
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTION

Adopted April 11th, 2008

ARTICLE I. NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

The name of the organization shall be the Western Michigan University Graduate Student Advisory Committee, hereafter referred to as the GSAC.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section A The GSAC shall serve as the representative organization for graduate students at Western Michigan University and shall strive to promote excellence in graduate education and improve all aspects of graduate student life at Western Michigan University.

Section B The GSAC shall act as a liaison between the graduate student body and the administrative bodies of Western Michigan University and through this role, facilitate policy reform pertaining to the needs of graduate students.

Section C The GSAC shall allocate financial resources for programs, services, and events that enrich the academic, professional, cultural, and social experiences of the graduate student community.

Section D The GSAC shall facilitate communication between graduate students and the administration, faculty, undergraduate students, and University community as a whole.

Section E The GSAC shall represent Western Michigan University in the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students.

ARTICLE III. CONSTITUENCY

Section A The GSAC shall representing all graduate students at Western Michigan University, defined as all individuals enrolled full-time or part-time graduate studies at any Western Michigan University campus.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

- Section A The members of the GSAC shall be selected from each department or program identified as part of the Graduate College. Specific selection procedures regarding the members of the GSAC are set forth in Article I of the GSAC Bylaws, hereafter referred to as the Bylaws.
- Clause 1 Each department or program shall have the right to select up to five (5) currently registered graduate students in good standing as members of the GSAC, as set forth in Article I, Section A, Clause 2 of the Bylaws.
- Clause 2 Each member shall have one vote at GSAC meetings, which can be cast in person or by proxy. The GSAC Chairperson shall vote only in the event of a tie.
- Clause 3 No student shall be denied membership in the GSAC on the basis of race, national origin, sex, religion, age, political views, Veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.
- Section B The GSAC shall make a reasonable effort to obtain representation from all departments and programs identified as parts of the Graduate College.
- Section C The Western Student Association, Teaching Assistants Union, and the Campus Activities Board shall each have one voting member on the GSAC. These members shall have the same rights and responsibilities as the members of the GSAC.
- Section D The Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate College (or designee) and the Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee) shall serve as Administrative ex officio members of the GSAC.

ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION

- Section A Officers
- Clause 1 The officers of the GSAC shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Treasurer. During their terms in office, the officers of the GSAC shall not serve as departmental or program representatives.
- Clause 2 The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the GSAC shall be selected biannually and as such, shall serve terms of two (2) years in duration. The Treasurer of the GSAC shall be selected annually and as such, shall serve a term of one (1) year in duration.

- Clause 3 During their term in office, the officers of the GSAC must be full-time, registered graduate students during the Fall, Spring, Summer I, and Summer II semesters.
- Clause 4 The officers of the GSAC shall perform such duties as are specified in Article V of the Bylaws.
- Clause 5 The officers of the GSAC may be recalled according to the provisions set forth in Article VI of the Bylaws.

Section B Committees of the GSAC

- Clause 1 The standing sub-committees of the GSAC shall include the Graduate Financial Allocation Committee (GFAC), Public Relations Committee (PRC), Web Page Committee (WPC), and Graduate Research Symposium and Journal Committee (GRSJC), whose duties and purposes are described in Article VII of the Bylaws.
- Clause 2 The creation and elimination of additional GSAC standing subcommittees shall require approval at a GSAC meeting by two-thirds (2/3) of all voting members present, in person or by proxy, as set forth in Article VII, Section G, Clause 2 of the Bylaws.
- Clause 3 The creation and elimination of ad hoc committees shall require approval at a GSAC meeting by a simple majority of those voting members present, in person or by proxy, as set forth in Article VII, Section D, Clause 4 of the Bylaws.

Section C Other Administrative Positions

- Clause 1 The GSAC may have other non-elected, paid administrative positions as recommended annually by the Chairperson, in consultation with the other members of the GSAC and approved by a simple majority vote of those members present at a regular meeting of the GSAC, in person or by proxy. All hires and terminations must take place in accordance with the Bylaws and Western Michigan University hiring and termination practices.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

- Section A** Efforts should be made to ensure that a regular GSAC meeting shall be held each month of the academic semester, but no less than three (3) meetings shall be held each semester during the Fall and Spring terms and no less than one (1) meeting shall be held each semester during the Summer I and Summer II terms. These meetings shall be scheduled by the Chairperson of the GSAC.

Section B Emergency or special meetings may be called by the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate College, or upon the written request of ten or more members. Members must be given at least forty-eight (48) hours notice regarding any emergency or special meetings that are called.

Section C Any graduate student enrolled at Western Michigan University shall have the right to attend any regular meeting of the GSAC.

ARTICLE VII. BYLAWS

Bylaws that accompany this Constitution shall be adopted at a GSAC meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those voting members present, in person or by proxy.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

Section A Any member may propose an amendment to this Constitution.

Clause 1 The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Chairperson at least two (2) weeks before it can be considered for adoption.

Clause 2 The Chairperson shall distribute copies of the proposed amendment to the GSAC membership within one (1) week of obtaining the proposed amendment.

Clause 3 The proposed amendment shall be considered at the next regular meeting of the GSAC, provided that the next regular meeting of the GSAC is more than two (2) weeks from the date on which the proposed amendment was submitted to the Chairperson.

Section B Any amendment to this Constitution shall require approval at a regular meeting of the GSAC by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all voting members present, in person or by proxy.

Section C Any amendment which receives approval shall become effective immediately after adjournment of the meeting at which it is adopted, unless a time frame after which the amendment is to take effect is specified within the amendment.

ARTICLE IX. RATIFICATION

Section A This Constitution shall be distributed to the membership of the GSAC for at least two (2) weeks before it can be considered for adoption.

Section B The ratification of this Constitution shall require approval at a regular meeting of the GSAC by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all voting members present, in person or by proxy.

Section C This Constitution shall become effective upon ratification. All officers and members of the GSAC shall remain in office after ratification, until their respective terms have been completed.