

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL  
GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

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**PREAMBLE**

We, the graduate students at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, to promote the well-being of the graduate student body and ensure their representation in university affairs establish this constitution. We aim to create a representative form of government for all graduate students, recognizing the duties of the Graduate Student Association to promote research, collaboration, and student rights.

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**ARTICLE I. Definitions**

1. The Graduate Student Association, hereinafter called the GSA, shall be the governing student organization of the graduate student body.
2. The Governance Body shall consist of the officers of the executive committee and the graduate senators.
3. Executive Committee (EXCOM):
  - 3.1. President
  - 3.2. Vice President of Operations
  - 3.3. Vice President of External Affairs
  - 3.4. Secretary
  - 3.5. Treasurer
  - 3.6. Graduate Research Grant Award Chairs
  - 3.7. Professional Development Award Chairs
  - 3.8. Graduate Senators – 2 representatives chosen from registered GSO's.
4. Graduate Research Grant Award (GRGA).
5. Professional Development Award (PDA).

## **ARTICLE II. Purposes**

1. To work for the academic, social, and economic advancement of all graduate students to promote better communication among graduate students and the entire University student body.
2. To ensure appropriate representation of the graduate students in the affairs of the University pertaining to or affecting graduate education.
3. To promote rapport among graduate students, faculty, and administration.
4. To administer the use of all properties and funds under GSA control.
5. To coordinate the functions of those student organizations which pertain to the membership of the GSA.

## **ARTICLE III. Membership**

1. All graduate students are general members of the GSA and are allowed to vote in general elections.
2. Only GSA members in good academic and judicial standing shall be eligible to hold any GSA EXCOM office.
3. The Senate shall be composed of two Senators from each recognized GSO and shall be chosen by their organization.
4. Committee members are voting members, chosen by their organization, within a designated committee, made up of each of the recognized GSO's.
5. The President or the Vice President of a GSO may serve as a proxy for the Senator or Alternate Senator.

## **ARTICLE IV. Executive Committee**

The Officers of the GSA shall consist of the President, Vice President of Operations, Vice President of External Affairs, Secretary, Treasurer, GRGA Chairs, and PDA Chairs and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Executive Committee or EXCOM.

1. President:
  - 1.1. To preside over all meetings and ensure the parliamentary procedure is adhered to as set out in Robert's Rules of Order, except as amended in this document.
  - 1.2. To prepare, post, and make available an agenda for all meetings.
  - 1.3. To represent the GSA and the Graduate Student Body.
  - 1.4. To call special meetings under the provisions outlined in Article VIII.
  - 1.5. To convene the Executive Committee.
  - 1.6. To create and dissolve committees of the GSA subject to Governance Body approval.
  - 1.6.1 This privilege does not apply to the Finance, Governance, External Affairs, GRGA, or PDA committees, as they are integral and permanent GSA entities.
  - 1.7. To be an Ex Officio member of all committees.
  - 1.8. To provide a written and oral report of the EXCOM's activities at the last Governance Body meeting of the year.
2. Vice President of Operations:
  - 2.1. To assume the responsibilities of the President when the latter is unable to do so.
  - 2.2. To assume the office of the President when the office is vacated by the President.
  - 2.3. To be responsible for the planning and orchestration of all GSA-sponsored functions, communications with the GSO's, manage the Engage website.

- 2.4. To serve as the chair of the governance committee.
3. Vice President of External Affairs:
  - 3.1. To initiate, maintain, and improve relations between the GSA and other academic/professional organizations.
  - 3.2. To serve as the chair of the External Affairs Committee.
4. Secretary:
  - 4.1. To record the minutes of all EXCOM and Governance Body meetings.
  - 4.2. To present written copies of these minutes at every Governance Body meeting for review, possible corrections, and approval or disapproval.
  - 4.3. To post these minutes at all locations specified by the Governance Body.
  - 4.4. To receive and maintain with the GSA Advisor all records of the GSA including minutes, committee reports, EXCOM member reports, correspondence, Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Constitutions, and list of Officers with contact information, flyers, pamphlets, announcements, etc.
  - 4.5. To maintain a roster of Governance Body members. This roster shall include, at a minimum, the individual's name, office, organization represented, and contact information.
  - 4.6. To take and record the roll call at all EXCOM and Governance Body Meetings. This information will be included in the minutes.
  - 4.7. To be responsible for the written communication of the GSA. To send and post notices of all Governance Body and Special meetings as outlined in Article VIII.
5. Treasurer:
  - 5.1. To present a written financial report at all Governance Body meetings.
  - 5.2. To maintain all the financial records of the GSA with assistance from the Fiscal Administrator in Student Affairs and the GSA Advisor from, Student Activities & Leadership.
  - 5.3. To work with the Fiscal Administrator in Student Affairs and the GSA Advisor from Student Activities and Leadership to allocate and disburse GSO funds.
  - 5.4. To serve as the chair of the Finance Committee.
6. GRGA Chairs:
  - 6.1. The management of timely meetings to review applications on a semi-annual basis.
  - 6.2. The preparation and publication of application materials to the graduate student body.
  - 6.3. The timely presentation of committee decisions to the EXCOM.
7. PDA Chairs:
  - 7.1. The management of timely meetings to review applications monthly.
  - 7.2. The preparation and publication of application materials to the student body.
  - 7.3. The timely presentation of committee decisions to the EXCOM.
8. General Officer Responsibilities:
  - 8.1. If there are EXCOM positions that are not filled, the existing members of the EXCOM will fulfill the responsibilities of the unoccupied position. The existing EXCOM shall be tasked with determining the allocation of responsibilities.
  - 8.2. Resignation of EXCOM members: In any such case, resignations must be submitted in writing to the GSA Advisor, in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership.

