

Political Science Graduate Organization
2140 Derby Hall
154 North Oval Mall
Columbus, Ohio 43210

The Constitution of the Political Science Graduate Organization

November 1, 2023

Officers 2023-2024 Academic Year:

Primary Leader: Dominic Pfister

Secondary Leader: Joseph Bell

Treasurer: Karis Neufeld

Advocacy Coordinator: Gabriel Gorre

Programming Chair: Tammie Louise Finnegan

Advisor: Benjamin McKean

Article I

Section 1: Name

The name of the organization shall be “Political Science Graduate Organization.”

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of the Political Science Graduate Organization is to represent and advocate for the graduate students in the Ohio State University department of Political Science and to organize programming and events for graduate students in the department.

Section 3: Non-Discrimination Policy

This organization does not discriminate against – or tolerate discrimination against – any individual(s) 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.

Article II

Membership

Voting membership shall be limited to currently enrolled graduate students in the Ohio State Department of Political Science. Others, such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc., are encouraged to become non-voting associate or honorary members.

Rights

The rights of a member shall be:

- To participate in any and all activities of the organization;
- To be recognized and allowed to voice an opinion at organization meetings;
- To vote in all motions, issues, and resolutions;
- To vote in elections of officers; and
- To be elected or appointed as an officer, chair, manager, or director, in accordance with the constitution of the organization.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of members shall be: -

- To attend meetings of the organization; and
- To assist in activities of the organization.

Dues

This organization has no dues for membership, although it holds the option of implementing dues at a later date.

Article III

Methods for Removing Members and Officers

Any member or officer may be nominated for removal. Any member or officer so nominated will have the opportunity to speak on their own behalf at a general meeting of the organization, or through e-mail relay (at the discretion of the serving officers and/or advisor if the request is removal of an officer) and those in favor of removal will have the opportunity to speak in favor of the removal.

The Political Science Graduate Organization non-discrimination policy prevents the removal of any member or officer based on the listed statuses described in the policy.

Removing a Member

If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization's constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization's advisor. Additionally, if a member is considered to be acting as a hindrance to student group meetings, organizing, or general member comfort, a request can be made to the chair for that student's removal—chair will make good faith effort to gather votes from member body to decide on that student's removal. A simple majority from gathered votes will be used to determine student's removal from roster and officers will be responsible for refusing removed student access to meetings, group votes, etc.

Removing an Officer

Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. A request for removal of an officer should be made to any non-offending officer and the group's advisor. For removal, non-offending officer(s) and the advisor are responsible for putting the offending officer's removal to vote and will make a good faith effort to solicit votes from a simple majority of student group members. Non-offending officer(s) and the advisor may act for the offending officer's removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the responding members.

Article IV

Organization Leadership

Primary Leader (Chair)

The duties and powers of the Primary Leader (Chair) shall be as follows:

- Setting agenda with input from general assembly;
- Hosting & Facilitating meetings
- Scheduling meetings;
- Acting as the first point of contact for external people & organizations;
- Organizing committees for issue management as needed;
- Coordinating with department executives;
- Managing election chair/committee for subsequent years

Secondary Leader (Secretary)

The duties and powers of the Secondary Leader (Chair) shall be as follows:

- Writing and distributing meeting minutes;
- Sending calendar invites and meeting reminders;
- Maintaining organizational bylaws (pending graduate student votes for approval);
- Distributing qualtrics surveys for voting
- Assisting in organization and record-keeping for the organization in a variety of capacities as needed

Treasurer

The duties and powers of the Treasurer shall be as follows:

- Assisting in organization and record-keeping for the organization in a variety of capacities as needed
- Seeking internal and external funding opportunities for organizational support;
- Writing grant and funding applications on behalf of the organization as appropriate;
- On behalf of graduate students as a group
- Maintaining existing graduate student grant spreadsheet with updated due dates and additional opportunities as they arise;
- Sharing reminders to graduate students around upcoming grants and funding competitions with deadlines (such as monthly grant opportunity newsletters);
- Coordinating graduate grant applicants with past award winners when appropriate and applicable

