



UC Davis Graduate Student Association CONSTITUTION

Revised 3 March 2012*

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 outreach to its students, and to 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 post-Baccalaureate students of the UC Davis campus regularly enrolled 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 the Graduate Studies and the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs shall be non-voting members of the Association.

Section C. Persons that serve or contribute to 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.

* Approved by 2/3 vote of the Assembly on 3/7/2012 & 4/4/2012

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

The graduate students of each graduate program, as defined by the Graduate Council, or professional school with any Association members, shall elect one Assembly Representative for every thirty students in the program who pay GSA dues, or fraction thereof. The number of students in a graduate program shall be determined by the UCD Registrars Office in the spring quarter each year.

1. Appointments and length of service of Representatives for each graduate degree program shall be determined by their respective program.
2. Representatives of each graduate degree program are required to register with the Association to be recognized as an official representative of that program.
3. 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.

4. Representatives may designate an alternate from among the graduate students in the program for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Representative when the Representative is absent. The alternate must register with the Association in order to be recognized as an official alternate.

The duties of the Assembly shall be:

1. To 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. To encourage participation and discussion by the students in the individual graduate programs.
3. To be responsible 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. To undertake such business as it deems necessary to fulfill the purposes of the Association.
5. To review the actions of the Executive Council.
6. To elect the Executive Council of the Association.
7. To ensure the constitutionality of all Association actions.

Section C. Executive Council

1. The Executive Council shall be composed of the Chair, External Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Public Relations Officer and the Campus 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 Bylaws.
4. The former Chair, External Chair and Vice Chair 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 the Assembly if not fulfilling the duties of office. A two-thirds majority vote is required.
6. Should an office of the Executive Council become vacant, the Chair may appoint a temporary replacement until the Assembly elects a replacement at

the next meeting.

7. Should the Chair leave office, the Vice Chair shall assume the office until the Assembly elects a new Chair.
8. The Graduate Student Assistant to the Dean of Graduate Studies and to the Chancellor shall be 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, will be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Executive Council.

The responsibilities of the Executive Council shall be:

1. To act as the Executive Council of the Assembly.
2. To disburse the funds of the Association according to applicable University policies and the budget approved by the Assembly.
3. To administer programs.
4. To inform the Assembly and the graduate student community of actions, proposals and issues, which may affect graduate students.
5. To exercise other responsibilities as directed by the Assembly.
6. To report all its actions to the Assembly.
7. To approve the appointments of representatives to the Graduate Council.
8. To present a summary of their activities to the Assembly in a mid-year performance review.

Article V. Meetings

Section A. 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 Association Chair.
2. 10% of Registered Representatives at an Assembly meeting constitute a quorum to conduct business.
3. The Chair must call a special Assembly meeting upon petition by fifteen or more Representatives, or by a majority of the Executive Council. The Chair may call a special Assembly meeting on the request of the UC Office of the President, UC Davis Chancellor or Dean of Graduate Studies.

4. No members of the Executive Council may vote at Assembly meetings, except the Chair who shall vote only to break a tie.

Section C. General Meeting

1. A General Meeting may be called by petition of 10% of the general membership. Upon receipt of the petition, the Association Chair must call a general meeting.
2. The Association Chair shall preside at general meetings.
3. A General Meeting must be announced at least 14 days in advance. 5
4. A quorum is 10% or greater of the general membership.
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 Chair, who shall only cast a vote to break a tie.

Section D. Executive Council Meetings

1. Meetings of the Executive Council shall be called by the Chair 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 to the Constitution

Section A. The Assembly, by a two-thirds 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 seven 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 it shall be stricken from the By-Laws.

Article VII. Powers

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

Section B. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the assets of the Association shall be transferred to UCD Graduate Studies for the purpose of providing financial aid to UCD Graduate 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 amendment at least ten working days prior to the first meeting.