

Article I: Meetings

1. Meetings of the General Membership will be conducted under the authority of Robert’s Rules of Order, latest edition.
 - a. Meetings of the General Membership must be scheduled and announced at least one (1) week in advance of being held and such announcement must include a draft agenda.
2. Meetings of the Delegate Assembly will be conducted under the authority of Robert’s Rules of Order, latest edition, unless that year’s Assembly favorably votes by majority (50% + 1) to use alternative parliamentary procedures.
 - a. Meetings of the Delegate Assembly must be scheduled and announced at least one (1) week in advance of being held and such announcement must include a draft agenda. This agenda may include a closed session in order to conduct such business as deemed appropriate by favorable majority vote (50% + 1) of the Assembly.
 - b. Only Delegates and those receiving invitation from the Assembly may participate in a closed session.
3. Meetings of the Executive Council will be conducted under the authority of Robert’s Rules of Order, latest edition, unless that year’s Council favorably votes by majority (50% + 1) to use alternative parliamentary procedures.
 - a. Meetings of the Executive Council must be scheduled and announced at least one (1) week in advance of being held and such announcement must include a draft agenda. This agenda may include a closed session in order to conduct such business as deemed appropriate by favorable majority vote (50% + 1) of the Council.
 - b. Only officers of the Executive Council and those receiving invitation from the Council may participate in a closed session.
 - c. If an office is occupied by more than one officer, the officers share the vote of that officer and are required to confer with each other to determine the vote of their office.
 - i. A voting disagreement in a shared office results in an abstention.

Article II: Legislative Powers

1. The legislative power of the GSA shall be divided between the Executive Council and the Delegate Assembly.
 - a. Legislation proposed in the Executive Council is presided over by the President of the GSA.
 - i. Legislation introduced in and approved by the Executive Council must be submitted to the Delegate Assembly where it is confirmed, vetoed, or returned to the Executive Council with suggested alterations.
 1. Legislation returned to the Executive Council must be dismissed or rewritten and resubmitted to the Delegate Assembly.
 - b. Legislation proposed in the Delegate Assembly is presided over by the Internal Vice President of the GSA.

- i. Legislation introduced in and approved by the Delegate Assembly must be submitted to the Executive Council where it is confirmed, vetoed, or rewritten and submitted as new Executive Council Legislation.
 - c. A member of the General Membership may also propose legislation. This legislation may be introduced in either the Executive Council, in which legislation will proceed as in section a, or the Delegate Assembly, in which case legislation will proceed as in section b.
 2. The power to review and veto any action items that have been approved by the Executive Council shall be vested in the Delegate Assembly.
 - a. The Internal Vice President of the Executive Council will be required to inform the Delegate Assembly in a timely manner of action items that have been approved by the Executive Council.
 - i. From being informed, any delegate who wishes to consider a review of any of the action items approved by the Executive Council will have three (3) business days to consider a review.
 - ii. If any delegate deems a review to be necessary, they must immediately notify the Internal Vice President in writing. If no delegates inform the Internal Vice President within three (3) business days, then the Delegate Assembly waives their right to initiate a review of the action item, and the Executive Council may proceed with the implementation of the action item.
 - iii. Any action items that have been approved by the Executive Council, but were originally introduced in and approved by the Delegate Assembly, without any revisions by the Executive Council, are not subject to review and can be implemented immediately following approval by the Executive Council.
 - b. If the Internal Vice President is notified that a review for an action item is necessary, that item will be placed under “legislative review”, and the Executive Council must halt the implementation of that action item until the Delegate Assembly has had a chance for review.
 - c. Once an action item is placed under “legislative review”, the Delegate Assembly has ten (10) business days to consider a veto of that action item. The Internal Vice President will call a meeting of the Delegate Assembly within this timeframe to review the action item.
 - i. If the DA votes to approve the action item after review, the Executive Council may proceed with the implementation of that item.
 - ii. If the Delegate Assembly fails to make a decision on whether to veto an action item under “legislative review” within ten (10) business days, the Delegate Assembly waives their right to contest the action, and the Executive Council may proceed with the implementation of the action item.
 - d. If the Delegate Assembly votes to veto an action item under review, that item is deemed a “revisable item”, and must be returned to the Executive Council in a timely manner along with a detailed explanation of the disapproval and any suggested alterations necessary for the Delegate Assembly to reconsider approval.
 - i. Any “revisable items” returned to the Executive Council must be resubmitted to the Delegate Assembly or dismissed.

