

Constitution
for the
Graduate Student Government Association
of the
Georgia Institute of Technology

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Graduate Student Government Association of the Georgia Institute of Technology, hereafter referred to as the Government.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Government is to represent the graduate student body in all matters concerning academics, welfare, administration, and matters specific to graduate students; to work with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research in promoting greater recognition of graduate education on and off campus; to promote closer graduate student-faculty-administration relations; and to stimulate interest in and appreciation of graduate education both on and off campus.

ARTICLE III: AUTHORITY

The Constitution of this Government shall not be subject to the authority of any other student organization, graduate or undergraduate. Any law, rule, or other regulation enacted or promulgated by this Government shall be valid and binding on the graduate student body only when the same has been properly adopted and is reasonably necessary and within the scope of the authority of the rule-making body. No law, rule or other regulation, which is in conflict with the Statutes, Student Conduct Code, or other official rules, and regulations of the Georgia Institute of Technology may be enacted by this Government.

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATION

This Government shall consist of three branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

Paragraph A. The Legislative Branch shall be the Graduate Student Senate, hereafter referred to as the Senate.

Paragraph B. The Executive Branch shall be the Executive Council, Standing and Ad-hoc Committees, and the Institute Committee Representatives.

Paragraph C. The Judicial Branch shall be the Graduate Judiciary, hereafter referred to as the Judiciary.

Paragraph D. The Government shall be advised by a representative of the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

ARTICLE V: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Paragraph A. MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTIONS

- a. The Senate shall include representatives from all administratively recognized departments, partnerships, or allied institutes required to pay student activity fees. Departmental Senators, Partnership Senators, Allied Institute Senators, Graduate Co-op Senators, At-large Senators shall be apportioned according to the guidelines established in the By-Laws.
- b. Officers of the Senate shall include a Treasurer, Secretary, Coordinating Officer and Vice President of Finance. The Vice-President shall chair the meetings and shall vote only in the case of a tie. The Senate may select a temporary chair in the Vice President's absence. The President shall serve in an advisory capacity and will not have a vote. The Treasurer, Secretary, Coordinating Officer and Vice President of Finance may be Senators.
- c. Senators shall be elected by their graduate student constituents during the first month of fall term. They shall be installed at the Senate meeting immediately following the election and shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected. Candidates must comply with all regulations for elections established in the By-Laws.

- d. The Treasurer, Secretary, Coordinating Officer and Vice President of Finance shall be elected by a majority vote of the Senate at the last meeting of the spring term. They shall be installed at that meeting and shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are installed.

Paragraph B. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to run for the position of Senator or Officer, a candidate must be enrolled as a full-time graduate student, be in good standing, and remain a full-time graduate student for the duration of the term, except for summer term.

Paragraph C. REPLACEMENT

- a. The Treasurer, Secretary, Coordinating Officer, Vice President of Finance or any Senator may be removed from office upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the Senate.
- b. Whenever a Senate seat becomes vacant for more than thirty (30) days before the scheduled regular election, a member of the graduate student body may be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate to serve until the next regular election. If the Office of Treasurer, Secretary, Coordinating Officer or Vice President of Finance becomes vacant, the Senate shall elect a new Officer to serve until the next election.

