



**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.* Academic Unit - Any department, division, school, or college that falls under the purview of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies;
 - 2.1.5.* Academic Council - Representative student organization of an Academic Unit;
 - 2.1.6.* Executive – Comprised of the President, the Vice-Presidents, and Indigenous Liaison;
 - 2.1.7.* Council - As described in Article 7 of this Constitution;
 - 2.1.8.* Councillors - Registered member representatives from each eligible Academic Council;
 - 2.1.9.* Members or Membership - The members of the Association;
 - 2.1.10.* University - The University of Saskatchewan;
 - 2.1.11.* Majority vote - as defined in the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order;
 - 2.1.12.* General Meetings - shall refer to both the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meetings.

3. Purpose

- 3.1.* The purpose of the Association is to:
 - 3.1.1.* Be the recognized representative body for its Members to the University administration, its faculty, and the external community;
 - 3.1.2.* Ensure its Members have access to quality 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, as well as promote awareness of issues that are relevant to its Members, and provide services to its Members;
- 3.3.* The Association recognizes that every student has the right to equal treatment with

respect to student activities, services, and organizations, without discrimination due to race, ancestry, and place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender, age, marital status, family status, disability, or the receipt of public assistance. The Association further recognizes that some Members have been historically and systematically disadvantaged on the above grounds, with resultant under-representation in institutions of post-secondary education. 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) and the Union of Graduate and Postdoctoral Workers (Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 40004) 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 Section 30 of 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 eligible; and,
 - 5.1.2.2.** They have paid all Association fees in full.
 - 5.1.2.3.** Eligibility
 - 5.1.2.3.1.** All graduate students registered in the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the University are eligible to be Regular Members;
 - 5.1.2.3.2.** Graduate student members of the Saskatoon Theological Union are eligible to become Regular Members if they are registered with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.
- 5.1.3.** An individual is an Associate Member if
 - 5.1.3.1.** They are a postdoctoral fellow at the University; and,

6. Executive Committee

- 6.1.** The Executive is a sub-committee of the Association and those in position should be registered graduate students with the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the University;
- 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 Student Affairs;
 - 6.3.4.** Vice-President External;
 - 6.3.5.** Indigenous Liaison.
- 6.4.** The President and Vice-Presidents shall act as the Board of Directors;
- 6.5.** With the exception of the Indigenous Liaison, the Executive shall be elected in a general election of the Membership to be held before the end of the current Executive's term;
- 6.6.** With the exception of the Indigenous Liaison, the term for the Executive is from May 1 to April 30;
- 6.7.** Members of the Executive Committee shall work effectively together.

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.** Council membership:
 - 7.2.1.** Members of Council are:
 - 7.2.1.1.** The Executive;
 - 7.2.1.2.** Regular Members who are:
 - 7.2.1.2.1.** The designated graduate student representatives of Academic Councils; and,
 - 7.2.1.2.2.** The designated graduate student representatives of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Council.
- 7.3.** Election of Council Members
 - 7.3.1.** 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, held 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;
 - 8.1.2.2.** Receiving a report from each Executive with respect to the activities of the preceding year;
 - 8.1.2.3.** 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) Members.
 - 8.4.** Notice of General Meeting
 - 8.4.1.** There must be at least 30 days' notice for a General Meeting.
 - 8.5.** Agenda for a General Meeting
 - 8.5.1.** A call for agenda items shall be made 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 Members one (1) week in advance of a General Meeting.
 - 8.6.** Amendments for 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) vote of 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 Members present.
 - 8.6.4.** Policy Amendments:
 - 8.6.4.1.** Policies may be amended by a majority vote of Council or at a General meeting.