3. The power to allocate money and internal GSA funds are proposed in an annual budget by the Executive Council and approved by the Delegate Assembly.
 - a. All changes to GSA spending after the approval of the budget are approved by the Delegate Assembly.
 - b. The Delegate Assembly determines the recipients of funding for Graduate Student Organizations and Sponsored Event funding by methods determined by the Delegate Assembly except where detailed in the By—Laws.
 - c. The Executive Council determines funding amounts allotted to Graduate Student Organizations and Sponsored Events after applications have been approved by the Delegate Assembly.
 - d. To avoid a conflict of interest, Executive Officer and Delegate Assembly members are not eligible for funding sourced from the GSA budget, except for stipends approved by the Delegate Assembly or refunds for the cost of materials and services incurred in the service of an elected position.
4. The Executive Council shall have the power to create associated boards, committees, & commissions as it deems fit.

Article III: Elections

1. Members of the GSA Executive Council shall be elected in the Spring semester, no earlier than April 1st and before the Chancellor's Student Leadership dinner, to be inducted before the start of the Fall semester.
 - a. Duties as executive officers—elect shall include assisting the current Council.
 - b. If any offices remain unfilled after the Spring election, a special election will be held in the Fall, before the 1st meeting of the new Executive Council, to fill the remaining positions.
 - c. If any offices remain unfilled after the special election, the Executive Council can choose to fill the remaining positions by an appointment process in accordance with the GSA Constitution & By-Laws.
 - d. In order to hold elected or appointed positions within GSA, general members must be in good academic and judicial standing at the University of California, Merced.
 - e. If an Executive Office is added through constitutional amendment, the Executive Council of the GSA has the choice of filling the position by appointment or by election.
2. Election Procedures
 - a. All candidates for GSA Council offices must be members of the General Membership at the time of appointment to office.
 - b. All elections shall be publicized at a minimum by email at least two (2) weeks prior to the closing date for officer nominations.
 - c. Candidates may be nominated at any time after the election has been announced and before the nomination closing date.
 - d. Nominations must be accepted electronically via UC Merced email or other UC Merced identity—management services to serve as an electronic record.

- e. An Election Officer shall be selected by a simple majority vote (50% + 1) of the Delegate Assembly from among the General Membership who is not seeking an elected officer position in the election.
 - f. Voting
 - i. Voting shall be by an electronic ballot vote.
 - ii. Only the General Membership will be allowed to vote in elections.
 - iii. Each general member will be allowed one (1) vote per office during elections.
 - iv. Voting procedures shall be decided by the Election Officer.
 - v. Officers shall be elected by a plurality vote (largest number of votes).
 - g. Duties of the Election Officer will be:
 - i. To coordinate election duties with the Delegate Assembly and the Internal Vice President of the Executive Council, and
 - ii. To advertise to the general membership any vacant positions in the GSA Executive Council and Delegate Assembly in a timely manner, and
 - iii. To coordinate with a third party to solicit nominations from those in the general membership interested in running for open positions, and
 - iv. To create an electronic ballot that the general membership will use to cast their votes, and
 - v. To coordinate with a third party to ensure a fair and unbiased elections process, and
 - vi. To certify and announce the results of the election along with a final tally of the votes cast for each candidate running for positions, and
 - vii. To chair the GSA Elections Commission
3. Delegate Assembly Appointments
- a. Graduate or Professional Group Representation to Delegate Assembly
 - i. There shall be one (1) primary representative (referred henceforth as a Delegate) from each Graduate or Professional Group at the University of California, Merced.
 - ii. The Delegate(s) will be chosen from each graduate or professional group by a student club or organization that has been recognized by the graduate or professional group as the official student organization for that graduate or professional group.
 - 1. If a Group's By—Laws establish an official student organization or club, the selection authority rests within that organization or club.
 - 2. If no such By—Laws are present, an official student club may be registered with the university. Upon certification by the Graduate or Professional Group Chair that this club is aligned with the interests of the group's students, this Club gains the selection authority.
 - 3. If no student clubs or organizations for a Graduate or Professional Group exist, the Internal Vice President of the Executive Council will directly solicit nominations from the Graduate or Professional Group students and conduct an election amongst the graduate or professional students of that group.