Paragraph D. DUTIES AND LIMITATIONS

- a. The Senate shall advise the President on appointments, as described in the By-Laws, and a majority vote shall be necessary to consent to such action.
- b. The Senate shall advise the President on the creation of all Ad-hoc Committees and a majority vote shall be necessary to consent to such action.
- c. The Senate shall cooperate with the Undergraduate Student Council in exercising general supervision over all the student activities.
- d. The Senate, together with the Undergraduate Student Council, shall have the responsibility of formulating an annual budget and for recommending changes in the amount of the Student Activity Fee.
 1. In forming such a budget or recommending such changes, both legislative bodies shall consider the recommendations of a Joint Finance Committee composed of both graduate and undergraduate members, according to the relative proportions of the graduate and undergraduate bodies. There shall be no fewer than two (2) graduate members on the Joint Finance Committee. The Chair of the Joint Finance Committee shall be appointed by the Presidents of both Undergraduate and Graduate Student Governments pursuant to Joint Standing Committee appointment procedures outlined in Article VI of this Constitution.
 2. The annual student activity budget shall be voted upon by both the Undergraduate Student Council and Senate. These votes shall be recorded and the totals used to calculate the Enactment Ratio, defined as such: $(\text{number of Council affirmative votes}) / (\text{total number of Council votes cast}) * (\text{fraction of total Student Activity Fees paid by undergraduates}) + (\text{number of Senate affirmative votes}) / (\text{total number of Senate votes cast}) * (\text{fraction of total Student Activity Fees paid by graduates}) = \text{Enactment Ratio}$. The Enactment Ratio must be greater than 0.6 to pass the annual budget.
 3. The Enactment Ratio shall be used to determine a recommendation for an increase in the amount of the Student Activity Fee; however, the Enactment Ratio must be greater than 0.75.
 4. The annual budget and changes in the amount of the Student Activity Fee must be reviewed and approval by the Student Activities Committee of the Faculty Senate and becomes effective with the approval and subsequent action of the President of the Georgia Institute of Technology.
 5. At the end of the fiscal year, any unspent moneys from organizations receiving Student Activities Fees shall be allocated to three accounts. The first twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) shall be divided between the Graduate Legislative Reserve and the Undergraduate Legislative Reserve according to the fraction of Student Activity Fees paid by graduate students and undergraduate students respectively. The legislative bodies of each Government shall have the responsibility of allocating these funds.

6. The rest of the unspent moneys will be divided equally and allocated to the Prior Year Account and the Capital Outlay Account. Appropriations from these two accounts shall be allocated as needed, using the same Enactment Ratio as for the annual budget. The Enactment Ratio must be greater than 0.6 to approve such allocations.
7. Financial bills not subject to the Enactment Ratio must be sent to the Joint Finance Committee (hereinafter JFC). Recommendations will be formulated by the graduate members of the JFC.
8. The Senate, along with the Undergraduate Student Council, may defer the appropriation authority of a fixed dollar amount of the revenue from the Student Activity Fee to a Joint Governing Board. This appropriation authority must be included in the charter of the Joint Government Board (Article VII) and is exempt from the procedures set forth in this paragraph. The passing of this joint bill will be subject to two-thirds approval by both houses.

Paragraph E. CHARTERING OF ORGANIZATIONS

The Senate shall have the authority and power to charter campus organizations and revoke said charters, as described in the By-Laws.

Paragraph F. MEETINGS

Meetings and parliamentary procedure follow the guidelines established in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Paragraph A. MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTIONS

- a. The Executive Council shall include the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Coordinating Officer, Vice President of Finance, and Committee Chairs.
- b. Any graduate student who is in good standing may be member of a Standing or Ad-hoc Committee. Standing Committee Chair shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Standing Committee Chairs shall serve for one year or until their successors are appointed.
- c. Institute Committee Representatives shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. They shall serve for one year or until their successors are appointed.
- d. The President and Vice-President shall be elected separately by a majority vote of the graduate student body during spring term. They cannot serve simultaneously as Senators. The President and Vice President shall be installed at the last meeting of the spring term and shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are installed.

Paragraph B. ELIGIBILITY

Committee Chairs and Institute Committee Representatives shall be enrolled as students and be in good standing. A candidate for President or Vice-President must be enrolled as a full-time graduate student for at least one semester previous to the election, be in good standing, and remain a full-time graduate student for the duration of the term, except for summer term.

Paragraph C. REPLACEMENT

- a. The President and Vice-President may be removed from office upon presentation of articles of impeachment by the Senate. Removal from office becomes effective when the articles of impeachment are approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership of the Senate.
- b. If a Committee Chair or Institute Committee Representative vacancy occurs, the President shall make another appointment to the position with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- c. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President will assume the President's duties. If this occurs more than thirty (30) days before the regular election of the graduate student body, then a special election to fill the Vice President's position will take place. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President more than thirty (30) days before the regular election, then a special election of the graduate student body to fill that position will take place.

Paragraph D. JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES

A Joint Standing Committee of the Student Government Association shall be a committee composed of both undergraduate and graduate members with a statutory responsibility to both the Graduate Student Senate and the Undergraduate Student Council.

