



**University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association
Constitution**

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1. Name

- 1.1.* The name of the organization is “University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students’ Association Inc.”, hereinafter referred to as the “Association”.
- 1.2.* The abbreviation of the name of the Association is “GSA”.

2. Definitions

- 2.1.* The following definitions shall be used in the GSA Constitution, the GSA Bylaws, and the GSA Policy Manual:
 - 2.1.1.* Constitution - the constitution of the Association;
 - 2.1.2.* Bylaws - the bylaws of the Association;
 - 2.1.3.* Policies - the policies of the Association;
 - 2.1.4.* Executive - comprised of the President and Vice-Presidents;
 - 2.1.5.* Board of Directors - as defined by Section 6.4 of this Constitution;
 - 2.1.6.* Academic Unit - any department, division, school, or college that falls under the purview of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies;
 - 2.1.7.* Academic Council - representative student organization of an Academic Unit;
 - 2.1.8.* Council - as described in Section 7 of this Constitution;
 - 2.1.9.* Councillors - registered member representatives from each ratified Academic Council;
 - 2.1.10.* Members or Membership - the members of the Association, as defined by Section 5 of this constitution;
 - 2.1.11.* University - the University of Saskatchewan;
 - 2.1.12.* Majority vote - as defined in the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order;
 - 2.1.13.* General Meetings - shall refer to both the Annual General Meeting and Special General Meetings;
 - 2.1.14.* Fiscal year - shall refer to the period between May 1 – April 30, inclusive;
 - 2.1.15.* Academic year - shall refer to the period between September 1 – August 31, inclusive.

3. Purpose

- 3.1.* The mission of the Association is to:
 - 3.1.1.* Be the recognized representative body for its Members to the University administration, its faculty, staff, and the external communities;
 - 3.1.2.* Ensure its Members have access to quality resources and services that support their academic success;
 - 3.1.3.* Advocate for the unique needs and concerns of its Members; and,
 - 3.1.4.* Build a cohesive community among its Members.

- 3.2 The Association shall attempt to provide professional, academic, and social activities and services, as well as promote awareness of issues relevant to its Members.
- 3.3 The Association recognizes every Member has the right to equal treatment with respect to access to academia, activities, services, organizations, etc., without discrimination. The Association further recognizes some Members have been historically and systematically disadvantaged. The Association shall strive to be free of all forms of discrimination in all endeavours.
- 3.4 The Association will consult with the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU), the Union of Graduate and Postdoctoral Workers (Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 40004) and the Society of Postdoctoral Scholars (SPS) on matters of common interest.
- 3.5 The Association shall be carried on without purpose of financial gain or profits from its Members. Any profits or other accretions shall be utilized in accordance with the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act, 1995.

4. Scope

- 4.1. The Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies of the Association must adhere to the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act, 1995.
- 4.2. The Constitution takes precedence over the Bylaws, which in turn take precedence over the Policies of the Association.

5. Membership and Fees

5.1. Members

- 5.1.1 There shall be three classes of membership for the Association: Regular Members, Associate Members and Honorary Lifetime Members.
- 5.1.2 An individual is a Regular Member if:
 - 5.1.2.1 They are a graduate student registered in the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the University;
 - 5.1.2.2 They are not a member of another student association recognized by the University Act; and,
 - 5.1.2.3 They have paid all Association fees in full.
- 5.1.3 An individual is an Associate Member if:
 - 5.1.3.1 They are a postdoctoral fellow at the University, or a registered graduate student in any of the University's Federated or Affiliated Colleges; and,
 - 5.1.3.2 They have paid all Association fees in full.
- 5.1.4 Honorary Lifetime Member
 - 5.1.4.1 May also be a Regular or Associate Member;

- 5.1.4.2 The position is purely symbolic with no Regular Membership rights or privileges;
- 5.1.4.3 The title shall be awarded by a majority vote at a General Meeting;
- 5.1.4.4 The title can be revoked by a majority vote at a General Meeting.

5.2 Rights, Privileges, and Obligations

5.1.1 The rights and privileges of Regular Members shall be, subject to the Association governing documents:

- 5.1.1.1 To vote and participate in all Association Elections, By-Elections and Referenda;
- 5.1.1.2 To hold office within the Association;
- 5.1.1.3 To attend meetings of the Association;
- 5.1.1.4 To move or second motions at meetings of the Association;
- 5.1.1.5 To speak for or against motions at meetings of the Association;
- 5.1.1.6 To vote in General Meetings;
- 5.1.1.7 To access services provided by the Association; and,
- 5.1.1.8 To gain admission to and/or actively participate in any Association sponsored event and/or program, subject to the restrictions of that particular event and/or program.