- iii. Alternate Delegates may be appointed as appropriate in the same selection process. These Alternates may temporarily assume the responsibilities of the Primary Delegate when they are unable to attend meetings.
 1. The Primary Delegate will communicate via email to the Internal Vice President of the Executive Council who the Alternate Delegate will be prior to Assembly meetings.
- iv. In the event that a Primary Delegate position for a graduate or professional group remains vacant after the election cycle, the Internal Vice President of the Executive Council will solicit the club or organization for a Graduate or Professional Group with selection authority to conduct an election or nomination to fill the vacated Primary and/or Alternate Delegate positions.
 1. If no student clubs or organizations for a Graduate or Professional Group with selection authority exist, the GSA gains selection authority, and the Internal Vice President of the Executive Council will conduct an election or nomination with that graduate group, no later than one month before the beginning of the election cycle in the spring semester, to fill the Primary and/or Alternate Delegate positions in accordance with the GSA Constitution & By-Laws.
- v. It is the duty of each Primary and Delegate to keep a copy of the email or other evidence documenting the selection by their Graduate or Professional Group members.
- vi. Primary and Alternate Delegates may not simultaneously serve as an officer of the Executive Council.

Article IV: Duties of the Executive Council Officers

1. In the event that any of the officers cannot perform their duties, the Executive Council can temporarily appoint a substitute to carry out those duties in the officer's absence.
2. The order of succession in the Executive Council is as follows: President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Legislative Affairs Officer, Academic Affairs Officer, Internal Communications Officer, Treasurer, Public Relations/Community Outreach Officer, International Affairs Officer, the Climate, Diversity, and Equity Officer, and Solidarity Officer.
3. In the event of a vacancy either permanently or temporarily in the GSA Executive Council, the Executive Council Officers may delegate the responsibilities of the vacant seats to the remaining officers in a way such that the GSA can continue conducting business with minimal interruption.
4. Duties of the President will be:
 - a. To serve as liaison between the GSA and Administrators of the University, and
 - b. To represent the GSA on the Academic Senate Committee of the Graduate Council, and
 - c. To correspond regularly with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors of the Merced campus on issues of interest to the GSA membership, and
 - d. To correspond with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors concerning the activities of the GSA, and
 - e. To facilitate Executive Council meetings and make recommendations to the Executive Council for necessary actions, and

- f. To send out at least one (1) email/newsletter per semester to entire general membership concerning current issues in which GSA is an active participant in collaboration with the Internal Communications Officer, and
 - g. To consult officers on new issues that arise, and inform the membership on decisions concerning such issues, and
 - h. To serve as an ex—officio officer on all GSA committees.
5. Duties of the External Vice President will be:
- a. To serve as the delegate of the University of California Graduate and Professional Council (UCGPC) Board of Directors, in accordance with the CHARTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL, Article III. Section 1, and
 - b. To attend meetings of the UCGPC, and
 - c. To keep officers informed on the relevance of being paying members of UCGPC as the situation may change, and
 - d. To attend, when possible, the meeting of the Regents and UC Office of the President (UCOP) as a member of the UCGPC and of the GSA, and when necessary, to prepare testimony for the meetings on issues important to the Association, and
 - e. To review with the GSA Council the items presented at the meeting of the UCGPC, UCOP, and of the Regents, and
 - f. To work with the Student Regents, UC Board of Regents, UCOP, External Branches of other UC system GSAs, and UC Student Association (UCSA) as necessary to promote goals identified as beneficial from the Association, and
 - g. To keep the GSA informed of system-wide developments of importance to the GSA, and
 - h. To attend, when appropriate, conferences related to higher education and UCGPC issues.
6. Duties of the Academic Affairs Officer will be
- a. To serve as a representative on the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation of the Academic Senate and Ombuds Advisory Board, and report to the General Membership as needed, and
 - b. To appoint graduate and professional students to student government committees to resolve issues of mutual concern, overseeing the submission of progress reports from committee appointees, and
 - c. To actively solicit graduate and professional students for campus committees on which graduate and professional students are invited to serve, and
 - d. Communicate suggested voting from the Delegate Assembly to graduate and professional student representatives serving on campus committees, and
 - e. Communicate voting decisions of campus committees to the Executive Council and Delegate Assembly, and
 - f. To correspond regularly with the Deans of the Merced campus on issues of interest to the General Membership, and
 - g. To correspond with the Deans concerning the activities of the GSA, and
 - h. To facilitate the GSA Committee on Research.

