

Graduate Students,

The attached document contains the proposed amendments for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) constitution. The main goal of these amendments is to create more efficient communication for graduate students through the GSA to the Grad Division, Offices of the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor, as well as to the various departments and committees on campus.

From September 11th through the 13th, there will be a special election. One of the items to vote on in this election will be the attached constitutional amendments. Please read the amendments to be informed when it is time to vote.

The amendments to the GSA bylaws are contained in another document.

If you have comments on the amendments, they can be addressed to GSA President, Brandon Batzloff at bbatzloff@ucmerced.edu.

Respectfully,
Brandon Batzloff
President, Graduate Student Association

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Graduate Students Association of UC Merced

Amendment 1: Article III, 3, a, i. Addition of an executive position. A tenth Executive Officer of the GSA will work as a liaison with the UAW 2865 (union for Tas and GSRs). This officer will be better positioned to refer graduate students experiencing academic or labor issues to an appropriate office or agency that might help them.

Original: The Executive Council shall be composed of nine (9) voting officers: President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Academic Affairs Officer, Public Relations Officer, Treasurer, Internal Communications Officer, International Affairs Officer, and a Climate, Diversity, and Equity Officer, in addition to Any number of non-voting, ex officio officers appointed from the General Membership by the Council or as permitted within the By-Laws.

Amended: The Executive Council shall be composed of **ten (10)** voting officers: President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Academic Affairs Officer, Public Relations Officer, Treasurer, Internal Communications Officer, International Affairs Officer, **Solidarity Officer**, and a Climate, Diversity, and Equity Officer, in addition to any number of non-voting, ex officio officers appointed from the General Membership by the Council or as permitted within the By-Laws.

Amendment 2: Article III, 3, a, ii. Change to service period for executive officers. This change allows for a smooth transition between governments.

Original: All Officers will serve for a term of one (1) year beginning July 1st through June 30th and are responsible for training their successor before leaving office, in addition to other duties as specified in the By-Laws.

Amended: All Officers will serve for a term of one (1) year beginning **May 15th** through **May 14th** and are responsible for training their successor before leaving office, in addition to other duties as specified in the By-Laws.

Amendment 3: Article III, 3, a, iii. In past elections, voting results resulted in a deadlock or no candidates being elected because none of the candidates reached 50% +1 votes. A plurality vote will eliminate empty offices or the need for two officers to serve in a single position.

Original: The voting members of the Executive Council shall be elected by a simple majority vote (50% + 1) of the General Membership, as provided for in the By-Laws.

Amended: The voting members of the Executive Council shall be elected by a **plurality** vote (**largest number of votes**) of the General Membership as provided for in the By-Laws.