

The Constitution for the Graduate Student Council of the University of Kentucky Department of Mathematics

Purpose and Definitions

This document sets forth the constitution governing a channel of communication between the **Student Body** and the **Faculty**. The **Department** is the Department of Mathematics at the University of Kentucky. The **Student Body** consists of all graduate students admitted to a graduate program in the **Department** or receiving financial support from the **Department**. The **Faculty** is the faculty of the **Department**. The **Graduate Student Council**, or **Council**, is the official body for surveying, assimilating, and expressing the will and opinions of the **Student Body**. It exists to facilitate communication between the **Student Body** and the **Faculty**. Therefore, it is the natural body for channeling the concerns of the graduate students to the **Faculty** and for soliciting input from the **Student Body** on concerns of faculty members. The **Council** is responsible for the maintenance and execution of the provisions of this document, one of which is the appointment of the **Representative to the Faculty**.

Description of the Council

The **Graduate Student Council** shall be composed of five Representatives, four elected and one appointed, from the **Student Body**. In any **Council** decision, each Representative shall have exactly one vote, and the result of the decision shall be determined by a simple majority.

Representatives to the Council

These Representatives, their respective constituencies and restrictions are as follows:

- The **Beginning Student Representative** represents all entering mathematics graduate students. An entering student is any student who has been enrolled in the mathematics program for less than two semesters.
- The **Masters Degree Student Representative** represents all mathematics graduate students who are not entering students and who are enrolled in a Master's degree program.
- The **Ph.D. Candidate Representative** represents all mathematics graduate students who are recognized as Ph.D. candidates by the Graduate School.
- The **Ph.D.-Track Student Representative** represents all mathematics graduate students who are enrolled in the Ph.D. program, are not beginning students, and are not Ph.D. candidates.
- The **D.G.S. Appointee** is an at-large representative appointed by the **Director of Graduate Studies** after the other Representatives are elected.

A Representative who is an entering student or who is appointed by the **Director of Graduate Studies** is not eligible to serve as the **Representative to the Faculty**.

Duties of the Council

It is the continual duty of the **Council** to be the channel of communication between the **Student Body** and the **Faculty**. The members of the **Council** shall elect one of themselves as the **Chair**. The **Chair** shall serve as the **Representative to the Faculty**. The **Council** shall conduct each year's **Council** election as well as any elections needed to fill vacancies in the **Council**. It shall employ all reasonable methods to ensure fairness and accuracy in the election of representatives to the **Council**. The other members of the **Council** by majority vote may recall the **Representative to the Faculty**. Thereupon the **Council** must select a new **Representative to the Faculty** by a simple majority. Recall of the **Representative to the Faculty** does not imply recall of that person as a Representative to the **Council**. The present **Council** must provide the succeeding **Council** with the electronic and hardcopy versions of this document and all amendments and proposed amendments to it.

Election of Council Representatives

Eligibility for election

Any member of the **Student Body** who is in good standing with the Graduate School is eligible for election as her/his constituency's Representative to the **Council**. No one can be forced to serve on the **Council**.

The election process

An election for the new **Council** shall be held during the third week of classes in the fall semester. Additionally, if a seat on the **Council** is ever vacant during the fall or spring semester, an election to fill that vacancy must be held within two weeks, excluding academic holidays.

Whenever an election must be held, the **Council** shall form an **Election Committee** to conduct the election. The **Election Committee** shall consist of all members of the **Council** besides the **Representative to the Faculty**. If there are no such members, then the **Election Committee** shall instead consist of the **Representative to the Faculty**. If there is no such member, then the **Election Committee** shall consist of a self-organized volunteer electoral force.

Election procedure for small constituencies

For each constituency consisting of no persons, the constituency shall be modified to consist of all graduate students besides any students who have refused a seat on the **Council** and any new members of the **Council**, and the **Election Committee** shall conduct an election for that constituency in the usual way.

