

UC Davis Graduate Student Association

CONSTITUTION

Revised 7 June 2017

Preamble

The University of California, Davis Graduate Student Association is hereby established to represent the interests of graduate and professional students at the University of California, Davis within the University of California and in the greater community. The Graduate Student Association shall serve as an open forum to discuss graduate student concerns and University policy, inform and advise its students, and serve as the voice of students in matters which affect students' lives. The Graduate Student Association shall also provide services and activities, which enhance the quality of life and educational experience for its graduate and professional student membership, and for the campus community.

Article I. Name

This organization shall be known as the University of California, Davis Graduate Student Association (UCD GSA), hereafter referred to as GSA or the Association. The Association shall serve as the official student government for graduate students and professional student members at the University of California, Davis.

Article II. Membership

Section A. All regularly enrolled post-Baccalaureate students of the UC Davis campus shall become general members of the Graduate Student Association upon payment of required membership fees. All post-Baccalaureate students on PELP or filing fee who were general members for at least one quarter retain their membership for the PELP or filing fee period. During summer session all post-Baccalaureate students of the UC Davis campus who were regularly enrolled, on filing fee, or on planned educational leave for spring quarter or planning to be regularly enrolled on filing fee, or on planned educational leave for fall quarter shall be general members.

Section B. The Chancellor, Dean of Graduate Studies, and the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs shall serve as non-voting members of the Association.

Section C. Persons that serve or support the Association may be declared honorary members by the Association. Honorary members shall have all privileges of membership with the exception of voting and eligibility for office.

Section D. Active members of the Association shall be regarded as agents of the University of California. Active members shall be entitled to protection for actions relating to official Association activities and duties under the University's general liability. This protection is in force as long as the member meets the membership definition and they conform and comply with policies of the University of California when engaging in Association activities.

Section E. The Association or any member acting on behalf of the Association shall not conspire to commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger or physical or emotional harm to any member of the campus community.

Article III. Non-Discrimination

This Association prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (including cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (covered veterans are special disabled veterans, recently separated veterans, Vietnam era veterans, or any other veterans who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized) in any of its programs or activities. The Association policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable University policy, State and Federal laws.

Article IV. Organizational Structure

Section A. Authority of the Association rests in the Assembly. Any action of the Executive Council is subject to the review of the Assembly and may be negated by a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly.

Section B. Assembly

1. The graduate students of each graduate program shall appoint one Assembly Representative for every thirty Association members in the program, or fraction thereof. Allotment of Representatives shall be calculated through the use of graduate program enrollment numbers provided by Graduate Studies during the spring quarter each year.
2. Appointments and length of service of Representatives and alternates for each graduate degree program shall be determined by their respective program.
3. Representatives of each graduate degree program shall register with the Association to be recognized as an official representative of that program.

4. Members of the Executive Council cannot serve as Representatives of their department or group. However, their attendance may count for the purpose of the department fund.
5. The graduate students of each graduate program may appoint alternates from among the graduate students in the program for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Representatives when one or more Representatives are absent. The alternate must register with the Association in order to be recognized as an official alternate.

Section C. Assembly Duties

1. Provide a communications link between the students of each graduate program and the other graduate programs, the Executive Council of the Association, and the deans and administration of the University.
2. Encourage participation and discussion by the students in the individual graduate programs.
3. Maintain responsibility for the budgeting of all Association funds. A two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly shall be necessary to approve or revise the budget or to direct funds of the reserve accounts of the Association. Any changes to stipend or compensation amounts will take effect on July 1 of the following fiscal year.
4. Undertake such business as it deems necessary to fulfill the purposes of the Association.
5. Elect the Executive Council of the Association.
6. Review the actions of the Executive Council.
7. Ensure the constitutionality of all Association actions.

Section D. Executive Council

1. Officers of the Executive Council shall include the President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and the Public Relations Organizing Director.
2. All officers of the Executive Council shall serve for a term of one year and are responsible for training their successor before leaving office.
3. The Executive Council shall be elected by a majority vote of the Assembly in a process outlined by the By-Laws.
4. The former President, Internal Vice President, and External Vice President shall serve as non-voting members of the Executive Council for one academic quarter following their term of office.
5. A member of the Executive Council may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly if not fulfilling the duties of office.

