

Marquette University
Graduate Student Organization Constitution
Revised and Approved January 2009

Preamble

This constitution sets out the structure and functioning of the Graduate Student Organization—Marquette University.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Graduate Student Organization—Marquette University (hereinafter either “the Organization” or “GSO”).

Article II: Purpose

The Organization will have as its primary mission to serve as a channel for graduate students to voice concerns, resolve difficulties, and provide feedback on issues that directly effect graduate student life at Marquette University. Consistent with the University Mission Statement, it will accomplish this goal by:

- Actively representing graduate students to the University
- Advocating changes deemed necessary by graduate students
- Fostering inter-departmental cooperation and exchange
- Encouraging unity among the graduate students as a whole
- Improving the academic environment for graduate students through sponsored events
- Providing social events for graduate students
- Working with University Ministry to provide spiritual support for graduate students who seek it

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Membership in the GSO shall be available to any part-time or full-time graduate or professional student enrolled at Marquette University.

Section 2: Non-Discrimination Clause. Consistent with all applicable federal and state laws and University policies, this organization and its subordinate bodies and officers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, sexual orientation, religion, veteran’s status, sex, national origin, or disability in its selection of members, educational programs, or activities.

Section 3: Dues. At this time no dues are levied. This provision is subject to change at the Organization’s discretion.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1: Officers of the Organization

- 1) The primary officer of the Organization will be the Chair. A Vice Chair and Treasurer may be elected by the organization as needed.
- 2) The officers must be members in good standing of the Organization.
- 3) New offices may be created, as necessary, at the discretion of the Organization.
- 4) All other responsibilities will be distributed according to the discretion of the Organization. Committees, both standing and ad hoc may be created or disassembled at the discretion of the GSO.

5) All officers shall serve for one academic year (August through May), but may be reelected for a subsequent term.

Section 2: Election of Officers

1) Election of officers will occur prior to the end of the spring semester in a manner consistent with the voting procedures outlined in Article VIII. A candidate must have a plurality of the vote to win the election.

2) Candidates must be members in good standing in the Organization.

3) In the event that no Chair is elected, the Coordinator will be asked to assume both positions or bring another candidate to the organization for a vote. This is the only event that one person may hold more than one position.

Section 3: Officers shall not be on academic or university probation at the time of their elections and throughout their terms of office.

Section 4: Duties of Officers

1) Chair: this officer shall coordinate meeting times, locations, and agendas, and will be responsible for conducting meetings.

2) Vice-Chair: this officer shall carry on all the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair and will act as the interim Chair if the Chair should resign or be removed from office.

3) Treasurer: this officer shall keep track of expenditures and income for the Organization and will report such information in a timely fashion to the Organization. All checks will need to be co-signed by the Treasurer and by the Chair. All expenditures will require the approval of the Organization.

Section 5: Removal of Officers

1) The removal of an Officer requires a 2/3 vote of a quorum following the notification of the officer in question. Such notification shall be provided in writing no less than seven days prior to the vote. The vote shall be conducted according to voting procedures outlined in Article VIII.

2) Upon the removal of an Officer, the Chair shall nominate an interim Officer to fill that position. If the Chair is removed, the Vice-Chair shall assume the Chair's position in the interim as provided in Article IV, §4.2.

Section 6: Replacement of Officers

If an Officer leaves their position within the Organization for any reason, a replacement Officer shall be elected for the remainder of the term within one month. This election shall be conducted according to the voting procedures outline in Article VIII.

Article V: Coordinator to the Organization

Section 1: A graduate assistant will fill the position of the Coordinator to the Organization. This assistantship will run for the length of the school year (August-May).

Section 2: Duties

1) The Coordinator reports to the officers of the Organization.

2) The Coordinator shall attend all meetings of the Organization unless the meeting conflicts with a class in which the Coordinator is registered.

3) The Coordinator is responsible for keeping minutes of the meetings of the Organization and publishing those minutes to the GSO web site.

4) The Coordinator shall keep a record of attendance at GSO meetings, maintain contact information for active members of the Organization, and report such information to the Organization as requested.

5) The Coordinator shall tabulate and report the results of votes to the Organization.