Advocacy Coordinator

The duties and powers of the Advocacy Coordinator shall be as follows:

- Coordinating with graduate student representative of the Council of Graduate Students (for political science specifically), the Departmental Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Committee, and the Graduate Studies Committee graduate student representatives as appropriate to share information broadly with the graduate student body;

- Communicating with graduate students at other universities to share information
- Sharing information about news, upcoming events, or changes in the department

Programming Chair

- Scheduling regular social events for graduate students outside of the department;
- Coordinating and organizing scholarship events each semester with either internal or external speakers (in coordination with the treasurer)
- Examples brainstormed include: an on-boarding event for incoming first year students; a half day qualitative methods workshop with external speakers; - Organizing other events as needed and requested by graduate students

In the Primary Leader's absence, the Secondary Leader shall preside; in the S.L.'s absence, the Treasurer shall preside; in the absence of all officers, no motions may be proposed or passed

Advisor

The advisor is responsible for approving group requests and general supervision of group decisions, event organizing, and activities.

Article V

Election/Selection of Organization Leadership

Elections of officers shall be through voluntary request to hold a position and approval of a simple majority of voting members. Elections will be held via ballots, at the end of each Spring semester. Nominations from current officers will also be considered but will hold no more weight than votes from other voting members. In the event that no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates compete in a run-off election. In the event of a tie, priority will be given to a new officer (student who has not yet held an officer position with the Political Science Graduate Organization), and the advisor will have final decision-making authority in the event that both candidates are new, or the tie is not otherwise resolved.

Members and officers of Political Science Graduate Organization must be graduate students in the Department of Political Science. Any graduate student in Political Science can become a member of PSGSO by requesting that an officer of the organization add their name to the organization roster. Members can nominate themselves for officer positions.

Resignation

If an officer resigns, nominations shall be received from the floor and the election of a new officer shall take place via qualtrics. If the resignation occurs late in the year or the Executive Committee does not feel any possible applicants are available, the Committee will take over the duties of the resigned officer.

Article VI

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall comprise the listed officer positions—Chair (Primary Leader), Secretary (Secondary Leader), Treasurer, Advocacy Coordinator, Programming Chair, and 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 and/or via e-mail.

Article VII

Standing Committees

There are no Standing Committees for the Political Science Graduate Organization.

Article VIII

Advisor

The advisor of the organization must be a full-time member of the university faculty or administrative/professional staff. The advisor will be selected by the Executive Board, pending acceptance by the proposed faculty member and a simple majority of the membership-at-large.

The duties and powers of the Advisor shall be as follows:

- To attend meetings of the organization, if necessary
- To be available for consultation regarding group activities;
- To be familiar with university policies and procedures;
- To be prepared for major problems or emergencies; and

-To act as a liaison between the organization and the department administration and to advocate for the organization, if necessary.

Article IX

Meetings

-In general, motions shall be discussed and voted upon through in-person meetings but final approval of resolutions and elections will be decided via qualtrics survey circulated via email.

-Meeting dates will be decided as needed, with at least two (2) meetings scheduled per academic year. If there is a change to the meeting time, or if a new meeting is called, notification must be given at least two days prior to the date of the meeting.

Article X

Attendees of Events/Meetings

The organization reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where the member or event attendee's behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization's constitution. This may mean removing/requesting the removal of disruptive individuals from an event or meeting, and may extend to removal from membership.

Article XI

Amending

The Constitution may be amended by holding a vote by membership-at-large, with a two-thirds majority of the Voting Members and half of the total graduate student population of the department passing the amendment via qualtrics survey circulated over email.

Article XII

Dissolution

The organization may be dissolved by holding a vote via qualtrics after two consecutive meetings in which two-thirds majority of the Voting Members and at least half of the total graduate student population of the department vote to dissolve the organization.