

Land Resources and Environmental Sciences Graduate Student Organization Constitution

ARTICLE I - GENERAL

Section 1: The official name of this organization shall be the Land Resources and Environmental Sciences Graduate Student Organization (LRES GSO).

Section 2: The organization shall operate as a non-profit organization.

Section 3: The organization shall abide by the applicable rules and policies of Montana State University pertaining to student organizations and personal conduct.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE AND GOALS

Section 1: The LRES GSO shall exist for the following purposes:

- a. Facilitate communication and interaction among LRES graduate students.
- b. Facilitate communication and interaction between LRES graduate students, LRES faculty, and MSU administration.
- c. Represent the interests of LRES graduate students to the LRES Department Head and faculty, and the MSU Department of Graduate Education.
- d. Provide support for graduate student symposiums and seminars.
- e. Provide a medium through which LRES graduate students can communicate ideas, concerns, or grievances to the LRES department head and/or faculty.
- f. Inform LRES graduate students of activities and opportunities of interest both within and outside the department.
- g. Organize social activities and events for LRES graduate students.
- h. Through spirit and action, strive to build and maintain graduate student cohesion and camaraderie, and intra-departmental relations between graduate students and faculty.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP/IMPEACHMENT

Section 1: Voting membership is open to all official graduate students of the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University.

Section 2: Voting members shall consist of graduate students of the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University.

Section 3: Membership is open to all students without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, creed, marital status, public assistance status, or sexual orientation.

Section 4: To become a member, one must be accepted into the graduate program of the

Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University.

Section 5: Any member/officer may be impeached for misconduct to be defined by the group (for example - failure to perform duties, lack of attendance, misuse of funds, etc.). The member/officer shall be given a seven-day notice and an opportunity to defend him/herself. The impeachment vote will be conducted in accordance with Article V.

ARTICLE IV – LEADERSHIP

Section 1: The officers of this organization shall consist of Chair, Faculty and Staff Liaison, Curriculum Committee Liaison, Social Committee Liaison, and Mentoring Committee Liaison.

Section 2: All officers must be graduate students in good standing with no academic probations in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University.

Section 3: The duties of the officers are as follows:

- a. Chair - Organize, schedule and preside over all meetings of the organization. Record and produce minutes of all meetings. Handle the organization's correspondences to LRES graduate students and update the LRES GSO website with meeting minutes. When necessary, act as official representative of the organization at other meetings and events.
- b. Faculty and Staff Liaison - Represent the graduate student organization at faculty meetings, and report relevant information from those meetings to the LRES GSO at the monthly meeting. Handle the GSO's communication between students and faculty and staff.
- c. Curriculum Committee Liaison - Represent the graduate student organization at LRES Curriculum Committee meetings, and report the events of those meetings to the LRES GSO at the monthly meetings. Maintain the LRES GSO website.
- d. Social Committee Liaison - Represent the graduate student organization at LRES Faculty/Staff Social Committee meetings, and report the events of those meetings to the LRES GSO at the monthly meetings. Handle all financial transactions of the organization. Maintain thorough and accurate records of all transactions. Produce financial reports as required by the organization.
- e. Mentoring Committee Liaison - Represent the graduate student organization at LRES Mentoring Committee meetings, and report the events of those meetings to the LRES GSO at the monthly meetings. Coordinate mentoring opportunities for new LRES graduate students.

Section 4: An advisor will be maintained and must be a faculty member of the Land Resources and Environmental Sciences department. The duties of the advisor are to ensure the organization is operating in accord with the standards set forth by Montana State University.

ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS

Section 1: Officers shall be selected during the May meeting, and shall serve for a period of one year. Officers shall be elected by plurality of the voting members. The top five people receiving votes shall be elected to the leadership. Those who are elected shall decide among themselves what positions they shall hold.

Section 2: Candidates will be solicited from among the general members and may nominate themselves or accept nomination by a member of LRES faculty, staff, or graduate student-body. All nominations must be made in writing and submitted to the Chair one month before the May meeting. All nominated students must accept their nominations in writing and submit to the GSO Chair. Candidates must be graduate students within the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences.

Section 3: Voting for the officers must be finished five days before the May meeting.

Section 4: Matters Requiring a Vote:

- a. The Organization shall vote on any official business, including but not limited to elections of officers, setting dues, and any other major issues affecting the Organization.
- b. No vote is needed for informal input and feedback to the Organization.

Section 5: Voting Procedure:

- a. All votes shall be prominently announced at least seven days prior to the conclusion of the voting period.
- b. All current members of the LRES GSO are eligible to vote.
- c. A quorum shall be present in order to conduct official business of the organization. A quorum shall consist of those present at the meeting, but must consist of a minimum of 1 officer and 3 students.
- d. A majority vote is required for all decisions unless otherwise specified. A majority vote succeeds if more people vote for the proposal than against it.
- e. Ties for majority votes shall be broken by the decision of the Chair, Faculty and Staff Liaison, and Curriculum Committee Liaison. A tie is when two or more candidates have the same total votes and the current officers shall vote to elect to break the tie. In the event that one of the candidates in the tie breaker is serving in one of the said positions, then the Social Committee Liaison or Mentoring Committee Liaison will replace that voting member.

Section 6: Decisions of the organization shall be enacted by a majority vote of those at the meeting. Decisions will be made available to all members within 72 hours of the meeting via the GSO website. Objections can be made up to 1 week after the meeting in which the decision was made.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Section 1: Special committees may be established at any time to carry out assignments.

ARTICLE VII - MEETING

Section 1: A regular meeting shall be held at least twice a semester throughout the academic year. A special meeting may be called by any officer, or by a petition of ten percent of the voting membership.

ARTICLE VIII - FINANCIAL MATTERS

Section 1: The organization shall not provide monetary gain, incidentally or otherwise to its directors or membership. This does not restrict the payment of an honorarium by the organization for services rendered.

Section 2: Unless otherwise specified by the membership at the time of dissolution of the organization, residual assets shall be distributed to the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences.

ARTICLE IX - BY-LAWS

Section 1: By-laws may be proposed by the membership and may be adopted by a majority vote of those present at the meeting when a quorum is present.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Any member of the organization may propose Amendments to the constitution. Such proposals shall be submitted in writing to any officer, or voiced at a regular meeting.

Section 2: Duty proposed amendments should be submitted to a vote of the voting members. A two-thirds majority vote of all members in favor shall be required for adoption of such amendments.

ARTICLE XI – FOUNDING LEADERSHIP

Section 1: The founding members of the LRES GSO are Tristy Vick, Jerome Schleier, Melissa Bridges, Ann McCauley, and Tanya Skurski.

Section 2: The founders of the LRES GSO shall serve in the positions stated in Article IV until the May meeting when new leadership is elected.