CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

PREAMBLE

We, the Graduate Students of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, in our efforts to secure a more significant and meaningful voice in the essence of our respective disciplines, programs, working assignments and related concerns, do hereby subscribe to and conclude the following constitution:

Article I. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Graduate Student Association of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. (Herein after referred to as the GSA-UNMC.)

Article II. Purpose

Section I. To serve as a voice for graduate students.

Section II. To promote a closer relationship among graduate students at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Section III. To investigate problems unique to graduate students at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and propose solutions to these problems.

Section IV. To be a resource for the community in order that students and the University Medical Center play a relevant role in society.

Article III. Membership

Membership shall be open to all students currently enrolled or pursuing an approved graduate program in those departments of the Graduate College (including the various divisions of the Medical Sciences Interdepartmental Area) will participate in the GSA-UNMC.

Article IV. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is the representative and deliberative organization of the Graduate Student Association.

Section I. Membership
A. There shall be two official representatives to the Executive Committee from each graduate department or division of the Medical Sciences. The departmental graduate students shall conduct such elections prior to the Monday of the third full week of March and send the results to the GSA--UNMC.

B. In the event that there is not enough interest in the GSA-UNMC to hold elections, each member that is not continuing on the Executive Council will solicit replacements from their department to fill their empty seat.

C. Determination of a quorum (defined as a majority plus one) at meetings of the Executive Council shall be made on the basis of the number of departments and/or divisions which have sent in the names of their official departmental representatives by the procedures described above.

Section II. Officers of the Executive Council:

The officers of the Executive Council shall be designated as follows: a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Social Chair. The duties and responsibilities of the officers shall be defined as follows:

A. President:

1. To preside over general meetings of the Executive Council.
2. To serve in an ex-officio capacity on all Executive Council Standing Committees.
3. To serve as the student representative to the UNMC Executive Graduate Council.
4. To write and submit an annual report to the Dean of the Graduate School.
5. To provide an agenda for each meeting in the following form:
   Graduate Student Association Agenda:
   a. time/date/place
   b. roll call
   c. approval of minutes
   d. treasurer's report
   e. committee reports
   f. old business
   g. new business
   h. adjourn
6. To serve as a student representative in the UNMC Student Senate
7. Such other responsibilities as authorized by the Executive Council. Authorization may be reviewed by the Executive Council as necessary.

B. Vice President:
1. To assume the responsibilities of the President in the event of his or her absence.
2. To coordinate and direct the activities of the Rules and Election Committees of the Executive Council.

C. Secretary:

1. To circulate a sign-in sheet at regular meetings of the Executive Council.
2. To record and file records of the activities of the Executive Council and its agencies. Minutes of the meetings should be sent to all members within a reasonable time.
3. To handle all correspondence and maintain a record file of all correspondence.
4. To use all forms of media and communication to advertise, maintain graduate students informed, and manage the day-to-day duties of the UNMC Graduate Student Association.

D. Treasurer:

1. To collect, keep records of, and arrange safe keeping of such monies as the Executive Council may obtain.
2. To disburse, at the direction of the President with approval of the Executive Council, such monies as are required to meet the obligations of the Executive Council.
3. To report to the Executive Council for approval at all regular meetings, all income and expenses, and to maintain records of all transactions.
4. To maintain financial records for inspection at any time by members of the Executive Council.

E. Social Chair:

1. To chair the Social Committee and fulfill any responsibilities therein.

Section III. Election of Executive Council Officers:

A. The President of the Executive Council shall be elected as follows:

1. Nominations shall be accepted from the Executive Council, Executive Committee, or members of Standing Committees of the Executive Council.
2. Above nominees shall be graduate students who are planning to be enrolled in the Graduate College for the upcoming academic year.
3. Above nominees shall be a current Executive Council Officer.
4. Elections shall be held at a meeting no later than the 15th day of May.
5. Elections shall be announced thirty days before the general elections are to be held.
6. Each member present during the general election shall have one vote.
7. The President shall vote only in case of a tie.
8. The President shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.
9. In the event that no current Executive Council Officer wishes to be nominated for the office of President, the Executive Council shall nominate at least two current GSA members.
10. If for some reason the elected President is unable to fulfill his or her term in office, the Vice-President will automatically assume the duties of the President until the next designated election.

B. Other officers of the Executive Council shall be nominated and elected by the Executive Council as follows:

1. Nominations shall be accepted from the Executive Council, Executive Committee, or members of Standing Committees of the Executive Council.
2. Above nominees shall be graduate students who are planning to be enrolled in the Graduate College for the entire academic year.
3. Elections shall be held at a meeting no later than the 10th day of August.
4. Each member present during the general election shall have one vote.
5. Elections shall be announced thirty days before the general elections are to be held.
6. If for any reason an officer cannot serve out his term, an officer may be elected by the Executive Council, at the next regular meeting of the Executive Council, as his or her replacement.

Section IV. Meetings

A. Meetings of the Executive Council shall be open to all members of the UNMC-GSA.

B. The date and time for hearings shall be posted at least a week in advance of the meetings so that department representatives can convey this information to individual students in their departments.

Article V. Standing Committees of the Executive Council

Section I. Membership:

Membership of Standing Committees shall be determined by the President subject to the approval of the Executive Council.
Section II. Establishment of Standing Committees

The following Standing Committees shall be established at the first meeting of the Executive Council:

A. Rules Committee: Shall consist of two members elected from the Executive Council. It shall prescribe all general and special rules of procedure necessary for the orderly consideration of Executive Council business. All questions of a procedural or legal nature are directed to the Rules Committee.

B. Election Committee: Shall consist of two members elected from the Executive Council. It shall be responsible for overseeing the annual elections of the Executive Council representatives and special elections needed to fill vacancies. All questions regarding Executive Council membership are directed to the Election Committee.

C. Social Committee: Shall consist of two members elected from the Executive Council. It shall be chaired by the social chair. It shall be responsible for organizing social events.

D. Other Committees: The Executive Council may establish such other standing or temporary committees as its business requires.

E. All committees shall be required to report back to the Executive Council on a regular basis.

Article VII. Terms of Office

Section I. The term of the President of the Executive Council should end on the 1st day of July.

Section II. The terms of the other officers of the Executive Council should end on the 10th day of August.

Section III. Nominations and elections shall be held in the manner prescribed in Article IV. Section III.

Section IV. All officers are eligible for re-election provided their status as a graduate student does not change.

Article VIII. Amendments and Ratifications

Section I. Amendments:

Amendments to this constitution may be added subject to a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any Executive Council meeting provided
that the proposed amendment has been presented at a prior meeting of the GSA-UNMC.

Section II. Ratification:

This constitution shall be ratified by a majority vote of the graduate students voting at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. All departmental representatives shall have received and circulated a copy of this draft at least one week prior to that vote.