- 6) The Coordinator shall carry out necessary and appropriate secretarial and/or logistical work for the Organization, including but not limited to copying, organizing events, publicizing information about the Organization, finding information, and scheduling rooms.
- 7) The Coordinator shall be responsible for maintaining the GSO web site and checking the GSO email address.
- 8) Committee chairs may call upon the Coordinator to perform relevant tasks for the work of the committee.
- 9) The Coordinator shall fulfill all necessary responsibilities to the University in order to maintain his or her assistantship.
- 10) The Coordinator shall not be on academic or university probation at the time of his or her application to the position and throughout his or her term of office.

Section 3: Hiring Procedure

- 1) The position of the Coordinator shall be advertised to all current graduate and professional students within the University.
- 2) A hiring committee, consisting of the Dean of the Graduate School, the Chair of the Organization, the Adviser to the Organization, and the outgoing Coordinator to the Organization, shall review applications and conduct interviews of the candidates for the position. If the outgoing Coordinator reapplies for the position, he or she will not participate on the hiring committee for any of the candidates.
- 3) The hiring committee shall offer the position to a candidate no later than the end of the spring semester.
- 4) The Organization may recommend specific qualifications to the hiring committee.

Section 4: Participation in the Organization

- 1) The Coordinator may not hold an officer position during his or her tenure as Coordinator unless no Chair has been elected. In this event, the Coordinator will assume the Chair position until a Chair is brought to and elected by the organization. Open elections will be held at the end of first semester, if needed to fill the Chair position mid-year.
- 2) All other privileges of membership in the Organization, including voting rights, are retained by the Coordinator.

Section 5: Removal of the Coordinator

- 1) The Organization may recommend the removal of the Coordinator to the Graduate School via a 2/3 vote of the Organization. This vote shall be conducted in accordance with the voting procedures outlined in Article VIII.
- 2) Upon the recommendation of removal by the Organization, the procedures for terminating an assistantship shall be followed.
- 3) Upon the removal of the Coordinator, the hiring committee shall convene to select a new Coordinator as soon as possible in accordance with the relevant provisions of Article V, §3. The removed coordinator shall not participate on the hiring committee. The Chair may appoint an interim Coordinator, although this person will not receive an assistantship for this position.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1: A regularly scheduled meeting shall be held at least twice a semester while school is in session at a time and place to be determined by the Organization.

Section 2: Meeting times shall be publicized on the GSO web site at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Article VII: Committees

The Organization as a whole shall have the authority to create any committees, standing or special, that will further the purpose of the Organization.

Article VIII: Voting

Section 1: Matters Requiring a Vote

- 1) The Organization shall vote on any official business, including but not limited to elections of officers, setting dues, and any other major issues affecting the Organization.
- 2) No vote is needed for informal input and feedback by the Organization.

Section 2: Voting Procedure

- 1) All votes shall be prominently announced at least seven days prior to the conclusion of the voting period.
- 2) All current members of the Organization are eligible to vote.
- 3) Voting shall be conducted by an electronic method that allows members to vote without having to attend a particular meeting.
- 4) A quorum for a vote is 10 members.
- 5) A majority vote is required for all decisions unless otherwise specified. A majority vote succeeds if more people vote for the proposal than against it. A 2/3 vote requires an affirmative response from 2/3 of the members who submit votes in order to prevail. A plurality vote requires the largest number of votes given to any one option for that decision, without counting abstentions.
- 6) Ties for majority and plurality votes shall be broken by the decision of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer.

Article IX: Affiliation

At present, the Graduate Student Organization—Marquette University is not affiliated with any organizations outside of Marquette University. The Organization may vote to form such affiliations if it sees fit.

Article X: Amendments

Section 1: All amendments to this constitution must be approved by a 2/3 vote through the voting procedures outlined in Article VIII.

Section 2: Amendments become effective only after approval by the Office of Student Development. Nothing in this constitution shall be subject to review by MUSG.

Article XI: Ratification

This constitution shall become active upon the approval of the Office of Student Development and the 2/3 vote of the Organization, to be conducted in accordance with the voting procedure in Article VIII.