

Constitution

The History Graduate Society

Article I Name: The name of this organization is “The History Graduate Society.” [Hereinafter, “HGS”]

Article II Purpose: The primary purposes of the HGS are to promote the study of history at the graduate level at the University of Florida, to assist current graduate students at the University of Florida Department of History in pursuing their research, education, and career goals, to foster the diffusion and publication of historical scholarship, to recognize excellence in the field of history, to encourage the exchange of historical research and scholarship, to facilitate communication and the diffusion of information among its members, and to further the professional aims of graduate students at the Department of History generally. These goals shall be achieved through assistance in the publication of a scholarly journal, funding a prize or prizes for excellence in historical scholarship, maintenance of a web site, publication of an HGS newsletter, sponsorship of historical conferences, and other forms of assistance to current graduate students at the Department of History.

Article III Compliance Statement: Upon approval by the Center for Student Activities and Involvement, HGS shall be a registered student organization of the University of Florida. HGS shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-discrimination, Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

Article IV Non-Discrimination: In compliance with the University of Florida Non-Discrimination Policy (Regulation 6C1-1.006), HGS will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act.

Article V Membership: Membership in this organization is open to enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-students, spouses, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

Article VI Officers: The officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and First Year Representative.

Section 1: The President is responsible for presiding over meetings and acting as the official representative of the HGS.

Section 2: The Vice President is responsible for presiding over meetings when the President is unable to attend and for turning in office logs if the HGS obtains office space in the Student Activities Center.

Section 3: The Secretary is responsible for presiding over meetings when the President and Vice President are unable to attend, for keeping minutes of HGS meetings and for maintaining an accurate membership roster.

Section 4: The Treasurer is responsible for presiding over meetings when the President, Vice President, and Secretary are unable to attend, for handling funds, whether collected or distributed for formal or informal events, and for maintaining accurate records of all financial transactions.

Section 5: The First Year Representative is responsible for presiding over meetings when the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are unable to attend and for advising the other officers on the Executive Committee.

Section 6: Collectively, the officers shall comprise the Executive Board of the HGS, which shall be responsible for conducting the day-to-day business of the HGS. By a majority vote, the Executive Board may create and disband committees, appoint and dismiss chairpersons, and appoint and dismiss official HGS representatives to other student organizations. Furthermore, it shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board collectively, and of each officer

individually to maintain active relations with the Executive Board of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Council, and to remain in accordance with Student Body Laws.

Section 7: The Impeachment of an officer can occur only when said officer has engaged in material and substantial dereliction of his or her duties. For such an officer to be impeached, a petition signed by a simple majority of all members must be received by the officers other than the officer sought to be impeached. A secret ballot election must then be scheduled within thirty days of the petition submission, but only during the Fall or Spring semesters, and three-quarters of all members must approve said impeachment, at which point the officer shall be removed from office.

Article VII Elections

Section 1: Election of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer

Par. 1: Elections of new officers will take place at the annual election meeting, which shall occur on the second Friday in April, and in no event any later than the last day of classes of the Spring Semester. The President shall publicize the election meeting date to all members no later than the second Friday in February.

Par. 2: Any member of HGS may nominate any other member to be an officer provided that the nominee has been registered for at least one full semester and intends to be in residence at the University during the relevant academic year. However, no officer may be re-elected to the same office which said officer held in the previous year, unless said officer has served less than one full semester. Further, the President may not be elected to any office after having served his or her term.

Par. 3: Nominations must be made in writing, either hard copy or electronic, to the President no later than the second Friday in March. All nominees must accept the nomination in writing, either hard copy or electronic, to the President no later than the third Friday in March or their names will not appear on the ballot. No member may accept nomination for more than one office, without withdrawing their acceptance of any prior nomination for a different office. By accepting the nomination, a nominee becomes a candidate for office, certifies that he or she is eligible to hold office, and agrees to faithfully discharge the duties of any office to which he or she is elected.

Par. 4: No later than the Tuesday following the deadline for acceptance of nominations, the President shall communicate the names of all candidates to the membership. Any member having any objection to the eligibility of any candidate to run for or hold office must make such objection to the President in writing, either hard copy or electronic, no later than seven days prior to the date of the election meeting. The President shall immediately forward the objection to the candidate, who may respond within four days. In any event, the issue of eligibility shall be conclusively determined by a majority vote of the Executive Committee within five days of the objection, provided, however, that a candidate who is also a member of the Executive Committee must recuse himself or herself from all deliberations and votes regarding his or her candidacy. In the event of a tie vote on an objection, the objection will be deemed overruled and the candidate will remain on the ballot.

