

**Constitution of
The Graduate Religious Studies Association
at Indiana University**

Updated as of May 2018

PREAMBLE

We, the members of The Graduate Religious Studies Association at Indiana University, in order to fully realize our purpose, do hereby adopt and establish this constitution as the guiding instrument of our organization.

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1 – The name of this organization shall be: The Graduate Religious Studies Association (GRSA) at Indiana University.

ARTICLE III – UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE

Section 1 – This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state and federal laws.

ARTICLE IV – PURPOSE

Section 1 – It shall be the primary purpose(s) of this organization to:

- A. Provide a forum for graduate students in Religious Studies to exchange ideas and have productive conversations within and beyond the classroom
- B. To provide necessary support to students pursuing a graduate degree in Religious Studies

Section 2 – Additional purposes shall include but are not limited to:

- A. To facilitate faculty-student, graduate-graduate, and graduate-undergraduate relationships in the department of Religious Studies
- B. Host pre-professional events to prepare graduate students for employment

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – The Graduate Religious Studies Association allows any interested student to participate in, become a member of, and seek leadership positions in the organization 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.

Section 2 – Regular membership shall consist of those students at Indiana University currently pursuing a graduate degree in the department of Religious Studies and who have agreed to uphold this Constitution and to participate fully in the purposes of this organization.

- A. Regular members shall have the right to vote within the organization.

Section 3 – Special membership shall consist of those persons who have not fulfilled the requirements of Article III, Section 1 or 2. (Note: Special members may consist of alumni, graduate students from other departments, or members of the community).

A. Special members shall not have the right to vote.

Section 4 – If any member fails to uphold this constitution, they are subject to removal by means of a three-fourths vote of the membership.

Section 5 – This organization will not collect dues from regular or special members.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 1 – The officers of GRSA shall consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and shall collectively be referred to as the Executive Board.

A. The office of President shall be filled by a student who has completed at least one semester of study in the graduate program of the department of Religious Studies.

Section 2 – The responsibilities of the President shall be as follows:

- A. To work in concert with the Vice President of this organization;
- B. To serve as the representative of this organization to Indiana University Administration, the Indiana University Student Association, and other organizations;
- C. To preside at meetings of this organization, along with the Vice-President officer;
- D. To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify.

Section 3 – The responsibilities of the Vice President shall be as follows:

- A. To take minutes of official and unofficial meetings to be recorded in a way specified by the leadership team;
- B. To assist the President in their duties;
- C. To assume the office of President in their absence, vacancy, resignation, or dismissal;
- D. To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify.

Section 4 – The responsibilities of Treasurer shall be as follows:

- A. To keep accurate records of the financial status and transactions of this organization;
- B. To hold personal responsibility for all organization funds in their possession;
- C. To attend treasurer training workshop for Student Organization Accounts each academic year.

Section 5 – The responsibilities of Secretary shall be as follows:

- A. To work to organize professionalism resources and facilitate professionalism events for the Religious Studies graduate community;
- B. To assist the other offices in execution of their duties when requested;
- C. To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS

Section 1 – Candidates for any office in this organization must be Regular Members, thus being students of Indiana University pursuing a graduate degree in the department of Religious Studies.

Section 2 – Candidates for any office of this organization shall be nominated by the voting membership or shall nominate themselves.

Section 3 – Election of officers shall take place at a meeting of this organization called for that purpose to occur within the last thirty days of the Spring semester, with term of office lasting one year.

Section 4 – If there is only one candidate applying for an office, that candidate shall take office by default.

Section 5 – In the case of multiple nominations for the same position, nominees must either consent to an election or withdraw their name from consideration.

Section 6 – In the case that an election is necessary, the current leadership team will determine how the election will be executed.

Section 7 – Officers may be re-elected without limitation.

Section 8 – The term of officers shall begin on the last day of classes of the Spring semester and last for one year.

ARTICLE VIII – REMOVAL

Section 1 – Any officer may be removed by a three-fourths hand vote of the membership.

Section 2 – A vacancy of any office shall be filled by Presidential appointment, subject to the approval of membership.

ARTICLE IX – FACULTY/STAFF ADVISOR

Section 1 – The faculty advisor position shall be filled by the Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Religious Studies.

Section 2 – In the case that the Director of Graduate Studies cannot fulfill their position, membership may elect another member of faculty or staff by majority vote to fill the advisor position.

Section 3 – The advisor shall serve as resource and advocate for this organization within the department and University.

Section 4 – The advisor shall not serve as de facto leader of this organization but will hold tie-breaking powers in removal as outlined in Article VIII, Section 2.

ARTICLE X – MEETINGS

Section 1 – Meetings of this organization shall be no less than once a month during the Fall and Spring semesters, the general day and hour to be set by the voting membership at the first meeting of the Fall semester.

Section 2 – The offices of President and Vice-President shall have the authority to modify the meeting calendar as benefits the majority of voting members' schedules of this organization.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – One or more voting members of this organization may author an amendment to this Constitution.

Section 2 – The amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board for review and recommendation concerning legality, punctuation, placement, and word order.

Section 3 – The Executive Board shall present the amendment at the next meeting of this organization.

Section 4 – Amendments shall be adopted with a majority hand vote from regular membership.

Section 5 – At the next meeting following the acceptance of an amendment, updated copies of this Constitution shall be distributed to each voting member.

ARTICLE XI – FINANCES

Section 1 – This organization will act in accordance with the Student Organization Accounts office policies and procedures (soa.indiana.edu).

ARTICLE XII – RATIFICATION

Section 1 – This constitution must be ratified by a majority of members present at the meeting in which the constitution is to be ratified.

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 directly from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

Non-Hazing Clause:

Hazing is strictly prohibited within this organization. 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.

Non-discrimination Clause:

Graduate Religious Studies Association allows any interested student to participate in, become a member of, and seek leadership positions in the organization 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.