article IX. Finances

1. All monies belonging to the Graduate and Professional Student Council will be deposited and disbursed through a bank account(s) established for this organization by the University.
2. All funds must be deposited per the Texas A&M University Student Organization Finance Center regulations.
3. A Graduate and Professional Student Council Advisor must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

Article X. Constitution Change or Approval

Section I. Amendment and Revision

1. An amendment or revision to this Constitution will require a two-thirds majority vote of the graduate and professional student body voting through a voting process deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.
2. All amendments and revisions must be presented by a representative to the Graduate and Professional Student Council and entered into the minutes one (1) regularly scheduled Business meeting prior to any action on said amendments.

Section II. Nullification

All previous Constitutions of the Graduate and Professional Student Council, previously known as the Graduate Student Council, are null and void.

Section III. Constitution Review

The Constitution is to be reviewed annually by the Graduate and Professional Student Council and be subject to the approval of Texas A&M University.

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