

**Longwood University
Graduate Student Association
Constitution**

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1.01: Name

The name of this organization will be the Graduate Student Association of Longwood University, hereafter referred to as GSA, as of the 2016-2017 academic year, formerly known as Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) of Longwood University, established in the 2007-2008 academic year.

Section 1.02: Mission

The Graduate Student Association of Longwood University is established to create a community of graduate students that provides a forum where matters of concern to graduate and professional students may be discussed; where opinions on actions and proposals of graduate groups may be expressed; where proposals of graduate groups may be initiated; and where programs and services of special interest are brought to the attention of graduate students. To achieve this mission, the Graduate Student Association will:

1. Serve as the official voice for graduate students in terms of academics and student affairs.
2. Be responsible for electing representatives to relevant university bodies and committees for campus, such as, but not limited to, Graduate Council, Student Government Association, Faculty Senate, Board of Visitors, and Presidential Student Advisory Committee.
3. Promote the cultural, intellectual, social, and personal development of students.
4. Advance the mission of Longwood University.

Section 1.03: Alliance with Student Government Association

The GSA will serve in parity with the SGA. The GSA will operate independently under the umbrella of the SGA with governance over graduate student affairs.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.01. All graduate students of Longwood University will be members of this organization.

Members should demonstrate a willingness to devote time and support to the Association and contribute to its mission.

Section 2.02: Discrimination

All students shall be free from discrimination on the basis of: Gender, Race, Origin, Religious Preference, Physical Disability, Sexual Orientation, Political Ideology, Age, Creed, Marital Status, or Social-Economic Background.

ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 3.01 Executive Council Appointments and Responsibilities

The Executive Council will be responsible for sustaining the GSA, recommending policy, and carrying out official GSA business. The Executive Council will be comprised of the Officers, Directors, and Graduate Representatives. Individuals that serve on the Executive Council will be elected by GSA vote or appointed by current Graduate Faculty Program Directors. Each Graduate Faculty Program Director will appoint at least one student representative on behalf of the program to serve on the Council for one academic year. GSA members will elect vacant Officer positions at the beginning of each semester. The President or Vice President will appoint individuals to an interim position or will divide remaining duties of positions if vacancies appear in the middle of each academic school year.

ARTICLE IV. ADVISORS

Section 4.01 Role of Graduate Student Association Advisors

The College of Graduate and Professional Studies and the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs will serve as advisors for the GSA. If another faculty or staff member wishes to serve in an advisory capacity, he or she may submit a proposal to the GSA Executive Council for approval.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 5.01 Meeting Requirements

Meetings are called by the President or Vice President and will be conducted at least twice a month during each academic semester.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCE

Section 6.01: Financial Design

The GSA will control a budget from the graduate student activity fee as outlined in the GSA Finance Subcommittee Bylaws. The Treasurer will maintain all financial records, in correspondence with the College of Graduate and Professional Studies Advisor. The financial records of GSA will be made available for review by any member of the Association upon request. The university will have the right, at its own expense, to audit the financial records of this organization.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

Section 7.01: Amendments to GSA Constitution

Any amendment and/or revision to the Constitution requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the Executive Council. The GSA Constitution will be reassessed by committee appointed by the Executive Council every two years.