

## Constitution of the Graduate Student Association

To join, a student must ask to be placed on the roster. There are no additional qualifications or requirements for membership.

For the purpose of official business, a quorum is defined as a majority of the total membership. If enough votes are not cast to reach a quorum within a week of the poll being sent out, the officers will make a decision based on the votes cast. On any business requiring a vote, the winner must receive a majority of the ballots cast.



The director of development facilitates programming for personal and professional development of general members. The director of development should provide guidance to general members seeking personal and professional development advice.

### **Council of Representatives**

The Council of Representatives is made up of delegates from each graduate degree offering department at USA, and will meet as a whole with the members of the Executive Board at least

Elections will be held at the end of the Spring semester unless mitigating circumstances arise. Members may nominate themselves or others. For each position, the winner must receive a majority of the ballots cast. If there are two or more candidates for the same position and none receives a majority, a run-off election will be conducted. There are no prerequisites to be elected for any position, except for the President. The incoming President must have served at least one semester on GSA's executive board.

Candidates will be asked to complete and turn in an application that includes a detailed resume by a specified time. Candidates will be given an interview where at least one elected executive board member will be in attendance. Selection of the appointed positions will be done by consensus of the five presiding elected officers. In the event that a consensus cannot be reached, then decisions will be decided by a secret ballot in which each of the five elected officers has one vote. The president will conduct the ballot. If there is a tie, the president will have the tie-breaking vote.

The elected executive board will announce the results of the selection process at their discretion prior to the end of the current year. In the event that the general membership does not wish to acknowledge an appointment, a petition containing signatures of 50% of the general membership must be turned in within 7 days to challenge the appointment. The vice-president will then verify the legitimacy of the signatures after which the official removal process will proceed.

If the president resigns or is removed between elections, the VP will become the interim president, and either the CO or ICO (whoever has served with the organization longest, or is most willing to serve) will become the interim VP. The same procedure will be enacted if the VP resigns or is removed between elections. The remaining officers are responsible for finding an interim CO or ICO if the above occurs, or if either resigns or is removed. The same applies to the position of treasurer. If a department's representative resigns or is removed, the students of that department shall nominate and vote on a replacement. The majority of officers must agree for any interim officer to be confirmed.

An officer may be removed by a majority vote among the remaining officers (including both the Executive Board and the Council of Representatives), or by a majority of ballots cast in a vote

sent out to the general membership. Any officer or member may call for a vote to remove an officer at any time.

All offices are subject to a term of one year.

The official advisor and co-advisor (if more than one advisor is in place) to the organization must either be faculty members or full-time staff members at the University of South Alabama.