6. Should an office of the Executive Council become vacant, the President may appoint a temporary replacement until the Assembly elects a replacement at the next meeting.
7. Should the President leave office, the Internal Vice President shall serve as Acting President until the Assembly elects a new President. Should there be a vacancy in the office of Internal Vice President, an officer shall serve as Acting President in the order specified in Article IV, Section D.1.
8. The Graduate Student Assistant to the Dean of Graduate Studies and to the Chancellor shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Executive Council.
9. A representative selected by the Law Students Association (LSA) of the UC Davis School of Law shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Executive Council.
10. A representative selected by the UC Davis Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA) shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Executive Council.

Section E. Executive Council Duties

1. Act as the Executive Council of the Assembly.
2. Disburse the funds of the Association according to applicable University policies and the budget approved by the Assembly.
3. Administer programs.
4. Inform the Assembly and the graduate student community of actions, proposals, and issues which may affect graduate students.
5. Exercise other responsibilities as directed by the Assembly.
6. Report all its actions to the Assembly.
7. Approve the appointments of representatives to the Graduate Council.

Article V. Meetings

Section A. Open Meeting Policy

Meetings of the Association and its committees shall be open to the public. Closed sessions may be called when issues of personnel, award selections, litigation, or other confidential issues will be discussed. All members of the Association and the public shall have an opportunity to review and comment on any and all items presented to the Assembly before such items are brought to a vote.

Section B. Assembly Meetings

1. Regular Assembly meetings shall be called by the Internal Vice President.
2. Fifteen percent of registered Representatives constitutes a quorum to conduct business at an Assembly meeting.
3. No members of the Executive Council may vote at Assembly meetings, except the President who shall vote only to break a tie.

Section C. Special Assembly Meetings

1. Special Assembly meetings may be called by the Internal Vice President.
2. The Internal Vice President must call a Special Assembly meeting upon petition by twenty or more Representatives, or by a majority of the voting members of the Executive Council. The Internal Vice President may call a Special Assembly meeting at the request of the UC Office of the President, UC Davis Chancellor, or Dean of Graduate Studies.
3. Notice of Special Assembly meetings must include all business that will be conducted and shall be provided to the Assembly at least five business days in advance of the meeting.
4. Fifteen percent of registered Representatives constitutes a quorum to conduct business at a Special meeting.
5. No members of the Executive Council may vote at Special Assembly meetings, except the President who shall vote only to break a tie.

Section D. General Meeting

1. A General Meeting may be called by petition of ten percent of the general membership. Upon receipt of the petition, the Internal Vice President must call a general meeting.
2. The Internal Vice President shall preside at General meetings.
3. Notice of General Meetings must be provided to Association members at least ten business days in advance of the meeting.
4. Ten percent of the general membership constitutes a quorum to conduct business.
5. Decisions at a General Meeting shall have precedence over the Assembly and Executive Council.
6. Executive Council members have voting privileges at General Meetings, except the President, who shall only cast a vote to break a tie.

Section E. Executive Council Meetings

1. Meetings of the Executive Council shall be called by the President at such times as are appropriate to conduct the business of the Association.
2. A quorum for such meetings shall consist of a majority of the voting Executive Council.

Article VI. By-Laws

Section A. The Assembly, by a two-thirds majority vote, may establish, amend, suspend, or repeal By-Laws implementing the provisions of this Constitution. Proposed amendments shall be provided to the Assembly in writing at least five business days prior to the vote.

Section B. Any By-Law found to conflict with this Constitution shall immediately and thereafter cease to be valid and shall be stricken from the By-Laws.

Article VII. Powers

Section A. The Executive Council, by a three-quarters majority vote, may interpret provisions of this Constitution. The Assembly may override any such interpretation by a two-thirds vote.

Section B. The UC Davis Policy and Procedure Manual shall supersede the Association By-Laws and the Association Constitution.

Section C. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the assets of the Association shall be transferred to Graduate Studies for the purpose of providing financial aid to UC Davis graduate and professional students.

Article VIII. Amendments

Section A. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at two Assembly meetings provided that all members of the Assembly have received the text of the proposed amendments at least ten business days prior to the first meeting.