Bylaw C
2015-2016
Amend ASUN Bylaws and Special Rules: Graduate Student Assembly

WHEREAS, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (ASUN) aims to engage and represent all students on campus, including graduate students; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Association at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln currently operates as a Registered Student Organization (RSO); and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Association and the Graduate Committee support the integration of graduate student government as a branch of ASUN.

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED, that starting January 1, 2016, the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) shall replace the Graduate Committee as the graduate branch of ASUN; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that the allocation for the Graduate Committee shall be transferred to the GSA on the aforementioned date; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that all funds originating from the Graduate Student Association Student Organization Financial Services (SOFS) account transferred to ASUN will be allocated to the GSA; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY ENACTED, that the following amendment be introduced into the ASUN Bylaws and Special Rules.

Part I – The Senate

Article V – Boards, Committees, Commissions, and Other Entities

Section 14. ASUN Graduate Student Committee

The Graduate Student Committee shall investigate and engage with issues and ideas that address graduate student needs. The Committee shall promote graduate student welfare and success as a critical component of the research mission of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

1. The Graduate Student Committee shall work with the Graduate Student Association (GSA) to better address graduate student issues, and it shall send at least one member to every GSA meeting.

2. The Committee may consist of up to 9 non-undergraduate standing senators, and up to 4 at-large non-undergraduate standing members, selected by the appointments board.
Section 14. Graduate Student Assembly

As a unique population with roles as students, teachers, researchers, and/or staff, graduate students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln require a special representative body that is tailored to their needs. The Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) will exercise the student governance of affairs solely involving graduate students at the University, as well as collaborate with the ASUN Senate, officers, and committees on issues affecting the entirety of the University’s student body.

Subsection 1. Membership

1. The GSA shall consist of one (1) Department Representative per Department of the University that awards a graduate degree, elected or appointed as follows:
   a. For such Departments where a Departmental Graduate Student Association (DGSA) exists, said organizations shall be responsible to determine the method of election or appointment of the Department Representative, which must be stated in the organization’s Constitution.
   b. In Departments without an organized DGSA, the Graduate Chair shall be responsible for organizing the selection of the Department Representative.
   c. The constituent DGSA or Graduate Chair shall fill all Departmental Representative openings within a period of one (1) month of its occurrence, after which such vacancy may be filled by an At-Large Representative appointed by the Vice President of Representation and approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the Assembly.

2. All Department Representatives shall serve a renewable term of one (1) academic year.

Subsection 2. Officers

1. The Graduate Student Assembly shall have the following officers: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice President of Representation, and Vice President of Finance.
   a. The President shall represent the GSA in all University and student government business and shall serve on the Academic Planning Committee, and the Graduate Council, and shall be a voting member of the ASUN Executive Committee.
   b. The Executive Vice President shall serve on the Graduate Council. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the Executive Vice President shall act as President for the remainder of the term. At the request of the President, the Executive Vice President may attend ASUN Senate and Executive Committee meetings.
   c. The Vice President of Student Affairs shall serve on the Parking Advisory Committee and the Student Affairs Advisory Council and may attend ASUN Senate and Executive Committee meetings at the request of the Executive Vice President, when he/she is meant to attend.
d. The Vice President of Representation shall ensure that all Department Representatives have been appointed and are fulfilling their duties, as well as nominate graduate students to University-wide committee positions.

e. The Vice President of Finance shall be responsible for the finances of the GSA.

f. Additional responsibilities of officers shall be defined in the GSA Bylaws.

2. The President and Executive Vice President shall be directly elected during the ASUN Spring Elections and may not concurrently serve as Departmental Representatives. Provided the office becomes vacant, the Assembly shall elect among its membership a President and/or Executive Vice President.

3. The Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice President of Representation, and Vice President of Finance shall be elected by the membership of the GSA following the ASUN Spring Elections, and may concurrently serve as Departmental Representatives.

4. The times and methods governing the election of these officers will be specified in the GSA Bylaws and ASUN Electoral Commission Rules.

Subsection 3. Advisors

The GSA Advisor shall be nominated by the GSA President and confirmed by the Assembly with a two-thirds (2/3) vote, and must be a graduate faculty member. Additionally, the ASUN Director of Administration shall serve as an advisor to the GSA.

Subsection 4. Committees

1. The GSA Bylaws shall determine the number, nature and composition of the committees. Committee chairs or co-chairs shall be nominated by the Executive Vice President and approved by the Assembly by a majority vote.

2. The Executive Vice President shall appoint, taking into account individual preferences, all Department Representatives to at least one (1) committee.

3. Service in University-wide or ASUN committees shall exempt Department Representatives from service in GSA committees.

Subsection 5. Reserved Powers

ASUN delegates the GSA the power to:

1. Recommend to the Senate bills and resolutions pertaining issues important to or involving graduate students;

2. Develop a strategic plan with measurable goals to assess the success of the Graduate Student Assembly in meetings its goals;

3. Serve as the liaison between graduate students and the Office of Graduate Studies, the Dean of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Council;

4. Manage and allocate funds originating from student fees and contributions obtained from University and non-University sources to the effect of carrying out its purpose in accordance with federal, state, municipal, University, and ASUN directives;
5. Appoint graduate students to University-wide committees and offices, as nominated by the Vice President of Representation, and confirmed by the GSA;

6. Adopt and modify its own Bylaws, and submit them to the Senate, that can reject them by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, but may not introduce any modifications;

7. Provide uniform rules for the organization of Departmental Graduate Student Associations, subject to University and ASUN regulations, and the oversight of the Student Services Committee;

8. Protect the interests of graduate students on campus and pursue any actions furthering their causes; and

9. Promote student government in all levels, as well as networking among graduate students, and between graduate students and the other members of the University community.

Subsection 7. ASUN-GSA Relations, Settlement of Issues, and Dissolution

1. No alteration may be introduced into this Section of the ASUN Bylaws without written request or consent of the GSA. Such modifications must initially be approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the membership of first the GSA and ultimately by three-fourths (3/4) of the membership of the Senate.

2. The GSA and ASUN officers shall conduct a periodic review of the structure and function of the Assembly and suggest any changes towards its improvement. No more than two (2) years may elapse between such reviews.

3. The Student Court shall have the authority to settle conflicts arising between the ASUN Senate and officers and the GSA. The University Appeals Board shall serve as appellate jurisdiction to the Student Court.

4. The GSA may by three-fourths (3/4) vote, at any time, petition the Senate for its dissolution or separation. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Senate shall be required to dissolve the GSA or approve separation. In the case of dissolution, all outstanding assets and liabilities will be transferred to ASUN. In the case of separation, all assets that would rightfully be used by the GSA would be transferred to the GSA.