

CONSTITUTION OF THE
ENGLISH GRADUATE ORGANIZATION (EGO)

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 the university administration; to coordinate the student activities of the English graduate program; to further professional and social interests; and recognize 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. Purpose.

To consolidate and focus on the problems and special interests of graduate students in this department, and to provide channels of communication between them and the graduate faculty.

Article II. Organization.

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be known as the “English Graduate Organization,” hereinafter referred to as EGO.

Section 2: All registered 4+1 and external graduate students in this department are eligible to be voting members of this organization.

Section 3: The Director of Graduate Studies shall serve as faculty liaison to the student organization when necessary.

Section 4: A simple majority of EGO members must be present at the meeting to pass any routine proposal not specified in the other articles of the Constitution.

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

B. Any member may call a ballot vote.

C. EGO members may send proxies.

Section 5: A minimum of three meetings shall be held during each semester of the academic year. The first business meeting shall take place within the first 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 class. Other meetings may be called as necessary.

- A. Any member has the power to move to adjourn a meeting after one hour and fifteen minutes.
- B. Officers shall establish regular meeting times after the first meeting and prior to the second.
- C. Emergency or non-scheduled meetings may also be called in the following manner:
 - a. By majority vote of the officers of EGO.
 - b. By written request of the majority of the members of EGO.
 - c. Such requests are to be submitted to the president.

Section 6: 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 his/her/their 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.

Article III. Organization Officials

Section 1: Nominations for officials of EGO may be made by any member of the organization either in person or in writing. An EGO meeting will be scheduled for nominees to introduce themselves and present a statement of purpose. Elections for the following academic year will take place in the spring semester. The officers and the election process of this organization shall be as follows:

- A. President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and 1 representative + a proxy who will attend meetings of the Graduate School Student Association (GSSA), our umbrella organization.
 - 2A. The representatives shall be elected by the general membership in accordance to GSSA guidelines: one +1 year or external MA student and one proxy 4+1 student. Representatives will serve a one academic year term.
- B. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected in the spring, to serve for the following academic year. Elections shall be held during the first half of April and no later than April 15th.
- C. Representatives shall be elected in the fall to serve for the current academic year.
- D. After elections for the following academic year are made, the previous year's elected officials will meet with the incoming elected officials to explain each office and their responsibilities.

Section 2: The officials of this organization shall carry out the provisions of this Constitution and any by-laws enacted in accordance therewith:

- A. The President shall preside over all EGO meetings. The President shall oversee the handling of communications and EGO maintenance. The President shall serve on the Faculty Executive Committee as a third representative having a voice but no vote.
- B. The Vice-President shall have the duty of distributing a copy of the Constitution and any by-laws to all new students at the introductory meeting. The Vice-President shall post a working agenda one week prior to each EGO meeting. On the day of the meeting, the agenda shall be distributed in a print out.
- C. The Treasurer shall administer and keep records of EGO's financial activities. The Treasurer shall have the additional responsibility of formulating a budget request to be submitted to the GSSA and shall present and discuss the budget at a scheduled business EGO meeting. The Treasurer shall keep the organization informed about the status of the budget.
- D. The Secretary shall make public and keep a permanent record of the complete proceedings of the EGO meetings, and present the minutes of the previous meeting within the first 10 minutes of the current meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to maintain contact with the organization's GSSA representatives in order to maintain the organization's proceedings with GSSA.

Article IV. Amendments.

Section 1: 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.

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

Section 2: Proposed amendments for the 2019-2020 academic year are as follows:

- (1) Due to a period of EGO inactivity, officers for the 2019-2020 academic year will be elected in the fall of 2019. Officers for the 2020-2021 academic year will be elected in the spring of 2020.
- (2) Due to a period of EGO inactivity, the fall semester of 2019 will only hold two meetings. The required minimum of three meetings will resume in the spring semester of 2020.

Article V: Enactment.

- A. This Constitution shall be effective when ratified by a simple majority of active members of the organization.
- B. 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.

Enactment Clause

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