

Graduate Student Association at UAH

April 14, 2022

ARTICLE ONE: Name

The name of this organization shall be the "Graduate Student Association at the University of Alabama in Huntsville" or "Graduate Student Association at UAH" or "GSA at UAH".

ARTICLE TWO: Purpose

The mission of the Graduate Student Association at UAH is to listen to, serve the needs of, advocate for, and foster collaboration among graduate students at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

ARTICLE THREE: Membership

Section 1

Membership of the GSA at UAH shall consist of all graduate students currently enrolled at the University of Alabama in Huntsville who express their intent to join. Members cannot be expelled from the GSA; however, they can opt out after joining.

Section 2

Members are eligible to seek any office under this Constitution. No member shall hold more than one Executive Council office.

Section 3

Membership in registered student organizations shall be open to all graduate students of The University of Alabama in Huntsville, without regard to race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin, except in cases of designated fraternal organizations exempted by federal law from Title IX regulations concerning discrimination on the basis of sex.

ARTICLE FOUR: Offices

Section 1: Composition

The Executive Council shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Additional committees may be created by the voting members of the GSA at UAH.

Section 2: Selection

1. The Executive Council of the GSA at UAH shall be elected by the members of the GSA at UAH.
2. No more than 75% of the members of the Executive Council shall come from one academic college.
3. Terms shall be for one year.
4. Executive Council elections shall be held in the spring.

Section 3: Duties of Officers

1. The president shall serve as the head of the GSA at UAH and exercise principal executive power. The president will preside over the Executive Council, call meetings to order, establish the agenda for each meeting, and call special elections as the need arises.
2. In the absence of the president the vice president will assume the duties of the president. The vice president will coordinate business activities of the association as necessary. The vice president will call meetings to order if the president is unable to attend the meeting.
3. The secretary shall record the minutes and attendance of each meeting and ensure that they are presented completely, accurately, timely, and that they are authenticated. Furthermore, the secretary is responsible for maintaining appropriate files of all documents necessary.

4. The treasurer shall be accountable for keeping accurate records of association funds. The treasurer shall make reports to the executive council regarding budget balances, sources, and uses of funds. The treasurer will create and propose a budget to the university as needed per the university protocol.

Section 4: Duties and Powers

1. The Executive Council shall serve as the Executive Branch of the GSA at UAH.
2. The Executive Council may, on their own counsel or the recommendation or petition of one or more graduate student(s), undertake initiatives for the improvement of graduate student life as they see fit.
3. The Executive Council shall post an annual report on the GSA at UAH website or via an email to the delegate body each April summarizing the previous year's activities.

Section 5: Vacancies

1. If the need to fill a vacant position on the Executive Council arises before the end of a member's term, the President (or, in the absence thereof, by the Vice President) will call for a special election. If no Executive Council members are available, the Graduate School will call for a special election.

Section 6: Meetings for Executive Council

1. The Executive Council shall hold regularly scheduled meetings at least three times per semester.
2. Regular meetings of the Executive Council should be announced no less than fourteen days in advance via email by executive officers.
3. Each regular Executive Council meeting shall have a time designated for graduate students to address the Executive Council. This time must be open to the public. Aside from this time, meetings may be open or closed to the public, unless otherwise required by law.
4. Extraordinary meetings of the Executive Council may be called by the President (or, in the absence thereof, by the Vice President) upon three days' notice. Decisions made at extraordinary meetings must be ratified at the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE FIVE: Meetings

Section 1

The GSA at UAH shall hold Town Hall General Meetings during the fall and spring semesters of each academic year. These meetings shall serve as a forum for GSA at UAH members to voice concerns directly to the Executive Council.

Section 2

The inauguration of GSA officers shall take place at the first fall Town Hall Meeting.

Section 3

Other General Meetings may be called by the President.

Section 4

General meetings shall be announced no fewer than fourteen calendar days in advance.

ARTICLE SIX: Relationships

GSA at UAH shall have no relationships to or be controlled by any other local, state or national organization.

ARTICLE SEVEN: Committees

The Executive Council will identify needed committees for each semester and will appoint individuals to serve on said committees. The Executive Council, at its discretion, may establish working groups to consider a specific problem or issue relevant to graduate students.

ARTICLE EIGHT: Advisors

Section 1

GSA at UAH will consist of two or three advisors from the Graduate School staff, appointed by the Graduate Dean.

Section 2

The advisors will not have expirations on their terms.

ARTICLE NINE: Parliamentary Authority

The parliamentarian shall maintain proper parliamentary procedures as defined by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. The parliamentarian shall also oversee the election process of officers, and oversee special elections if vacancies occur.

ARTICLE TEN: Amendments

Section 1

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members at the meeting at which the amendment comes up for a vote.

Section 2

This constitution may be replaced in its entirety provided that the replacement is proposed by a three-fourths majority vote of the Executive Council and adopted by a three-fifths majority vote of the full GSA at UAH membership (not to be interpreted as three-fifths of those voting in such a referendum).

ARTICLE ELEVEN: By-Laws

Section 1

The Executive Council and any other bodies established under this Constitution shall adopt by-laws to govern themselves.

Section 2

No provision in any By-Laws established under this Constitution shall contradict this Constitution.

Section 3

The standard for amendment of by-laws or replacement of by-laws shall be a two-thirds majority vote of the group subject to those by-laws.

Section 4

Only the group governed by a set of by-laws shall vote regarding adoption or amendment.

ARTICLE TWELVE: Relationship with The University of Alabama in Huntsville

The GSA is a student organization of The University of Alabama in Huntsville, and shall comply with the conditions prescribed by the University for student organizations. The GSA shall be advised by one or more faculty or staff member(s) of the University, who shall be permitted to, but not required to, attend all GSA meetings, including meetings of constituent bodies established under this Constitution, and sub-groups thereof.