

# **CONSTITUTION**

## Graduate Music Student Association

### **Article I Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy**

**Section 1:** This organization shall be known as the Graduate Music Student Association, abbreviated GMSA.

**Section 2:** As the representative body of the graduate students enrolled at The Ohio State University School of Music, elected members will:

- Serve as the basis of communication between the faculty and graduate student population
- Provide a forum for the presentation of research, compositions, performances, guest lectures, and other topics related to both academic and non-academic elements affecting graduate music students
- Provide opportunities for interaction, network building, and supportive community building to graduate students across divergent specialties

**Section 3:** This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

**Section 3a:** As a student organization at The Ohio State University, GMSA expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here:

<https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>.

**Section 3b:** If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleIX.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at [titleIX@osu.edu](mailto:titleIX@osu.edu).

### **Article II Membership**

**Section 1:** Membership shall be open to any student enrolled in the Graduate School and the School of Music at The Ohio State University.

**Section 2:** Students who fulfill the requirements as stated in Section 1 may become members immediately upon attendance at any GMSA event at any time throughout the academic year.

**Section 3:** All members as defined by Section 2 shall be entitled to vote in officer elections.

**Section 4:** Students who wish to engage more actively within the organization may do so by:

- Nominating themselves for an Executive Officer or Committee Representative (as defined in Article position in the next election)
- Requesting permission from the president to attend an officer meeting
- Communicating their interest directly to any executive officer

**Section 5:** Executive officers may create special committees consisting of any GMSA members for the purposes of a specific goal at any point during the academic year. Participation in such a committee is entirely voluntary.

### **Article III Organization Leadership**

**Section 1:** *Executive Officers* - GMSA students shall elect annually from the graduate student body of the School of Music the following Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Publicity Chair. Additional Officer positions may be voted upon as well at the discretion of the Executive Officers in place at the time of the election, including, but not limited to, the position of Webmaster.

**Section 1a:** Executive Officers shall have been registered in the School of Music as full-time graduate students for at least one semester prior to election or appointment and must continue to be registered full-time during their tenure of office (except during Summer Session).

**Section 1b:** New ideas, approaches, and energy are important for healthy organizational bodies; however, experience is also valuable. Therefore, the term of office for each position shall be no more than three years (six semesters).

**Section 2:** *Advisor* - The Director of Graduate Studies for the School of Music serves as the Advisor of this organization, or else delegates a full-time member of the University faculty or Administrative and Professional Staff.

**Section 3:** *Executive Committee* - The Executive Committee consists of the elected Executive Officers and the Advisor.

**Section 4:** *Committee Representatives* - By unanimous agreement, the Executive Committee may appoint members of GMSA to serve as Committee Representatives as defined in Article V.

**Section 5:** *Committee Chairpersons* - The President shall have the power to appoint special committees with the approval of the Executive Committee. Special Committees shall be headed by an appointed Committee Chairperson, who will communicate directly with either the President or a delegated member of the Executive Committee.

**Section 6:** Organization Leaders may be removed if their actions are deemed inappropriate or contrary to the purpose and constitution of GMSA. Any member may bring forth a motion to remove an Executive Officer or a

Committee Representative from their position by consulting the Advisor. The Advisor must then approve a 2/3rds vote of the general membership and majority rule of the Executive Committee for the removal of the Officer/Representative. Before the deliberation and vote, the Officer/Representative is permitted to speak before the Executive Committee and the general membership regarding the motion. The Officer/Representative is not permitted to participate in the deliberation of the general membership and Executive Committee regarding the motion.

#### **Article IV Responsibilities of the Executive Committee**

**Section 1:** The Executive Committee is composed of the elected Executive Officers and the Advisor. The Executive Committee represents the general membership, conducts business of the organization between general meetings of the membership, and reports its actions at the general meetings of the membership.

**Section 2:** The President presides over all meetings and is responsible for implementing all decisions of the Executive Committee. The President or Presidential delegate serves on the Graduate Studies Committee.