Par. 5: Candidates are strongly encouraged to submit to the membership a platform or other statement of goals associated with their candidacies.

Par. 6: At the annual election meeting, all business other than the elections shall be concluded prior to the commencement of the voting. The President shall be the presiding officer of the annual election meeting, but if the President is unable to preside, then the next highest ranking officer who is not seeking office in the elections shall preside. The presiding officer of the election meeting shall be assisted by the next highest ranking officer who is not seeking office in the elections. The President shall announce to the members the name of the presiding officer of the election meeting no later than seven days prior to the election.

Par. 7: Members may vote either by attending the annual election meeting and submitting a ballot, or by submitting a proxy ballot in writing, either hard copy or electronic, to the presiding officer of the election meeting, no later than midnight of the day before the annual election meeting. The proxy ballot shall rank all candidates for each office in order of preference, with the number "1" indicating the voter's first preference. A member submitting such a proxy

ballot may not thereby empower another to decide their vote, but instead must state for which candidates they are voting.

Par. 8: The election for the office of President shall be held first, followed by that for Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All voting shall be conducted by secret ballot, except when a candidate is running unopposed, when election may be accomplished by acclamation. On their ballots, voters shall rank all candidates for each office in order of preference, with the number "1" indicating their first preference.

Par. 9: Before each officer election, the candidates shall be given an opportunity to make a brief statement and answer questions. At the conclusion of the candidate statements and questions, paper ballots shall be distributed to the members attending, who shall then vote. The votes shall be collected and, along with the proxy ballots, counted by the presiding officer and the officer assisting. The candidate receiving a majority of first preference votes shall be declared the winner, and the result shall be announced at the meeting. In the event no candidate receives a majority, the ballots shall be recounted as follows: first preference votes for candidates other than the top two candidates shall be discounted, and the next highest preference on those ballots shall be counted. The Presiding officer shall cast a ballot which shall be set aside and counted only if a tie-breaker is needed between the final two candidates.

Par. 10: Officers will hold office from the day after the annual election meeting until the date of the next following annual election meeting.

Section 2: Election of the First Year Representative

Par. 1: All incoming history graduate students shall be eligible for the office of First Year Representative.

Par. 2: Any first year student may nominate any other first year student for the office by transmitting the nominee's name to the President in writing, either in hard copy or electronically, no later than the second Monday in September.

Par. 3: Nominees must accept or decline the nomination in writing, either hard copy or electronic, no later than the following Friday.

Par. 4: If only one student is nominated, she or he shall automatically and immediately assume the office of First Year Representative. If there are multiple nominees, the President shall announce the names of the candidates no later than the Monday after nomination acceptances are due. Also at that time, the President shall prepare numbered ballots and distribute these to the first year students, whose completed ballots shall be due to the Graduate Program Assistant no later than the following Friday. Voters shall rank all candidates in order of preference, with the number "1" indicating the voter's first preference. The ballots shall be counted by the Executive Committee, with the candidates invited to attend. The winner shall be the candidate who receives a majority of first preference votes. In the event no candidate receives a majority, the ballots shall be recounted as follows: first preference votes for candidates other than the top two candidates shall be discounted, and the next highest preference on those ballots shall be counted. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast a tie-breaking vote.

Section 3: Special Elections. If an officer decides to step down from office, or is removed from office pursuant to the procedures set forth at Article VI, Section 7, an interim officer will be selected by the Executive Board until such time as a special election meeting can be held. In no event shall said special election meeting be held more than thirty days after the resignation or removal, unless the resignation or removal occurs during the Spring semester, in which case no special election meeting need be held.

Article VIII Faculty Advisor:

Section 1: The Faculty Advisor shall be selected by the Executive Board to serve concurrently with the board. This individual may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Board. If removed, a replacement shall be immediately appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section 2: The Faculty Advisor should be one who expresses interest in assisting HGS and whose ideals are aligned with the organization's purpose. The Faculty Advisor shall serve as a source of information and advice to the HGS and represent the HGS to the community and the University of Florida as needed.

Article IX Finance: The HGS will not and may not require members to pay dues or fees to be members of the organization. The HGS will apply for Student Government funding.

Article X Dissolution of Organization: In the event that the HGS dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be donated to the University of Florida History Department to be used to further graduate student education.

Article XI Meetings: Including the annual election meeting, the HGS shall hold at least two meetings each semester, which meetings shall be well publicized by the officers to the members. The officers may also decide, by majority vote, to hold additional meetings from time to time as conditions require.

Article XII Amendments: Amendments to this Constitution may be suggested by any member of the HGS eligible to vote at the annual election meeting. Said amendments shall then be voted upon, by secret ballot, and shall be approved upon receiving two-thirds of the votes.