

Marshall University Graduate Student Council

**MARSHALL UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL  
CONSTITUTION**

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## Marshall University Graduate Student Council

**MARSHALL UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL  
CONSTITUTION**

## Article I. Organization

## Section 1. Membership

All master's and doctoral students currently enrolled at Marshall University shall be members of the GSC.

## Section 2. Supreme Laws

This constitution and all laws pursuant thereto will be the Supreme law of the Marshall University Graduate Student Council.

## Section 3. Rules of Order

All matters not covered in this constitution or Council legislation are governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

## Section 4. Purpose

The major purpose of the Graduate Student Council is to promote academic opportunities such as research and development. The GSC also promotes the social well being of its members.

## Section 5. Name Restriction

The name "Graduate Student Council" cannot be used by any student or group of students without the written authorization from the GSC Executive Committee or the Council itself.

## Section 6. Recall

Graduate and/or biomedical students have the power to recall any elected official of the GSC. The petition to recall is presented to the GSC President who then refers it to the Judiciary Committee who determines the validity of the signatures. The petition must be signed by at least fifteen percent (15%) of the graduate and/or biomedical students currently enrolled at Marshall University. Any official, who does not receive a majority of affirmative votes, shall have his/her office declared vacant and filled in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. The recalled official is not eligible for the vacancy. In the case of Council seats, medical education signatures will not be valid in a petition filed against a main campus council member; main campus signatures will not be valid in a petition against a medical education council member. If the recall petition is filed against the GSC President, the petition is filed with either GSC Vice Presidents, as provided in Art. I, Sec. 10 A and B.

## Section 7. Referendum

Graduate and biomedical students have the power to place any Council act on a ballot, provided a petition requesting a ballot specifying the act on which the referendum is to be taken; it has been signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the qualified voters. The GSC President shall, if the petition is in good and legal order, direct the Election Committee to conduct an election on the referendum in no less than seven (7) and no more than fourteen days (14) after he/she received the petition. Public notice of the election shall be given not less than four days (4.) before it

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takes place. A majority of the votes cast will be sufficient to rescind an act of the Council.

## Section 8. Initiative

Graduate and/or biomedical students can initiate any act within the power of the Council by following the same procedures in Section 7 of this Article.

## Section 9. Amending Procedure

A. Amendments to this Constitution can become valid under the following procedure:

1. An amendment may be introduced by any, Council Member at any regular meeting. The proposed amendment shall be debated at a subsequent meeting
2. A majority vote of the elected Council membership is necessary for Council approval of any proposed amendment.
3. All amendments must be approved by the Student Conduct and Welfare Committee.

B. A constitutional amendment can become law by a simple majority of the elected Council membership and ratified by a simple majority of the eligible graduate and biomedical student voters in a regular or special election.

C. A constitutional amendment can become effective as provided hereunder:

1. If a proposed constitutional amendment is ratified in either a regular or special election, it will become law.
2. If a proposed constitutional amendment is ratified with provisions for a special time for enactment that shall be the date it becomes law.

## Section 10. Succession of Officers

A. If a vacancy arises in the office of President in the case of death, resignation, removal or disability, he/she shall be replaced by the Vice President-Main Campus. If that person does not wish to assume the duties (which must be stated in writing and submitted to the GSC Advisor), the Vice President-Medical Education shall assume the office.

B. If a vacancy occurs for Vice President-Main Campus arises for reasons stated above, he/she shall be replaced by the next highest ranking main-campus officer. If no such person exists, the Council shall elect from their membership. Medical Education Council members are ineligible to participate in this election.

C. If a vacancy occurs for Vice President Medical Education arises for the same reasons stated above, the next highest ranking Medical Education officer shall take his/her place. If he/she does not wish to assume the position, then the Medical Education Council members shall elect one from among their peers. Main campus representatives cannot participate in the election process.

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## ARTICLE II. LEGISLATIVE POWERS

## Section 1. Supreme Power

Supreme legislative powers are vested in the Graduate Student Council.

## Section 2. Enumerated Powers

- A. Appropriate funds to all GSC agencies and other activities for the general welfare of graduate and biomedical Students.
- B. Ratified or reject any appointments made by the GSC President by a majority vote.
- C. Override the President's veto by a two-thirds vote of the Council members present.
- D. Establish subordinate officers and committees it deems necessary.
- E. Approve all election rules.
- F. Make recommendations to the University President on matters affecting graduate and/ or biomedical students that cannot be addressed by the GSC.
- G. Require reports from all organizations and/or graduate and/or biomedical students that receive appropriations from the GSC.
- H. Engage in legitimate enterprise to generate revenues for the maintenance of the GSC.
- I. Make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this constitution to promote the general welfare of graduate and biomedical students.
- J. Approve or reject in whole or in part the GSC budget.
- K. Initiate and try all impeachments.

## Section 3. Restricted Powers

The Council cannot;

- A. Pass any ex post facto law.
- B. Make any law abridging or denying the freedom of the student press or any other freedom guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America or the Constitution of the State of West Virginia.

