

CONSTITUTION OF THE
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (PGSA)

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Florida State University (FSU) Philosophy Graduate Student Association.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association shall be as follows:

1. To foster interest in philosophy and philosophical issues within the academic community of The Florida State University,
2. To contribute to the life of the philosophical community at large
3. To represent the FSU Department of Philosophy in both The Florida State University and the philosophical community at large,
4. To improve the quality of graduate philosophical work in both teaching and research, and
5. To serve in an advisory capacity as a liaison between the graduate students of the FSU Department of Philosophy and its faculty, staff, and administration.

In particular the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association shall be dedicated:

1. To voicing and discussing administrative and academic concerns of graduate students in the FSU Department of Philosophy to the FSU Department of Philosophy faculty, staff, and administration, and
2. To acting as a conduit for the communication between graduate students in the FSU Department of Philosophy and the FSU Department of Philosophy faculty, staff, and administration concerning any and all matters relating to the administrative and academic well-being of the FSU Department of Philosophy.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Statement

Voting membership in the organization is consists of currently enrolled graduate students in the FSU Department of Philosophy.

No university student may be denied membership on the basis of race, creed, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, parental status, disability, or the inability to pay dues.

No hazing or discrimination will be used as a condition of membership in this organization.

Section 2: Recruitment

Recruitment shall take place throughout the year and membership is open at all times.

Section 3: Revocation of Membership

Membership may be revoked without mutual agreement for non-participation, misconduct, or violations of any provisions of the Constitution. The member will be notified in writing of the possible revocation at least 72 hours prior to the vote and will be allowed to address the organization in order to relate to members any relevant defense prior to the voting for removal. Membership can only be revoked upon a 2/3 majority vote of eligible members. Revocation of membership will be valid for a maximum of three (3) semesters.

Section 4: Appeal Process

Any student whose membership is revoked will have seven (7) calendar days to appeal the revocation. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the President and Secretary and must include any relevant information that has not already been presented. The President will then submit the appeal to the Appeals Committee. This committee consists of the President, Vice-president, and Secretary/Treasurer and four (4) general members. This committee will then render a decision at the next general body meeting or in seven (7) calendar days, whichever occurs first.

STUDENT EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

The executive offices of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association shall be President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. The executive offices of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association shall conform to the following guidelines:

1. Only a graduate student shall fill the offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.
2. The term of office for all executive offices shall be one year or until the next General Meeting for the election of FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association officers, whichever comes first.

A. President

The President shall:

1. Organize and direct the efforts and communication of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association,
2. At his or her discretion, act as chairperson for all FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association meetings,
3. Act as the chairperson for the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association Peer Review Committee in the event that there is no Program for Instruction Excellence (PIE) Teaching Associate for the FSU Department of Philosophy,
4. Attend all FSU Department of Philosophy faculty meetings open to graduate students, and
5. Serve ex officio on all FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association committees.

B. Vice President

The Vice-President shall:

1. Serve as the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association representative to the College of Arts and Sciences and to PIE in the event that there is no PIE Teaching Associate for the FSU Department of Philosophy,
2. Act as chairperson for the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association Colloquium Committee,
3. Act as the President's alternate in the event that the President is unable to discharge all or part of said duties (Article VII, sec 1), and
4. Perform other duties in accordance with the function of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association as directed by the President.

C. Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer shall:

1. Be responsible for keeping and distributing the minutes of all FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association meetings,
2. Be responsible for all matter pertaining to the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association budget including but not limited to fund acquisition, and record keeping,
3. Act as chairperson for the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association Budget Committee,
4. Act as the Vice-President's alternate in the event that the Vice-President is unable to discharge all or part of said duties (Article VII, sec 2), and
5. Perform other duties in accordance with the function of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association as directed by the President.

D. Advisor

As required by Florida State University for official recognition as a student organization, PGSA will have an advisor. The advisor shall be either one of the faculty members of Department of

Philosophy of Florida State University or one of the full-time staff members of the Department of Philosophy of the Florida State University.

COMMITTEES

Committees shall primarily carry out the said duties and activities of the PGSA. The following shall be standing committees of the PGSA.

1. The Colloquium Committee: The Colloquium Committee shall be responsible for making recommendations to the FSU Philosophy Department faculty Colloquium Committee as well as planning, promoting, and producing Colloquia sponsored by the PGSA.
2. The Readings Committee: The Readings Committee shall be responsible for planning, promoting, and producing periodic reading groups in philosophy.
3. The Social Committee: The Social Committee shall be responsible for planning, promoting, and producing social functions as well as providing refreshments for post-colloquia mixers sponsored by the PGSA.
4. The Budget Committee: The Budget Committee shall be responsible for producing an annual budget proposal based upon recommendations of the executive officers and the committees of the PGSA, which shall be submitted for approval at a General Meeting of the PGSA.
5. The Peer Review Committee: The Peer Review Committee shall be responsible for the performance and maintenance of the peer review process for graduate teaching assistants in the FSU Department of Philosophy in accordance with the direction of the PIE Teaching Associate or the President of the PGSA.