For each constituency consisting of a single person, the **Election Committee** shall contact that person and ask whether she/he wishes to serve on the **Council**. If she/he does, then that person shall be considered to have been unanimously elected by her/his constituency. Otherwise, the constituency shall be modified to consist of all graduate students besides that person and any new members of the **Council**, and the **Election Committee** will conduct an election for that constituency in the usual way.

Election procedure for ordinary constituencies

For each constituency consisting of more than one person, the **Election Committee** shall distribute to each graduate student in the **Student Body** a ballot of all graduate students who belong to her/his constituency. Within two days the graduate student may return this ballot having marked up to three names to serve as representative to the **Council**. The **Election Committee** shall tally the votes for each constituency. For each constituency where no graduate student receives a majority of the vote, the **Election Committee** shall conduct a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the most votes. Any runoff elections must be held within one week of the preliminary elections. Ties in any election shall be resolved by the flip of a coin.

If somehow a person would be elected to more than one seat on the **Council**, then instead she/he shall be elected only to one of those seats, to be selected by the **Election Committee**, and an election for the remaining seats shall be held according to the procedure for filling vacated seats.

The period for the election must be scheduled so that all members of the **Student Body** have a reasonable opportunity to vote. If a graduate student cannot reasonably be present to vote, she/he may request an absentee ballot. All elections shall employ secret ballots.

The **Election Committee** shall publish the tally of ballots for each election with more than one candidate, and shall publish the names of the elected Representatives, within twenty-four hours of the close of voting. All members of the **Election Committee** must participate in the tally. The **Election Committee** shall keep the ballots of the election for one year after the election.

Recall of Representatives

The members of any of the four constituencies have the right to recall their Representative to the **Council**. Members who wish to initiate the recall of their Representative shall circulate a petition among their constituency. The petition must contain the names of those initiating the recall and the reason or reasons for recall. A copy of the petition must be published or posted so that the entire **Student Body** can review it. The members of the **Council** except for the Representative under recall shall review the petition. If they cannot find reasonable doubt that the petition adequately represents the will of the respective constituency, then the Representative in question has been recalled. Recall takes effect immediately. A petition adequately represents the will of the constituency when at least two thirds of the constituency has signed it, each person of her/his own free will without collusion with any other person for any purpose other than the recall of the representative.

Amendments to This Document

Any group of five or more members of the **Student Body** may propose an amendment to this document. A proposed amendment must contain a precise description of the textual changes, the names of those persons proposing the amendment, and a brief statement of the reason for the amendment. The **Council** shall be responsible for publishing and posting the proposed amendment for inspection by all of the **Student Body**. The proposed amendment must be published and posted for at least two academic weeks while classes are in session. Each proposed amendment shall be voted on separately in the next Fall election. Each proposed amendment requires three fourths of the vote of the **Student Body** in order to pass. If a proposed amendment passes, it takes effect immediately. However, if the amendment in any way alters the content of the section describing the **Representative to the Faculty**, then it does not take effect unless the **Faculty** formally approves it.

Representative to the Faculty

This section describes the formal relationship between the **Representative to the Faculty** determined by the **Student Body** via the rest of this document, and the **Faculty**.

No other section of this document shall be construed to alter the content of this section. Any proposed change to this section must have the approval of the **Student Body** as

described in the above section on amendments. Any proposed change to this section must have the approval of the **Faculty**.

The **Representative to the Faculty** shall have one vote at all General Faculty meetings except those called for the single purpose of discussing graduate students by name. The **Representative to the Faculty** shall be excluded from Tenured Faculty meetings. If the **Representative to the Faculty** is unable to attend a faculty meeting, she/he shall name a **Surrogate Representative** who shall attend instead. The **Surrogate Representative** shall be a member of the **Council** who is qualified to hold the position of **Representative to the Faculty**. The **Surrogate Representative** shall retain the right to one vote at the faculty meeting. The **Representative to the Faculty** shall summarize the events of each faculty meeting and present the summary to the **Student Body**. The **Representative to the Faculty** or the **Surrogate Representative** shall observe all requirements of confidentiality incumbent upon any member of the **Faculty** regarding the contents of any faculty meeting.