

CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

Preamble

Saint Mary's College of California recognizes the Graduate Student Association (GSA) as the overarching graduate student association and student government. We, the Graduate Student Association of Saint Mary's College, aim, through our two branches, to implement positive change to create the best college experience for Saint Mary's graduate students. We strive to serve the student body through inclusivity, fair representation, and support in order to enhance graduate student life.

The Graduate Student Association serves as a liaison on behalf of the entire graduate student body to create positive campus-wide change by tending to student needs, promoting clubs and organizations, and collaborating with students and the College Administration.

Land Acknowledgement (Thank you for inspiration from NAISA)

Graduate Student Association acknowledges the Saklan, Bay Miwok tribe who were the first people of the land where Saint Mary's College is today. Also acknowledging the greater San Francisco Bay Area as the land of the Ohlone groups including the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and Ramaytush groups; the Coast Miwok & Southern Pomo people. Nearby tribal groups and reservations are the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria; Dry Creek Band of Pomo Indians; Lytton Band of Pomo Indians; Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians; Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria; Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley; the Northern Valley Yokut people; The Central Valley Maidu; The Central Valley Miwok; and all the Native people, recognized and unrecognized, enrolled and disenrolled.

Mission Statement

The Graduate Student Association of St. Mary's College of California further St. Mary's Mission to . . .

Article I – Name

The name of our organization shall be the Graduate Student Association (GSA) of Saint Mary's College of California (SMC), henceforth referred to as GSA of SMC or GSA.

Article II – Purpose

GSA's purpose is to foster a sense of community among graduate students, provide leadership opportunities, act as a conduit of information to graduate students, encourage the active engagement of graduate students on SMC matters that affect them, represent the needs of graduate students to the administration, and host in-person and virtual social gatherings for graduate students. GSA understands and is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities by abiding by SMC's policies for student organizations.

Article III – Authority

The authority of this constitution and bylaws is the basis for the conduct of all business of the GSA. The GSA's Constitution and Bylaws shall form the authoritative base for all graduate student government policies. The final authority of the GSA shall perpetually be vested in the members of the graduate student body and enumerated by this Constitution. The GSA shall be the primary representative of the graduate student body at SMC.

Article IV – General Membership

Section 1. Membership. The eligible membership of GSA shall consist of all currently enrolled full-time and part-time SMC graduate students.

Section 2. Non-Discrimination Statement. GSA shall not discriminate based on race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, personal appearance, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, or based on rights secured by the First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Article V – Structure

The governance of GSA shall be shared by two branches:

- a. The Executive Branch
- b. The Legislative Branch, or Senate

The two governing branches shall share organizational governance as set forth herein to serve as a system of checks and balances promoting a fair and balanced representation of the members of GSA.

Article VI – Elections

All members of GSA shall have the right to vote in the GSA elections.

- a. Rules and regulations governing elections shall be established by the Senate, published in the Elections Code, and implemented by the Elections Committee in accordance with GSA's Constitution and Bylaws.
- b. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Communications, and Senators shall be elected by the members of GSA in an annual election held between the ninth (9th) and thirteenth (13th) week of the spring semester as determined by the Elections Committee.

Article VII – Term of Office

- a. The term of office for the Executive Board shall be one year beginning the day after the final day of the spring semester.
- b. The term of office for Senators shall be from commencement to commencement.
- c. Student Officers and Senators have no limit to the number of terms they may serve.

Article VIII – Enabling Clause

- a. This Constitution and Bylaws shall go into effect immediately upon passage by the GSA Senate.
- b. All previous GSA Constitution and Bylaws or products thereof shall be considered null and void.

- c. A proposed amendment to the Constitution shall become effective immediately if it receives an affirmative vote from a majority or more of the voting in a general or special election of the GSA.
- d. A proposed amendment of the Bylaws shall become effective immediately if it receives an affirmative vote from two-thirds (2/3) of the entire membership of the Senate.

As of 8/13/2024