## **ARTICLE V. Committees**

1. Composition:
  - 1.1. The GSA shall maintain five standing committees (Governance, Finance, External Affairs, GRGA, and PDA). Each committee shall be comprised of a chair or co-chairs, and representatives from the GSO's.
  - 1.2. Voting members of a committee will include chairs and members of the committee.
  - 1.3. Committees may keep their internal procedure but shall follow GSA bylaws with regard to quorum, voting, etc.
  - 1.4. Quorum of the committees will be 1/3 of their voting members.
2. The Governance Committee:
  - 2.1. The Governance Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President of Operations.
  - 2.2. The Governance committee is responsible for overseeing the GSO application process, changes to the bylaws and constitution, as well as compliance with the GSA constitution and bylaws.
3. The Finance Committee:
  - 3.1. The finance committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer.
  - 3.2. The finance committee is responsible for the initial adjudication of GSO budget proposals and providing recommendations to the governance body at each general meeting.
4. The External Affairs Committee:
  - 4.1. The external affairs committee shall be chaired by the Vice President of External Affairs.
  - 4.2. The committee shall initiate, maintain, and improve relations between the GSA and other academic/professional organizations.
  - 4.3. The external affairs committee shall be responsible for maintaining a relationship between the GSA and external organizations and keeping the EXCOM and GSA members apprised of developments.
5. The PDA Committee:
  - 5.1. The PDA Committee shall be overseen by the PDA co-chairs.
  - 5.2. The committee shall receive, review, and initiate the disbursement of funds for the Professional Development Award.
6. GRGA Committees:
  - 6.1. The GRGA committee shall be overseen by the GRGA co-chairs.
  - 6.2. The committee shall receive, review, and initiate the disbursement of funds for the Graduate Research Grant Award.

## **ARTICLE VI. Elections**

1. EXCOM (President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, PDA Chair and GRGA Chair):
  - 1.1. The EXCOM shall be elected from the general membership of the GSA.
  - 1.2. Election of officers shall be coordinated with the designated GSA Advisor. All members of the GSA may vote in the election.
  - 1.3. No person may hold two elected positions within the GSA in any one year.

- 1.4. Any graduate student in good standing with the University and the GSA is eligible to nominate themselves.

## **ARTICLE VII. Meetings and Quorum**

1. Governance Body Meetings:
  - 1.1. The Governance Body will meet at least once a month to conduct necessary business.
  - 1.2. Meetings shall be conducted according to the parliamentary procedure described in Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise amended in this document.
  - 1.3. Only members of the Governance Body, i.e., the Graduate Senate and EXCOM, may vote at Governance Body meetings by a show of hands. Discussion on any item is always open to all.
  - 1.4. No GSA meetings shall be held without a quorum. A quorum shall consist of 1/3 of the Governance Body.
2. Special Meetings:
  - 2.1. Special meetings of the GSA may be called by the President or by petition to the EXCOM by 5 voting GSA members. Notice shall be given to all GSA members at least 48 hours in advance of the meetings.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Advisor**

The Senior Associate Director of Student Activities and Leadership or the Director of Student Activities and Leadership will serve as an advisor to the GSA.

## **ARTICLE IX: Graduate Student Organizations**

1. The Governance Committee shall make available guidelines for writing club/organization constitutions.
2. Any GSO recognized by the GSA, or which falls under GSA jurisdiction for recognition, which does not currently have an approved constitution on file with the GSA shall be required to submit one. Any current constitutions that have been previously approved shall remain in effect as originally implemented.
3. New GSO constitutions submitted to the GSA shall be turned over to the Governance Committee, which will evaluate the constitution and approve or reject said constitution.
4. To be recognized and funded by the GSA, GSOs must be in an active, registered status with the Office of Student Activities & Leadership and any new organization must follow the new club registration process as outlined.

## **ARTICLE X: Amendments and Bylaws**

1. Amendments to this Constitution:
  - 1.1. Meetings must be held at least three full days apart.
  - 1.2. The notice of the constitution for a proposed amendment shall be made available to all GSA members at least one week before its initial consideration.
  - 1.3. The GSA members must be provided with prior notice of the Amendment's consideration as part of the agenda, with a minimum of one week in advance.
  - 1.4. The UMass Board of Trustees, based on the University's Governance Policy (T73-098), requires constitutions or amendments to be approved by the UMass Board of Trustees.

