

Graduate Student Council Michigan Technological University



GSC Resolution No. 2009-05

Introduced by:

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GSC CONSTITUTION OCTOBER 12, 2009

MOTION: *Be it resolved that* the Constitution of the Graduate Student Council of Michigan Technological University be amended to read as shown below.

EXPLANATION AND JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES

All changes are indicated in boldface, with simple bold indicating additions, and strike-through indicating deletions. The changes are intended to:

- Resolve the vagueness of terms used to name/define council members in preparation for work on clarifying and simplifying the bylaws.
- Clearly define the terms “simple majority vote in the affirmative” and “two-thirds vote in the affirmative” to avoid the confusion regarding this exemplified in the last elections.
- Make other minor clarifications and eliminate all redundancy.
- Change the name of “Graduate Student Council” to “Graduate Student Government.”
- Add the following language, charging GSC 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.”
- Add the newly required language, charging GSC to embrace a policy of non-discrimination: “The GSC 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 status as a veteran.”
- Clarify and concretize various dates, time-periods and procedures, such as the process of drafting and amending the budget.
- Add a non-voting member category of “member-at-large” to encourage more voices and participation on GSC.

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

1. Name

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

2. Objectives and Purpose

- a. To foster the **personal**, professional, and ~~scholarly~~ **intellectual** development of ~~and amongst~~ graduate students.
- b. To provide liaisons who represent the **personal**, professional, **and** intellectual, ~~and academic~~ 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 ~~among the~~ **between the** graduate students, ~~with the faculty, as well as the university and~~ **administration.**
- e. ~~To provide Representatives (hereafter referred to as “Liaisons” to decision-making bodies administered by the University., hereafter to be referred to as Liaisons.~~
- f. To ~~distribute~~ **use:**
 - i. Graduate School Funds allocated to the ~~GSC~~ **GSG** for distribution ~~to as~~ Graduate Students ~~as +~~ Travel ~~g~~Grants.
 - ii. ~~A portion of~~ **Any Funds** received ~~from through~~ Student Activity Fees paid by graduate students **to promote the personal, professional, and intellectual growth of graduate students at Michigan Tech.**
- g. To ~~deliberate~~ **advise the Dean of the Graduate School, the Board of Control and other administrative bodies** on matters of interest to graduate students. ~~brought forward to the GSG by the Dean of the Graduate School and offer recommendations on those items and/or other topics of general interest to the GSG and to the Dean of the Graduate School.~~
- h. **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 ~~GSC~~ **GSG**

- a. ~~GSC 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. Such representatives shall be designated as either Voting "Representatives" or "Alternate Representatives," with their rights and duties as outlined in the Bylaws.
- c. **The rights, duties, and responsibilities of GSG Members, Representatives, the Executive Board, Liaisons, and Advisors shall be as outlined set forth** in the Bylaws.
- d. ~~The Dean of the Graduate School shall be an advisor to the GSC GSG.~~
- e. ~~Additional advisors may be sought and elected by through a simple majority vote; a Simple Majority Vote shall be defined as a one (1) greater than half the voting members present, assuming quorum.~~
- f. **The GSC 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 status as a veteran.**

4. Meetings

- a. ~~The GSC GSG shall determine the frequency of its meetings, as provided for set forth in the Bylaws.~~
- b. ~~The GSC GSG may discuss, debate, vote, and act upon any subject within its competence purview, as determined by its stated aims.~~
- c. ~~A simple majority vote of the GSC in the presence of a quorum shall be binding on the Government and its Board, except where specified by the Bylaws.~~
- a. **A "simple majority vote in the affirmative" shall consist of an affirmative vote of one greater than half the members present rounded to the nearest whole number, assuming quorum.**
- b. **A "two-thirds vote in the affirmative" shall consist of an affirmative vote of two-thirds the members present rounded to the nearest whole number, assuming quorum.**

5. Budget

- a. ~~Procedures~~
 - i. Expenditures and other ~~monetary~~ **financial** transactions must follow the **approved GSC GSG budget approved by the GSC and must fall within the policies and procedures of the University.**
 - ii. Authorization from the ~~GSC GSG~~ for the release and movement of GSG monies must be obtained from either the President or the Treasurer, as ~~stated~~ **set forth** in the Bylaws.
 - iii. ~~The GSC GSG fiscal year shall extend from July 1st to June 30th each year. the first Council GSG meeting in July until the next such meeting, one year following.~~
 - iv. **By the last meeting in March of the Spring Semester, Members shall present proposals for funding for the upcoming fiscal year.**

