Article I. Purpose

Section 1.1 Duties & Functions

The Graduate Student Representation Committee (hereafter GSRC) is a standing committee of the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee (UWM) Student Association (SA) Senate that exists to represent the graduate student population at UWM. Specific functions and responsibilities of GSRC shall include:

i. Advocating for the interests of graduate students in the context of University Administration decision-making; to serve as an advisory body to the Graduate School, as a Shared Governance liaison between graduate students and the University Administration.

ii. Providing a forum for discussion of issues relevant to the graduate student population, and dissemination of information of interest to UWM graduate students.

iii. Acting as the official appointing and approving body for Shared Governance positions in areas of Graduate Student concerns. Providing an avenue for the Graduate School’s student population to participate in Shared Governance in an official capacity, including the nomination and appointment of graduate student representatives to official University Shared Governance committees.

   a. Authority is granted to GSRC to execute Graduate Student Shared Governance appointments pursuant to Senate Bylaws section 9.01(a), and in deference to 9.01(e).

   b. In the event that GSRC is unable to meet, has insufficient participation for quorum, or at the discretion of the Chair, responsibility for Graduate Student Shared Governance appointments shall default to UWM SA Senate.

iv. Nomination and appointment of graduate “Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, and Staff Associates” (TA/RA/SA) representatives to Graduate Assistant Appeals Panels in coordination with the Dean of the Graduate School and the Department of Human Resources.

v. Acting to ensure that Segregated University Fees (SUF) collected from the graduate student population are utilized in the best interest of graduate students.

Article II. Membership and Organization

Section 2.1 Voting Membership Qualifications

Voting membership on GSRC carries the following minimum requirements of a student representative:
i. The representative must be a registered graduate student, in good standing with UWM. This may include students characterized as Master’s degree students, PhD. Students, Dissertators, and PhD. Candidates, all as defined by the Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC). Members must be at least part-time, degree-seeking, segregated fee-paying students, in good standing with the university through their respective academic and non-academic misconduct processes.

Section 2.2 Membership
i. **Voting Members:** GSRC will consist of up to 33 voting members, four “non-Representative” (see section 2.2.ii) SA Senators of Graduate Status (not including Chair), and up to two representatives from the following Schools and Colleges within the University.
   
   a. Schools and Colleges that may be represented by up to two representatives:
      
      1. School of Architecture and Urban Planning
      2. Peck School of the Arts
      3. Lubar School of Business
      4. School of Continuing Education
      5. School of Education
      6. College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
      7. School of Freshwater Sciences
      8. Graduate School
      9. College of Health Sciences
     x. School of Information Studies
     xi. College of Letters & Science
     xii. College of Nursing
     xiii. Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health
     xiv. Helen Bader School of Social Welfare
   
   b. Both Graduate School Academic Senators and the Graduate Student Advocacy Senator are given automatic membership on the committee.

ii. **Appointment of Representatives:** Individuals wishing to represent their School or College shall submit the UWM SA Shared Governance Application, which shall be validated by SAPS personnel and forwarded to the Secretary for consideration at the next scheduled meeting. SA Senators are not prohibited from acting as Representatives from their School or College.

   a. Priority consideration for Voting Membership (as defined in section 2.2.i) will be given to applicants who voluntarily approach GSRC or SA in the interest of participation.

   b. Nominations from faculty, including GFC and Grad Reps, will be solicited by the Chair and other GSRC representatives at the beginning of every semester, should voluntary applications be insufficient.

   c. Confirmation of membership to GSRC shall require a majority vote.

   d. Newly appointed Representatives shall not vote on other appointments during the meeting in which they were appointed.

iii. **Chair:** Chairpersonship of the committee will default to the senior-most Graduate Student Senator at the beginning of the Senate term, or appointed by SA President if no Graduate School Senator can hold the position (the Chair must be a graduate student as defined in section 2.1.i). Nominations and elections for a permanent chair for the academic semester shall be motioned and voted upon within the first meeting of a given academic semester. If no such motions are passed, the default chair will continue to chair the committee for the remainder of the semester.