**Doc. T12-001, as amended**

*Passed by the Board of Trustees on February 7, 2012*

*Latest revision: September 19, 2024*

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION**

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**PREAMBLE**

We, the Graduate Students of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, in order to establish a democratic system for Graduate Students in University governance, and recognizing the necessity of organizing in order to attain a just, cooperative society which serves the interests of graduate students, and further recognizing the necessity for immediate and ongoing action to effectuate cooperation and participation among graduate students, and ultimately to ensure the representation of all degree-seeking graduate student members, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Graduate Student Government at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**ARTICLE I. Name**

**Section 1:** The name of this organization shall be the Graduate Student Government of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, herein referred to as the GSG.

**ARTICLE II. Authority**

**Section 1:** This constitution shall supersede any other previously existing system of campus wide governance for the University graduate student population.

**Section 2:** The GSG derives its authority from the graduate students of the University, through election, and by actions of the Board of Trustees approving this Constitution, as provided in Section 3, Chapter 75 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Section 3:** The GSG, in its responsibilities and relationships with other governing components of the University, shall be governed by the Board of Trustees' Statement on University Governance (Trustee Document T73-098, as amended).

**Section 4:** All bylaws, acts, procedures and all other actions of the GSG, shall be consistent with this Constitution and Trustee Document T73-098, as amended.

**ARTICLE III. Purpose**

**Section 1:** The purpose of the GSG shall be:

- A. To ensure the representation of all degree seeking graduate students, herein referred to as graduate students, of the University of Massachusetts Amherst;
- B. To discuss and recommend policies affecting the campus and the University as a whole;
- C. To promote graduate student participation in the development of policies and procedures within all aspects of the University of Massachusetts Amherst;

- D. To serve as a resource and advocate for graduate students;
- E. To represent the goals, interests, concerns, and professional development of the graduate student population;
- F. To facilitate community and communication among graduate students in different Colleges, Schools, and Departments.

#### **ARTICLE IV. Membership**

**Section 1:** All graduate students of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, herein denoted the University, that meet the qualifications for GSG membership as defined in Article IV Section 2 shall be entitled to be members of the GSG, and shall have an equal voice and

**Section 2:** “Graduate Student Government member”, shall hereby be defined as any graduate student of the University of Massachusetts Amherst who is subject to and has paid, the Graduate Student Government Fee for the calendar time to which it is applicable.

**Section 3:** “Graduate Student Government membership”, shall hereby be defined as all GSG members.

**Section 4:** “Graduate Student Government officer”, shall hereby be defined as any GSG member who holds an elected or appointed position within the Graduate Student Government.

**Section 5:** “Membership in attendance”, shall hereby be defined as the total count of the votes in the affirmative and in the negative but excluding any abstentions. Abstentions shall not be counted towards the overall vote count.

**Section 6:** Any GSG member receiving any form of compensation for services carried out in the name of, and for the express purpose of furthering the mission of the Graduate Student Government, shall be treated as an Officer of the Graduate Student Government.

#### **ARTICLE V. Composition of Government**

**Section 1:** The GSG shall be composed of three branches of Government: the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. All elected and appointed officers of the GSG shall be members of the GSG, as defined in Article IV of this Constitution. No GSG member shall hold elected or appointed office in more than one branch of the government, except as provided for by the General Bylaws of the GSG. No GSG member shall hold more than one office, in any branch, that receives monetary compensation.

**Section 2:** The University Student Trustee as defined by the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, shall be an ex-officio officer of the GSG.

#### **ARTICLE VI. Graduate Student Government Fee**

**Section 1:** The GSG shall levy a fee to fund the operations of governmental procedure and disperse its funds in the interest of graduate students and as prescribed in the General Bylaws of the GSG.

**Section 2:** Any recommended increase in the GSG Fee of over 7.5% shall require a two-thirds (2/3)

vote of the Senate membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting, and an affirmative vote of the GSG membership through an Action Referendum.

## **ARTICLE VII. The Legislative**

**Section 1:** The legislative authority of the GSG shall be vested in the Senate.

**Section 2:** The membership of the Senate shall be composed of representatives, herein denoted as Senators, apportioned by the Senate to Electoral Districts, as defined by the General Bylaws of the GSG.

**Section 3:** Senators shall be elected in a manner prescribed by the General Bylaws of the GSG and shall serve for a term prescribed therein.

**Section 4:** The Speaker of the Senate:

- A. The Senate shall provide for the election of, from its voting membership, a Speaker of the Senate, herein denoted the Speaker, who shall serve as the chief presiding officer and the chief clerk and parliamentarian of the Senate. The Speaker may only be a sworn-in Senator, in good standing, according to the General Bylaws of the GSG.
  - i. The Speaker shall be responsible for the business and management of the Senate.
- B. If a vacancy shall occur in the office of Speaker, a new Speaker shall be elected at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate, unless otherwise provided within the General Bylaws of the GSG. The President shall chair Senate meetings during the time of the election of a Speaker.
  - i. The Associate Speaker shall be responsible for the duties of the Speaker, except for the chairing of Senate meetings in which the election of the Speaker shall take place, until the position is filled.

**Section 5:** The Associate Speaker of the Senate:

- A. The Senate shall provide for the election of, from its voting membership, an Associate Speaker of the Senate, herein denoted the Associate Speaker, who shall serve as the chief historian and chief coordination officer of the Senate. The Associate Speaker may only be a sworn-in Senator, in good standing, according to the General Bylaws of the GSG.
- B. If a vacancy shall occur in the office of Associate Speaker, a new Associate Speaker shall be elected at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate, unless otherwise provided within the General Bylaws of the GSG.
  - i. The Speaker shall be responsible for completion or delegation of the duties of the Associate Speaker until the position is filled.

