

**Constitution of the Indiana University
Geography Graduate Student Organization
May 7, 2014**

Preamble

1. The organization shall officially be known as the “Geography Graduate Student Organization” (commonly referred to as GGSO).
2. The objectives of the GGSO shall be:
 - i. to promote and serve the intellectual, academic, social and professional interests of the graduate students of Indiana University’s Department of Geography;
 - ii. to officially represent the interests of the graduate students of the department; and
 - iii. to foster interaction between graduate students of the department.

Article I: Membership

1. Participation in the GGSO must be without regard to arbitrary consideration of such characteristics as age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.
2. All of the officers and a majority of the members of the GGSO must be currently enrolled at Indiana University.
3. Graduate students enrolled in the department will automatically become members of the GGSO.
4. Membership ends when students complete a degree program or are no longer enrolled in the Geography Department.

Article II: University Compliance

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state and federal laws.

Article III: Executive Officers

1. The GGSO will be administered by a leadership team of three graduate students and one faculty advisor. Annual elections will be held in November to fill these positions.

President

The responsibilities of the President will include:

- i. setting agenda, meeting time, and location of monthly meetings;
- ii. keeping Advisor current on organization activities;
- iii. supervising officers and/or committees;
- iv. calling general and executive meetings

- v. setting organization goals
- vi. representing GGSO at departmental and external meetings

Vice President

- i. presiding in the absence of the president;
- ii. preparing a budget for the organization, including requesting funds from the department and other sources;
- iii. completing required University paperwork;
- iv. re-registering the organization each year.

Secretary/Treasurer

- i. maintaining order at GGSO meetings;
- ii. recording, distributing, and archiving minutes from meetings;
- iii. maintaining lists of organization members;
- iv. maintaining records of organization spending.

2. Terms

1. Leadership team members will be elected to their position based on a two-part procedure: open nomination of candidates and votes by secret ballot on the nominations from each position. Elections will be held each November. Notice of elections meetings will be made via email at least one month in advance of the election. Official duties begin on January 1 of the following year for a one-year term.
2. Any member may nominate him/herself or be nominated by any other member to be a candidate for an open position.
3. A majority of the current members of the GGSO must vote in the election for the results to count.
4. Vacancies due to resignations may be filled with interim appointments made jointly by the President and Vice President pending an election. A formal, written resignation may be presented to the Executive Officers at any time.
5. Negligence or irresponsibility on the part of any member of the leadership team will result in that person being removed from his/her position and an interim replacement being appointed by the remaining Executive Officers pending an election. Instances of negligence or irresponsibility may include unauthorized spending of organizational funding, absence from meetings, unfulfilled or late fulfillment of duties, or unprofessional or discriminatory behavior with regard to the organization and its members.

Article IV: Advisor

The Advisor will be a full-time member of the Indiana University Department of Geography. The Advisor's role is to serve as a mentor and resource for the GGSO and to be available to provide feedback and guidance to the executive committee as needed. The Advisor should meet with the

executive committee at least once per semester to discuss overall direction and goals for the GGSO for that semester.

Article V: Meetings

1. GGSO shall hold monthly meetings of the membership at such places as the leadership team may determine. Special meetings of the membership may be called when needed. Notice of special membership meetings shall be provided to all members no less than three days prior to such meetings by email.

2. The presence of five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business. All motions shall be carried by a simple majority of the members present at any meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer will maintain records of meeting attendance.

Article VI: Non-Hazing

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

Article VII: Finances

1. The collection and distribution of funds shall be conducted by Executive Members at the behest of a quorum of GGSO members.

2. The President must each authorize all expenditures.

3. No dues shall be collected.

4. The GGSO will use a Student Organization Account.

5. Funds will be used in accordance with the Student Organization Accounts office policies and procedures.

6. In the event that the GGSO is dissolved, any remaining funds will be forwarded to the Geography Department to be used for student activities.

Article VIII: Personal Gain Clause

This organization, if raising funds, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

Article IX: Amendments

The GGSO constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the entire membership, who shall cast their votes in person at any meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been stated in writing and presented to the membership at a previous meeting.

Article X: Ratification

This constitution shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership, who shall cast their votes in person.