

## **Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures Graduate Group Student Body By-Laws**

**Purpose:** To outline the official duties and responsibilities of the University of California Merced Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures Graduate Group Student Representative, Graduate Group Conference Chair, Conference Committee, and associated Ad-Hoc Committees as well as to establish official election processes and procedures.

### **Article I— Membership**

A.) All currently enrolled Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures graduate students

1.) All members are entitled to one (1) vote

### **Article II— Duties and Powers**

A.) Duties and Powers of the Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures Graduate Group Student Representative:

1.) Is the official liaison between graduate students in the program, the graduate group Chair, and other faculty, staff, and relevant academic groups at UC Merced

2.) Acts as the anonymous voice of graduate students in the program by relaying comments, concerns, complaints, and/or questions to relevant parties without worry of retaliation or other consequences to the student(s)

3.) Organizes meetings to discuss any relevant issues, questions, and/or concerns as raised by graduate students in the group or by program faculty and staff

4.) Informs and distributes all significant outcomes of meetings that impact the graduate group to the graduate students in the program in a timely manner

5.) Organizes academic and professional development workshops and other activities as deemed fit for the needs of the graduate group

6.) Recommends the formation of ad-hoc committees as needed

B.) Duties and Powers of the Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures Graduate Group Conference Chair:

1.) Is in charge of organizing the graduate student Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures Conference

a.) Duties typically begin at the end of the spring semester in which they are elected

2.) Acts as the official liaison between the UC Merced Center for the Humanities and the Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures graduate group regarding any and all conference matters

3.) Leads all meetings to decide and discuss all conference logistics and solicits assistance from the Conference Committee

C.) Duties and Powers of the Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures Conference Committee:

1.) Elected by majority (50% + 1) by graduate students in the program in the spring semester prior to the academic year in which they serve

Are we using 25% here or keeping 50% + 1?

2.) Is a graduate student committee comprised of a minimum of three (3) graduate students

3.) Provides assistance to the Conference Chair in planning and executing the Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures Conference

D.) Duties and Powers of the Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures Ad-Hoc Committee(s):

- 1.) Is a committee formed to deal with a specific event or procedure (such as forming by-laws) and will be disbanded once the specified task is completed
- 2.) Positions will be held for as long as the committee(s) is needed.
- 3.) Ad-Hoc Committee membership will be agreed upon by a simple majority (50% + 1) of members participating in an informal vote. Vote may be done at a meeting or by an online poll. Of members present at a meeting? Or all graduate students in the program?

**Article III— Interdisciplinary Humanities / World Cultures Annual Graduate Student Elections Process / Selection and Term of Office**

- A.) A binding election is one in which at least 25% of eligible voters participate
- B.) All internal positions, excluding ad-hoc committees, shall be elected by a simple majority
- C.) All internal positions, excluding ad-hoc committees, will be held for one (1) academic year with duties beginning at the end of the spring semester in which they are elected
  - 1.) Graduate students in the program may only hold one (1) position in our graduate group per academic year with the exception of ad-hoc committee members
  - 2.) Graduate students in the program will be informed of the elections process by the outgoing Graduate Group Student Representative by the last week of March and elections shall take place in the third (3) week of April

- 3.) All currently enrolled graduate students in the program who are in good academic standing shall be eligible to run for internal positions.
- 4.) Self-nomination: Graduate students interested in running for a position in the program must adhere to all required deadlines for submitting their names and candidate statements to the outgoing Graduate Group Student Representative.
- 5.) Nominations: Other graduate students in the program may nominate their peers as candidates. The outgoing Graduate Group Student Representative will notify the nominee of the deadlines to submit a candidate statement. The graduate student nominated must accept the nomination and submit a statement within the required deadlines.
- 6.) Graduate students in the program may campaign to be elected by write-in votes after all announced election deadlines have passed; however, their name and candidate statement will not appear on the official election ballot.
- 7.) Voting will be conducted online through a secure, anonymous platform as organized by the outgoing Graduate Group Student Representative. In the event that an electronic option is unavailable, paper ballots will be used and an ad-hoc committee will be formed to count the ballots.
- 8.) In the event of a tie, a runoff election will be held within one (1) to two (2) days after the initial election.
- 9.) If the position of Graduate Group Student Representative or Conference Chair is vacated during the academic year for any reason, a special election shall be held following the same rules and procedures as outlined in the graduate program by-laws.
- 10.) If position(s) in the Conference Committee remain unfilled after the spring election, an ad-hoc committee will be formed to find

and appoint Conference Committee members for the academic year.

#### ***Article IV—Amendments/Revisions to the By-Laws***

A.) If students feel new policies need to be made or that the bylaws need to be amended as the graduate group grows, a new ad-hoc committee shall be formed to either draft new or amend existing policies or rules. The new or amended rules or policies shall be put to a vote to all members of the graduate group following the outlined bylaws election process, and must be approved by a simple majority (50% +1). Should we keep 50% + 1 for by-laws changes or stick to 25%?