**Section 6:** The Senate shall have the power to:

- A. Review and make recommendations regarding the Graduate Student Government Fee.
- B. Determine and provide for its rules and procedures, elect its officers, and fix the time and place of its meetings, provided that there be a regular meeting with fixed time and place at least once every month of the regular academic calendar of the University. This shall not preclude meetings outside of the regular academic calendar, provided that appropriate steps are taken to advertise the meeting to Senators.



- C. Require the attendance of its members by rule, as delineated in the General Bylaws of the GSG.
- D. Expel a member of the Senate. The act of Expulsion shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.
- E. Enact, amend or repeal the General Bylaws of the GSG. Such an act shall require a two thirds (2/3) vote of its membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting, and any other such provision as outlined in the General Bylaws of the GSG.
- F. Ratify GSG Elections within thirty (30) calendar days of the election. Such an act shall require a majority vote of its membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.
- G. Initiate a referendum as defined by this Constitution. Such an act shall require a two thirds (2/3) vote of its membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.
- H. Decide tied General or Special Elections at its first meeting following the election. Such an act shall require a majority vote of its membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.
- I. Approve the GSG Budget Request. Such an Act shall require a majority vote of its membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.
- J. Override a presidential veto. Such an act shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.
- K. Approve Executive Cabinet and Judiciary Appointments. Such an act shall require a majority vote of its membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.
- L. Require reports from the President, Vice President, Executive Cabinet, and Standing Committee Chairs on any matter relevant to the functioning of the GSG Senate.
- M. Impeach an elected or appointed officer of the GSG. Such an act shall proceed only after a legal review, followed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.
- N. Make recommendations, as a governance body, on University policies and procedures consistent with Trustee Document T73-098, as amended.

**Section 7:** The Senate shall not:

- A. Take an action abridging any of the powers delegated to it by this Constitution.
- B. Deny the rights and privileges of Senate membership to any duly elected or appointed Senator, except as provided for by this Constitution or the General Bylaws of the GSG.
- C. Recommend the appropriation of monies for a period of more than one (1) fiscal year.
- D. Recommend the increase or decrease in wage of any elected or appointed officer of the GSG, effective to the incumbent at the time of the increase or decrease.
- E. Infringe the secrecy of the ballot in any GSG Elections.
- F. Meet in "executive session", as defined by the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
  - i. Exception: The Senate may only enter executive session in matters of Impeachment if the Senate needs to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Senate membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.

**Section 8:** The procedures of the Senate shall be as follows:

- A. No bill, unless otherwise provided for by the General Bylaws of the GSG, shall become an Act of the GSG unless it shall have been introduced to the Senate, read, and passed by a majority vote of its membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.
- B. No bill, unless otherwise provided for by this Constitution or the General Bylaws of the GSG, shall become an Act of the GSG without the signature of the GSG President. The President of

the GSG may veto the bill within seven (7) calendar days of its passage, providing explicit reasons for the veto in writing to the Speaker of the Senate. If the President vetoes a bill, the Speaker of the Senate shall send the vetoed bill, along with the President's written reasons for the veto, back to the Senate within three (3) calendar days of receiving the veto. The Senate shall consider the vetoed bill at the next regular or special meeting of the Senate.

- C. If a bill is neither signed nor vetoed by the GSG President within seven (7) calendar days following its passage, it shall automatically become an act of the GSG unless two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting vote to extend the review period for an additional seven (7) days.
- D. A vetoed bill or a bill not signed by the GSG President within the specified period may be enacted notwithstanding the veto or failure of signature of the GSG President if it shall have been read in full a second time and passed upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.
- E. The quorum for the conduct of official business at a Senate meeting, or a meeting of any Senate Committee or entity, shall be fifty percent (50%) of the total voting membership of the body, plus one (1), unless otherwise provided for by this Constitution. Voting membership shall be defined as the total number of active GSG Senate officers eligible to vote in the body.
- F. Should the Senate be equally divided on a matter, the pending matter shall be considered to have failed.

**Section 9:** Special Senate Meetings may be called by:

- A. The Speaker of the Senate, at the request of any member of the graduate student body or any representative of the University Administration. The Speaker shall be empowered to deny this request.
- B. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the Senate, by petition to the Steering Committee. The petition shall be verified and approved for accuracy by the Steering Committee, as delineated in the General Bylaws of the GSG. The Speaker shall not have the power to deny this request.
- C. Five percent (5%) of fee paying graduate students, by petition to the Steering Committee. The petition shall be verified and approved for accuracy by the Steering Committee, as delineated in the General Bylaws of the GSG. The Speaker shall not have the power to deny this request.
- D. The President, through a request to the Steering Committee, at which the Steering Committee shall require a majority of its membership to approve the President's request. The President shall not vote upon this request, unless the vote of the committee is equal. The Speaker shall not be empowered to deny the chosen action of the Steering Committee.

