

**Graduate Student Governing Body
Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin – Madison**

This document sets forth (i) the composition of the department's graduate student governing body, (ii) the eligibility requirements and term limits of the members of the governing body, (iii) the rules for the selection of the department's graduate student governing body by the graduate students, (iv) the duties of the governing body, and (v) the conditions for altering the policies discussed below.

Composition of the Governing Body

The governing body of graduate students in the department of philosophy is to consist of two positions: President and Vice President.

Term Limits

The position of President and Vice President will be held for a single term. A term begins on September 1st of any given year and ends on August 31st of the following year.

Selection of the Governing Body

Nomination

During the spring semester, the current governing body is responsible for overseeing the nomination of candidates for the following term's governing body. Nomination of members of the next term's governing body must be completed during the spring semester of the year the new governing body is to begin governing, leaving ample time for the election to be held.

Eligible candidates (see below) for the position of President may be nominated by any graduate student in the department, and self-nominations are allowed. Nominated graduate students will be notified of the nomination, and may decline the nomination if they wish. If there are two or more accepted nominations, then an election will be held (see below). If no more than one nomination is submitted and/or accepted, then the single individual who has accepted nomination will take office.

Selection

The President is to be elected by electronic vote, by email, at the end of the spring semester the year the new governing body is to take office. A ballot is to be sent out by the chair (drafted by the current governing body). The ballot is to be sent out no later than two weeks before finals week of the year of the election.

The chair is responsible for counting the votes, making the results anonymous, releasing those results, and ensuring that graduate students do not have access to the details of who voted for whom.

All graduate students in good standing, and any graduate students that were in good standing in any of the previous four semesters, are allowed exactly one vote.

The candidate with the most votes will become the President-elect until September 1st of the year of the election at which time they will become President for the following term.

The position of Vice President is to be appointed by the President-elect. The President-elect may use any reasonable method to choose a willing appointee to the position of Vice President.

Candidacy

An individual is an eligible candidate for the position of President iff:

1. said person is a member of the department of philosophy at UW – Madison, and
2. said person is in good standing relative to the departmental guidelines at the time of their presidency, and
3. said person is in their 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year of the graduate program, and
4. said person has not previously occupied the position of President.

An individual is eligible for the position of Vice President iff:

1. said person is a member of the department of philosophy at UW – Madison, and
2. said person is in good standing relative to the departmental guidelines at the time of their presidency.

Duties of the Governing Body

The duties of the governing body during the term of governance consist of the following:

1. Graduate Student Colloquia

The governing body is responsible for arranging a series of talks by graduate student members of the department for members of the department. The governing body should seek to determine if there are any graduate students interested in giving talks and arrange a time and place for them to do so.

2. Professional Development Series

The governing body is responsible for arranging for a series of professional development opportunities for graduate students. Professional development means anything that prepares students for their future role in academia. Some professional development topics may be research-focused, however, the governing body should keep in mind that the vast, vast majority of our training is already research-focused, and we get relatively little help in preparing for the other roles that we will take on as faculty: Teacher, Mentor, Administrator, Colleague, Public Intellectual.

3. Graduate University of Wisconsin Philosophy Conference (GUWP-Con)

The governing body is responsible for arranging a conference for the graduate student body during the summer.

4. Colloquium Committee

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that there is at least one graduate student member on the department's colloquium committee.

5. Visiting Speaker Activities

The governing body is responsible for arranging for graduate students to meet with visiting speakers if there is interest among the graduate students in doing so. Such meetings can occur over breakfast, coffee, drinks, etc. The governing body should periodically assay graduate student interest in meeting with future speakers.

6. Departmental Picnics

The governing body, in conjunction with the chair, assistant to the chair, and departmental assistants, is responsible for arranging department picnics, collecting funds for said picnics, purchasing supplies with collected funds, and for providing the department with information about how to contribute to the picnic.

7. Graduate Student Advocacy

The governing body is responsible for arranging a graduate student advocate to attend, in a non-voting role, department meetings and to advocate on behalf of the graduate students. The governing body may arrange to be grad student advocates themselves, or arrange for another willing member of the department to serve in this capacity.

8. Graduate Student Body Elections

The governing body is responsible for arranging for a new governing body in the following term. These duties include arranging nominations, drafting ballots, and explaining the duties of the governing body to the graduate students.

The President and Vice President may divide these duties amongst themselves (unless otherwise noted) in any way they see fit.

Alterations to these Policies

The policies and duties outlined above may be altered by the graduate student body. In order to enact alterations, the following conditions must be met:

1. A meeting must be held in person. A public notification of this meeting must be made, and it must be made at least one week prior to the meeting.
2. The number of graduate students in attendance must be greater than or equal to $\frac{1}{3}$ the number of graduate students in their 1st through 5th years.
3. Proposed modifications must be stated to all in attendance.
4. A vote must be held.
5. A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the attending graduate students in good standing must vote in favor of the proposed modifications.