**Section 3:** The Vice President shall preside over meetings in the absence of the President. In the event that the Presidency falls vacant, the Vice President becomes President and the Executive Committee elects a new Vice President or otherwise determines a course of action to fulfill the responsibilities of the Vice Presidency.

**Section 4:** The Secretary is responsible for keeping the minutes Executive Committee meetings, facilitating correspondence among members, and maintaining contact with other student organizations. In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Secretary presides over meetings.

**Section 5:** The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining treasury records, applying for funding from the Council on Student Affairs, and organizing fundraising efforts. In the absence of the President, Vice President, and Secretary, the Treasurer presides over meetings of the GMSA. **Section 6:** The Publicity Chair is responsible for promoting GMSA events and general meetings to current and prospective members, maintaining the GMSA bulletin board, and heading publicity efforts such as the creation and distribution of flyers. In the absence of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, the Publicity Chair presides over meetings.

**Section 7:** The Advisor serves as an advisor and guide in the formulation of organization policies, programs, and goals. They are also responsible for communicating regularly with Executive Officers and helping to facilitate

communication with other members of the School of Music faculty and staff.

## **Article V Committee Representatives**

**Section 1:** By unanimous agreement, the Executive Committee may appoint members of GMSA to serve as Committee Representatives for each of the Areas within the School of Music. It is the responsibility of the appointed Committee Representative, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, to facilitate the inclusion of the Committee Representative in their assigned Area meeting(s). Members of the Executive Committee can also serve as a Committee Representative.

**Section 2:** The President or Presidential Delegate who serves on the Graduate Studies Committee is responsible for maintaining regular communication with Committee Representatives.

**Section 3:** In the case that a Committee Representative is not appointed for an Area of the School of Music, or in the case that an Area of the School of Music does not agree to include a Committee Representative in their Area meetings, then it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to seek alternative methods for ensuring that they are adequately representing that Area in GMSA activities. The Areas of Study, as currently defined by the School of Music, include:

- Brass, Woodwinds, and Percussion
- Conducting and Ensembles
- Integrative Studies
- Jazz Studies
- Keyboard
- Library
- Music Education
- Music Theory
- Musicology
- Strings
- Voice

## **Article VI Meetings**

**Section 1:** The Executive Committee shall meet at least once per month during the Autumn and Spring Semesters.

**Section 2:** There will be at least one Forum meeting per semester. These may be held during a programmed event or separately.

**Section 3:** There will be at least one programmed event during each of the Autumn and Spring Semesters.

**Section 4:** Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President, at the request of the Executive Committee, or upon request of five or more GMSA members.

### **Article VII Finances**

**Section 1:** No general dues shall be assessed.

**Section 2:** Any funds collected for specific purposes shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer.

### **Article VIII Amendments**

**Section 1:** Any proposed amendment to this Constitution must be presented in writing to the Executive Committee at least seven days prior to its proposed adoption.

**Section 2:** Amendments shall take effect only after a 2/3rds majority of the entire voting membership of the organization (present or not) approves the proposed amendment.

### **Article IX Removal of Board Members or Active Members**

**Section 1:** Three-fourths (3/4) of the board members must agree or three-fourths (3/4) of active members must sign a petition to ask for the impeachment of a board member or removal of an active member from the organization.

**Section 2:** The accused board members/active member, Board members, active members, and the advisor must be notified at least two weeks in advance of the impeachment hearing. This notification must explicitly state the accusation. The impeachment hearing must occur while classes are in session. The moderator of the impeachment hearing will be the President unless she/ he is being impeached, in which case it will be the Vice President. The moderator cannot be a Board member being impeached. Each side will be given the opportunity to present their case and the active members may ask questions. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the board & active members present is needed for impeachment or removal.

**Section 3:** Any student whose position/membership is revoked will have exactly 96 hours/four (4) calendar days to appeal the revocation. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board, 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 3 executive board members and 3 general members. This committee will then render a decision at the next general body meeting or in seven (7) calendar days, whichever occurs first. If no appeal is submitted, the Board's decision is automatically binding.

*Last revision: 28 October 2021*