**ARTICLE VIII. The Executive**

**Section 1:** The executive authority of the GSG shall be vested in the GSG President, herein denoted the President, and other lesser executive officers recognized by this Constitution or the General Bylaws of the GSG.

**Section 2:** The President and Vice President shall run on a joint-ticket and the Treasurer on a separate ticket. The aforementioned positions shall be popularly elected by a majority or plurality of the GSG membership voting, on or before March 31st of each calendar year and shall serve for a term of one (1) year, here defined as June 1st to May 31st. Elections shall be held in a manner prescribed by the General Bylaws of the GSG.

**Section 3:** In the event of the vacancy of the President, the Vice President shall assume the Office of

the President. The vacancy of the Vice President shall be filled by appointment from the President in accordance with the General Bylaws of the GSG. Should the Office of President and Vice President become vacant at the same time, the Treasurer shall assume the Office of the President. The vacancy of the Treasurer shall be filled by appointment by the Steering Committee in accordance with General Bylaws of the GSG. All vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of office.

**Section 4:** The President shall have the power to:

- A. Act as the chief executive of the GSG.
- B. Take care that all the provisions of this Constitution, the General Bylaws of the GSG, and Acts of the GSG are faithfully executed.
- C. Appoint, upon a majority vote of the Senate membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting, the Executive Cabinet.
- D. Appoint, upon a majority vote of the Senate membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting, the five (5) Justices of the Judiciary.
- E. Appoint all lesser executive officers and membership to all external committees.
- F. In a manner prescribed by the General Bylaws of the GSG, call the Senate into Session.
- G. Add any bill to the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate.
- H. Veto any bill except the Annual Budget Act and any Articles of Impeachment.
- I. Be the President of the Senate, but shall have no vote.
- J. Initiate a referendum as defined in Article XI of this Constitution.

**Section 5:** The Vice President shall have the power to:

- A. Act as the head of the Executive Branch when the President is not in attendance.
- B. Act for the President as their official representative in all capacities with the exception of signing or vetoing legislation, so long as the President has given prior consent to their actions.
- C. At such times as the President deems necessary, become Acting President and to exercise all the powers of the Presidency, including, but not limited to, hiring and firing staff and signing and vetoing legislation. The President shall inform the Senate of this transfer of power.
- D. Act, in conjunction and consultation with the Directing Attorney of Student Legal Services Office or their designee, as the chief legal counsel to the GSG in matters pending before the GSG Judiciary.
  - i. Be directly responsible for the official judicial records of the GSG including, but not limited to Judiciary Rulings.

**Section 6:** The Treasurer shall have the power to:

- A. Act as the chief financial officer of the GSG.
- B. Take care that all the financial provisions of this Constitution, the General Bylaws of the GSG, and Acts of the GSG are faithfully executed.
- C. Manage the Graduate Student Government Trust Fund in conjunction with the Senate, as prescribed in the General Bylaws of the Graduate Student Government.
- D. Control purchasing and expenditure of GSG funds.
- E. Oversee distribution of Line Item and Ad Hoc funding.
- F. Audit recipients of GSG monies.
- G. Create, modify, or alter the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) funding guidelines, in conjunction with the Senate, as prescribed in the General Bylaws of the Graduate Student

Government.

- H. Be directly responsible for the official GSO records of the GSG.
- I. Approve or deny the applications of new GSOs, and manage all registrations or re registrations of GSOs.
- J. Freeze graduate student group financial accounts for violation of University Policy, or violation of any Bylaw, Act, or resolution of the GSG via the process enumerated in the General Bylaws of the Graduate Student Government.

## **ARTICLE IX. Judicial**

**Section 1:** The Judicial authority of the GSG shall be vested in a Judiciary.

**Section 2:** The Judiciary shall have original jurisdiction over any controversy arising under this Constitution, the General Bylaws of the GSG, or any Act of the GSG.

**Section 3:** The Judiciary shall be composed of five (5) Justices appointed by the GSG President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting. The Justices shall serve from the date of their swearing-in until they resign or graduate from the University. The Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice shall be elected at the start of every academic year, as provided in Article IX Section 7 of this Constitution. Should the Judiciary lack the ability to produce quorum, due to a lack of action by the President to appoint Justices, for a period of ninety (90) calendar days from the date on which quorum could no longer be met, the President shall defer their right to appoint the number of Justices that would facilitate the Judiciary's ability to produce quorum. The Steering Committee, via a majority vote of its membership, shall be empowered to appoint, upon a majority vote of the Senate membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting, the number of Justices necessary to facilitate a quorum.

**Section 4:** The Judiciary may hold, by declaratory judgment, any act by any agent of the Executive or Legislative Branches of the GSG, or of any agency directly associated with the GSG, or of any candidate for GSG office, to be unconstitutional, or in violation of any Bylaw or Act of the GSG, and therefore, invalid, provided said action is not a governance item approved by the Board of Trustees.

**Section 5:** Any person(s), with the exception of serving Justices of the Judiciary, may file with the Judiciary a Petition for a Ruling on the constitutionality or validity of any act by any agent of the Executive or Legislative Branches of the GSG, or of any agency directly associated with the GSG, or of any candidate for GSG office, within sixty (60) calendar days of said action. The Judiciary shall issue a ruling on the same, provided said action is not a governance item approved by the Board of Trustees.