- v. **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 GSG, in the Spring** at which time **Council GSG Representatives Members** may present proposals for funding **amend, pass, or reject the budget.**
- vi. The ~~proposed draft~~ budget must be approved by the two-thirds **vote in the affirmative** of the ~~Voting Representatives present~~, assuming quorum., ~~at the first Council GSG meeting in April.~~
 - (1) **In case of rejection of the budget, the Treasurer will present a revised budget for consideration at each next meeting, until passed.**
 - (2) ~~Budget~~ **Any** proposed changes to **an approved** the budget must be in compliance with proposal guidelines ~~shall be determined by the Treasurer and approved by a two-thirds vote in the affirmative by the Council Representatives GSG Members present as established as set forth~~ in the Bylaws.
- b. ~~Non-compliance of a funded group to the GSG approved~~ **Any group obtaining financial or other resources from the GSG must comply with any conditions or restrictions imposed by the GSG; failure to comply with said restrictions** budget may result in ~~recourse~~ sanctions as established in the Bylaws.
- c. Audit
 - i. The ~~GSG 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 GSG**, or the Dean of the Graduate School.

6. Representation

- a. Each department is entitled to at least one Departmental Representative on ~~the Council GSG.~~
- b. **All** Representatives eligible to serve on ~~GSG GSG and their Alternates~~ **must be** elected by a ~~democratic majority within~~ their home departments and/or programs, as outlined in the Bylaws.
- c. The number of ~~voting~~ **Departmental** Representatives to which each department is entitled ~~to~~ shall be proportionate to its total graduate **student** enrollment, as outlined in the Bylaws.
- d. ~~Voting Representatives and Alternates~~ **and Members-at-large** must be **currently enrolled graduate students.** ~~in residence and duly enrolled in with the Graduate School.~~
- e. **“Members-at-large” shall be voluntary (non-elected) members of GSG 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** ~~Departments must maintain attendance of at least one Voting or Alternate Representative~~ **all Council GSG 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 ~~Council~~ **GSG** shall consist of the following: President, Vice President, Secretary, **and** Treasurer.
- b. All **Principal** Officers shall be ~~chosen~~ elected from **among** the ~~Voting~~ Representatives **or previous Executive Board** by a simple majority vote in the affirmative, **as set forth in the bylaws.**
- ~~c. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.~~

8. Committee Chairs

- a. Committee Chairs shall **chair their respective** ~~consist of the leaders of the~~ standing committees, as set forth in the Bylaws.
- b. Committee Chairs shall be **elected** ~~chosen~~ from **among** the **GSG** Members ~~Voting~~ Representatives **and must be elected by the general council**, by a simple majority vote in the affirmative, **assuming quorum.**
- ~~c. Committees can have co-chairs.~~
- ~~d. Committee chairs shall adhere to their duties as specified in the Bylaws.~~

9. Executive Board

- a. ~~GSC~~ **The GSG** shall establish an Executive Board (~~hereafter referred to as "the Board"~~) as outlined in this constitution and Bylaws.
- b. The Principal Officers ~~of the Council GSC~~, **and** Committee Chairs **of the GSG**, ~~and the Government Advisors~~ shall constitute the ~~Executive Board~~.
- c. No more than two positions on the Board shall be filled by ~~Voting~~ Representatives 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 ~~GSC~~ **GSG**. In all actions, the Board shall be responsible to the ~~GSC~~ **GSG** and shall report to the ~~GSC~~ **GSG**.
- e. Any member of the Board may request, in writing, the convening of a Board meeting. The President ~~will~~ **shall** convene said meeting ~~act on the request~~ 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 ~~Voting~~ Representatives without consulting the ~~Council~~ **GSG** or holding elections, provided said replacement **satisfied requirements** ~~meets those qualifications outlined above~~ **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 GSC GSG.**

- b. ~~Principal officers, Committee Chairs, and~~ **Additional advisors** to the GSC ~~GSG~~ may be sought with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. ~~but must be elected by a simple majority, in the presence of a quorum, as specified by the Bylaws.~~
- c. ~~The date of election shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.~~
- d. ~~Additional advisors~~ **beyond the Dean of the Graduate School must** need to be elected by the GSG ~~with a simple majority vote, assuming quorum, as set forth in the Bylaws.~~

11. Ratification and Amendments

- a. This constitution ~~is~~ **shall** to be ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote, ~~in the presence of a~~ 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 Voting/ Alternate Representative of the Graduate Student Government** at **any a regularly scheduled GSG meeting.** ~~of the GSC.~~
- c. All proposed Constitutional amendments ~~will~~ **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 ~~may~~ **shall** adopt the **no Constitutional** amendment by **without** a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, **assuming** ~~in the presence of a quorum, at the meeting following publication in the minutes of the proposed amendment,~~ **during a regularly scheduled meeting, and** with **the** approval of the **Dean of the Graduate School.** ~~Dean of Students.~~

12. Registration

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

~~**2. Ratification**~~

- a. ~~_____~~

~~**3. Registration**~~

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

Updated: October 12, 2009