7. Duties of the Treasurer will be:
 - a. To present to the GSA a summary of the financial activities of the GSA at every meeting, and
 - b. To prepare the budget for approval at the first meeting of the Delegate Assembly, and
 - c. To prepare a preliminary budget for the following year to guide the Treasurer—elect, and
 - d. To represent GSA in financial dealings with the University and other campus organizations, and
 - e. To represent the GSA as a non—voting member of the Student Services and Fees Advisory Committee, and
 - f. To hear all grievances that may arise in the administration of the funds and to make recommendations to the Executive Council concerning their adjudication, and
 - g. To oversee and manage the GSA travel grant program.

8. Duties of the Internal Communications Officer will be:
 - a. To keep minutes and record attendance of the Executive Council Meeting, and
 - b. To distribute the minutes of GSA Council meetings to the Officers prior to the following GSA Council meeting, and
 - c. To make public all minutes and agendas, and
 - d. To keep all records of GSA activity (including committee reports) organized and accessible, and
 - e. To maintain a website for GSA members to stay informed on all issues concerning graduate and professional students, and
 - f. Assist the President of the Executive Council in sending out at least one (1) email/newsletter per semester to entire General Membership concerning current issues in which GSA is an active participant.

9. Duties of the Public Relations/Community Outreach Officer will be:
 - a. To inform the graduate and professional student community of campus and local issues which may affect them and of activities in which they may wish to participate, and
 - b. To coordinate any social, academic, student forum or other event the General Membership requires or recommends be carried out by GSA, and
 - c. To actively engage graduate and professional students in community and volunteer activities, and
 - d. To serve on alumni relations committees and Chair the GSA Social Life Committee.

10. Duties of the Internal Vice President will be:
 - a. To oversee the elections of the Delegate Assembly and assist the chair of the Delegate Assembly, and
 - b. To nominate the President and Academic Affairs Officer of the Executive Council to their respective Divisional Council Appointments as described in their committee bylaws, and
 - c. To assist graduate and professional students with non—academic grievances and be aware of agencies or individuals in the campus community who can assist students with problems, and
 - d. To coordinate election duties with the Delegate Assembly and Elections Officer, and

- e. To assist the chair of the Delegate Assembly in preparing and soliciting items for the agenda for Delegate Assembly meetings, and
 - f. To inform the Delegate Assembly of Executive Council action items which have passed the Executive Council and determine if any Delegate wish to formally review an action where appropriate.
11. Duties of the International Affairs Officer will be:
- a. To represent the specific interests of international graduate and professional students at the university, and
 - b. To work closely with the Office of International Affairs to assist international graduate and professional students with issues of mutual concern, and
 - c. To promote awareness of international graduate and professional student issues to the university community, and
 - d. To promote international graduate and professional student participation in the activities of the GSA, Graduate Student Services and the Graduate Division, and
 - e. To plan and promote cultural programs in collaboration with the GSA Social Life Committee in order to build community among international graduate and professional students, and
 - f. To monitor campus issues and legislative developments in collaboration with the External Vice President that affect the ability of international graduate and professional students to study at UC Merced, and
 - g. To recommend advocacy positions to be adopted by the Executive Council and Delegate Assembly, and
 - h. To serve on the Graduate Research and Orientation Week (GROW) Committee, and
 - i. To advise the Executive Council, Delegate Assembly, and other related committees as deemed necessary, and
 - j. To work to ensure that international graduate and professional students are well—
informed, fairly treated, and able to participate equally at UC Merced.
12. Duties of the Climate, Diversity, and Equity Officer will be:
- a. To work to foster an inclusive campus climate in accordance with the UC Merced Principles of Community, and
 - b. To advise the Executive Council and Delegate Assembly on their executive and legislative agendas, and
 - c. To work with existing campus—wide and system—wide committees, UC Merced Social Justice Programs, and affinity groups to ensure we are implementing and following best practices with respect to climate, diversity and equity, and
 - d. To work with existing campus-wide and system-wide committees to address systemic racism and develop initiatives and resources supporting underrepresented students, and
 - e. To promote student participation in the activities of the GSA, Graduate Student Services and the Graduate Division, and
 - f. To recommend advocacy positions to be adopted by the Executive Council and the Delegate Assembly, and

