Constitution of the English Graduate Organization of Tulane University of Louisiana

Preamble

We, the members of the English Graduate Organization of Tulane University, in order to develop and further scholastic attainment; to promote understanding between the members and the English department faculty and between the members and the university administration; to coordinate the student activities of the English graduate program; to further professional and social interests; and in recognition that the unification of the students of the English graduate program into an effective group is necessary to these ends, do establish this constitution for the English Graduate Organization.

Article I: Name

This association will be known as the English Graduate Organization of Tulane University, hereinafter referred to as EGO.

Article II: EGO Assembly

Section 1: Membership

All persons registered in the graduate program in English shall be considered members of EGO.

Section 2: Powers

A) EGO shall have the power to elect graduate representatives to the GSSA in accordance with GSSA guidelines governing departmental representation. One GSSA representative at large shall be elected to a two-year term.

B) EGO shall have the power to elect representatives to the Faculty Executive Committee and departmental committees. There shall be three representatives to the Faculty Executive committee: one representative shall be a first-year student who shall serve a one-year term and have voice but no vote; one shall be a second-year student who shall be elected for a two-year term, serving the second year as the Senior Representative; and one shall be a student who has completed more than two years of graduate study. The second-year representative and the Senior Representative shall be voting members of the Committee. If the second-year representative chooses not to fulfill the second year of the term, EGO will elect a Senior Representative for a one-year term. EGO shall also have the power to elect an Alternate Representative to the Executive Committee, who will represent EGO at Executive Committee meetings in place of any representative who is unable to attend and will assume the voting status of the absent Committee member.

Section 3: Meetings

A) All meetings are scheduled by the officers of EGO.

B) There shall be at least four (4) meetings per semester and a minimum of one (1) per month. The first business meeting shall take place within the first ten (10) days of the beginning of the semester and the last regular business meeting shall not take place during or after the last week of classes each semester.
C) Any member has the power to move to adjourn a meeting after one hour and fifteen minutes.

D) Officers shall establish a regular meeting time after the first meeting and prior to the second.

E) Emergency or non-scheduled meetings may also be called in the following manner:
   1) By majority vote of the officers of EGO.
   2) By written request of the majority of the members of EGO.

Such requests are to be submitted to the president.

Section 4: Voting/Quorum

A) A simple majority of EGO members present at the meeting is required to pass any routine proposal not specified in other articles of the Constitution.

B) A simple majority of active members is required in votes where a ballot is called.

C) EGO members may send proxies.

D) Any member may call a ballot vote.

Section 5: Removal from Office

The assembly shall have the right to call a vote of confidence regarding an EGO official or representative. The petitioned officer or representative shall be given at least one week's notice in writing and shall be given the opportunity to speak in her/his defense prior to the vote. A two-thirds vote of no confidence shall be sufficient for removal of the official or representative. After a vote of no confidence has been accepted, a new election shall be held at the next meeting to fill the vacancy. Nominations will be accepted as per Article V, Section 2.?

Article III: Association Officials

Section 1: The Officers of the Association

A) President

B) Vice-President/Secretary

C) Treasurer

Section 2: Nominations

Nominations for officials of EGO may be made by any member of the organization either in person or in writing to the elections committee from the time an election is called until the election meeting. An EGO meeting will be scheduled for nominees to introduce themselves and present a statement of purpose. At this time, the Senior Elections Official will explain each office and its responsibilities. Offices and elected representatives should not hold multiple offices, the exceptions being the EGO President, who sits on the Faculty Executive Committee and the EGO Treasurer who serves as aGSSA representative. Only in the event that no nominee can be found for a position may a representative hold another office.
Section 3: Elections

Officers shall be elected by the organization during the first half of April and no later than April 15. To be elected, a candidate must gain a simple majority of the votes cast. Only votes cast for a particular position shall be counted and used to determine a majority.

Section 4: Runoffs

If no candidate receives a majority of the votes required for election, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes.

Section 5: Election Committee

A) The Election Committee shall be a standing committee of three members. The senior member shall be called upon to act as a parliamentarian in any case where constitutionality is questioned.

B) Members of the Election Committee shall hold two-year terms of office and shall be elected in alternating years.

C) Members of the Election Committee may hold no other offices in EGO or GSSA.

D) The Election Committee shall be responsible for conducting the nominations process, distributing and tabulating ballots, enforcing constitutional requirements for candidates and establishing quorum each fall.

Section 6: Term of Office

The term of office for the officials shall commence immediately following the election meeting and carry through the next election.

Section 7: Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy in any office, the organization shall elect a successor according to the procedures in this article.

Section 8: Duties of the Officials

A) The officials of this organization shall carry out the provisions of this Constitution and any by-laws enacted in accordance therewith. B) The President shall preside over all EGO meetings and shall appoint all EGO committee chairpersons from among the interested members of the organization with the approval of the members of the organization. The President shall serve on the Faculty Executive Committee as a fourth representative having voice but no vote.

C) The Vice-President/Secretary shall make public and keep a permanent record of the complete proceedings of the EGO meetings, distributing within one (1) week the minutes of said meetings. The Vice-President/Secretary shall have the additional duty of distributing a copy of the Constitution and by-laws to all new students at the introductory meeting. The Vice-President/Secretary shall post a working agenda one (1) week prior to each EGO meeting. On the day of the meeting the agenda shall be replaced by a typed final agenda which shall be available at the EGO meeting.

D) The Treasurer shall administer and keep records of EGO's financial activities. The Treasurer shall serve as one of the GSSA representatives for EGO. The Treasurer shall be responsible for formulating a budget request to be submitted to the GSSA and shall present and discuss the budget at the introductory EGO meeting. The Treasurer shall
keep the organization informed about the status of the budget. It shall be the responsibility of the outgoing Treasurer to submit the EGO budget request for the following year to the GSSA.

Article IV: Amendment and Revision

Section 1: Proposal

Amendments or revisions to this Constitution, or a new Constitution, may be initiated by a two-thirds vote of the active members or by petition to the organization signed by a majority of the active members. Publication of the proposed change shall be made by posting same on the bulletin board for not less than ten (10) school days prior to the voting.

Section 2: Ratification of Amendments

A proposed amendment may be ratified at the next EGO meeting by a two-thirds majority of the members.

Article V: Enactment

1) This Constitution shall be effective when ratified by a simple majority of active members of the organization.

2) The EGO officials at the time of the adoption of this Constitution shall continue in office until such time as they are replaced in the manner provided for in this Constitution.

3) Upon the ratification of this Constitution and the election of new officers, the first two members of the election committee shall be elected, one of whom shall serve a one-year term ending in Fall 1994 and the second of whom shall serve as the Senior elections official until Fall 1995. The third member shall be elected from among the first-year students in Fall 1993.

4) Upon ratification of this constitution, elections shall also be held to fill any unexpired terms made unconstitutional by multiple office-holding.

Enactment Clause

We an organized body of graduate students of Tulane University, do hereby enact the above Constitution.