

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA  
GRADUATE ASSOCIATION IN POLITICAL SCIENCE  
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I- NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Graduate Association in Political Science, hereinafter, "the organization." The Organization may also be referred to as "GAPS" in other documentation.

ARTICLE II- PURPOSE

The purpose of the Organization is both self and societal improvement. Each graduate student wants to attain a degree that enables him/her to affect societal conditions and better understand the political world. We study the ills and fortunes of society in order to improve our political environment. Graduate students are in a unique position to improve the collective good of society and, specifically, the University of Oklahoma Political Science program. Graduate students must achieve these goals in a precarious environment, one that produces tension between the co-existing roles of individuals as students, educators, and professionals. Thus, the Organization shall engage in such activities that improve socialization and professional training within the department.

ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1:

Membership is limited to those currently enrolled in the M.A. or Ph.D. program in Political Science at the University of Oklahoma. This includes time during traditional coursework and thesis/dissertation hours.

Section 2:

Membership in, association with, and benefits emanating from the Organization and its related activities shall be based upon such considerations as performance, educational achievement, and other criteria related to the goals of the organization and the purposes of the activities. Judgments in this regard will not be based on consideration of an individual's race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or political beliefs. Further, members of the Organization must be in accordance with public policy as established by the University of Oklahoma code of conduct.

ARTICLE IV- OFFICERS & ADVISORS

Section 1:

The Officers of the Organization shall be President, Vice President, and two Graduate Student Senate Senators. The Advisor of the Organization shall be the ~~Graduate Programs Coordinator.~~ Director of Graduate Studies.

Section 2:

The Officers of the Organization shall be elected by a simple majority of the qualified voting membership present at a general meeting. The offices of President and Vice President may not be held by first year graduate students.

Section 3:

Elections shall be held every fall semester during the first week of October. Elections will be conducted through secret ballot via email with the Graduate Programs Coordinator. Leadership of the Organization will change from the outgoing Officers to the incoming Officers immediately upon the announcement of results of the election. The person obtaining the most votes will be named President. The person obtaining the second most votes will be named Vice President. A separate ballot will be conducted for the two Graduate Student Senate Senators. The two people obtaining the first and second most votes on this ballot will be named Senators.

Section 4:

Any Officer may be removed for cause by a three-fourths vote of the qualified voting membership.

Section 5:

The President shall be the executive officer of the Organization. The President shall preside at all meetings and direct the affairs of the Organization with the advice and consent of the other officers. The President shall also serve as the Organization's representative at faculty meetings held by the Department of Political Science. In the event that there is no President, the remainder of the President's term shall be filled in the following order of succession: Vice President, then Graduate Student Senator 1, then Graduate Student Senator 2.

Section 6:

The Vice President shall perform such duties that are delegated by the President. The Vice President shall fulfill all duties of the President in the absence of the President.

Section 7:

The Organization is responsible for sending two Senators to the Graduate Student Senate. This is essential to ensure members of the Organization are eligible for Graduate Student Senate funding. The two Senators shall keep the Organization apprised of the affairs of the Graduate Student Senate via regular updates at the Organization's meetings. Any member in good standing, regardless of year, is eligible to serve as a Senator.

Section 8:

The Advisor's role in the Organization shall be limited to offering advice or feedback to the Organization. They will also house all documents related to the Organization to ensure the preservation of institutional knowledge and longevity of the Organization.

## ARTICLE VI- ADDITIONAL GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

### Section 1:

The Organization will have monthly meetings in concurrence with the monthly Department of Political Science Lunch-N-Learn.

### Section 2:

The Organization is subject to Local, State, and Federal Laws.

### Section 3:

The Organization is not affiliated with any parent organization. This Constitution is the sole governing document of the Organization. However, the Organization and its members are at all times subject to the terms of the University of Oklahoma code of conduct.

## ARTICLE VII- AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the Organization's qualified voting membership present at a general meeting.