- a. Chairman
 1. The Chairman of a Joint Standing Committee will be appointed by the President of the Student Body of larger population with the advice of the President of the Student Body of smaller population.
 2. The person appointed as Chair of a Joint Standing Committee shall be approved by both the Graduate Student Senate and the Undergraduate Student Council with the following Enactment Ratio: $\frac{\# \text{Undergraduate votes yes}}{\# \text{Undergraduate votes cast}} \times \text{proportion of Undergraduate students} + \frac{\# \text{Graduate votes yes}}{\# \text{Graduate votes cast}} \times \text{proportion of Graduate students}$. The Enactment Ratio must be 0.5 or higher for approval.
 3. There shall be no restriction placed on candidates for the position of a Joint Standing Committee based on the candidate's classification as Graduate or Undergraduate.
- b. A Joint Standing Committee may be established by approval of both the Graduate Student Senate and the Undergraduate Student Council using the Enactment Ratio in Subsection b2 provided that the Enactment Ratio is 2/3 or higher. Standing committees of the Graduate Student Senate or the Undergraduate Student Council may be changed to Joint Standing Committees provided that the appropriate statutory composition and responsibility of the committee are changed in the By-Laws, and the Chair is appointed via Subsection b.
- c. The Joint Finance Committee shall be a Joint Standing Committee of the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE VII: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Paragraph A. MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT

The Judiciary shall be appointed before the end of the spring term. It shall be composed of at least five (5) and no more than seven (7) Justices at any one time. There shall be no more than two (2) Justices from any School and at least three (3) Colleges must be represented at any one time. Justices shall be nominated by the President and appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate for the term of one (1) year and may be reappointed at the end of the term by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. One Justice shall be appointed as the Chair of the Judiciary by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Paragraph B. ELIGIBILITY

Justices shall be enrolled as graduate students and be in good standing.

Paragraph C. REPLACEMENT

Justices may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the Senate. If a Justice vacancy occurs, the President shall make another appointment to the position with the advice and consent of the Senate.

ARTICLE VIII: OATH OF OFFICE

Upon assuming the Offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Coordinating Officer, Vice President of Finance, Justice or Senator the following oath shall be taken: "I (full name), do solemnly affirm that I will uphold the Constitution of the Graduate Student Government of the Georgia Institute of Technology, and that I will execute the duties of the office of (name of position) to the best of my abilities."

ARTICLE IX: JOINT GOVERNING BOARDS

Paragraph A. DEFINITION

A Joint Governing Board shall function as an independent organization from Student Government.

Paragraph B. ESTABLISHMENT AND CHARTER

A Joint Governing Board may be established by adding the charter of the board to the By-laws of both the Undergraduate Student Government and Graduate Student Government. The initial charter and any changes must be approved in the same form by both the Senate and Undergraduate Student Council to become effective.

Paragraph C. CHAIRMAN

The chairman of a Joint Governing Board will be appointed in the same manner as the Chairman of a Joint Standing Committee.

ARTICLE X: RATIFICATION, AMENDMENTS, REFERENDA, INITIATIVE, AND RECALL

Paragraph A. RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall become effective immediately upon ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the Senate and with approval of the Student Activities Committee of the Faculty Senate.

Paragraph B. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the Senate, or by a petition of ten percent (10%) of the graduate student body directed to the President.

Amendments become part of this Constitution upon ratification by either of the following:

- a. Two-thirds (2/3) of the graduate student body voting in a special election, provided that each proposed amendment was presented to the graduate student body at least one month prior to a referendum, with approval of the Student Activities Committee of the Faculty Senate; or
- b. Two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the Senate and with approval of the Student Activities Committee of the Faculty Senate.

Paragraph C. REFERENDA

A Referendum on any question may be called by a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the graduate student body, or by a majority vote of the Senate. The Senate shall be responsible for conducting all referenda, and referendum vote by the graduate student body must be carried by a majority of the students voting.

Paragraph D. INITIATIVE

An initiative on any question may be called by a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the graduate student body. The Senate must consider the initiated question and vote on the initiated question. A meeting of the graduate student body must be called by the President within thirty (30) days upon receipt of a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the graduate student body.

Paragraph E. RECALL

A recall election for any Officer or Senator may be called by a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the electing constituency. A special election shall then be held in which the electing constituency shall vote on whether or not to retain that Officer or Senator. A recall vote must be carried by a majority of students voting.

ARTICLE XI: BY-LAWS

Paragraph A. PURPOSE

The Senate shall establish a set of rules, which shall be known as the By-Laws of the Government. The By-Laws shall be a lesser authority than this Constitution and shall establish additional guidelines for the Government.

Paragraph B. RATIFICATION

The By-Laws shall be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the Senate.

Paragraph C. AMENDMENT

The By-Laws may be amended to a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate, provided notice has been given of the proposed amendment(s) at the previous Senate meeting, and with approval via the Student Activities Committee.