From time to time the President may, upon the recommendation of a member or members of the PGSA, establish a special committee. Special committees shall conform to the following guidelines:

1. The President shall specify the purpose of the special committee at the time of its establishment,
2. The special committee shall be responsible for fulfilling its stated purpose,
3. The special committee shall remain active until its stated purpose has been fulfilled.

All committees shall carry out their stated purpose in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Committee membership shall be unlimited and open to all members of the PGSA,
2. Committee members shall be chosen on a volunteer basis,
3. The term of membership for any of the standing committees shall be one year and the term of membership for any special committee shall be co-extensive with the life of the committee itself.
4. Each committee, once established, shall elect a chairperson, with the following three exceptions:
 - (i) The Colloquium Committee
 - (ii) The Budget Committee, and
 - (iii) The Peer Review Committee.

5. The committee chairperson shall be responsible for maintaining minutes of all committee meetings and reporting on the progress of the committee to the President of the PGSA.
6. The committees themselves shall establish other rules and procedures for their respective committees.

ARTICLE IV

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: Election of Officers

The executive officers of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association shall be filled by election in accordance with the following provisions:

1. The electorate shall consist of those members of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association as are present at the General Meeting for the election of FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association officers,
2. A simple majority of those present shall be required to elect,
3. Candidates for election must be members of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association.
4. A member or members of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association shall nominate candidates for election,
5. Officers of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association shall be eligible for reelection.
6. The General Meeting for the election of FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association officers shall be held during the last four weeks of the spring semester - notification of the General Meeting for the election of FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association officers shall be widely distributed.
7. The newly elected FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association officers shall assume their offices immediately after the General Meeting resultant in their election.
8. Officers who resign during their term of office shall be replaced by election at the next General Meeting of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association.
9. Method of Appointment: The executive officers of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association shall be chosen by one of the following methods in this order of precedence:
 - (i) By acclamation of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association,
 - (ii) By nomination and highest vote (simple majority), or
 - (iii) In the case of a tie the vote will be repeated until the tie is broken and a majority is achieved.

Section 2: Removal of Officers

Any officer may be removed from office upon a 2/3 majority vote of eligible members. The officer will be notified in writing of the possible termination or removal at least 72 hours prior to the vote and will be allowed to address the organization in order to relate to members any relevant defense prior to the voting for removal.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS OF PGSA

The schedule of meetings or activities of PGSA is set by the officers. PGSA will meet and communicate with each other on a regular basis subject to the needs and schedules of the members.

General Meetings of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association shall be held within the first two weeks of both the fall and spring semesters, and within the last four weeks of the spring semester. Other General Meetings of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association shall be held on an as needed basis at the discretion of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association President. All General Meetings shall be held in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Seven members of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association (including the executive officers) shall constitute a quorum,
2. A simple majority shall carry motions,
3. No official business shall be conducted without a quorum,
4. No General Meeting shall be convened unless one week's prior notification is provided to the membership except in 'special circumstances' - no case shall be considered a 'special circumstance' without the unanimous consent of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association officers, and
5. At the discretion of the FSU Philosophy Graduate Student Association President, Robert's Rules of Order may be used in the conduct of the General Meetings.

ARTICLE VI

RECOGNITION OF PGSA AS A STUDENT ORGANIZATION

In order for PGSA to maintain its status as a Recognized Student Organization, PGSA will comply with all attending regulations.

ARTICLE VII

FUNDING

PGSA may receive funds from Florida State University when recognized on campus as a student organization. Other funds may be obtained from dues, sponsorships and/or other fund raising activities. Any dues collected may be used by PGSA in order to cover operational costs of the organization (mailings, copying, etc.).

ARTICLE VIII

PGSA PUBLICATIONS

Section 1: Compliance

All advertisements of the organization must comply with the University Posting Policy (<http://www.fsu.edu/~posting/fsupolicy.html>).

Section 2: Approval

The Secretary and President must approve all publications, shirts, flyers, etc. prior to duplication and distribution.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS

Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws of the PGSA must be proposed in writing to the President. The amendment must then be presented to the Association during a scheduled meeting and should include a full explanation and/or rationale for the amendment. The amendment must be voted on at the next scheduled meeting. The amendment shall not take effect until approved by a 2/3 majority vote of eligible members of the organization.