Constitution
Graduate Students in Communication (GSIC)
The College of Communications, The Pennsylvania State University
First Met – August 27, 2004 / Last Updated – June 12, 2013

Article I: Purpose
• Graduate Students in Communication (hereafter GSIC) is an organization composed of all the graduate students in the College of Communications. While every graduate student in the College is a member of GSIC, three students are elected each year to serve as executive officers (president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer). The executive officers plan graduate student events, assist with administration in the College of Comm, and offer various academic and social opportunities to graduate students in the College. Responsibilities of GSIC officers include, but are not limited to:
  o Acting as liaisons between the student cohort and the faculty
  o Assisting in the general operation of student offices in the James Building
  o Organizing social events that allow sharing/collaboration of academic pursuits
  o Providing opportunities for academic development through training workshops
  o Striving to assist with conference preparation and travel funding
  o Arranging and executing community and/or university service projects

Article II: Membership
• GSIC is a graduate organization, and as such 50 percent + 1 of its active membership must be graduate students.
• Only currently registered students are eligible for active membership. Faculty, staff, and community members are eligible for associate membership. Only active members may vote, preside, officiate, or solicit funding on the organization’s behalf. There must be at least 10 active student members at all times.
• New Membership and Recruitment
  • Any and all new members will be given full disclosure during recruitment, including but not limited to the disclosure of:
    o New Membership Manual
    o Schedule of New Member Events and Activities
    o A list of responsibilities
    o A copy of the University Hazing policy, prescribed by Policies and Rules for Student Organizations
  • These documents are available upon request by the Office of Student Activities.
  • All members, including but not limited to new members and recruits, reserve the right to refrain from participating in any activities without consequence, based upon religious beliefs, personal values, or moral reserve as defined by the member.
• Any and all interaction/activity between members and/or new members are limited to guidelines stated by university policy, as well as local, state, and federal laws.
Article III: Officers
• Only full-time, officially registered active graduate students shall be eligible to serve as appointed or elected officers in GSIC.
• The standard officer positions are: president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer.
• Officers are replaced on an annual basis at the start of each calendar year.
• First-year students may be elected as an officer, but are not eligible to be president.
• If more officers are needed, current GSIC officers will handle the selection process.

Article IV: Meetings
• GSIC meetings are to be held as needed, with a minimum of four per semester. The time and place of these meetings in contingent upon attendance, availability, purpose, and duration.
• Meetings will be called by the GSIC officers, or can be announced by the GSIC officers if there is a special request for a meeting.
  o Any GSIC officer, or members of the College, may call a special meeting.
• Notifications regarding special meetings will be sent out via social networking sites as well as Penn State email. Special accommodations can be made for those that are unable to receive notifications via these methods.
• As much advance notice as possible will be given regarding the meetings of GSIC.

Article V: Voting
• The Coordinator for Graduate Education manages the voting process.
• GSIC officers should help to ensure that the voting procedures, announcement and implementation are fair and equitable.

Article VI: Finances
• All GSIC organizational funds are to be handled through the College of Comm and the Associated Student Activities (ASA) office.
• GSIC will not have an off-campus account.
• The payment of dues is not a necessary condition of membership.

Article VII: Elections
• Any full-time, officially registered active graduate students can be nominated for a position in GSIC. Nominations can be made by other graduate students, by faculty or staff members, and by the graduate student themselves.
• The nomination process is conducted by Comm GRAD Forum (hereafter CGF).
• Nominations are submitted, via email, to CGF who then confirm acceptance from the nominated student. The nominated student is required to submit a student bio and statements regarding their goals for GSIC and interest to serve.
• When the nomination period has ended, CGF sends a list of the nominated students, their bios and statements to the Coordinator for Graduate Education.
Article VII: Elections continued

- Each nomination requires approval by the GSIC advisor and the Coordinator for Graduate Education in the College before it is included on the ballot.
- The Coordinator for Graduate Education conducts the election process.

Article VIII: Amendments to the Constitution

- The introduction and passage of amendments to the GSIC constitution shall be at the discretion of the GSIC officers, as well as the administration of the College of Comm.
  - GSIC officers or faculty/staff in the College may propose amendments.
- All proposed amendments are subject to approval by the Office of Student Activities.
- Amendments that are approved will take effect immediately.

Article IX: Parliamentary Authority

- Parliamentary authority over issues not specifically covered in this document will be subject to the recommendations of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Article X: Accessibility

- A copy of the GSIC constitution will be available to anyone upon request.

Article XI: Advisor

- GSIC must retain an advisor at all times and said advisor must be a full-time graduate faculty member in the College of Comm at The Pennsylvania State University.
- Selection of an advisor will be the responsibility of the GSIC officers with feedback provided by administration in the College of Communications.