

Genetics Graduate Student Association (GGSA)
Department of Genetics
University of Georgia
Davison Life Sciences Building

Constitution

Preamble:

We, the members of the Genetics Graduate Student Association and, subscribing to the regulations and policies of the University of Georgia, establish this Constitution to govern the matters within our organization.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization is the Genetics Graduate Student Association (GGSA).

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the GGSA shall be to (1) provide intra-departmental and university-wide representation for genetics graduate students, (2) foster scientific communication between current genetics graduate students and prominent scientists in the field of genetics by sponsoring seminar speakers and invited lecturers, (3) promote interactions within the department by organizing social events, and (4) provide a means for discussion and implementation of policies pertaining to the genetics graduate student experience.

Article III: Membership

- a. Membership shall be limited to regularly enrolled University of Georgia students and faculty.
 - i. Only student members may vote on GGSA business and count towards quorum
- b. Membership is automatically extended to all currently enrolled graduate students in the Department of Genetics, recipients of the NIH Genetics Training Grant, and ILS program.
 - i. There is no application process.
 - ii. There are no GPA requirements.
- c. Dues or payments are not required to belong to the GGSA.

Article IV: Non-Discrimination

- a. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students without regard to race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.
- b. Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students as stated in the University of Georgia Non-Discrimination and

Anti-Harassment Policy. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects people from discrimination based on race, color or national origin in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Article V: Officers

- a. Two co-presidents (reps.), a treasurer, a secretary, and a social chair will be elected in the Spring for a term lasting for one year from the end of the spring semester to the following spring. One GSA representative will be elected in the Fall semester for a term lasting one year. Only full-time graduate students in the Department of Genetics who have paid their Student Activity Fee may serve as officers. Full-time enrollment is defined as 9 or more credit hours per semester. Officers are elected by obtaining a >50% vote. There is no limit to the number of terms that an officer can serve.
 - Co-presidents/Representatives are responsible for delegating/completing:
 - i. Attending faculty meetings
 - ii. Running GGSA meetings
 - iii. GAC lunch (ordering food, reminding faculty member to attend)
 - iv. Organizing seminar snacks
 - v. Organizing the new graduate student welcome party
 - vi. Organizing the departmental retreat
 - vii. Helping to organize the graduate student recruitment weekend
 - viii. Registering the genetics graduate student association with CSO (the center for student organizations)
 - ix. Organizing the voting for and inviting student-invited speakers
 - The Treasurer is responsible for:
 - i. Applying for funding from the university (student activity fees)
 - ii. Making sure funding is used for student invited speakers
 - iii. Placing orders for food, shirts, etc. when necessary
 - The Secretary is responsible for:
 - i. Taking notes at GGSA meetings
 - ii. Coordinating student announcements (as with a weekly digest)
 - iii. Development and maintenance of a Genetics GSA website
 - The Social Chair is responsible for:
 - i. Planning and coordinating student social activities. Ideally, at least one social event a month will be planned.
 - ii. Working with the graduate coordinator or any assigned faculty advisor to plan recruitment weekend details
 - iii. Working with the department accountant to set and adhere to a budget for recruitment events
 - iv. Organizing recruitment weekend activities (including catering details for all events)
 - GSA Representative

- i. Attend GSA meetings, participate in votes, and take notes
 - ii. Represent GGSA in GSA committees
 - iii. Relay relevant GSA news back to the GGSA at monthly meetings
- b. An officer is removed from office if a member of GGSA initiates a vote for their removal that receives 3/4 majority support. This can occur at any time during officership. The officer will be given the opportunity to address the complaints issued against him/her before the vote.
- c. In case of vacancy of office, another election will be held to occupy the vacant position.
 - During this time, the officer next in line in the hierarchy stipulated in the bylaws will take on the responsibilities of the vacant position. If the social chair is vacated, the communications officer will also temporarily fill that position (despite the hierarchy) until an election is held.

Article VI: Meetings

- Regular meetings will take place once a month during Fall and Spring semesters. The time of these meetings will be under the discretion of the co-presidents and must be announced to GGSA members at least 3 days in advance.
 - i. Regular meetings will not take place in the Summer.
 - ii. Special meetings will be called when the need arises.
 1. The time of these meetings will be under the discretion of the co-presidents and must be announced to GGSA members at least 3 days in advance.
- Either of the co-presidents has the authority to call the meeting to order.
- At least one of the co-presidents and 2/3 of the members must be present to transact business.

Article VII: Amendments

- a. Amendments must be proposed at the regular monthly meeting in front of all students present.
- b. All amendments must be approved by a majority of the genetics graduate students present at the monthly meeting.
- c. Amendments must be approved by both of the co-presidents
- d. If an amendment is passed by the majority of grad students and vetoed by either one of the presidents, said amendment may be brought forth to a panel of 8 randomly chosen graduate students in the department to be further evaluated.

Article VIII: Advisors

- a. The Genetics Department Graduate Coordinator will serve as the GGSA faculty advisor. If, for some reason, the Graduate Coordinator is unable or unwilling to serve as the GGSA faculty advisor, a different faculty member will be elected at the start of the academic year.

- b. The GGSA reserves the right to remove the advisor at any time throughout the year.
- c. Duties of the faculty advisor include.
 - i. Serving as our organization's mailbox
 - ii. Signing our budget forms
 - iii. Assist co-presidents in bringing new graduate student business to the faculty

By-Laws:

- a. Officer Hierarchy
 - i. Student Reps (Co-presidents, one from molecular side and one from evolution side if possible)
 - ii. Treasurer
 - iii. Secretary
 - iv. Social Chair
- b. By-law amendment
 - i. Majority vote from the students in the GGSA will be required to amend a by-law.
 - ii. Officers reserve the right to address the GGSA and to petition for another vote.