**Section 6:** The Quorum for the conduct of business for the Judiciary shall be four (4) Justices. No business shall be conducted by the Judiciary without quorum.

**Section 7:** Chief Justice & Associate Chief Justice:

- A. The Judiciary shall provide for the election of, from its voting membership, a Chief Justice of the Judiciary, herein denoted the Chief Justice, who shall serve as the chief presiding officer of the Judiciary.

- B. The Judiciary shall provide for the election of, from its voting membership, an Associate Chief Justice of the Judiciary, herein denoted the Associate Chief Justice, who shall serve as the chief clerk of the Judiciary.
- C. If a vacancy shall occur in the office of Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice shall become Chief Justice for the duration of the unfinished term.

## **ARTICLE X. The Steering Committee**

**Section 1:** The Steering Committee shall serve as an intermediary body, consisting of GSG leadership, in order to promote and strategize a plan for, and the direction of, the GSG. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to ensure cooperation and coordination between the branches of the GSG Government, and ensure necessary functions of government are carried out. The task and charges of the committee shall follow the parameters set forth in the General Bylaws of the GSG.

**Section 2:** The President shall be the Chair of the Steering Committee, with the Speaker as the Vice Chair. The membership of the Steering Committee in its entirety is as follows:

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Treasurer
- D. Chief Justice
- E. Speaker
- F. Two (2) Chairs of a GSG Standing Committee, as provided in the General Bylaws of the GSG, with appointment to the Steering Committee via a majority vote of the Senate.

## **ARTICLE XI. Referenda**

**Section 1:** There shall be two primary types of referenda:

- A. Action - An Action Referendum, if approved, shall become an Act of the GSG, shall not be subject to presidential veto, and when such an action is intended as a formal recommendation from the GSG, as a governance body, it shall be submitted in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Trustee Document T73-098, as amended.
- B. Advisory - An Advisory Referendum shall only be a measure of public sentiment.

**Section 2:** All referenda shall be clearly labeled and understood by the GSG membership to be either an Action or Advisory Referendum.

**Section 3:** Referenda shall be initiated by any one of the following:

- A. The Senate
- B. The GSG President
- C. The signatures, on a petition, of not less than five percent (5%) of the GSG membership.

**Section 4:** No referenda shall be considered valid unless approved by no less than five percent (5%) of the GSG membership.

## **ARTICLE XII. Amendments to the General Bylaws of the GSG**

**Section 1:** The General Bylaws of the GSG may be amended in accordance with the General Bylaws of the GSG and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting.

### **ARTICLE XIII. Amendments to the Constitution of the GSG**

**Section 1:** An amendment to this Constitution shall be passed upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate membership in attendance at a Regular or Special meeting of the GSG, provided that the proposed change shall have been presented at a previous Regular or Special Meeting of the GSG, and with a majority vote of the GSG membership voting on the amendment through an Action Referendum.

**Section 2:** Amendments to this Constitution shall be effective only after approval by the Board of Trustees.

**Section 3:** If the amendment process of this Constitution shall have been invoked, then, following an amendment's passage in the Senate, the amendment shall appear as an Action Referendum before the GSG membership, no more than thirty (30) calendar days from the calendar date of the amendment's passage in the Senate.

### **ARTICLE XIV. Ratification**

**Section 1:** This Constitution shall be ratified upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate membership in attendance at a scheduled meeting, a majority vote of the voting GSG membership on an Action Referendum, and the approval of the Board of Trustees.

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**Doc. T12-001, as amended | Graduate Student Government Constitution, Lowell**

*Passed by the Board of Trustees on February 7, 2012*

*Revised:*

*September 19, 2012*

*September 19, 2024*

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
REGULATIONS FOR USE OF PROPERTY**

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**I. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of these regulations, the following definitions apply:

Authorized Representatives: Those persons who are designated as authorized representatives of a student organization or University Unit.

Employee Organization: An independent organization which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with UMass Amherst management concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment as defined by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 150E.

Official University Functions: Scheduled academic classes, research and activities; normal daily operations of the UMass Amherst units, and programs or activities sponsored by UMass Amherst units in the course of fulfilling their missions.

Structure: a combination of materials assembled at a fixed location to give support or shelter, such as a building, framework, retaining wall, tent, reviewing stand, platform, bin, fence, sign, flagpole, or the like. The word “structure” shall be construed, where the context allows, as though followed by the words “or part or parts thereof”.

Student: Anyone who is currently enrolled at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The definition shall also include anyone who has completed the immediately preceding term and is eligible for re- enrollment.

University Personnel: Individuals employed as faculty or staff by an academic or non-academic department or division or other official UMass Amherst entity without regard to type of monetary compensation.

University Properties: All real property used, operated, occupied, or maintained by the University, or owned by the Commonwealth for the use of the University, including but not limited to all UMass Amherst grounds and structures.

University Unit: Any academic or non-academic department or division or any other official UMass Amherst entity.

