



The Constitution
of the
Clemson University
Graduate Student Body

Preamble

The Constitution of the Graduate Student Body provides the fundamental power of the Clemson University Graduate Student Government as given by the graduate student body.

Article I: Name

The name of this government shall be *Clemson University Graduate Student Government (CGSG)*.

Article II: Object

The object of Clemson University Graduate Student Government is:

- a. Involvement: to encourage graduate student participation in the University process;
- b. Communication: to act as the liaison between the University and the graduate students with an emphasis on honest and open communication;
- c. Collaboration: to combine the efforts of graduate students and the University into one united mission of making the Clemson experience one of quality education and reward; and
- d. Development: to provide participatory learning experiences that allow for the enhancement of graduate students' academic, civic, social, and professional development.

Article III: Members

The membership of CGSG shall include all elected and appointed officials in the legislative and executive branches, as well as any persons representing CGSG on university committees.

Article IV: Legislative Branch

Section 4.1: Purpose

The legislative power shall be vested in the Clemson University Graduate Student Senate, hereafter referred to as the Senate, and Satellite Councils.

Section 4.2: The Senate

Section 4.2.1: Purpose

The purpose of the Senate is to represent and promote the welfare of all graduate students.

Section 4.2.2: Powers

The powers of the Senate shall include the power to:

- a. Adopt written resolutions to:
 1. Establish Senate committees;
 2. Establish Senate policies and procedures;
 3. Express the sense of the Senate on any matter;
 4. Remove, by an affirmative vote of the majority of the membership, any member of CGSG;
- b. Enact written bills, including those to:
 1. Establish Satellite Councils;
 2. Appropriate funds for the benefit of the student body;
 3. Grant recognition to Graduate Student Organizations;
 4. Levy fees on the Graduate Student Body, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees;
 5. Establish regulations governing membership and elections of CGSG.

Section 4.2.3: Leadership

The Student Body Vice President shall serve as the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall preside over the Senate and appoint Senate officers, including the Senate Clerk and Senate Secretary.

Section 4.2.4: Legislation

- a. Unless waived by the Senate President, new legislation shall be presented to the Senate members at least one week prior to the vote on the legislation.
- b. Resolutions shall become effective immediately upon certification of passage by the presiding officer.
- c. Bills passed by the Senate shall be presented to the Student Body President, who may sign or veto the legislation. If the legislation is not signed or vetoed within seven (7) calendar days of presentation, then the bill shall be considered vetoed. The Senate shall have the right to overturn any veto by two-thirds (2/3) vote at its next meeting.
- d. Bills which have been signed by the Student Body President or have received a veto override in the Senate shall become effective upon receiving the signature of the Clemson University Vice President for Student Affairs.

Section 4.2.5: Quorum

- a. Forty (40) percent of the Senate membership shall constitute a quorum.
- b. Senators must be physically present to count toward a quorum and to vote.

Section 4.3: Satellite Councils

Section 4.3.1: Purpose

The purpose of Satellite Councils is to represent and promote the welfare of graduate students at campuses other than the one at which the Senate resides.

Section 4.3.2: Powers

The powers of each Council shall include the power to:

- a. Adopt written resolutions to:
 1. Establish Council committees;
 2. Establish Council policies and procedures;
 3. Express the sense of the Council on any matter;
 4. Remove, by an affirmative vote of the majority of the membership, any member of the Council;
- b. Enact written bills subject to legislation of the Senate, including those to:
 1. Appropriate funds for the benefit of the students of the Council campus;
 2. Levy fees on the students of the Council campus, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees;
 3. Establish regulations governing membership and elections of the Council.

Section 4.3.3: Leadership

At the first meeting of the academic year, each Satellite Council shall elect a member to serve as chair of the council. The chair shall preside over their Council and appoint officers, including the Council Secretary.

PROVISO: Section 3.3 shall go into effect January 1, 2017. For 2016, the chair of each council shall be elected by the Graduate Student Body.

Section 4.3.4: Legislation

- a. Unless waived by the Council Chair, new legislation shall be presented to the Council members at least one week prior to the vote on the legislation.
- b. Resolutions shall become effective immediately upon certification of passage by the presiding officer.
- c. Bills passed by the Council shall be presented to the Student Body President, who may sign or veto the legislation. If the legislation is not signed or vetoed within seven (7) calendar days of presentation, then the bill shall be considered vetoed. The Council shall have the right to overturn any veto by two-thirds (2/3) vote at its next meeting.
- d. Bills which have been signed by the Student Body President or have received a veto override in the Council shall become effective upon receiving the signature of the Clemson University Vice President for Student Affairs.

Section 4.3.5: Quorum

Forty (40) percent of Council membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4.4: Membership

Each graduate program may, at their discretion, appoint one senator or councilor. For purposes of apportionment, graduate programs of the same name, irrespective of the degree types, shall be considered one program. The Senate and Satellite Councils may each provide for additional membership of their respective bodies by legislation.

The chair of each Satellite Council shall be an *ex officio* member of the Senate.

The term of office for all members of the Legislative Branch shall be from August 1st to July 31st of the following year.

Article V: Executive Branch

Section 5.1: Purpose

The executive power shall be vested in a Student Body President and Student Body Vice President elected by the Graduate Student Body.

Section 5.2: Powers of the President of the Graduate Student Body

The duties and powers of the Student Body President shall include the power to:

- a. Serve as a spokesperson for the Graduate Student Body;
- b. Provide vision and direction to the organization;
- c. Issue proclamations of a celebratory nature and recognize graduate student achievements and contributions to graduate student life;
- d. Represent the Graduate Student Body to the Board of Trustees and University administration;
- e. Make appointments to University committees on which CGSG is entitled to representation;
- f. Appoint members of the President's Cabinet;
- g. Unilaterally remove any person in a position appointed by the Student Body President.

Section 5.3: Powers of the Vice President of the Graduate Student Body

The duties and power of the Student Body Vice President shall include:

- a. Serve as President and *ex officio* member of the Graduate Student Senate;
- b. Establish the date, time, and location of Senate meetings;
- c. Ensure the proper operation of Senate activities;
- d. Assist and advise the Student Body President.
- e. Unilaterally remove any person in a position appointed by the Student Body Vice President.

Section 5.5: Office Terms

The President-elect and Vice-President-elect shall be sworn in at the final Senate meeting of the academic year and shall serve until the swearing in of the succeeding administration.

Section 5.6: Representative Requirements

An elected member of the Executive Branch shall be automatically and immediately removed from office if said member fails to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a. Maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative graduate grade point ratio.
- b. Not be on disciplinary probation with Clemson University.
- c. Maintain enrollment as a Clemson University graduate student.

Section 5.7: Succession

- a. If the office of Student Body President is vacated, the Student Body Vice President shall assume the office of Student Body President and vacate the office of Student Body Vice President.
- b. Any vacant executive or senate office must be filled at the first Senate meeting following the vacancy.
- c. In the event of an extenuating circumstance, the Senate may vest the Student Body Vice President with the powers of the Student Body President by a two-thirds vote.

Article VI: Referendum

The Graduate Student Body shall have the right to enact or repeal any legislation by referendum, upon the written request of ten percent (10%) of enrolled graduate students. The Senate shall have the right and duty to promulgate regulations governing referendum.

Article VII: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern CGSG in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and any special rules of order which CGSG may adopt.

Article VIII: Amendment of Constitution

This constitution may be amended by bill of the Senate or referendum.

A proposed bill amending this constitution must be approved in two successive meetings of the Senate. The final vote to approve any amendment must receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote in the affirmative.