

Graduate English Society

Officers: Allison Laubach Wright, Co-President
Austin Tremblay, Co-President
Clay Guinn, Co-President

2012-2013 Constitution

I. Statement of Purpose

The Graduate English Society (GES) works with faculty members in the Department of English on issues that affect graduate students; GES officers work particularly closely with the Director of Graduate Studies. Each fall, the GES officers appoint several graduate students to serve as representatives on the following faculty committees:

- The Planning Committee (initiates short- and long-term planning for the department)
- The Committee on Lower-Division Studies (First Year Writing)
- The Committee on Upper-Division Studies (Undergraduate English courses)
- The Committee on Graduate Studies (Affairs that affect graduate students)
- The Technology Committee (Technology in the department)

The representatives to those committees report back to the GES officers, who then report directly to graduate students as well as hear from graduate students about their issues of concern.

In addition to working with faculty members, the GES officers oversee two student-run committees:

- The Professionalization Committee, which arranges professionalization workshops for GES members.
- The Conference/Journal Committee, which is composed of the Editor of the *Plaza* journal, the chair of the Coastal Plains Graduate Conference, two faculty members selected by the editor and chair, and one GES Co-President. This committee helps to engage GES members, English faculty, and other UH organizations in the journal and conference.

II. Membership

All students pursuing a graduate degree in the Department of English are eligible for membership. There are no dues for membership.

III. Officers

The GES is headed by three co-presidents, one of whom should be a student pursuing a degree in Literature or RCP (Rhetoric, Composition, and Pedagogy), and another of whom should be a student pursuing a degree in Creative Writing. The third co-president may be a student in any of the department's graduate programs.

IV. Funding

The elected GES officers will take applications each semester for members seeking travel funds for conferences. Members submit an application to the officers, who will then submit a request to the Activities Funding Board. All funding will be reimbursed to students from the GES bank account.

Travel funding is not provided from the GES bank account, which is used only for GES-sponsored events such as professionalization workshops and conference expenditures.

The GES bank account is filled by conference registration fees and a biannual book sale arranged through the head of Lower Division Studies.

IV. Elections

Elections for the three officer positions are held at the end of each spring semester. Elections are organized and run by the incumbent officers. Officers ask for nominations from the student body, including self-nominations, ensure that all nominees are interested in running for office, and then arrange elections in which each member of the GES may vote for up to three nominees. All members of the GES are eligible to run for office, provided that the makeup of the officers follows that outline above in Section III.

V. Amending the Constitution

All changes to the constitution must get a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote from the elected GES officers. If a third officer is outvoted and wants to appeal, that decision can be taken up with the Director of Graduate Studies and, if necessary, the Department Chair, who can mediate a compromise.

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