



CONSTITUTION FOR GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

PREAMBLE

We, the Graduate Students of the University of Denver, do establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I - NAME AND DEFINITIONS

Section 1 Name

The Graduate Student Government shall refer to the organization that represents the Graduate Student body at the University of Denver. Hereafter “GSG,” “Graduate Student Government,” and “The Organization,” shall be taken as equivalent terms.

Section 2 Definitions

- A. The “E-Board” refers to the GSG Executive Council, comprised of the GSG President, GSG Vice President and Director of Finance, GSG Director of Communication, and GSG Director of Inclusive Excellence.
- B. The Graduate Student Senate shall refer to the primary decision making body of the Graduate Student Government and may also be referred to as “The Senate.”
- C. “Graduate Student” is an individual who is taking post-baccalaureate classes at the University of Denver (DU), according to the DU Registrar's Office.
- D. The term “GSA” refers to the eligible graduate student associations, as defined by the by-laws.
- E. “Delegate” memberships refer to membership positions with no voting privileges that may be granted to members of organizations outside of the DU GSG.

ARTICLE II – MISSION AND ROLE

The role of the GSG shall be to solicit the views of graduate students and represent graduate student interests to the DU administration, faculty, and community and represent graduate students in University-wide committees and Board of Trustees meetings. The GSG shall also support graduate student quality of life by pursuing and providing opportunities for graduate student professional development, social events, and other means that they shall find appropriate.

ARTICLE III – REPRESENTATION

Section 1 Graduate Student Senate

- A. The Graduate Student Government's primary decision making body is Graduate Student Senate. The Senate shall be composed of one graduate student from each eligible GSA, plus an additional representative from each GSA’s membership.
- B. Each member of the Graduate Student Senate shall have one vote, with the exception of elections during which they may bring another representative and cast two votes.

- C. The selection of Graduate Student Senators shall be the responsibility of the GSAs.
- D. Senators are elected for a term that begins with the first Senate meeting of the fall quarter and ends with the last meeting of the academic year, or upon their graduation.
- E. The Senate may, at its discretion and by simple majority vote, create 'delegate' memberships on the Senate. Such positions are filled according to criteria defined by the Senate at the creation of the membership. Such positions may be amended and dissolved by the same means.
- F. Each year, in the last meeting of spring quarter and subsequently as shall be needed, the Senate shall elect an E-Board.

Section 2 Delegates

- A. Delegate members of the Senate have no voting powers but are otherwise granted the respect, responsibility, and ability to speak as other Senators. The purpose of such members is to provide input, feedback, and communication to and from other organizations.

ARTICLE III - POWERS

GSG shall have the powers necessary to carry out the mission of GSG in accordance with this constitution. GSG shall have the power to recognize Graduate Student Associations, henceforth referred to as GSAs, as provided in the By-Laws of this constitution. All members of The Senate shall have the powers and duties commensurate with the nature of their respective offices.

ARTICLE V – ASSOCIATION FUNDS

GSG shall have control and supervision of all GSG funds. Two members of the E-Board, not including any individual being reimbursed, shall be required to sign all requests for allocations.

ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES

Each year, GSG shall create necessary outreach committees based on the current needs of the graduate students.

- A. Past committees have included: social, professional development, student issues, and fundraising.
- B. Each committee will be chaired by a member of the GSG Executive Council or member of The Senate
- C. The committees shall meet at the GSG meetings as well as special GSG Committee meetings called for by the respective GSG Committee chair.
- D. The GSG E-board will vote on the committees to be created at the beginning of the year.
- E. At the beginning of each subsequent quarter, the GSG E-board will decide if any committees need to be added and/or discontinued.

ARTICLE IV - ADVISING AND MENTORSHIP

The Office of Graduate Studies offers guidance and assistance to GSG.

ARTICLE IIV - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICERS

All GSG officer positions shall be open to all University of Denver graduate students represented by The Senate.

Section 1 Nomination and Elections

The GSG Senate shall make up the GSG officer nomination and election committee. Officers will be elected by a majority of The Senate present during the election meeting.

- A. Each year, in the last meeting of spring quarter and subsequently as shall be needed, the Senate shall elect an E-Board.

Section 2 Terms of Office

The GSG E-Board shall hold office from the first day of summer interim following elections to the last day of the following spring quarter.

Section 3 Vacancies

An officer position will be deemed vacant if a GSG officer shall resign or be absent from two meetings per quarter without excuse. The Senate of GSG shall make the decision as to whether or not an absence is unexcused.

- A. If the position of the President shall become vacant, the Vice President shall succeed to the office.
- B. If another officer's position becomes vacant, the position shall be filled by an appointment of the GSG E-Board until an election is held.

ARTICLE IIIV – AMENDMENTS

- A. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws shall be circulated to all members of The Senate.
- B. The GSG shall have the power to create and adopt By-laws, not inconsistent with the constitution, as they may deem necessary or proper for carrying out the mission of The Senate.
- C. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or By-laws shall be considered at the same meeting in which they are presented. Adoption of the amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws shall require a majority vote from the GSG Senate.

ARTICLE IIIV - VOTES AFFECTING THE ENTIRE GRADUATE POPULATION

- A. GSG shall approve any vote of the University of Denver graduate student body.
- B. GSG approval shall be required for any referendum that could result in change to University policy affecting graduate students.
- C. Approval of a graduate student body vote shall require a majority vote from the voting members of GSG.
- D. In order for a graduate student body vote to be considered valid and binding, at least five percent (5%) of the enrolled graduate student body must vote. If less than five percent (5%) of the enrolled graduate student body votes, another vote will be scheduled.
- E. A majority vote by five percent of the currently enrolled graduate student population shall be required for passage of the item under consideration.

ARTICLE VII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The parliamentary authority of GSG shall be the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, revised.