Sociology Graduate Student Association Constitution

Article I. Name
The name of this organization is hereby the Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA).

Article II. Purpose Statement
The purpose of this organization is to represent, advocate for, and meet the needs of Georgia State University’s Sociology graduate student body.

Article III. Affiliation
We are affiliated with the Sociology Department at Georgia State University (GSU).

Article IV. Requirements for Membership
Membership is automatically granted to those currently enrolled as a graduate student in GSU’s Sociology Department.

Article V. Officer Descriptions

A. SGSA officers, hereby termed “council members,” form an executive council in which authority and responsibility are horizontally shared. Council members meet to provide updates on their individual progress as well as to develop programs and initiatives cross-functionally. Council member positions include:

Co-Liaisons (official representatives -- two positions)
Administrative Chair
Social Media Chair
Community Outreach Chair
Academic Development Chair
Student Mentorship Chair

B. Powers and duties of the officers shall include:

Co-Liaisons: Presiding over meetings, working in tandem with other council members on projects as required, and representing concerns of the student body and SGSA to the Sociology Department faculty and University at large.

Administrative Chair: Taking notes at SGSA meetings, keeping track of SGSA membership, maintaining financial records and the SGSA budget, and processing and submitting all paperwork required for SGSA’s continued affiliation with GSU.

Social Media Chair: Creating and maintaining a SGSA website and social media entity, sending email notifications and/or surveys to the membership and graduate student body, and making social media updates.
Community Outreach Chair: Planning and facilitating social gatherings, coordinating volunteer and outreach opportunities for SGSA members in the Atlanta community, and reaching out to the graduate student body to generate interest and involvement in SGSA activity.

Academic Development Chair: Working with Social Media chair to create and maintain an online directory of academic opportunities relevant to the Sociology graduate student body, including but not limited to scholarship/fellowship/funding resources, conference and proposal calls.

Student Mentorship Chair: Working with SGSA advisor to develop and maintain a student mentorship program, which introduces new graduate students to established graduate students and faculty mentors.

Article VI. Election of Officers

Council members’ term shall last one academic year, or three consecutive semesters, beginning in January. A popular vote for the incumbent council shall be taken online through a secure survey website no later than the beginning of Thanksgiving Break. A call for candidates, who must be self-nominated, will be sent to the listserv at the beginning of November.

A. Candidates shall submit a statement of intent, indicating the position of interest and the candidate’s capacity to fill that position, to the current council by an established deadline.

B. A list of candidates, the text of their statements of intent, and a link to the secure survey shall be sent to the listserv so that the entire graduate student body may vote online within a given time frame.

C. In the event of only one person running for an elected position, that person should be automatically inducted.

D. If a vacancy occurs during the normal term, a special election shall be called at the next meeting, with the same election process. Council members elected in this manner will still need to reapply for nomination for the next election. There is no limit to the number of terms a council member may serve.

In the event no self-nomination for at least one council member, the duties of co-liasion shall be taken up by the graduate assistant of the Graduate Director (SGSA Advisor).

Article VII. Removal of Officers

Violation of the Student Code of Conduct shall constitute sufficient grounds for removal. If a council member is determined by the council to be completing duties inadequately, the Co-
Liaisons should be notified for a final decision, which may include mediation or removal. If a
council member is removed, a special election will be held to fill that position.

Article VIII. Officer Transitions
Newly elected officers will be notified via email by the end of Thanksgiving Break, and invited to
attend SGSA’s final council meeting in December. At this transitional meeting, powers and
duties will be explained to the incumbent council by the outgoing council.

Article IX. Advisor
The sociology faculty member holding the title of Graduate Director shall serve as the Advisor
for the SGSA.

Article X. Council Meetings
Council meetings will be held at least once a month. If necessary, all officers hold the power to
call a special meeting to address time sensitive issues with the whole council.

Article XI. Quorum
Changes to SGSA’s operations and/or structure must be ratified by a majority of respondents to
a popular survey. Attendance of a minimum of 3 members shall constitute a quorum for any
meeting at which a vote is to be taken.

Article XII. Constitutional Amendments
Amendments to SGSA’s constitution must be ratified by a majority of respondents to a popular
survey.

Article XIII. Hazing Policy
The Sociology Graduate Student Association prohibits its members, both individually and
collectively from committing any acts of hazing as defined in the Student Code of Conduct at
Georgia State University. (The most revised version of the Code of Conduct can be found on
the Dean of Students website http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwdos/).

Article XIV. Organization Agreement
The Sociology Graduate Student Association agrees to abide by the Georgia State University
Student Code of Conduct. Furthermore, agrees to abide by all Student Activities policies, to
check the organization’s OrgSync account, mailbox, communicate via email upon request,
update the organization’s records on OrgSync, attend a student organization orientation
annually, and renew the organization by May 1st.

Article XV. Appointing Representatives for Departmental Committees
The SGSA agrees to be the organization responsible for appointing graduate representatives to
the Sociology Department’s various committees.