5.1.2 The rights, and privileges of Associate Members shall be:

- 5.1.2.1 To access services provided by the Association; and,
- 5.1.2.2 To gain admission to and/or actively participate in any Association sponsored event and/or program, subject to the restrictions of that particular event and/or program.

5.2 Fees

- 5.2.1 Regular Members shall be charged an annual fee to fund the operations of the Association. The University shall be empowered to collect fees from Regular Members on behalf of the GSA. The Executive shall be responsible for ensuring that said fees are expended in a manner consistent with the Bylaws and Policies of the Association.
- 5.2.2 Council shall approve any change to the GSA fee for the next fiscal year by a two-thirds (2/3, 67%) majority.
- 5.2.3 The GSA fee may be increased by no more than five percent (5%) per fiscal year, without a referendum.

6 Executive Committee

- 6.1 The Executive is a sub-committee of the Association and those in position must be Regular Members, registered with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at

the University, throughout the duration of their term as an Executive.

- 6.2** The Executive shall be responsible for the day to day activities of the Association, as specified by the Bylaws and Policies of the Association.
- 6.3** The Executive shall be comprised of:
 - 6.3.1** President;
 - 6.3.2** Vice-President Finance and Operations;
 - 6.3.3** Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs;
 - 6.3.4** Vice-President External Affairs;
 - 6.3.5** Vice-President Indigenous Engagement
- 6.4** The President and Vice-Presidents shall act as the Board of Directors.
 - 6.4.1** The composition of the Board shall adhere to those outlined in section 92 of the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act, 1995.
 - 6.4.2** If section 92(4) is not fulfilled, the GSA delegates to Council the authority to take the necessary steps to ensure compliance. Council, by recommendation from the Elections and Referenda Committee, may choose to:
 - 6.4.2.1** Appoint one (1) or two (2) members of Council, as necessary, to the Board, who shall be resident Canadians as defined by the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act, 1995.
 - 6.4.3** The Board shall meet, in-person or otherwise, at least once (1) per Fiscal Year, and in accordance with the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act, 1995.
- 6.5** With the exception of the Vice-President Indigenous Engagement, the Executive shall be elected in a general election of the Regular Membership, to be held before the end of the current fiscal year.
- 6.6** The Vice-President Indigenous Engagement shall be elected in a general election of Indigenous graduate student Regular Members, to be held before the end of the current fiscal year.
- 6.7** The term for the Executive, and Board, is from May 1 to April 30, inclusive.

7 Council

- 7.1** There shall be a Council of the GSA, which shall serve as the policy, political and advocacy body of the organization.
- 7.2** Members of Council include:
 - 7.2.1** The Executive;
 - 7.2.2** Regular Members who are:
 - 7.2.2.1** The designated graduate student representatives of Academic Councils; and,
 - 7.2.2.2** The designated graduate student representatives of Indigenous

graduate students.

7.3 Each Academic Unit shall only have one Academic Council.

7.4 With the exception of the Executive, Council members shall be elected according to the constitution and bylaws of their respective Academic Council.

8 General Meetings

8.1 Annual General Meeting

8.1.1 The Association shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) once per fiscal year, sometime between the months of September and April, inclusive.

8.1.2 In addition to any other business proposed by Council or Regular Members, the following business shall be conducted at the AGM:

8.1.2.1 Receiving the audited financial statements; and,

8.1.2.2 Appointment of the auditor.

8.2 Special General Meetings

8.2.1 A Special General Meeting (SGM) shall be called if:

8.2.1.1 A petition to call a SGM with the names, NSIDs, and signatures of at least one-hundred (100) Regular Members is submitted to the Association during regular business hours; or,

8.2.1.2 A motion to call a SGM is passed by a majority vote of Council.

8.3 Quorum

8.3.1 Quorum for General Meetings shall be fifty (50) Regular Members.

8.4 Notice of General Meeting

8.4.1 There must be at least 30 days' notice given to Regular Members for a General Meeting.

8.5 Agenda for a General Meeting

8.5.1 A call for agenda items shall be made to Regular Members at the same time as notice of a General Meeting is given.

8.5.2 The agenda, with supporting materials, shall be made available to Regular Members seven (7) days in advance of a General Meeting.

8.6 Amendments to Governing Documents

8.6.1 Proposed amendments must be circulated with the agenda.

8.6.2 Constitutional Amendments:

8.6.2.1 The Constitution may only be amended at a General Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3, 67%) majority vote of Regular Members present.

8.6.3 Bylaw Amendments:

8.6.3.1 Bylaws may only be amended at a General Meeting by a majority vote of Regular Members present.

8.6.4 Policy Amendments:

8.6.4.1 Policies may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3, 67%) majority vote of Council, or at a General meeting, by a majority vote of Regular Members present.