

Bylaw A
2016-17
Graduate Student Assembly and Graduate Chief of Staff

1 **WHEREAS**, the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) has requested modifications be
2 introduced into the ASUN Bylaws regarding its organization; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the GSA approved said modifications on its April 5, 2016 meeting by three-
5 fourths (3/4) of its membership.

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7 **THEREFORE, LET IT BE ENACTED THAT** the following amendments be introduced
8 into the ASUN Bylaws.

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11 Part I – The Senate

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

14
15 Section 14. Graduate Student Assembly

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

22
23 Subsection A. Membership

- 24
25 1. The GSA shall consist of one (1) Department Representative per Department of the
26 University that awards a graduate degree, **who shall be a graduate student in said**
27 **Department**, elected or appointed as follows:
28 a. For such Departments where a Departmental Graduate Student Association
29 (DGSA) exists, said organizations shall be responsible to determine the method
30 of election or appointment of the Department Representative, which must be
31 stated in the organization’s Constitution **and/or Bylaws**.
32 b. In Departments without an organized DGSA, the Graduate Chair shall be
33 responsible for organizing the selection of the Department Representative.
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35 c. The constituent DGSA or Graduate Chair shall fill all Departmental
36 Representative openings within a period of one (1) month of the **vacancy’s**
37 **occurrence** ~~its occurrence~~, after which such vacancy may be filled by an At-Large
38 Representative appointed by the Vice President of Representation and approved
39 by two-thirds (2/3) **of members present and voting** of the Assembly.
40 d. **At-Large Representatives shall meet all the qualifications of office required**
41 **for Departmental Representatives and shall hold all the same powers to**
42 **attend, speak, and vote at meetings**.
43 2. All Department Representatives shall serve a renewable term of one (1) academic
44 year **beginning in the fall semester**.

45 3. **For each principal Departmental Representative an alternate may be appointed.**

46
47 Subsection B. Officers

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49 1. The Graduate Student Assembly shall have the following officers: President, Executive
50 Vice President, Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice President of Representation, and
51 Vice President of Finance.
- 52 a. The President shall represent the GSA in all University and student government
53 business **and shall be a voting member of the ASUN Executive Committee.**
54 **The President, or his/her designee, and shall chair all GSA meetings,** serve on
55 the Academic Planning Committee; and the Graduate Council, ~~and shall be a~~
56 ~~voting member of the ASUN Executive Committee.~~
 - 57 b. The Executive Vice President, or his/her designee, **shall serve as the recording**
58 **secretary for all GSA meetings and serve** on the Graduate Council. If the office
59 of the President becomes vacant, the Executive Vice President shall act as
60 President for the remainder of the term. At the request of the President, the
61 Executive Vice President may attend ASUN Senate and Executive Committee
62 meetings.
 - 63 c. The Vice President of Student Affairs shall serve on the Parking Advisory
64 Committee and the Student Affairs Advisory Council and may attend ASUN
65 Senate and Executive Committee meetings at the request of the Executive Vice
66 President, when he/she is meant to attend.
 - 67 d. The Vice President of Representation shall ensure that all Department
68 Representatives have been appointed and are fulfilling their duties, as well as
69 nominate graduate students to University-wide committee positions.
 - 70 e. The Vice President of Finance shall be responsible for the finances of the GSA.
 - 71 f. Additional responsibilities of officers shall be defined in the GSA Bylaws.
- 72 2. The President and Executive Vice President shall be directly elected during the ASUN
73 Spring Elections and may not concurrently serve as Departmental Representatives.
- 74 a. **Only graduate students shall be eligible to vote and be elected as officers of**
75 **the GSA. In addition the candidates must meet any one of the following four**
76 **criteria:**
 - 77 i. **Previously served on the GSA for at least one academic semester.**
 - 78 ii. **Previously served on the GSA Executive Committee for at least one**
79 **academic semester.**
 - 80 iii. **Previously served on a GSA standing committee for at least one**
81 **academic semester.**
 - 82 iv. **Previously served on any DGSA Executive Committee as defined by**
83 **that department.**
 - 84 b. **Candidates for President or Executive Vice President may run in a Student**
85 **Election Group (SEG), independently, or as write-ins.**
 - 86 c. **To be eligible for election to the office of President or Executive Vice**
87 **President of the GSA a candidate must have completed nine (9) semester**
88 **hours of graduate credit at the University.**
 - 89 d. **Provided the office of the President and/or Executive Vice President**
90 **becomes vacant, the Assembly shall elect among its membership or officers a**
91 **President and/or Executive Vice President, in said order.**
 - 92 e. **Candidates for President and Executive Vice President of the GSA, as well**
93 **as Graduate Senator candidates shall be allowed to speak at Open Forum**
94 **during the GSA meeting prior to the ASUN Spring Elections. With the**
95 **aforementioned exception, all Electoral Commission Rules shall apply for**
96 **the election of the President and Executive Vice President.**
- 97 3. The Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice President of Representation, and Vice
98 President of Finance shall be elected by the membership of the GSA following the ASUN
99 Spring Elections, and may **not** concurrently serve as Departmental Representatives. The