iv. **Non-Voting Membership:** The following non-voting members of GSRC are recognized:

   a. UWM SA Vice President of Academic Affairs (or SA President’s designee)

   b. Dean of the Graduate School (or designee)

   c. Student Association Professional Staff (SAPS) Advisor

**Section 2.3 Membership Duties**

i. All members shall have the following duties:

   a. Attend regular meetings as determined pursuant to Section 2.4.

   b. Come to meetings prepared and ready to conduct meeting business.

   c. Adhere to UWM SA Code of Conduct.

   d. Attendance policy
i. Committee members are expected to provide reasonable available times to meet. Failure to reply to requests for availability within one week shall be considered unavailable/absent.

ii. Excused Absence: An absence will be considered “excused” if the member is unable to attend scheduled meeting due to class or teaching commitments, religious observances, illness or death in family, or other situations deemed “emergency” at Chair’s discretion.

ii. Duties of Chair:

a. The Chair (or designated Secretary) of the Committee shall produce and distribute to committee members an agenda and Public Meeting Notice (PMN) at least one full week prior to any official meeting.

b. The Chair shall preside over all regular GSAC meetings in accordance with Section 2.4.

c. The Chair shall serve as primary point of contact for Committee, and shall be responsible for answering communications from Students, Faculty, Staff, and SA on behalf of GSAC

iii. Secretary:

a. The Chair may appoint a Voting Member as Secretary.

b. The Secretary shall preside over meetings in the Chair’s absence.

c. At the Chair’s discretion, the Secretary’s duties may consist of taking meeting minutes, recording votes, compilation of agenda, and other administrative functions.

Section 2.4 Meetings

i. GSRC meetings shall follow the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order. Rules may be temporarily suspended at discretion of Chair or by majority vote.

ii. GSRC shall call meetings in accordance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Laws.

iii. Quorum: Attendance by at least one half plus one of most recent official membership roll is required for meeting to come to order. The Chair may suspend this clause at the First Meeting (Section 2.5) in the event that former members are no longer available.

Section 2.5 First Meeting

i. The Chair will call first meeting of the semester within two weeks of the first day of classes.

ii. The first Order of Business of the First Meeting shall be to establish official Membership by:

a. Removing any previous semesters’ Members who are absent per 2.3.i.d.

b. Appointing new applicants pursuant to 2.2.ii.

iii. An additional order of business shall be to establish the official meeting schedule for the semester by determining frequency of meetings agreed-upon dates and times.

Section 2.6 Removal of Members

i. Committee members are allowed only one successive unexcused absence before grounds for dismissal. Two successive unexcused absences may result in summary dismissal, at the discretion of the Chair.
ii. Upholding these rules, the Chair may call for member suspension/dismissal at any time during a meeting, if for example, quorum is needed to pass a motion.

iii. Members summarily dismissed may reapply for membership at the beginning of the next subsequent meeting. Simple majority vote is required to reinstate suspended/dismissed members.

Article III. Enactment

Section 3.1 GSAC Approval

i. These bylaws shall be ratified by majority vote of the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) and signed by the GSAC Chair.

Section 3.2 Senate and SA Approval

i. These bylaws shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote by the Senate and signed by the President of the Student Association.

Article IV. Amendment

Any amendment to these bylaws shall be made by a two-thirds vote of GSRC and the SA Senate, and signed by both the Chair of GSRC, and the President of the Student Association.

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Emily Kuester
Student Association President

Reed Heintzkill
Acting Chair
Graduate Student Advisory Council

Legislative History
April 3, 2017 – Authored by Senator Heintzkill
September 14, 2017 – Approved Unanimously by Graduate Student Advisory Committee
September 20, 2017 – Co-Sponsored by Senators Heintzkill & McAdams
September 24, 2017 – Amended by UWM Senate consensus.