



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY

Graduate Student Association Senate Constitution

Amended: 11/2012 Approved: 1/16/2013

PREAMBLE

We, the graduate students of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, hereby establish the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry Graduate Student Association Senate as the representative body of the Graduate Student Association to participate in the formulation and implementation of both university and community policy, with the goal of enhancing the quality of life, education, and professional capacity of all graduate students.

I. NAME

The Graduate Student Association Senate shall be referred to as the GSA Senate, and shall consist of elected or appointed representatives from within the Graduate Student Association, which itself shall consist of all full and part-time matriculated graduate students in the College and shall be referred to as the GSA. These bodies have been established at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, hereafter referred to as SUNY-ESF.

II. PURPOSE

1. Act as the representative body of the graduate students of SUNY-ESF.
2. Work to enhance the graduate student experience at SUNY-ESF and foster a sense of community among graduate students.

III. DUTIES

1. Serve as an advocate for student sentiment and needs by advising and cooperating with the administration, staff, faculty, and other College bodies on all administrative, curricular, and instructional affairs that pertain to, or are a concern of, the graduate students of the College.
2. Facilitate and provide academic and administrative programs, opportunities, and community activities for the College, community, and, specifically, the graduate student body.
3. Provide a forum in which the graduate student body may present, discuss, and address issues related to its role in the academic and non-academic aspects of the College and the community.
4. Function according to the GSA Senate Bylaws, as enumerated and approved by the GSA Senate.
5. Allocate a budget, predominately supported by student fees, in support of the above duties.
6. No action of the GSA Senate will discriminate, or promote any form of discrimination, on basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital or veteran's status in any program, activity, or service.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

1. No one person shall hold more than one position on the GSA Senate.
2. The GSA Senate shall have the following structure and representation:
 - a. Executives
 - i. Shall carry out the business of the GSA Senate and shall consist of the following positions:
 1. President
 2. Vice President of Grants & Awards
 3. Vice President of International Activities
 4. Vice President of Professional Development
 5. Vice President of Social Activities
 6. Vice President of Speakers & Presentations
 7. Treasurer
 8. Secretary
 9. Webmaster
 - b. Department Representatives
 - i. Shall be the voice of the graduate students of his or her own constituency and shall make known their needs and concerns.
 - ii. Shall be elected from all degree granting departments of the College.
 - c. General Representatives
 - i. Shall represent the interests of graduate students to the following bodies and organizations:
 1. Undergraduate Student Association (USA).
 2. Graduate Student Organization at Syracuse University (GSO).
 3. SUNY-ESF Board of Trustees.

V. FACULTY ADVISOR

The GSA Senate shall be advised by a full-time faculty or staff member of the College who shall serve as a representative of the administration.

VI. CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

The GSA Senate shall review and update this Constitution during the fall semester of every calendar year divisible by four, pursuant to the amendment process outlined below.

VII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed as a motion by any member of the GSA Senate, or by any member of the GSA with a petition containing 50 signatures from currently matriculated graduate students, during a regular meeting of the GSA Senate.
2. A majority vote by the GSA Senate present is required for the motion to pass and become an official proposed amendment.

3. The full membership of the GSA must be notified of all proposed amendments to the Constitution at least two weeks prior to the voting date. Notification shall consist of, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:
 - a. Email notification to all GSA members.
 - b. Posting on the GSA website.
 - c. Other paper or electronic advertisement across campus.
 4. A special GSA Senate meeting shall be called by the President to vote on the proposed amendment. This meeting shall be announced concurrent with the notification of the proposed amendment as required above.
 5. The GSA Senate shall act as a committee of the whole with a majority vote by 2/3 of all elected GSA Senate members required for the amendment to pass and become part of this Constitution.
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