

# **Philosophy and Religion Graduate Student Association Constitution**

## *ARTICLE I*

### **NAME**

This organization shall be named the *Philosophy and Religion Graduate Student Association*. The organization is the representational arm for Philosophy and Religion graduate students at the University of North Texas.

## *ARTICLE II*

### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the organization shall be:

1. To provide fellowship among graduate students in the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies.
2. To discuss and organize the mutual interest and concerns of the graduate students in the department and ensure that all voices can be heard through a reflective and discursive process.
3. To maintain open dialogue with the faculty of the department, and represent the collective needs and interests of the graduate students to the faculty, as well as to provide a means for faculty concerns to reach students and ensure an ongoing discussion within the department.
4. To aid in funding and collaborative opportunities for student professional development.
5. To assist communication between our department and other departments within the UNT community, especially within the EESAT building.
6. To facilitate the organization of events in accordance with the above objectives.

## *ARTICLE III*

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership for this organization is open to students who are attending the University of North Texas and are either (a) officially enrolled in the Philosophy Master of Arts or the Philosophy PhD Program, or are (b) enrolled in graduate level Philosophy courses (5000 or higher) on a semi-regular basis (including graduate students in other department and non-degree seeking students, but excluding undergraduate students who attend graduate courses while enrolled in undergraduate level Special Problems).

Meetings will be open to anyone who would like to attend. Portions of meetings may be subject to private, members-only discussion for sensitive subject matter, as this is an organization intended to create a safe forum for graduate students to voice concerns.

## *ARTICLE IV*

### **OFFICERS**

Terms: All positions serve for one academic year, beginning at the start of the Spring Semester and ending with the end of the Fall Semester of the following academic year. Officers will coordinate on passing on duties to new officers in January. This time includes the summer break.

If the officers at any time do not think they can fulfill their positions, a re-election will be called, ideally with a 4 week notice. If this is temporary (four weeks or less) a substitute can be chosen by the student representative.

#### **Faculty Liaison**

- Attend faculty meetings (main point person, others permitted to also attend)
- Communicate grad student needs to faculty
- Communicate with faculty for information about agendas for meetings

#### **Secretary (works in tandem with communications)**

- Manages note taking at PRGSA meetings, transcribe for Google folder
- Creates agenda for PRGSA meetings
- Manages financial obligations should there be any (trip/event reimbursements)

#### **Communications Coordinator**

- Disseminate information (meeting notes, meeting times)
- Create and distribute necessary polls
- Manage PRGSA email list
- Gather information for student biographies on department webpage
- Manage elections

#### **Community Coordinator(s)**

- Plan (easily accessible) off campus social events for grad students
- Manage relationship with philosophy club

#### **Public Relations**

- Manage unofficial X account
- Make newsletter
- Make/distribute posters for classes/events in department (movies, conferences, other events, etc)
- Keep track of graduate placement

### *ARTICLE V*

#### **VOTING**

Elections will take place with nominations during the second to last meeting of the Fall semester. The communications coordinator sends out a nomination poll, then a final voting poll. Nominees have the chance to remove their name from the ballot before voting begins. Voting will take place via email or online portal (such as Google poll). All ballots will be deleted by the voting coordinator after corroboration to ensure confidentiality of student opinion.

Changes to the association constitution can be officially proposed with the requirements of a supporting motion by another student, at which point a special meeting will be called to discuss the matter and a vote by email will take place.

*ARTICLE VI*

**NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATEMENT**

This is a not-for-profit organization.

*ARTICLE VII*

**STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

This organization will not discriminate on the basis of age, color, ethnicity, gender, national origin, dis/ability or handicap, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status. This policy will include but is not limited to, recruiting, membership, organization activities or opportunities to hold office.

*ARTICLE VIII*

**FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

All expenditures must be accounted for and documented by the Secretary. Funds will be raised on an as-needed basis through a general fund-raising collection from the student body. There will be no fees or dues for membership or participation unless decided upon by the group.

*ARTICLE IX*

**STATEMENT OF NON-HAZING**

This organization will not engage in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or person attending the institution.

*ARTICLE X*

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH CAMPUS REGULATIONS**

This organization shall comply with all University and campus policies and regulations and local, state, and federal laws.