## Section 4. Legislative Procedure

- A. Legislation can be introduced in the Council by any member by a main motion, resolution, position paper or amendment.
- B. To be valid, any act must be signed by the GSC President and the GSC Secretary. If the President disapproves the motion, it will be returned to the Council for reconsideration or enacted into law by a two-thirds vote of the Council members present. Legislation not signed by the GSC President within ten days (10) of its receipt shall immediately become law.

## Section 5. Impeachment Procedures

- A. Impeachment proceedings may be brought against the GSC President, Vice President-Main Campus, Vice President-Medical Education, Secretary, Treasurer, and Council members.
- B. When any aforesaid officers or Council members are tried, the GSC President shall preside.

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- C. When the GSC President is tried, the GPSC Vice President Main Campus shall preside.
- D. The Council, when sitting for impeachment, shall be under oath or affirmation.
- E. Conviction for any article of impeachment shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the Council members presently holding office, whether elected or appointed.
- F. Judgment of impeachment shall extend no further than removal from office and disqualification from holding any other position in the GSC.

## Section 6. Membership

- A. There shall be twelve (12) main campus seats on the Council. Six (6) seats shall be elected in the fall semester and six (6) seats shall be elected in the spring semester. All currently enrolled graduate students (except for medical education students) are eligible for election if they meet the qualifications as outlined in this Constitution.
- B. Biomedicine shall have three (3) seats on the Council. Two seats shall be elected in the Fall and one seat shall be elected in the Spring.

## Section 7. Qualifications and Election

- A. Candidates for the GSC must have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.0, and be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours.
- B. Seated Council members shall maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and satisfactorily complete at least three (3) credit hours during each spring and fall semester of his/her term. Failure to comply will result in immediate removal from the Council.
- C. Council members shall be elected in regular elections in the Spring and Fall semesters of each year. The election date shall fall within the last two weeks in October and the last two weeks in April. The exact date shall be determined by the Council.
- D. All currently enrolled graduate and biomedical students are eligible to vote.
- E. All eligible members can nominate themselves or others for election on the Council. The names of duly qualified nominees shall be placed on the ballot. All candidates are validated by the GSC Election Committee.
- F. The ballot will include a brief biography of each candidate.
- G. Ballots will be mailed to every currently enrolled graduate and professional student.
- H. Balloting shall last three weeks.
- I. Ballots shall be returned to the Graduate School Office.
- J. Ballots are tabulated by the GSC Elections Committee under the supervision of the GSC advisors.

## Section 8. Quorum

One more than half of the Council members seated constitute a quorum.

## Section 9. Vacancies

In case of a vacancy, the GSC shall publicly announce that applications for that vacancy will be accepted for a period of seven (7) days. All

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applications received shall first be referred to the Rules Committee to verify their compliance with the GSC Constitution and By-Laws. The applications will then be referred to the Judiciary Committee for consideration. If no eligible graduate or medical education student applies within the specified time, applications will be accepted until the vacancy is filled.

## Section 10. Term

- A. Council members elected in the Spring shall serve until the subsequent Spring election and Council members elected in the Fall shall serve until the subsequent Fall election.
- B. Appointed Council members shall serve out the unexpired term of the seat to which they were appointed.
- C. Officers of the GPSC shall be elected at the beginning of each new session of the GPSC which starts immediately preceding the Spring election.

## Section 11. Advisors

The GPSC shall elect, by majority vote an advisor(s). Advisor(s) must be a member of the University's Graduate or Medical faculty or administration. Election is held at the beginning of every new session. The Dean of the Graduate School or his/her designee shall serve as an advisor to the GSC.

## ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE POWERS

## Section 1. Supreme Power

The executive power is vested in the GSC Executive Committee. The Executive Committee consists of the offices of President, Vice President-Main Campus, Vice President-Medical Education, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Public Relations, and Programs Director. University committees' representatives are members of the President's cabinet and answer directly to him/her and the Executive Committee. Any ad-hoc committees/ and/or positions created under the Executive Branch shall also be part of the GSC President's cabinet.

## Section 2. Enumerated Powers

- A. The GSC President:
  - 1. Is president of the members of the GSC.
  - 2. Can make recommendations to the University President on matters affecting graduate and/or biomedical students the GSC cannot accommodate.
  - 3. Represents the GSC in all relations with other university and college graduate student councils or associations.
  - 4. Can make executive appointments of graduate and/or biomedical students to committees as appropriate.
  - 5. Can remove any presidentially appointed officer due to incompetence or neglect of duty.
  - 6. Executes decisions of the Council.
  - 7. Can call special sessions deemed necessary.
  - 8. Determines and recommends the GSC budget to the Council.

