

UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA USF-GAU CHAPTER CONSTITUTION

Preamble

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Faculty of Florida, we, the members of the Graduate Assistants United (GAU) at the University of South Florida, have established this Chapter in order to achieve the objectives of importance to the graduate assistants at the University of South Florida.

Article I: Name

This organization shall be known as the University of South Florida Chapter of the Graduate Assistants United (USF-GAU).

Article II: Objectives

Section 1. To bring graduate assistants of the University of South Florida into a cooperative relationship to protect the rights and privileges to which they are entitled under the constitutions of the United States and the State of Florida, and the Graduate Assistants United/University of South Florida Board of Trustees (USF-GAU/USF-BOT) Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Section 2. To promote the democratization of the University to serve better the people of the State of Florida.

Section 3. To insure responsible management of the University and accountability for policies developed and actions taken by University administrators on behalf of the University, faculty and professional employees.

Section 4. To achieve and safeguard due process and academic freedom.

Section 5. To combat all forms of discrimination based on race, sex, age, religion, national origin, political belief and sexual orientation at the University of South Florida.

Section 6. To promote academic excellence in research, teaching and service at the University.

Section 7. To help graduate assistants realize their professional and human potential.

Section 8. To promote economic security and humane working conditions within the University.

Article III: Membership

Graduate assistants at the University of South Florida who are within the bargaining unit shall be eligible for membership in the USF-GAU Chapter, according to the bylaws, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution of the United Faculty of Florida (Article III).

Article IV: Officers and Senators

Section 1. The membership of USF-GAU shall hold annual elections by open nomination and secret ballot for the following officers: Two Co-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and Grievance Officer. The term of the office shall be until departure or two years whichever is shorter. These officers shall conduct the business of and act as spokespersons for the Chapter. No individual may hold more than one office at the same time.

Section 2. The membership shall elect the appropriate number of senators to the UFF Senate.

Article V: Executive Committee

The elected officers, chairs of the standing committees, and the Chief Steward shall constitute an Executive Committee to advise the Co-Presidents in the operation of the Chapter. The Executive Committee shall confirm the appointment of the Chairs of the Standing Committees and the Chief Steward.

Article VI: Standing Committees

There are four standing committees: Bargaining Committee, Grievance Committee, Organizing Committee, and Publications Committee.

Article VII: Rules of Order, Voting, Constitutional Ratification, and Constitutional Amendments

Section 1. All Chapter business shall be conducted according to a modified version of Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. All decisions of the Chapter shall require a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.

Section 3. Ratification of this constitution shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a membership meeting or by a mail ballot. The Constitution shall be made available to the members two weeks prior to the vote.

Section 4. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a membership meeting or by a mail ballot. The amendment(s) shall be made available to the members two weeks prior to the vote.