

Constitution

The History Graduate Society at the University of Southern Mississippi

Article I Name: The name of this organization is “The History Graduate Society at the University of Southern Mississippi.” [Hereinafter, “HGS”]

Article II Purpose: The primary purposes of the HGS are to promote the study of history at the graduate level at the University of Southern Mississippi, to assist current graduate students at the University of Southern Mississippi Department of History in pursuing their research, education, and career goals, to foster the diffusion and publication of historical scholarship, to recognize excellence in the field of history, to encourage the exchange of historical research and scholarship, to facilitate communication and the diffusion of information among its members, and to further the professional aims of graduate students at the Department of History generally. The HGS shall be not-for-profit or non-commercial in nature.

Article III Membership: Full membership shall be limited to registered students of the University of Southern Mississippi Department of History. All registered graduate students in the Department of History shall be full members of the HGS. However, members who have been registered for less than one full semester may not vote at the annual election meeting. Members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution or harassment.

Article IV Anti-Discrimination Policy: Student Government and the HGS, including all of its members, shall not discriminate against anyone on the bases of race, ethnicity, creed, sex, color, gender, age, national origin, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or any other classification as provided by law.

Article V Finance: The HGS will not and may not require members to pay dues or fees to be members of the organization.

Article VI Officers:

Section 1: The officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Liaison to Graduate Office of the University of Southern Mississippi and First Year Representative.

Section 2: Any member of the HGS may nominate any other member to be an officer, provided the nominee (other than for the office of First Year Representative) has been registered for at least one full semester and intends to be in residence at the University during the relevant academic year. No officer of HGS may, during the academic year for which he or she is elected, hold office in any other student organization. If any HGS officer attempts to hold such an office, they shall be subject to automatic removal from office unless they immediately resign the conflicting office and offer proof positive of their resignation to the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Officers will hold office from the day after the annual election meeting until the date of the next following annual election meeting. No officer may be re-elected to the same office which said officer held in the previous year, unless said officer has served less than one full

semester in said office. Further, the President may not be elected to any office after having served his or her term.

Section 4: The Faculty Advisor (Director of Graduate Studies) will support the HGS members in fulfilling the purpose of the HGS, be a resource, and represent the HGS to the community and the University of Southern Mississippi as needed.

Section 5: Roles of the officers.

Par. 1: The President is responsible for presiding over meetings and acting as the official representative of the HGS.

Par. 2: The Vice President is responsible for presiding over meetings when the President is unable to attend. In addition, the VP has an assisting function to the president.

Par. 3: The Secretary is responsible for presiding over meetings when the President and Vice President are unable to attend and for maintaining an accurate membership roster.

Par. 4: The First Year Representative is responsible for advising the other officers on the Executive Committee and acting as a liaison between current and prospective graduate students.

Par. 5: The Liaison to Graduate Office of the University of Southern Mississippi will work in conjunction with fellow representatives from other departments.

Par. 6: The officers collectively shall comprise the Executive Committee of the HGS, which shall be responsible for conducting the day-to-day and discretionary business of the HGS. It shall further be the responsibility of the Executive Committee collectively, and of each Officer individually, to maintain active relations with the Executive Board of the College of Liberal Arts and to remain in accordance with Student Body Laws.

Section 7: The impeachment of an officer can occur only when said officer has engaged in material and substantial dereliction of his or her duties. For such an officer to be impeached, a petition signed by a simple majority of all members must be received by the officers other than the officer sought to be impeached. A secret ballot election must then be scheduled within thirty days of the petition submission, but only during the Fall or Spring semesters, and three-quarters of all members must approve said impeachment, at which point the officer shall be removed from office.

Article VII Elections

Section 1: Elections of new officers will take place at the annual election meeting, which shall occur on the first Friday in April, and in no event later than the last day of classes of the Spring semester. The President shall publicize the election meeting date to all members no later than the second Friday in March.

Section 2: Nominations for officer positions will be conducted in the following manner:

Par. 1: Except as provided at Article VI, Section 3, any member may nominate any other member for any office, provided the nominee has been registered for at least one full semester and intends to be in residence at the University during the relevant academic year. No member may accept nomination for more than one office, without withdrawing their acceptance of any prior nomination for a different office.

Par. 2: Nominations may be made at any point prior to one week before the election meeting. Nominations made within an official HGS meeting require 2 members to endorse a candidate and may be made vocally. Nominations made outside of official HGS meetings require 2 members to submit their endorsement in writing or electronically to a member of the executive committee.

