



Graduate Student Senate

O H I O U N I V E R S I T Y

GSS Constitution

Approved by the OU Board of Trustees 4-11-03
Ratified by the Graduate Student Senate on March 13, 2003

PREAMBLE

We, the graduate students of Ohio University of the Athens campus, hereby set forth to form a representative graduate student senate to participate in the formulation and application of both university and community policy, and with the goal of enhancing the quality of life and education of all graduate students, hereby establish the Ohio University Graduate Student Senate.

ARTICLE I: NAME

SECTION A: NAME

The official name of the organization shall be the Ohio University Graduate Student Senate (GSS), hereafter referred to as GSS.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

SECTION A: GENERAL

1. Act as the official representative body of graduate students enrolled at Ohio University.
2. Exercise its right to have input on all decisions and actions that will affect the welfare of the graduate student body.
3. Inform the graduate student body of issues relevant to its welfare.
4. Receive student complaints, investigate student problems, concerns, work toward their resolution, and present the representative voice of the graduate student body's perspective, opinion and recommend actions it feels are appropriate to the University, the community and other governing bodies.
5. Provide academic and administrative programs, opportunities, and community activities for the University, the community and for the graduate student body in particular.
6. Provide a forum in which the graduate student body may present, discuss, and set upon issues related to its role in the academic and non-academic aspects of the University and the community.
7. Work with the Ohio University Student Senate on common issues, concerns, and activities.

ARTICLE III: POWERS & DUTIES

SECTION A: GENERAL DUTIES

1. Establish working relationships with Ohio University, the City of Athens, state and national communities.
2. Be responsible for gathering graduate student opinion and formulating policy.

3. Represent graduate students in matters pertaining directly to the individual graduate degree granting programs.
4. Conduct GSS elections in accordance and collaboration with the Student Senate.
5. Appoint graduate student representatives to University Committees to ensure graduate student input on all matters concerning the University.
6. Create Standing and Special Commissions and Committees and determine the structure and rules for said Commissions and Committees.
7. Establish Bylaws and Policies and Procedures consistent with the Constitution by which the GSS shall function.
8. Examine and reaffirm the Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures biannually.
9. Establish rules of conduct and standards for its Executive Officers, Senators, College Council Chairs, Commissions, Committees, and Supporting Staff.
10. Try all cases of disciplinary action for its members.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A: ELIGIBILITY

1. All full and part-time graduate students from the Ohio University, Athens campus currently enrolled in an official graduate degree-granting program and in good academic standing shall be eligible to serve on the GSS.

SECTION B: OHIO UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF TOLERANCE

1. The GSS supports and shall abide by Ohio University's Statement of Tolerance, which states:
"Ohio University is committed to equal opportunity for all people and is pledged to take direct and affirmative action to achieve the goal of equal opportunity. We are bound morally, with and pursuant to this statement; Ohio University will not tolerate racism, sexism, homophobia, harassment, bigotry or other forms of violations of human rights. Such actions are inconsistent with and undermine the values which we hold essential to our institutional mission. All faculty, staff, and students of Ohio University must take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to nondiscrimination, to equality of opportunity and treatment, and to a leadership role in achieving equality and diversity."

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION A: EXECUTIVES, GENERAL

1. The elected Executive Officers of the GSS shall be President, Vice President for Committees and Legislative Affairs, Vice President for Administration and Finance, and Vice President for Communications.
2. There shall be Executive Staff appointed to aid in the internal operation and administration of the GSS.

ARTICLE VI: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION A: SENATORS, GENERAL

1. There shall be Department Representatives selected to represent the specific interests of graduate students within individual departments.
2. There shall be Senators elected to represent the general interests of graduate students within each College, the Center for International Studies, and the Individual Interdisciplinary Program (IIP).
3. There shall be Senators appointed to represent the interests of specific constituencies within the graduate student population.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEE BRANCH

SECTION A: COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES, GENERAL

1. The GSS shall establish and dissolve various Commissions to represent the interests of specific constituencies within

the graduate student population, and to address specific areas of concern to the graduate student population.

2. The GSS shall establish and dissolve various Committees to aid in internal operations and administration of the GSS.

ARTICLE VIII: ADVISOR

SECTION A: GENERAL

1. The GSS shall be advised by a full-time member of the Ohio University faculty, administration, or staff in accordance with the guidelines established by the Ohio University Office of Student Activities (OSA).

ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS OF THE SENATE

SECTION A: FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

1. There shall be at least one general meeting scheduled each month, except June, July, August, and December.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

SECTION A: REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

1. The GSS shall examine and reaffirm this Constitution every five years, beginning in the 2005-2006 academic year.

2. Amendments to this Constitution shall be initiated by the GSS or by petition of at least 100 graduate students on the Ohio University, Athens campus.

3. Proposed amendments shall be presented via resolution and posted for public review at least four days prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered.

4. Proposed amendments shall be adopted by a concurrence of two-thirds of the total voting membership of the GSS.

SECTION B: RATIFICATION

1. At the next scheduled meeting following adoption of amendments, this Constitution shall be ratified by a concurrence of two-thirds of the total voting membership of the GSS.

2. Upon ratification, this Constitution shall be presented to the Ohio University Board of Trustees for approval. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, this Constitution shall be effective.