## **II. AUTHORITY**

- A. To the extent provided by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 75, as amended, the Board of Trustees is authorized to make regulations for the administration of the campus. The Chancellor is the chief administrative officer of the campus at Amherst.
- B. The general authority and responsibility for the administration of these regulations lies with the Chancellor and is delegated to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life. The Vice Chancellor may redelegate certain authority and responsibility to other University Units.
- C. The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs is authorized to adopt guidelines and procedures to implement these regulations.
- D. To ensure the orderly operation of University affairs, decisions of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Student Affairs staff and other University Units applying or enforcing these regulations shall be complied with pending any appeal under Section V.
- E. The Student Affairs and University Life Council of the Faculty Senate may advise the Chancellor regarding modifications and application of these regulations. Any member of the campus community may present proposals for revision, with supporting arguments, to the Council through the Faculty Senate Office or the office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Any modification or amendment of these regulations requires the approval of the Board of Trustees.

## **III. USE OF UNIVERSITY PROPERTIES**

- A. Programs and Activities
  - 1. Any use of University properties for programs, activities, and events must not interfere with or materially disrupt official University functions, including but not limited to academic, administrative, student-life, co-curricular, or governance activities, or disrupt the peace and quiet of the campus and the community adjacent to the campus.
  - 2. University Units, student organizations, students, staff, and faculty are authorized to use University properties for organized programs, activities, and events, subject to the provisions of these regulations and campus guidelines and procedures administered by authorized University personnel.
  - 3. Non-University entities may be allowed use of University properties at the discretion of the University only in accordance with campus guidelines and procedures governing such use, as administered by the authorized University Unit, provided, however, that official University functions shall have first priority. Arrangements by non-University entities should be made through Conference Services or other appropriate University Units.
  - 4. Many University properties may be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis by University Units, student organizations, students, staff, and faculty for activities, programs, or events. Such use must be for activities, programs or events which are directly related to the purposes of the sponsoring entity. Undergraduate groups may reserve Non-Residence Hall space for events and programs through the Student Engagement and Leadership Office, all others through the University Unit which administers the desired space. Such use is also subject to the specific



restraints and scheduling procedures of the facilities involved. Permission to use facilities is not to be construed as endorsement by the University of the activities of the sponsoring organization or unit, but only as permission granted to use University property.

5. In order to finalize reservations, requests by student organizations and students must have been approved as to time, place, and manner by the Student Engagement and Leadership Office. If Residence Hall space is to be utilized, Housing Services must also approve such usage. Requests by others must be approved by the appropriate University Unit.
6. Users requiring special facility arrangements, equipment or staffing may be assessed charges in accordance with rate tables published by the administrative bodies involved. In such cases, deposits or purchase orders and financial accountability may be required.
7. No publicity for any program, activity or event may be released before the request for space has been approved and reservations for facility use have been finalized. When media coverage is solicited by the sponsoring entity, that entity must first inform the News Office.
8. Provisions for Outdoor Spaces not in Residential Areas:
  - a. Sound level is to be maintained at low volume when in close proximity to classrooms and offices so as not to disrupt the academic or business functions of the university.
  - b. The use of electronically amplified sound (e.g., bullhorns, speaker systems) must be specifically approved by the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance or designee. Amplified sound will not normally be permitted during class hours near classroom spaces. Sound emission beyond the perimeters of the reserved area must be maintained at a reasonable level.
9. If admission will be charged or a donation will be required or requested as a condition of admission to a program, event, or activity, the initial request and all publicity must include that fact.

#### B. Speech and Advocacy

1. University properties may be reserved for meetings, programs, and events for purposes of speech and advocacy in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.
2. Employee Organizations may use University properties only in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and current collective bargaining agreements.
3. Meetings, programs, and events for the purposes of speech and advocacy must not interrupt or interfere with individuals who are engaged in the daily conduct of University business (e.g., students in labs, classrooms, or libraries and University personnel while engaged in their employment).
4. Individual students, student groups or student organizations shall not interfere with or disrupt scheduled meetings, programs, and events. Any student who intentionally and substantially interferes with the First Amendment rights of another person on University property shall be subject to sanctions under University Policy.

### C. Distribution of Literature

Physical literature may be distributed on University properties subject-to the following provisions:

1. On University grounds, individuals, University Units and student organizations may distribute literature provided that:
  - a. The free flow of traffic at any point is not obstructed;
  - b. Literature is not forced upon others;
  - c. Literature is not placed on vehicles parked on campus;
  - d. Tables or displays used to facilitate distribution do not block the walkways or entrances to buildings so as to impede the free flow of traffic. Tables or displays must be attended at all times by the individuals or groups sponsoring the distribution;
  - e. All individuals and/or organizations ensure that their literature does not litter the area; and
  - f. The distribution of literature does not interrupt or interfere with individuals who are engaged in the daily conduct of University business (e.g. students in labs, classrooms, or libraries and University personnel while engaged in their employment).
2. University Units, student organizations, and Employee Organizations may distribute literature in campus buildings only in accordance with the following provisions:
  - a. Compliance with the restrictions for University grounds stated in Section C. I (above);
  - b. Literature may be distributed within rooms or areas reserved for meetings, programs and events by the group which has reserved the room or area. Other groups distributing literature must assure their non-interference with the group which has reserved the room or area by remaining outside the room or area in question.

Distribution of literature within the residence halls, family housing, food services, and University Health Services must be in accord with the guidelines and procedures applicable to these areas.

