

# ECONOMICS GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## CONSTITUTION

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As amended 10/27/2010

### **Article I: Name**

The name of this organization shall be ECONOMICS GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (EGSA henceforth) at Iowa State University.

### **Article II: Objectives**

#### *Section 1: Purpose and Goals*

The purpose of the EGSA will be to provide services to economics graduate students which will aid them in personal and professional development. The goals of the EGSA include

1. The orientation of new graduate students.
2. The arrangement of periodic informal seminars.
3. The fostering of communication between faculty and graduate students.
4. The promotion and coordination of departmental social activities.
5. Representation of economics graduate students in departmental and university affairs.

#### *Section 2*

The EGSA abides by and supports established Iowa State University policies, as well as State and Federal laws.

### **Article III. Membership**

#### *Section 1: Eligibility*

Any graduate student having a major or minor in Economics shall be considered a member of the EGSA. As a registered student organization at Iowa State University, the EGSA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Membership may be revoked by a simple majority vote of the general membership if actions are deemed inappropriate by the membership.

#### *Section 2: Membership Dues*

There shall be no membership fees or dues.

### **Article IV: Officers**

#### *Section 1: Executive Committee Offices and Duties*

The executive committee shall consist of three officer positions, with titles and duties as follows:

1. **President:** The president shall assume responsibility for leadership of the organization; shall call and chair meetings of both the executive committee and

general membership when necessary; shall act as a liaison officer to the faculty by serving on Econ Council; shall appoint and dismiss the members of different committees as and when necessary; be an ex-officio member of all committees and subcommittees of the association.

2. **Vice-President:** The vice - president shall fulfill functions of recorder and correspondent for both the executive committee and the organization at all meetings and shall assist the president in the discharge of his duties. The vice-president will be responsible for all of the responsibilities of the president in their absence. The vice-president shall also be responsible for all publicity associated with the organization and its activities.
3. **Treasurer:** The treasurer shall be responsible for all financial transactions of the organization; shall keep books and present a statement of account once a year to the fall semester general meeting; shall be primary signee of all financial transactions of the organization. The treasurer shall also be responsible for the duties of the president in the absence of both the president and vice-president.

#### *Section 2: Officer Eligibility*

The officers of this organization must meet the following requirements:

1. Achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 and meet that minimum GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration.
2. Be in good standing with the university and enrolled: at least half-time (at least six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office, and at least half time (4 or more credit hours), if a graduate level student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during their term of office.
3. Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in (1) and (2).

#### *Section 3: Officer Elections*

1. Nominations for officers shall be invited at least two weeks prior to the elections.
2. Officers will be elected by a closed-ballot system during a meeting of the general membership in the spring semester.
3. A simple majority of the present and voting members shall be sufficient to elect a nominee to office. If no candidate receives a simple majority a closed-ballot run-off election shall be conducted between the two candidates receiving the most votes.
4. Officer resignations must be submitted in writing to the president. A presidential resignation shall be submitted to the vice-president or treasurer. All officer resignations must be submitted to the proper officer at least two weeks prior to resignation.
5. Officer vacancies occurring after the annual elections shall be filled through closed-ballot special elections within one month of the office vacancy.
6. The executive committee shall have the power to appoint and additional officers, such as special committee chairpersons, as they deem necessary.

#### *Section 4. Terms of Office*

All elected officers shall serve a term of one year, beginning after their election to office during the annual elections in the spring semester. Officers filling vacancies mid-term will serve until the next annual election during the spring semester.

#### *Section 5. Organization Adviser*

A faculty or staff member: of the Department of Economics will serve as the organization's adviser. This adviser shall be jointly appointed by the executive committee and the relevant officers for the Department of Economics. The duties of the adviser are as follows:

1. Maintain communications and meet with officers regularly.
2. Be aware of and approve financial expenditures.
3. Ensure that the organization is operating in conformity with the standards set forth by Iowa State University and Student Activities Center.

The adviser shall be appointed annually, on or near the first Thursday of March and serve for a term of one full year (March to March).

#### *Section 6: Officer Removal*

An officer may be nominated for removal by the other members of the executive committee. The officer shall be removed from office by a 67% vote of the present and voting members during a meeting of the general membership. The officer shall be permitted to speak before the executive committee and general membership about the charges made concerning his/her performance. The officer is not permitted to participate in the deliberation or voting process of the executive committee and general membership in regard to the charges.

## **Article V. Meetings**

#### *Section 1: General Meetings*

1. There shall be a minimum of one general meeting in both the fall and spring semesters to conduct the necessary business of the organization.
2. A formal agenda for each general meeting shall be prepared by the executive committee as follows:
  - a. Issues to be discussed shall be submitted to the executive committee at least 7 business days prior to the meeting.
  - b. The executive committee shall prepare and distribute the agenda at least 5 class days before a meeting.
  - c. The agenda shall be submitted to the membership at the meeting for approval.
  - d. Items not published on the agenda may be placed on the agenda at the meeting for discussion.
  - e. Items not published on the agenda may not be voted on at the meeting unless 10 or more members are present.
  - f. Notice of general meetings shall be given at least five business days prior to the meeting.
  - g. Each member shall have one vote concerning business at a general meeting.
  - h. All general meetings shall be open to the public.

### *Section 2: Special Meetings*

1. The executive committee may, at its own discretion, or upon the written request of five or more members of the organization, call a special general meeting.
2. The provisions for special meetings will be the same as those for general meetings outlined above in Article V, Section 1.

### *Section 3: Quorum*

The quorum for any special or general meeting shall consist of the members present, and in good standing, at the meeting.

### *Section 4: Rules of Debate*

All debate in general and special meetings shall be subject to the rules of parliamentary procedure laid down in "Roberts Rules of Order" Parts I and II by General H.M. Roberts.

## **Article VI. Finances**

All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this organization at the Campus Organizations Accounting Office and/or approved institution/office (must receive authorization via Campus Organizations Accounting Office). All funds must be deposited within 24 hours after collection. The Adviser to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment. No dues will be charged for membership.

## **Article VII. Amendments and Ratification**

### *Section 1. Amendments*

1. A motion or motions to amend the constitution may be moved at any general meeting.
2. Notice of such motion(s) must be in writing and must be placed with the vice - president at least five business days before the general meeting at which it (they) is (are) to be considered.
3. Upon receipt of such a motion(s) to amend the constitution and at least three business days before the general meeting at which such amendment(s) is (are) to be considered, the vice - president shall issue notice of motion to amend together with such detail as may be necessary to accompany it (them).
4. The adoption of any constitutional amendment shall require a 2/3 majority vote of present and voting members at a general meeting.
5. The amended constitution will be submitted within 10 days to the Student Activities Center for approval.

### *Section 2. Ratification*

This constitution shall become effective upon approval by a 3/4 majority vote of the organization membership. Ratified constitutions must be submitted to Student Activities Center within 10 days for final approval.

## **Article VIII. Seminars**

The organization shall periodically promote informal seminars on topics and with people of interest to the members of the organization. Responsibility of promotion of such activities shall be primarily with the executive committee though, subject to the sanction of this executive committee, any member may promote activities of this nature in the name of the association.

## **Article IX. Student Faculty Liaison**

It shall be a function of the executive committee, either through the president or as a group, to maintain liaison between the organization and faculty. The executive committee shall, when directed by the organization in a general meeting, meet with faculty to present thoughts, proposals, interests, and considerations of the organization.

## **Article X. Social Activities**

The executive committee shall promote social activities as and when it deems desirable and at such other times as it may be directed by the organization in general meeting.

Signatures for Approval:

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Adviser: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Activities: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_