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9. Can make recommendations to the Council.
  10. Has the power to veto legislative acts of the Council as provided in Article II, Section 4.
  11. Is the presiding officer at all Council meetings.
  12. Has the power to call executive committee meetings and cabinet meetings he/she deems necessary.
  13. Must post and keep at least three office hours per week in the Graduate School Office.
  14. Is editor in chief of the GSC Newsletter and the GSC Research Bulletin.
  15. Should maintain good communications with the SGA President.
- B. The GSC Vice President-Main Campus:
1. Advises the GSC President on matters affecting graduate students on the Main campus.
  2. Serves as presiding officer of the GSC in the absence of the President.
  3. Serves as an assistant to the President.
- C. The GSC Vice President-Medical Education;
1. Advises the GSC President on matters affecting biomedical students.
  2. Serves as presiding officer in the absence of the President and the Vice President-Main Campus.
  3. Serves as an assistant to the President.
- D. The GSC Secretary:
1. Records the minutes of all Council meetings.
  2. Records the minutes of all GSC Executive Committee meetings.
  3. Keeps records of all GSC Committee meetings.
  4. At the end of each year, presents a copy of records stated supra to the Special Collections of the John Morrow Library.
  5. Serves as presiding officer in the absence of the President and the Vice Presidents.
  6. Serves as an assistant to the President.
- E. The GSC Treasurer:
1. Keeps a record of all revenues and expenses of the GSC.
  2. Reports the financial status of the GSC every month of the academic year to the Council and the Executive Committee.
  3. Prepares year-end reports to be presented to the GSC advisor(s), the Council, and the Executive Committee.
  4. Serves as presiding officer in the absence of the President, Vice Presidents and the Secretary.
  5. Serves as an assistant to the President.
  6. The treasurer for the GSC working through graduate senators will make monthly reports to the Student Senate regarding student fees expenditures for fiscal year 1988-89 and 1989-90.
- F. The GSC Public Relations Director;
1. Is appointed by the GSC President.

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2. Is responsible for the promotion of all GSC events and related functions.
3. Periodically updates housing information at the Graduate School Office.
4. Should be majoring in journalism.

## Section 3. Qualifications and Election

- A. The President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer are elected members of the Council.
- B. The President and two Vice Presidents must have been enrolled one semester at Marshall University prior to election into office.
- C. The President must have completed at least twelve hours of graduate or medical credit and the two Vice Presidents must have completed at least nine hours of graduate or medical credit.
- D. Officers are elected by members of the Council at the end of Spring elections at the next regular meeting.
- E. Officers serve a term of one year as long as they are duly elected members of the Graduate Student Council.

## Section 4. Membership

- A. The executive branch/consists of the GSC President, Vice President-Main Campus, Vice President-Medical Education, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations, Director, Faculty Senate and University committee representatives and any other executive appointments.
- B. Presidential appointments to University and Faculty Senate committees and other Executive appointments are subject to approval by a majority vote of the Council.

## Section 5. Oath of Office

- A. The oath of office is administered to the GSC President, Vice President-Main Campus, Vice President-Medical Education, Secretary, and Treasurer by the outgoing GSC President or his/her designee from the Council.
- B. The oath of office: "I \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of \_\_\_\_\_ and will to the best of my ability protect, preserve and uphold the Constitution of the Marshall University Graduate Student Council."

## Section 6. Finance

- A. The Graduate Student Council shall maintain four separate financial accounts.
  1. Money collected from student activities fees are placed in the SGA-GSA special account of the University. The expenditures of these monies is by requisition generated by the GSC Treasurer, signed by the GSC President, the GSC Treasurer and forwarded for approval by the Dean of the Graduate School. For fiscal years 1988-89 and 1989-90, the GSC student fees budget must be approved by Student Government Association per requirements by the University President and the University's Student Fees Committee.

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2. Money collected from all other GSC activities shall be placed in the GSC "off-campus" account and shall be maintained by the GSC President and GSC Treasurer under the direct supervision of the GSC advisor.
  3. Money collected for the Dr. A. Mervin Tyson. Graduate Student Research Endowment shall be placed in the GSC special account with the Marshall University Foundation, Inc. The account shall be maintained by the GSC President the GSC Treasurer, and the Dean of the Graduate School.
  4. Money collected for an emergency loan program for graduate and biomedical students shall be placed in an off-campus account administered by the GSC President, GSC Treasurer and the Dean of the Graduate School.
- B. Expenditures of more than One hundred fifty dollars (\$150) require Council approval. All expenditures above \$150 must be reported with receipts to the Council at the next regular meeting.

## Section 7. Financial Audit

All financial records of the GSC shall be audited by the chief University financial officer or his/her designee prior to the second week of April of each year. A copy of this report is submitted to the University President, the Dean of the Graduate School, the GSC President and the Council. A copy of the audit of expenditures pursuant to Art. III, Section 6(A)(1) shall be submitted to SGA.

## ARTICLE IV. TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL

The interim Council shall be established May 12, 1988 when officers are elected. The elected officers shall serve as the interim Council. The interim Council shall continue into the Spring as the elected officers from May 1988 and elected Council members serve as the Council. Officers shall maintain their office until the end of Spring 1989 elections. In Spring 1989, officers of the GSC will be elected from among those elected in that Spring. These officers shall serve until Spring 1990. The Council will be fully operational at the end of Fall 1989 elections. The constitution with the exceptions stated above, shall be in force.