

By-Laws for Graduate Linguistic Association (GLA)

Revised April 2023

ARTICLE I: Name of the Organization

Section 1: The recognized name of the organization is Graduate Linguistic Association, which may be abbreviated to GLA when context makes clear its meaning. Hereinafter, the organization will be referred to as the GLA for reference in these By Laws.

ARTICLE II: Mission and Purpose

Section 1: The purpose of the GLA shall be to care for the interests of graduate linguistics students.

Section 2: The GLA shall abide by all SUNY, University at Buffalo, and Graduate Student Association policies and procedures.

ARTICLE III: Qualifications of Membership

Section 1: All graduate students in the Department of Linguistics are members of the club. The club also accepts all graduate students interested in linguistics and its sub-disciplines.

Section 2: Membership in the GLA shall be open to all qualified students (see Section 1) without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran status, or any other classification protected by law, so that all members at all times are treated with dignity and respect.

Section 3: Voting membership: all and only the graduate students in the Department of Linguistics who have paid their Student Activity Fee have voting privileges.

ARTICLE IV: Officers

Section 1: The officers of the club are elected for one-year terms by online election via UBLinked. The officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All voting members are eligible to hold an elected position.

Section 2: The duties of the President are:

1. to, as chief executive of the club, maintain operating procedures by calling and presiding over meetings,
2. to serve as the liaison for the club with the University at Buffalo administration,
3. to take care that these by-laws and the policies and procedures at the University at Buffalo are faithfully executed,
4. to perform all other tasks deemed necessary and proper to further the mission of the GLA.

Section 3: The duties of the Vice President are:

1. to assist in all administrative duties and assume those duties in the president's absence.
2. to organize social events for the GLA,
2. to mediate between Linguistics Department faculty members and the GLA.

Section 4: The duties of the Treasurer are:

1. to distribute club funds upon authorization of the club quorum, in accordance with the SUNY Mandatory Student Activity Fee and the financial rules and regulations of the UB GSA and the University at Buffalo,
2. to keep detailed records on the club's financial standing,
3. to make periodic reports of a financial nature at club meetings.
4. to offer advice, when requested, on prospective club financial decisions.

Section 5: The duties of the Secretary are:

1. to take notes and keep minutes for meeting.

Section 6: All elected officers must be in good academic standing at the University at Buffalo. (GPA > 3.0).

Section 7: Any officer may be removed from office for failure to perform their duties. This can include failure to carry out the responsibilities of that office, or for any action that violates the mission of the GLA. (See Article VIII below for procedures for removal).

ARTICLE V: Board of Directors Members

Section 1: Board Members and Alternate Board Members must be elected to represent the group at the GSA's monthly Board of Directors meetings. Board member elections shall take place within the first three weeks of the beginning of the fall semester.

Section 2: Board members must complete the online Board training offered by GSA in order to familiarize themselves with their duties and legal responsibilities as members of the Board.

ARTICLE VI: Elections of Officers and Board of Directors Members

Section 1: Eligible members (see ARTICLE IV) are elected as GLA officers (see ARTICLE V, Section 1) by online election via UBLinked. Annual elections for shall be held within three weeks of the last day of classes of the spring semester.

Section 2: In order to be eligible for inclusion on the ballot, a candidate for office must:

1. have been nominated either by themselves or by a member other than themselves,
2. and have had their nomination seconded by a member other than themselves,
3. affirm that they wish to be considered for candidacy.

Section 3: The nomination process shall be managed by an officer who is not running for re-election.

Section 4: The Board of Directors Members and Alternate Board Members shall be elected by the voting members of the GLA as part of internal officer elections in the fall semester to serve one-year terms. Annual elections shall be held in September. The board members shall be elected by online election via UBLinked.

Section 5: In case of a tie vote for any position, the tie will be resolved by a second vote that will be held via UBLinked. Should a second vote fail to break the tie, the tie will be resolved by coin toss.

Section 6: A vacancy occurring in any elected office shall be filled by an online election via UBLinked. The same criteria for inclusion outlined in Section 3 and the same procedure for breaking a tie outlined in section 5 shall apply. Officers and Board of Directors Members elected to fill a vacancy shall fill that office until the next annual election.

ARTICLE VII: Removal of Officers and Board of Directors Members

Section 1: Officers and/or Board of Directors Members may be removed from office during a club meeting for reasons as stated in Article V Section 10. Any removal of Officers and/or Board Members will only be approved when two-thirds of the members present at said meeting endorses the removal with an 'aye' vote.

ARTICLE VIII: Meetings

Section 1: Meetings will occur as called by the President or Vice President. Advanced notice of a called meeting will be published through an email sent on the Linguistics graduate student listserv.

Section 2: Quorum shall consist of the presence of at least five persons or one-tenth of club members, whichever is greater, at a GLA meeting. At least one person present must be an officer.

Article IX: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to these By Laws shall be adopted at any GLA meeting by a duly constituted quorum with an 'aye' vote of three-quarters of voting members present at said meeting.

Section 2: Any proposed amendments to the By Laws must be announced on the agenda prior to the GLA meeting at which the amendment is to be discussed.

Date of Previous By Laws: 03/15/2021

Latest Revision Date: 04/21/2023