

# Constitution and Bylaws

## Electrical Engineering Graduate Student Association

### Article I - Name

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be the Electrical Engineering Graduate Student Association.

### Article II - Purpose

**Section 1.** The purpose of this organization is to create an organization in the Department of Electrical Engineering, which will specifically serve the needs of Graduate Students.

**Section 2.** The objectives of this organization are to:

- improve communication and the distribution of information.
- represent graduate students' interests and concerns to the faculty, staff, the university, and outside organizations.
- create an informal setting for interaction between students, faculty, and staff.
- provide an avenue for conflict resolution.
- help create an atmosphere of tolerance and equal treatment of all graduate students.
- take part in decisions affecting graduate students by attending faculty meetings and by sitting on pertinent faculty and department committees.

### Article III - Membership

**Section 1.** The Electrical Engineering Graduate Student Association membership shall consist of all students enrolled in the graduate program of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Washington. All members are eligible to vote.

### Article IV - Graduate Council

**Section 1.** The Graduate Council, as the executive committee of the Graduate Student Association, has the responsibility of coordinating and sustaining the student activities of the Graduate Student Association. The Council has the authority to make decisions about the management of these student activities on behalf of the graduate student body.

**Section 2.** The Graduate Council shall be sanctioned by the Department of Electrical Engineering as representing the electrical engineering graduate student body.

**Section 3.** The Graduate Council shall consist of "Elected Officers" and "Appointed Officers."

- "Elected Officers" will be elected by the Graduate Student Association for a one year term.
- "Appointed officers" will be appointed by the "Elected Officers" as needed. Each "Appointed Officer" position will have a specific role to be determined each year by the existing Council with input from the electrical engineering graduate student body.

**Section 4.** Officers must fulfill the membership requirements for the Graduate Student Association.

**Section 5.** Every effort will be made to insure a diverse Council, including members who are both Ph.D. and Master's students, U.S. and non-U.S. citizens, diverse in gender, culture, and research areas within the department.

## Article V - Officers of the Graduate Council

**Section 1.** The "elected officers" of the Graduate Council shall consist of:

**Chair of Council** - serves as executive officer of the Council, leads monthly council meetings and attends faculty meetings.

To qualify for the Chair of Council position, a candidate must have at least one year of experience on the Graduate Council.

**Financial Coordinator** - manages funds and procures funding.

**GPSS Representatives (2)** - attend UW GPSS meetings and issue a newsletter containing information from GPSS meetings, council meetings, and other department events.

**Section 2.** The "Appointed Officers" for the 1995-96 term shall consist of:

**Graduate Student Representatives** - will be members of department committees, which contain graduate student positions.

**Student Welcome Chair** - assists the department with new student orientation and new student recruitment, and arranges social events.

**Graduate Student Forum Chair** - arranges the annual Graduate Student Forum, held in January, and assists students in conflict resolution.

**Professional Activities Chair** - oversees the poster session at Corporate Day, paper contests, and interacts with professional and departmental societies, such as the IEEE and HKN.

**Seminar Series Chair** - arranges a weekly seminar for students which may be used to introduce new students to faculty, discuss ethics in academia, teach documentation techniques, showcase prospective and visiting faculty, and other topics of interest.

Other appointed positions may be added by the Council as needed.

## Article VI - Elections

**Section 1.** Each year beginning in January at the Graduate Student Forum, nominations will be solicited by the Chair for a slate of officers for the next academic year. Nominees must fulfill the requirements of membership in the Graduate Student Association.

**Section 2.** Elections will be held by February. The majority of the votes cast will determine the winner of the election. A tie will be broken by a one-coin-toss trial.

**Section 3.** In the event of a vacancy in any of the officer positions, the Council shall elect a successor to finish the term of that office.

**Section 4.** In the event of that an officer is deemed unable to fulfill the requirements of his/her position by a majority vote of the Council, the Council shall elect a successor to finish the term of that office.

## Article VII - Meetings

**Section 1.** The activities and meetings of this organization shall be open to the public. The Graduate Council will meet at least once a month.

## Article VIII - Amendment Procedure

**Section 1.** Amendments will be discussed at monthly Council meetings. Any member of the Graduate Student Association may propose an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws at a Council meeting.

**Section 2.** The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a simple majority of the voting members. A tie is considered a failure.

## Article IX - Ratification

**Section 1.** This Constitution for the Electrical Engineering Graduate Student Association shall be ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the enrolled graduate student body.

## Article X - Faculty Advisors

**Section 1.** The Electrical Engineering Department Chair, Head of Graduate Studies, and Graduate Student Advisor shall be members ex officio of the Graduate Student Council with no voting privileges.

## Article XI - Parliamentary Procedure

**Section 1.** Roberts Rules of Order (latest edition) shall govern meetings of this organization within the requirements of this constitution and bylaws adopted by the membership of this organization.