

# GASA Constitution

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## **Article 1: Name**

Graduate Art Student Association of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (hereafter GASA)

## **Article 2: Affiliations**

Section 1: GASA is affiliated with the UNC-CH Department of Art and Art History and is subject to its rules and regulations.

Section 2: GASA is subject to the rules and regulations of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation at UNC-CH.

## **Article 3: Purpose & Activities**

GASA exists to further the professional development of graduate level art history and art studio students. GASA is run by graduate student-elected officers whose responsibilities include acting on behalf of the collective department graduate student body with the department and its faculty, facilitating collaboration with the larger art community, and organizing scholarly talks, art events and activities for graduate students. GASA officers distribute professional information to graduate students and serve as liaisons between the art graduate students and the faculty.

## **Article 4: Membership requirements, responsibilities and privileges**

Section 1: Members of GASA must be full-time students enrolled in the UNC-CH Graduate School Department of Art and Art History. Officers must be in at least their second year of enrollment in the department and must plan to be in residence in NC during their term.

Section 2: All members of GASA receive one vote on every collective decision. They are accorded the right to request additions to the agenda and propose projects and activities. GASA officers may apply for funds on behalf of GASA from the department, graduate school or outside funding sources; may form committees and appoint committee members to achieve approved activities. They may call meetings of the whole of GASA or individual committees, accept and approve agenda items and facilitate meetings.

## **Article 5: Graduate advisor**

Unless another arrangement is made, the standing Director of Graduate Studies is the department graduate advisor of GASA.

## **Article 6: Meetings**

Section 1: Meetings of GASA will be held at least twice in each semester, with times and additional meetings decided at the discretion of GASA officers. The first meeting of the year must be held within three full weeks of the fall semester.

Section 2: All meetings must be announced via email to entire graduate art department student body at least 72 hours in advance and must be held on campus.

Section 3: A quorum will consist of 5 members for normal circumstances. Allocation of funds exceeding \$100 and intercession to the faculty on behalf of the GASA constituency require fifty percent approval of respondents, but this approval may be granted in person or via email any time in the two weeks after the announcement.

## **Article 7: Executive Board:**

Chair (Art History) & Chair (Art Studio): These chairs call and oversee agenda and meetings and act as liaisons with department chair and faculty advisor. Each also acts as the primary representative of his/her part of the department on behalf of the other members of GASA.

Chair Emeritus: The Chair Emeritus provides continuity of leadership and oversees completion or execution of plans undertaken during his/her term. The Chair Emeritus also acts as Chair when current Chairs are absent. Since the MFA program is usually two years long, the previous art history chair will usually hold this position; however, if the art studio chair is still an enrolled member of the department, he/she may also serve in this position.

Secretary: The secretary takes notes during GASA meetings and distributes them via email no later than 1 week after the meeting. He/she is also responsible for ownership of the GASA calendar including adding all mandatory department events and facilitates the election process.

Treasurer: Treasurer manages financial accounts and provides statements of fiscal standing to executive board upon request. The treasurer is also responsible for presenting receipts to the department for reimbursement on behalf of GASA members incurring expenses and for coordinating and approving budgets including in grant and funding applications.

External Museums Liaison: Oversees projects with galleries and museums, especially the Ackland and the NCMA.

GPSF representative: Represents GASA at GPSF meetings and takes responsibility for ensuring that GASA members are kept up-to-date on graduate school general affairs.

Social coordinator: This person shares responsibility with the secretary for maintaining events on the GASA calendar and is the contact person and coordinator for social events,

including volunteer activities. He/she also helps integrate newly enrolled and prospective students into GASA.

Normally, executive members will be elected annually in the spring, to take office October of the following school year. However, in the case of a sudden vacancy, the chair(s) can appoint a representative to finish out the term.

### **Article 8: Elections**

Chairs will be elected and must be approved by fifty percent of voters who respond within two weeks. Any student who has been enrolled in the graduate art department for at least 1 year is eligible, even they have served before, but may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

The chair emeritus is either of the previous year's chairs, to be determined by interest and approval of new chairs.

All other positions are open to volunteers and dependent on chair approval. If interest is high enough, a vote may be instituted by discretion of current chairs. The external museums liaison and the GPSF representative positions may be held concurrently by two people, who will arrange the sharing of their responsibilities with the approval of the chairs.

### **Section 2: Nominating Procedures.**

Nominations for chairs will be solicited and circulated via email at least 2 weeks before elections. Nominees may provide a statement of no more than 200 words to the secretary for distribution. Elections will be held during the last month of the spring semester via anonymous ballot in person and/or online.

Should a run-off be necessary, current chairs will determine a second election or other course of action.

### **Article 9: Standing committees**

Object! Committee: Consists of two or more graduate students who coordinate with graduate and undergraduate volunteers to maintain and produce the academic student journal.

Other committees to be determined and formed as needed, based on approval from executive board.

All committees must present progress reports twice annually at all-GASA meetings and as required to the executive board. Any funding requirements incurred by committees must be approved by executive board.

All committees are formed of volunteers, who may serve indefinitely.

### **Article 10: Funds**

GASA currently has no standing funds. Monies required must be accumulated through grants, petition to the department, fundraising or other external means. Funds secured by committees for projects must be used only for the approved projects and petitions to the department for funding must be made through the executive board and in order to be reimbursed for funds by GASA, expenses must be pre-approved and a receipt must be presented to the treasurer. Members are encouraged to apply outside the department for funding, but the executive board must vet all applications in GASA's name.

### **Article 11: Ratification**

This constitution will be approved by fifty percent of responding membership given a response time of 2 weeks.

### **Article 12: Amendments**

Amendments to the Constitution may be submitted for any regular meeting but requires a two-thirds approval for ratification.

### **Article 13: Parliamentary Rules of Order**

Any GASA member may submit agenda items for discussion, but they must be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Suggestions received after that time will be included in the following meeting.

Issues that arise between meetings may be settled via email notice and vote at executive board's discretion.