

CONSTITUTION OF THE  
GRADUATE ENGINEERING & SCIENCE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (GESSA)  
OF ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

TITLE I  
MEMBERSHIP AND ESTABLISHMENT

**Preamble:**

We, the engineering and science graduate students of Arizona State University hereby form the **Graduate Engineering & Science Students Association** (GESSA), and establish this Constitution. GESSA exists to establish connections and foster relationships amongst graduate students, university administration, organizations & clubs in university, school advisors, alumni, external organizations and industries and advocate for graduate engineering and science students' academic and non- academic concerns.

**Article 1 – Establishment**

Graduate Engineering & Science Students Association (GESSA) is hereby established under this Constitution.

**Article 2 – Membership**

Any graduate students under Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering are entitled to be a member when he/ she registers himself/ herself with the official GESSA site. Any student outside Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering can become a member with the written approval from any of the executive members.

**Article 3 - Rights of Membership**

- Right to run in elections for executive positions and other positions as described by this constitution.
- The right to active engagement and advocacy.

TITLE II  
GRADUATE ENGINEERING & SCIENCE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

**Article 1 - Executive Positions**

Section 1. Executive team of GESSA

President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary form the executive team together.

Section 2. Term of Office:

The Executive Officers shall take office beginning at noon on the Monday following the May graduation ceremony and hold the position for 6 months till the elections in October. Elected members in fall will convene their responsibilities from the second executive meeting after elections.

Section 3. Roles and responsibilities

President:

1. To supervise the routine operations of GESSA activities including but not limited to maintaining solvent financial status, ensuring compliance with ASU rules on food and funding.
2. To meet monthly with the Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.
3. To oversee grievances of graduate and professional students and be aware of the agencies or individuals in the campus community who can assist students with such grievances.
4. To convene ad-hoc committees and appoint members as necessary.
5. To authorize all expenditures of the GESSA in accordance with university policy.
6. To make available to the succeeding President all documents and information relevant to execution of the office.

Vice President:

1. To facilitate communication and interaction among graduate and professional students for the purposes of professional development.
2. To meet monthly with the Programs and Events director and social media director.
3. To oversee planning of social events relevant to the social, emotional and intellectual well-being of members.
4. To appoint Programs and Events director through a transparent and fair application process.
5. To make available to the succeeding Vice President all documents and information relevant to execution of the office.

Treasurer:

1. To take care of financial activities of the association and maintain its solvency.
2. Maintain bank accounts of the association with President and Advisor
3. Oversee funding requests and approvals.
4. Oversee expenditure in programs and events and ensure their conformity to university policies.
5. To make available to the succeeding Treasurer all the information relevant to execution of the office.

Secretary:

1. Maintaining constitution, bylaws (if any) and minutes of meeting of various executive meetings and committees.
2. Appoint Social Media Director through a transparent and fair application process.
3. Oversee website, social media and other marketing media management along with Social Media Director.
4. Make available any forms or documents required by members to use facilities provided by GESSA or ASU.
5. Make available to the succeeding Secretary all documents and information relevant to execution of the office.

#### Section 4. Recall of Officers

A petition for recall of any Executive Officer shall require the signatures and student identification numbers of at least 10% of the current membership with no less than 20 members.

#### Section 5. Academic Standing

Executive Officers or Assembly Members may serve only if registered for at least one (1) semester hour of graduate or professional academic credit at Arizona State University in the current regular semester.

### **Article 2 – Directors and Committee Heads**

#### Section 1. Roles and responsibilities

Programs and Events Director:

1. Report to the Vice President.
2. Responsible for creating new programs, getting it approved from executive committee and running the programs.
3. Work with Social Media Director for advertising the programs to make them available to members across all campuses.

Social Media Director:

1. Report to the Secretary.
2. Maintain website, social media pages, mobile apps and any other communication channel relevant to GESSA.
3. Aid in offline advertisement of programs and events.

#### Section 2. Term of Office:

Directors and committee heads holds position immediately after being appointed till the next executive team holds their positions, when they can be reappointed.

## TITLE III ELECTIONS

### **Article 1 – Elections Department**

The Elections Department shall exercise independent authority over GESSA elections, referenda and initiatives.

- A. Selection of Elections Commissioner: The current advisor will appoint an election commissioner. If the appointed officer gets petition for recall from 10% of current members (with a minimum of 20), then advisor is mandated to appoint another person as election commissioner. The Assistant Elections Director shall serve until the new Elections Director is appointed by the advisor.
- B. Term of Elections Department: The Elections Commissioner shall serve until a new Elections Commissioner is confirmed pursuant to this document.
- C. Duties of the Elections Department:
  - 1. The Elections Department shall evaluate the mechanisms by which students may vote annually, and shall investigate the efficacy and potential usefulness of new voting technologies.
  - 2. The Elections Commissioner shall have the authority to hire an Assistant Director.
  - 3. The Elections Department shall advertise and promote the candidacy and election process.
  - 4. The Elections Department shall have the sole authority to administer the GESSA elections and referenda.
- D. Removal of Elections Commissioner:
  - 1. The Elections Commissioner may be removed from the position for willful neglect of duty, gross incompetence, and gross negligence or for any fraudulent actions.
  - 2. Allegations against the Elections Commissioner shall be filed with the Advisor.
  - 3. In the event the Advisor finds sufficient cause exists, it may remove the Elections Commissioner.
  - 4. In the event the Elections Commissioner resigns or is removed from office, the Assistant Elections Commissioner will automatically advance to the position of Elections Commissioner and may then appoint a new Assistant Elections Commissioner
  - 5. In the event both the Elections Commissioner and Assistant Elections Commissioner(s) resign or are removed from office, a new Elections Commissioner shall be appointed in the manner prescribed.

### **Article 2 – Elections Procedures**

- A. Elections shall be held in both the semester for all executive positions established under this Constitution. Advisor with Election Commissioner will decide dates in April & October for elections.
- B. Elections shall be by secret ballot.

## TITLE IV GENERAL PROVISIONS

### **Article 1 - Supremacy Clause**

This Constitution supersedes all other GESSA Constitutions, legislative and executive documents, including but not limited to Bylaws.

### **Article 2 – Amendment**

Proposals to amend this constitution shall originate by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of present Executive members. Detailed notice of the amendment shall be made public by sufficiently accessible communication channels. If this proposal does not receive written protest from 10% (with minimum of 20 members) to advisors within 7 days of decision being made public, this constitution shall be declared amended.