- g. To promote awareness of climate, diversity, and equity issues pertaining to graduate and professional students of every demographic to the university community, and
 - h. To serve on the Graduate Dean’s Advisory Committee on Diversity and the Chancellor’s Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture, and Inclusion, and
 - i. To work to ensure that underrepresented graduate and professional students are well—
informed, fairly treated, and able to participate equally at UC Merced.
13. Duties of the Solidarity Officer will be:
- a. To assist graduate and professional students with academic grievances and be aware of the agencies or individuals in the campus community who can assist students with problems and to appoint an Ombuds, if necessary, to help in this role, and
 - b. To maintain the confidentiality of graduate and professional students who present grievances by not keeping records of stated grievances, and
 - c. To maintain the confidentiality of graduate and professional students who present grievances by only referring graduate or professional students rather than contacting relevant agencies or individuals on their behalf, and
 - d. To attend meetings of the UC Merced UAW 2865 as a representative of the GSA,
 - e. To refrain from concurrently holding an elected and/or paid position within the UAW 2865, and
 - f. To serve as a communication channel between the GSA and UAW 2865.
14. Duties of the Legislative Affairs Officer will be:
- a. To bring graduate and professional student concerns to local and national legislative bodies, and
 - b. To ensure that the GSA’s interests are effectively represented to the State of California, state government agencies, and civic groups focused on matters of state importance, and
 - c. Ensure that the GSA’s interests are effectively represented to the U.S. Congress, federal government agencies, and civic groups focused on matters of national importance, and
 - d. Develop legislative proposals and platforms beneficial to the GSA in collaboration with the External Vice President and the Association, and
 - e. Inform local, state, and national legislators of the benefit and need to support graduate education at UC Merced, and
 - f. To keep regular contact with local, state, and national representatives, and
 - g. To serve as or appoint a coordinator to organize on-campus voter registration campaigns, and
 - h. Attending UCGPC meetings on Advocacy Days and serve as the official proxy to the External Vice President at UCGPC, UCOP, and Board of Regents meetings when necessary.

Article V: Absenteeism, Resignation, Replacement, Expulsion, and Non—performance

1. Absenteeism

- a. If an Executive Officer or Delegate is absent from meetings without an excuse, more than three (3) consecutive times, the Executive Council reserves the right to initiate expulsion procedures and replace the member.
2. Resignation
 - a. If an Executive Officer or Delegate wishes to resign from their position voluntarily, they shall submit a signed, written document to the Executive Council President and Internal Vice President. Notice of the resignation shall be made known to the Executive Council and Delegate Assembly immediately and announced to the general membership.
 - i. In the event that the President of the Executive Council wishes to resign they shall submit their letter to the Internal Vice President and GSA Advisor instead.
3. Replacement
 - a. The Executive Council shall decide by a simple majority vote (50% + 1) and subsequent approval by the Delegate Assembly, whether to elect, appoint, or leave vacant a position in the Executive Council.
 - b. The Delegate Assembly will seek to fill vacancies through the same procedures that appointed the previous Primary and/or Alternate Delegate to the vacant position in collaboration with the clubs or organizations with selection authority in each graduate group if applicable, as outlined in the GSA constitution.
4. Expulsion
 - a. If an Executive Officer, Delegate, or Appointee representing the GSA is found to willingly violate the GSA Constitution or By—Laws, or any University policy that defines appropriate student conduct, in a way that is detrimental to the mission and purpose of GSA, Executive Officers reserve the right to permanently remove said member from the organization with the vote and approval of the Delegate Assembly.
 - b. Any member of the General Membership may submit an Executive Officer and/or Delegate Assembly officer removal request in writing to the Executive Council if they believe said member is not in compliance with the GSA Constitution or By—Laws, or any University policy that defines appropriate student conduct.
 - i. This request will be considered a public document and made available to general body members.
 - c. A three fourths (75%) qualified majority vote of the Executive Council and a separate three fourths (75%) qualified majority vote of the Delegate Assembly's total membership must be cast to approve a request to expel an Officer or Delegate.
5. Non—performance
 - a. If an Executive Officer and/or Delegate Assembly Officer is not performing their duties in accordance to the GSA Constitution and/or By—Laws, the Executive Council's President and Internal Vice President will hold a meeting with the non—performing member and give notice of the non—performance. If the behavior continues, the GSA President and Internal Vice President shall exercise the right to initiate expulsion procedures as permitted within the By—Laws.