

Graduate students,

Per the Association's constitution, the attached document contains the proposed amendments for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) constitution.

From September 14th through the 18th, 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, Shayna Bennett at [sbennett3@ucmerced.edu](mailto:sbennett3@ucmerced.edu)

Yours truly,

The Graduate Student Association

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Use the shortcuts below to quickly view each proposal:

[Amendment 1](#): Adds the Legislative Affairs Officer to the Executive Council.

[Amendment 2](#): Updates the minimum frequency of Delegate Assembly Meetings to monthly instead of bimonthly, matching the minimum frequency of Executive Council meetings.

[Amendment 3](#): Have the Delegate Assembly chaired by a delegate instead of the Internal Vice President but retain the power of the Internal Vice President to cast tiebreaking votes.

**Amendment 1:** Adds an Executive Officer position. The Legislative Affairs Officer will focus on bringing issues facing graduate students to local, state, and national legislative bodies.

**Original:** Article III: Organizational Structure, Section A3

3. The Executive Council
  - a. Membership and term of Office
    - i. 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.

**Proposed:** Article III: Organizational Structure, Section A3

3. The Executive Council
  - a. Membership and term of Office
    - i. The Executive Council shall be composed of **eleven (11)** voting officers: President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, **Legislative Affairs Officer**, 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.

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**Amendment 2:** Revises the GSA Constitution to have Delegate Assembly meetings occur equally as often as Executive Council meetings. Currently the GSA Executive Council is required to meet once a month, while the Delegate Assembly meets at least every two months. This conflicts with existing GSA bylaws, stating that Delegate Assembly meetings must happen within 10 days of Executive Council Meetings, meaning that DA meetings should already be happening monthly. This amendment changes the minimum meeting frequency of DA meetings to restore consistency with the GSA bylaws. Moreover, this amendment is one step to increase graduate student involvement in the democratic process and encourage the Delegate Assembly to be more proactive in organizational decision-making.

**Original:**

Article IV: Operating Principles, Section B

B. Meetings of the Delegate Assembly

1. Meetings of the Delegate Assembly shall be called by the Executive Council's Internal Vice President or any Delegate at such times are appropriate to conduct the business of the Delegate Assembly.
2. Such meetings shall occur at least every other month and be advertised and open to the General Membership, except when in closed session as necessary to conduct business.
3. Parliamentary authority, procedures, and quorum are as specified in the Association's By—Laws.

**Proposed:**

Article IV: Operating Principles, Section B

B. Meetings of the Delegate Assembly

1. Meetings of the Delegate Assembly shall be called by the Executive Council's Internal Vice President or any Delegate at such times are appropriate to conduct the business of the Delegate Assembly.
2. Such meetings shall occur at least ~~every other month~~ **once a month during the Fall and Spring semesters** and be advertised and open to the General Membership, except when in closed session as necessary to conduct business.
3. Parliamentary authority, procedures, and quorum are as specified in the Association's By—Laws.

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**Amendment 3:** The chair of the Delegate Assembly shall no longer be the Internal Vice President. The chair shall now be an elected member of the Delegate Assembly selected by the delegates using a plurality vote.

**Original:**

Article III: Organizational Structure

- A. Authority of the Association rests in three bodies: the General Membership, the Delegate Assembly, and the Executive Council.
  - 1. The General Membership, as defined in Article I Section B, elects members of the Executive Council and may amend the Constitution as required in the annual Election.
    - a. By Petition of at least ten (10%) of the General Membership, additional special elections or votes may be held on any matter concerning the Association and whose outcome supersedes the authority of both the Delegate Assembly and the Executive Council.
  - 2. The Delegate Assembly
    - a. Membership and Term of Office
      - i. The Delegate Assembly shall be composed of graduate or professional students (Delegates) from each Graduate or Professional Group, selected in accordance with the GSA By—Laws.
        - a. The Delegate(s) will serve a term of one (1) academic year, beginning from appointment and concluding with the end of the following Summer term.
      - ii. In addition, the Delegate Assembly is chaired by the Internal Vice President of the Executive Council, whom may cast a deciding vote in the event of a split vote.
      - iii. The selection authority for Delegates rests with their respective Graduate or Professional Groups as outlines in the By—Laws.

**Proposed:**

Article III: Organizational Structure

- B. Authority of the Association rests in three bodies: the General Membership, the Delegate Assembly, and the Executive Council.
  - 1. The General Membership, as defined in Article I Section B, elects members of the Executive Council and may amend the Constitution as required in the annual Election.

- a. By Petition of at least ten (10%) of the General Membership, additional special elections or votes may be held on any matter concerning the Association and whose outcome supersedes the authority of both the Delegate Assembly and the Executive Council.
- 2. The Delegate Assembly
  - a. Membership and Term of Office
    - i. The Delegate Assembly shall be composed of graduate or professional students (Delegates) from each Graduate or Professional Group, selected in accordance with the GSA By—Laws.
      - a. The Delegate(s) will serve a term of one (1) academic year, beginning from appointment and concluding with the end of the following Summer term.
    - ii. In addition, the Delegate Assembly shall be chaired by a Delegate appointed to the position by a plurality vote of the Delegate Assembly.
    - iii. The Internal Vice President may not cast a vote in the Delegate Assembly except in the event of a split vote.
    - iv. The selection authority for Delegates rests with their respective Graduate or Professional Groups as outlines in the By—Laws.

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