Section 3: At the annual election meeting, the elections will be conducted in the following manner:

Par. 1: Business other than the elections shall be concluded prior to the commencement of the voting. The President shall be the presiding officer of the annual election meeting, but if the President is unavailable or otherwise unable to preside, the Vice President shall preside. If the Vice President is unavailable or otherwise unable to preside, then the next highest ranking officer who is not seeking office in the elections shall preside. The presiding officer of the election meeting shall be assisted by the next highest ranking officer who is not seeking office in the elections. The President shall announce to the members the name of the presiding officer of the election meeting no later than seven days prior to the election.

Par. 2: Members may vote either by attending the annual election meeting and submitting a ballot, or by submitting a proxy ballot in writing, either hard copy or electronic, to the presiding officer of the election meeting, no later than midnight of the day before the annual election meeting. The proxy ballot should clearly state the name of the candidate they wish to support for each position. A member submitting such a proxy ballot may not thereby empower another to decide their vote, but instead must state for which candidates they are voting.

Par. 3: The election for the office of President shall be held first, followed by that for Vice President and Secretary, in that order. All voting shall be conducted by secret ballot, except when a candidate is running unopposed, when election may be accomplished by acclamation.

Par. 4: Before each officer election, the candidates shall be given an opportunity to make a brief statement and answer questions. At the conclusion of the candidate statements and questions, paper ballots shall be distributed to the members attending, who shall then vote. The votes shall be collected and, along with the proxy ballots, counted by the presiding officer and the officer assisting. The candidate receiving a majority of votes shall be declared the winner, and the result shall be announced at the meeting. In the event no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election will immediately be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes. In the event of a tie, a run-off election will immediately be held between those candidates who tied. In the event of a run-off election, proxy ballots that support a candidate participating in the run-off shall be counted, but proxy ballots that support a candidate not in the run-off election shall be forfeited. Elected officers shall take office the following day.

Section 5: If an officer decides to step down from office, or is removed from office pursuant to the procedures set forth at Article VI, Section 7, or Article VI, Section 2, above, another officer will fill the position, as decided by the remaining officers, until such time as a special election meeting can be held. In no event shall said special election meeting be held more than thirty days after the resignation or removal, unless the resignation or removal occurs during the Spring semester, in which case no special election meeting need be held.

Section 6: All incoming history graduate students shall be eligible for the office of First Year Representative. The election of the First Year Representative shall be conducted in the following manner: Any first year student may nominate any other first year student for the office by transmitting the nominee's name to the President, either in hard copy or electronically, no later than the second Monday in September. All nominees must accept or decline nomination in writing, either hard copy or electronic, no later than the following Friday. If only one student is nominated, she or he shall automatically and immediately assume the office of First Year Representative. If there are multiple nominees, the President shall announce the names of the candidates no later than the Monday after nomination acceptances are due. Also at that time, the President shall prepare numbered ballots and distribute these to the first year students, whose completed ballots shall be due to the Graduate Program Assistant no later than the following Friday. Voters shall rank all candidates in order of preference, with the number "1" indicating the voter's first preference. The ballots shall be counted by the Executive Committee, with the candidates invited to attend. The winner shall be the candidate who receives a majority of first preference votes. In the event no candidate receives a majority, the ballots shall be recounted as follows: first preference votes for candidates other than the top two candidates shall be discounted, and the next highest preference on those ballots shall be counted. In the event of a tie, both candidates shall serve as First Year Representative.

Article VIII Committees: Committees may be formed at any time, according to the needs of the HGS, as determined by a majority of the officers. The officers shall appoint a committee chairperson who shall be responsible for recruiting volunteers for the committee. The chairperson and the committee shall serve until the project for which the committee was formed is completed. It is the responsibility of the chairperson to report to the Executive Committee on the progress of the committee's work.

Article IX Meetings: Including the annual election meeting, the HGS shall hold at least two meetings each semester, which meetings shall be well publicized by the officers to the members. The officers may also decide, by majority vote, to hold additional meetings from time to time as conditions require.

Article X Authority: The HGS shall conform to the regulations prescribed by the Student Guide and other laws and rules governing the University of Southern Mississippi and its students. Hazing is, by all means, prohibited.

Article XI Amendments: Amendments to this Constitution may be suggested by any member of the HGS eligible to vote at the annual election meeting. Said amendments shall then be voted upon, by secret ballot, and shall be approved upon receiving two-thirds of the votes.