(Previous HGSA Constitution)

*Ratified September 2008*

We, the graduate students of the History Department of Purdue University, do hereby recognize in this Constitution the organizing principles of our representative body, the History Graduate Student Association (HGSA). In doing so, we also formally acknowledge the existence and procedures of the HGSA, which has in fact been active since March 1998.

1. **Organization**
	1. **General Membership**
	All full- and part-time graduate students enrolled in the Department of History and the American Studies-History Program at Purdue University are members of the HGSA.
	2. **Leadership**
	The HGSA is led by an elected executive committee, comprised of a President, Vice President, Secretary, American History Representative, European History Representative, Global History Representative, At-Large Representative, Off-Campus Students' Representative, and First-Year Representative, with one vote each. If available, past HGSA Presidents may also serve as ex-officio members of the committee.
	3. **Meetings**
	Meetings of the HGSA are open to all active History and American Studies-History graduate students. The executive committee shall set the meeting schedule. The presence of six of the nine elected officers shall comprise a quorum.
2. **Officers**
	1. **Responsibilities**
		1. The President shall set the agenda for and preside over HGSA meetings, and shall serve as primary liaison between the HGSA and the departmental administration, in particular the Graduate Committee.
		2. The Vice President shall serve as primary liaison between the HGSA and the university's Graduate Student Association (GSA), and shall assume the duties of the President in case of absence.
		3. The Secretary shall make a record of HGSA meetings and distribute the pertinent information to departmental graduate students.
		4. The American History, European History, and Global History delegates shall represent the interests of the students in their respective fields.
		5. The Off-Campus Students' delegate shall serve as the primary liaison between the HGSA and active graduate students presently away from Purdue University.
		6. The At-Large Representative shall represent the whole graduate community including international students and serve to facilitate the work of the organization.
		7. The First-Year Representative shall be elected every fall from the cohort of new incoming graduate students and shall represent the concerns of students enrolled in their first-year of graduate study at Purdue University. The First-Year Representative may be an incoming first-year Masters student or a first-year Ph.D. student coming from institution other than Purdue.
		8. The executive committee may appoint a proxy to serve as the HGSA representative on the Purdue Graduate Student Government or any other successor organization. The proxy must be a member of the HGSA and be approved by a simple majority vote of the executive committee. The proxy senator shall submit written reports of their services on a monthly basis and verbal reports to the executive committee as requested by the president of the HGSA.
	2. **Qualifications**
		1. The President and the Vice President must be enrolled in the Ph.D. program during the duration of their appointment. All other representatives may be at any stage of their graduate school career.
		2. The President must have at least one year of experience as an elected officer in the HGSA executive committee at the time of her/his election.
		3. The American History, European History, and Global History Representatives should have those respective fields as their declared specializations.
		4. The At-Large Representative may be any graduate student with an official affiliation with the department of history by admission or assignment of teaching or research responsibility and who is not in the first academic year of course work upon taking office.
		5. Students completing the second year of their Master's degree and continuing on in the Ph.D. program at Purdue University may nominate themselves for any eligible position in the HGSA, if all other qualifications are met
	3. **Tenure of Office**
	Each term of office is for one year, but there are no term limits for officers of the HGSA.
3. **Elections**
	1. **Timing**
	The HGSA shall hold annual elections of new officers each April. The exact date shall be determined by the executive committee.
	2. **Administration**
	Prior to the election, each candidate for the office of President shall prepare a statement of vision and intent, to be distributed to the electorate by the Secretary. The Secretary shall also distribute ballots, and tally and publish the results of the election.
		1. In the event of a tied election, a run-off shall be held to determine the outcome. If the run-off results in a tie, the executive committee shall hold a tie-breaking vote. In case of multiple tied elections, run-offs shall be held one at a time beginning with the highest ranking office.
		2. If an elected officer is unable to carry out his/her term, a special election shall be held to determine a new office-holder. The date of the special election shall be determined by the executive committee.
		3. In the event that no qualified candidates are nominated for the following positions: American History Representative, European History Representative, Global History Representative, Off-Campus History Representative, the executive committee may modify the qualifications for service in these offices. Any modifications must have the approval of a simple majority vote and will extend for a period of one year.
4. **Ratification and Emendation**
	1. **Ratification**
	This Constitution shall be ratified by a six-ninths majority of the acting HGSA executive committee (as of September 2008).
	2. **Emendation**
	This Constitution may be amended by a six-ninths majority of the HGSA executive committee or by a two-thirds majority of a HGSA general referendum.