

Constitution of Graduate English Association (GEA)

**Adopted by Mariaelena DiBenigno and Elizabeth Heinz (Co-Chairs) and Jeffery Boykin
(Secretary/Webmaster)**

Article I. Name

The name of this organization is the Graduate English Association (GEA). This name is identical with that listed in the title of the constitution/bylaws.

Article II. Affiliation

This organization is not affiliated with any local, state, national, or international organizations.

Article III. Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to provide support and additional educational opportunities to students enrolled in the English graduate school at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Article IV. Adherence

This organization will adhere to all University rules, regulations, and policies, as well as to all local, state, and federal laws.

Article V. Membership

Section 1. General requirements

Membership shall be open to any student enrolled in the English Graduate School.

Section 2. Non-exclusionary clause

This organization practices an open membership to members of the university community without regard to race, color, age, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. Membership and participation in a student organization must also be open to all currently registered students without regard to gender, unless exempt under Title IX (see Federal Law I).

Article VI. Advisor

Each school year, beginning in the fall term, a faculty member will be invited to advise the GEA. This person will also be asked to attend several, but not all, GEA meetings and to advise accordingly. The advisor will receive a copy of the minutes of each meeting.

Article VII. Meetings

A quorum, which constitutes of two-thirds of the total members of the GEA, is necessary to conduct official business and to vote. Parliamentary procedure will follow Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Article VIII. Officers

Section 1. Titles

The officers of the GEA shall include:

- A. Co-Chairpersons (2)
- B. Vice Chairperson (1)
- C. Graduate Student Association Representative (1)
- D. Secretary/Webmaster
- E. Treasurer

Section 2. Election

The officers shall be elected by a show of hands at the first meeting of the fall semester and serve a term of one year (two semesters beginning with fall).

Section 3. Duties

The duties of the officers are as follows:

- A. Co-chairpersons will organize and chair GEA meetings and act in leadership positions. Chairpersons will also act as student liaison to the English department faculty graduate committee.
- B. Vice-Chairperson will act specifically as a representative and social advocate for first-year students.
- C. Graduate Student Association Representative will attend the GSA meetings and report proceedings to all English graduate students via memo or comments at the following GEA meeting. The representative will also solicit recommendations from the GEA and report to the GSA.
- D. The secretary/webmaster will record the minutes of each GEA meeting and forward them to the organization's advisor. The secretary will also be responsible for the GEA's website maintenance and content.
- E. The treasurer will keep all financial records of the GEA.

Article IX. Committees

We will have no standing committees but reserve the right to form ad hoc committees as needed.

Article X. Finances

Any funds or accounts as obtained by the GEA whether by budget allocated through GSA or by fundraising will be managed by the Treasurer. Reimbursement for organization expenses will require contract or receipt. Any expenses must be approved by the Treasurer and Officers before reimbursement.

Article XI. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the GEA by a two-thirds vote, provided that previous notice of the amendment was given to all members at least one week in advance.

Article XII. Non-Profit Clause

Graduate English Association is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, or scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distribution to organizations that qualify as exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of its members, directors, officers, or other persons except that the organization shall be authorized to and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the exempt purposes of the organization.

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organizations will be turned over to one or more organizations with similar purposes or to one or more organizations described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.