

Title 5 NSHE Governing Documents

Chapter 18

**CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO**

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ARTICLE I - Name, Purpose, and Government

- Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Graduate Student Association (GSA) of the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). (B/R 6/88)
- Section 2: The purpose of the GSA shall be to promote the welfare and interests of the graduate students of UNR. This includes supporting GSA's Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities document. The GSA defines a graduate student as any student enrolled in a graduate degree program and all graduate specials. (B/R 9/99)
- Section 3: The government of this GSA shall function through the Council of Representatives, Executive Council and established committees. The GSA shall work closely with all appropriate university administrative offices, including the Graduate School and Student Services. GSA shall report to the President of the university.

ARTICLE II - Membership and Revenue

- Section 1: All currently enrolled graduate students of UNR shall be members of GSA.
- Section 2: Dues shall be collected from all graduate students as a part of the per credit fee charged at registration.

ARTICLE III - Council of Representatives

- Section 1: DUTIES: The Council of Representatives (Council hereafter) shall be the governing board of the GSA and shall administer all GSA business.
- 1.1: Representatives shall attend all meetings of the GSA Council.
- 1.2: Representatives shall serve on two GSA committees and one university committee. Standing GSA committees include: Travel Committee, Awards Committee, Social Committee, Household Items Committee, Communications Committee and Mentoring Committee.
- 1.3: Representatives shall promote GSA by informing their constituents and graduate faculty about GSA events and activities. Representatives will report to the GSA Council any suggestions these individuals may have regarding the academic, professional, and personal issues of the graduate students.

(B/R 10/04)

- Section 2: ELECTIONS: The Council shall be an elected body; chosen by a general election process as defined in the by-laws.

(B/R 10/04)

- Section 3: APPORTIONMENT: The Council shall consist of at least one representative from each school or college.
- 3.1 Apportionment may be examined by the Communications Committee as deemed necessary by the Council.

- 3.2 Apportionment ratification requires a two-thirds vote of the whole body of Representatives.
- 3.3 The Council of Representatives may create additional representative seats to represent graduate student needs not addressed by the existing representative seats. The creation of these seats requires a two-thirds vote of a quorum. The continuation of these seats must come from a two-thirds vote of the whole body of Representatives conducted annually at the end of the spring semester. These seats shall be filled in accordance with the bylaws.

(B/R 10/04)

Section 4: VOTING: Each Representative shall have voting privileges at Council meetings.

(B/R 10/04)

Section 5: QUALIFICATIONS: Representatives must be members of GSA in good academic standing as defined by the Graduate School.

Section 6: REMOVAL: Any GSA Representative may be removed from office by the procedures and criteria stated in the Grievance and Removal Bylaws.

(B/R 10/04)

ARTICLE IV - Meetings

Section 1: Meetings of the Council shall be held regularly, at the times and places to be determined by the Executive Council.

(B/R 10/04)

Section 2: The President shall chair Council meetings.

Section 3: Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the guide on parliamentary procedure at all meetings of the GSA membership, Council of Representatives, and any committees established by the Council of Representatives.

Section 4: On all voting matters, except as noted in this Constitution or the GSA Bylaws, a motion shall be passed by a majority vote of a quorum.

Section 5: At least two-thirds of the members of the Council must be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 6: If a Representative is absent from a council meeting the Representative must designate, in writing to be given to the Secretary, a proxy.

6.1 A proxy may be either a constituent of the Representative or another Council member.

6.2 A proxy shall count towards a quorum.

6.3 A proxy is a privilege. Any specific instructions regarding voting on behalf of the Representative must be made in writing to both the proxy and the Secretary; otherwise, the proxy assumes responsibility for voting.

(B/R 10/04)

ARTICLE V - Executive Council

Section 1: The Executive Council is responsible for overseeing and organizing the agenda of GSA Council meetings, and for assuring that the approved business of the GSA Council is carried out. The Executive Council is also responsible for ensuring that the GSA adheres to the terms of the GSA Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2: The Executive Council shall include the President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, and GSA Advisor.

(B/R 10/04)

Section 3: All GSA officers shall be elected in accordance with the procedures in the Bylaws.

3.1 Any person who meets the requirements of a GSA member and who meets the NSHE Board of Regents eligibility requirements for an assistantship can be elected as a GSA officer.

3.2 All officer requirements, benefits, term length, and job descriptions shall be set forth in the Bylaws.

(B/R 10/04)

ARTICLE VI - Amendments

Section 1: The Judicial Committee, formed by the GSA Council as necessary, shall review the Constitution every three (3) years, or as needed, including the Bylaws.

(B/R 10/04)

Section 2: If a change in the Constitution is proposed, it shall be presented at a regularly scheduled Council meeting for discussion.

2.1 A vote on a change will be taken at the following meeting and any modifications must pass by a two-thirds vote of the whole body of Representatives.

2.2 Amendments to this Constitution shall be subject to approval by the Board of Regents.

(B/R 10/04)

Section 3: If a change in the Bylaws is proposed, it shall be presented at a regularly scheduled Council meeting for discussion.

3.1 A vote on the change may take place at that meeting and any modifications must pass by a two-thirds vote of the whole body of Representatives.

(B/R 10/04)