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

- 102 **4. The President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice**
103 **President of Representation, Vice President of Finance, and standing committee**
104 **chairs shall constitute the GSA Executive Committee.**

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106 Subsection C. Advisors

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108 1. The GSA Advisor shall be nominated by the GSA President and confirmed by the
109 Assembly with a two-thirds (2/3) vote **of members present and voting**, and must be a
110 graduate faculty member.
111 2. ~~Additionally,~~ The ASUN Director of Administration shall serve as an advisor to the
112 GSA.
113 3. **The immediate past President shall serve as an *ex officio* advisor to the GSA**
114 **provided they meet all ASUN and GSA provisions for participation.**

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116 Subsection D. **Standing** Committees

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118 1. The GSA Bylaws shall determine the number, nature, and composition of the **standing**
119 **committees. Standing** committee chairs ~~or co-chairs shall be nominated by the Executive~~
120 ~~Vice President and approved by the Assembly by a majority vote. shall be elected by the~~
121 **membership of the GSA following the ASUN Spring Elections. The times and**
122 **methods governing the election of standing committee chairs will be specified in the**
123 **GSA Bylaws.**
124 2. The Executive Vice President shall appoint, taking into account individual preferences
125 **and the advice of the Executive Committee**, all Department Representatives to at least
126 one (1) **standing** committee.
127 3. Service in University-wide or ASUN committees shall exempt Department
128 Representatives from service in GSA committees.

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130 Subsection E. Reserved Powers

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132 ASUN delegates the GSA the power to:

- 133 1. Recommend to the Senate bills and resolutions pertaining **to** issues important to or
134 involving graduate students;
135 2. Develop a strategic plan with measurable goals to assess the success of the Graduate
136 Student Assembly in meetings its goals;
137 3. Serve as the liaison between graduate students and the Office of Graduate Studies, the
138 Dean of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Council;
139 4. Manage and allocate funds originating from student fees and contributions obtained from
140 University and non-University sources to the effect of carrying out its purpose in
141 accordance with federal, state, municipal, University, and ASUN directives, **and**
142 **collaborate with the President of ASUN to set the GSA budget within the ASUN**
143 **budget;**
144 5. ~~Appoint~~ **Nominate** graduate students to University-wide committees and offices, as
145 ~~nominated~~ **selected** by the Vice President of Representation, and confirmed by the GSA
146 **first, and the Senate subsequently;**
147 6. Adopt and modify its own **internal** Bylaws, and submit them to the Senate, that can
148 reject them by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, but may not introduce any modifications;
149 7. Provide uniform rules for the organization of Departmental Graduate Student
150 Associations, subject to University and ASUN regulations, and the oversight of the
151 Student Services Committee;
152 8. Protect the interests of graduate students on campus and pursue any actions furthering
153 their causes; and

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

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

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- 160 1. No alteration may be introduced into this Section of the ASUN Bylaws without written
161 request or consent of the GSA. Such modifications must ~~initially~~ be approved by three-
162 fourths (3/4) of the ~~membership~~ **members present and voting** of first the GSA and
163 ~~ultimately~~ by three-fourths (3/4) of the ~~membership~~ **members present and voting** of the
164 Senate.
- 165 2. The GSA and ASUN officers shall conduct a periodic review of the structure and
166 function of the Assembly and suggest any changes towards its improvement. No more
167 than two (2) years may elapse between such reviews.
- 168 3. The Student Court shall have the authority to settle conflicts arising between the ASUN
169 Senate and officers and the GSA. The University Appeals Board shall serve as appellate
170 jurisdiction to the Student Court.
- 171 4. The GSA may by three-fourths (3/4) vote **of members present and voting**, at any time,
172 petition the Senate for its dissolution or separation. A three-fourths (3/4) vote **of**
173 **members present and voting of the** Senate shall be required to dissolve the GSA or
174 approve separation. In the case of dissolution, all outstanding assets and liabilities will be
175 transferred to ASUN. In the case of separation, all assets **and liabilities that would**
176 ~~rightfully be used by~~ **rightfully belonging to the** GSA ~~would~~ **shall** be transferred to the
177 GSA.

SUBMITTED BY Graduate Student Assembly DATE 4-19-16

FLOOR ACTION DATE

PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE DATE