

UC Merced Graduate Student Association Constitution

PREAMBLE

The Graduate Student Association of the University of California, Merced is established:

- To provide a forum where matters of concern to graduate and professional students may be discussed, where opinions on actions and proposals of the University Administration and graduate groups may be expressed, and where proposals of the Administration and graduate groups may be initiated, and
- To conduct programs and services of special interest to graduate students.

I. General Membership

- A. All students who pay GSA fees or are degree seeking in a graduate or professional program shall become members of the Graduate Student Association upon payment of any required membership fees.
- B. The Dean of the Graduate Division and the Vice Chancellor--Student Affairs shall be non-voting members of the Association.

II. Organizational Structure

- A. Authority of the Association rests in two bodies: the General Membership and the Graduate Student Association Council (GSA Council).
- B. GSA Council
 - 1) Membership and Term of Office
 - a. The GSA Council shall be composed of 6 officers: Campus Affairs Officer, External Affairs Officer, Academic Affairs Officer, Treasurer, Secretary and Public Relations/Community Outreach Officer. All Officers will serve for a term of one year beginning July 1st through June 30th and are responsible for training their successor before leaving office.
 - b. The GSA Council shall be elected by a 50 plus one in the affirmative of the General Membership, as provided for in the By-Laws.
 - 2) Responsibilities of the GSA Council
 - a. The GSA Council shall act as the executive officers of the General Membership.
 - b. The GSA Council shall:
 - i. Disburse the funds of the GSA according to the By-Laws.
 - ii. Administer programs
 - iii. Inform the General Membership of actions, proposals and issues which may affect graduate students.
 - iv. Exercise other responsibilities as required by the By-Laws or as directed by the General Membership.
 - v. Report its actions to the General Membership.

- c. Any action of the GSA Council is subject to the review of the General Membership and may be negated by a two-thirds plus one in the affirmative vote of the General Membership.

III. Operating Principles

- A. The GSA Council Meeting
 - 1) Meetings of the GSA Council shall be called by any of the Officers at such times as are appropriate to conduct the business of the Association.
 - 2) A quorum for such meetings shall consist of a simple majority of the voting GSA Council Members.
- B. General Meetings
 - 1) The General Membership shall meet at least two times a semester to review the actions of the GSA Council and to transact such business as is appropriate.
 - 2) Parliamentary authority for GSA meetings shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 1990 edition, published by Scott Foresman.
- C. All meetings and operations of the GSA Council are open to the community.

IV. Amendment

- A. The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds plus one in the affirmative vote of the General Membership provided that all members have received appropriate information of the proposed amendment prior to the election.
- B. The By-Laws may be amended or suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Membership provided that all members have received appropriate information of the proposed amendment prior to the meeting or election.