

Constitution *for the* Graduate Student Government *of* Michigan Technological University

1. Name

- a. The name of this organization shall be: The Graduate Student Government of Michigan Technological University.
- b. The Graduate Student Government shall be referred to as “GSG” in this document.

2. Objectives and Purpose

- a. To foster the personal, professional, and intellectual development of graduate students.
- b. To provide liaisons who represent the personal, professional, and intellectual concerns of the graduate students to the various governing and policy-making bodies of the university.
- c. To inform the graduate students of newly developing policies and procedures affecting them.
- d. To support and promote policies and events which foster cooperation between the graduate students, faculty, and administration.
- e. To use:
 - i. Graduate School Funds allocated to the GSG for distribution as Graduate Student Travel Grants.
 - ii. Any Funds received from Student Activity Fees paid by graduate students to promote the personal, professional, and intellectual growth of graduate students at Michigan Tech.
- f. To advise the Dean of the Graduate School, the Board of Control and other administrative bodies on matters of interest to graduate students.
- g. To foster relationships with graduate and professional student organizations at other universities by sharing information and resources which can help enrich graduate students’ personal, professional, and intellectual development.

3. Structure of The Graduate Student Government GSG

- a. GSG “Members” shall consist of: Graduate Student Departmental Representatives and their Alternates (referred to collectively as “Representatives” in this document), the Executive Board, and Members-at-large.
- b. The rights, duties, and responsibilities of GSG Members shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.
- c. The GSG affirms the Michigan Technological University Board of Control Equal Opportunity Policy (effective December 9, 2005) and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, nationality, age, sex/gender, sexual orientation, height, weight, marital status, disability, or veteran status.

4. Meetings

- a. The GSG shall determine the frequency of its meetings, as set forth in the Bylaws.
- b. The GSG may discuss, debate, vote, and act upon any subject within its purview.

5. Budget

- a. Expenditures and other financial transactions must follow the approved GSG budget and the policies and procedures of the University.
- b. Authorization from the GSG for the release and movement of GSG monies must be obtained from either the President or the Treasurer, as set forth in the Bylaws.
- c. The GSG fiscal year shall extend from July 1st to June 30th each year. .
- d. By the last meeting in March of the Spring Semester, Members shall present proposals for funding for the upcoming fiscal year.
- e. By the first meeting in April of the Spring Semester, The treasurer shall prepare a draft a budget for the following fiscal year and present it in person to the GSG, at which time GSG Members may amend, pass, or reject the budget.
- f. The draft budget must be approved by two-thirds vote in the affirmative , assuming quorum..
 - i. In case of rejection of the budget, the Treasurer will present a revised budget for consideration at each next meeting, until passed.
 - ii. Any proposed changes to an approved budget must be in compliance with proposal guidelines and approved by a two-thirds vote in the affirmative by the GSG as set forth in the Bylaws.
 - iii. Any group obtaining financial or other resources from the GSG must comply with any conditions or restrictions imposed by the GSC; failure to comply with said restrictions may result in sanctions as established in the Bylaws.
- g. The GSG financial records may be subject at any time to an official audit, to be performed by the Office of Internal Audit, when requested by any member of the GSG, or the Dean of the Graduate School.

6. Representation

- a. Each department is entitled to at least one Departmental Representative on GSG.
- b. All Representatives eligible to serve on GSG must be elected by their home departments, as outlined in the Bylaws.
- c. The number of Departmental Representatives to which each department is entitled shall be proportionate to its total graduate student enrollment, as outlined in the Bylaws.
- d. Representatives and Members-at-large must be currently enrolled graduate students.
- e. "Members-at-large" shall be voluntary (non-elected) members of GSG, with the following restrictions:
 - i. They may serve on but not chair committees.
 - ii. They may not serve on the Board.
 - iii. They may not vote.

- f. At least one Representative must attend all regularly scheduled GSG meetings (excluding excused absences) in order to maintain eligibility for the department's students to receive travel grants, as set forth in the bylaws.
 - i. Absences may only be excused by a simple majority vote in the affirmative by the executive board.

7. Principal Officers

- a. The principal officers of the GSG shall consist of the following: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- b. All Principal Officers shall be elected from among the Representatives or previous Executive Board by a simple majority vote in the affirmative, as set forth in the bylaws.

8. Committee Chairs

- a. Committee Chairs shall chair their respective standing committees, as set forth in the Bylaws.
- b. Committee Chairs shall be elected from among the GSG Members by a simple majority vote in the affirmative, assuming quorum.

9. Executive Board

- a. The GSG shall establish an Executive Board (“the Board”) as outlined in this Constitution and Bylaws.
- b. The Principal Officers and Committee Chairs of the GSG shall constitute the Board.
- c. No more than two positions on the Board shall be filled by Members from the same department.
- d. The Board shall be empowered to take all appropriate measures for the execution of any plan, policy, or program specifically approved by the GSG. In all actions, the Board shall be responsible to the GSG and shall report to the GSG.
- e. Any member of the Board may request, in writing, the convening of a Board meeting. The President shall convene said meeting within five (5) calendar days.
- f. The Board may appoint a temporary replacement for an absent Principal Officer or Committee Chair from the pool of Representatives without consulting the GSG or holding elections, provided said replacement satisfied requirements outlined herein and in the bylaws.
 - i. Temporary shall be defined as sixty days.
 - ii. No individual may be reappointed beyond sixty days in any temporary position.

10. Advisors

- a. The Dean of the Graduate School shall be an advisor to the GSG.
- b. Additional advisors to the GSG may be sought with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School.

11. Ratification and Amendments

- a. This Constitution shall be ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote, assuming quorum, and with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School.

- b. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any Member of GSG at any regularly scheduled GSG meeting. .
- c. All proposed Constitutional amendments shall be published in the minutes of the GSG meeting at which the amendment was proposed. The GSG may not vote on the amendment before the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- d. The GSG shall adopt no Constitutional amendment without a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, assuming quorum, during a regularly scheduled meeting, and with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School.

12. Registration

- a. The President of the GSG shall annually ensure registration of the GSG as a student organization where required.

Updated: October 29, 2009