### D. Physical Posting of Literature, Signs and Banners

1. Individual students, faculty or staff may post personal announcements on the boards designated for this purpose in compliance with the guidelines and procedures for the building in question. Exceptions to the posting of personal announcements may be granted by individual departmental offices for their departmental bulletin boards.
2. All materials posted including signs and banners shall clearly indicate the name of the sponsoring University Unit, student organization, or Employee Organization. Posted material shall be dated. Posted material written in a language other than English must provide sufficient information in English to identify the sponsoring group.

3. Posting of literature within University Housing (residence halls and family housing), University Health Services, and Food Services must be in accord with specific guidelines and procedures applicable to these areas.

Posting of literature and materials within the areas of individual departmental offices or on departmental bulletin boards must be in accordance with the guidelines and procedures applicable to these areas and boards. Information regarding the specific procedures may be obtained from the individual departments. Such guidelines and procedures shall ensure that all materials conform to these regulations regarding distribution and posting.

4. Posters, signs, banners, and other materials and literature may be placed on campus in compliance with specific guidelines and procedures for the location in question. The use of wall space or other surfaces within or on the outside of campus buildings is prohibited.

#### E. Fund Raising

1. Student organizations may raise funds to support their activities in accordance with the following provisions:
  - a. Funds may be collected and materials related to the purpose of the organization may be sold:
    - 1) At their own meetings and programs formally approve under these guidelines; and
    - 2) In compliance with relevant statutes, guidelines, and procedures.
  - b. Initiation fees and membership dues may be collected at their own business and membership meetings.
  - c. All student fund raising activities must have the prior authorization of the sponsoring University Unit which is responsible for the accounting and proper expenditure of such funds. In addition, student fund raising activities, other than the collection of initiation fees and membership dues, must be specifically approved by the Student Activities Office. Written guidelines and procedures pertaining to the fund raising activities undergraduate student organizations may be obtained from the Student Activities Office.
2. Other University groups may raise funds with the permission of the Chancellor or designee.
3. Commercial activity on the Campus Center concourse is only permitted in compliance with approved guidelines and procedures.

To the extent that approved guidelines and procedures regarding the distribution of promotional commercial materials (i.e., materials which offer services or goods in return for money or other consideration) may apply to Housing Services, the Campus Center, Student Union, University Health Services, and other University Units, such guidelines and procedures must be followed.

#### F. Structures

No structure may be erected on campus for an activity without the specific approval of the Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Finance.

#### **IV. LIMITATION OR DENIAL OF USE OF UNIVERSITY PROPERTY**

Approval of the time, place and manner of an activity, program, or event may require a change in location, schedule or security plans, as determined by the appropriate University Unit. In some cases, the request may be denied altogether. Further standards for restriction, modification or denial of a request are outlined below.

- A. The use of University properties may be limited or denied to authorized users if the proposed activity:
  - 1. Is contrary to express University policies, these regulations or other campus guidelines and procedures concerning the general use of properties or use of specific properties; or to the statutes, rules or regulations of the Commonwealth; or
  - 2. Constitutes a clear and present danger to the safety or welfare of persons or property; or
  - 3. Would involve an off-campus audience under circumstances not permitted by these regulations or not permitted by the statutes, rules or regulations of the Commonwealth.
- B. Security arrangements must be approved by the University of Massachusetts Police Department prior to any final approval of an activity, program, or event by the appropriate University Unit. Cost and availability of funding for security arrangements will be a factor considered in the final approval process.
- C. The office denying or limiting the use request shall notify the applicant in writing of the denial or limitations, the reasons therefore, the right to appeal and appeal procedures.
- D. Activities, programs or events must not interfere with official University functions. If any activity interferes with an official University function or any other scheduled activity, it may be discontinued at the direction of an administrator or designee of the University Unit administratively responsible for the space in which the activity, program, or event is occurring.
  - 1. Interference with official University functions can be referred to appropriate University administrators for possible sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct or Principles of Employee Conduct.
  - 2. Interference with official University functions that represents illegal acts, including violent acts, threats of public safety, substantial disorder, trespass, and the invasion of the rights of others, should be referred to the University of Massachusetts Amherst Police Department.
- E. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in limitation or denial of the use of University property.

#### **V. APPEALS**

- A. Written notice of appeal from the denial or limitation of the use of University properties must be received in writing in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life within ten (10) days of the receipt of notice of the denial or limitation. Failure to file a timely notice of appeal may be waived by the Vice Chancellor upon a showing of good cause.

- B. The notice of appeal must include the name and address of the authorized representative of the student organization or University Unit responsible for the appeal, and the nature of the action being appealed.
- C. The Vice Chancellor or designee shall review the appeal. The review shall consist of an examination of: 1) the request for use of University property; 2) the written denial or limitation of the request by the appropriate University Unit; 3) the written notice of appeal; and 4) any other evidence they deem necessary. The decision of the Vice Chancellor or designee will be based on whether good cause existed for the limitation of denial of the space request, which decision shall be final.
- D. Any program, activity, or event related to an appeal shall not be held pending a decision on appeal.

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**Doc. T90-079, as amended | University of Massachusetts Amherst Regulations for Use of Property**  
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*Revised:*  
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*December 18, 2024*