

Bylaws of the OHSU School of Nursing Graduate Nursing Senate

Article I.

Name

The name of the organization shall be the Graduate Nursing Senate, hereinafter referred to as GNS.

Article II.

Purpose

- A. To be the unified voice for OHSU School of Nursing (SON) graduate students by establishing and maintaining formal communication between the graduate student body and the SON faculty and administration as well as the OHSU Student Council.
- B. To promote professional development, networking and social interaction among the various graduate programs within the SON. The GNS will host social, educational and professional development events as well as fund individuals, groups and organizations who wish to provide services to the graduate student body.
- C. To develop programs and provide support for students' transitions into graduate school and the transition from graduate school into professional practice.

Article III.

Members

- A. All SON graduate students, including those students at distance and remote sites, shall be members of the GNS.
- B. Students enrolled in the Graduate Entry Programs will be eligible to participate in GNS while completing their pre-licensure work and will be eligible to run for an elected position upon beginning graduate studies.

Article IV.

Dues and Finances

Section I. Dues

- A. There shall be no dues for membership in the GNS.
- B. GNS will be funded by revenues from graduate student activity fees and from the redistribution of incidental fee from the OHSU Student Council.

Section II. Budget

A proposed budget for the general account shall be prepared by the GNS officers and representatives no later May 1st for approval by the membership.

Article V.

Graduate Nursing Senate (Beginning 2007-2008 Academic Year)

The graduate nursing senate shall be made up of three executive officers (President, Vice-President of Doctoral Students, Vice-President of Master's Students), 7 masters program

representatives, 3 doctoral program representatives, 3 at-large representatives and a faculty advisor. The faculty advisor shall have a voice but no vote. One program representative from each masters level program will be elected to represent their respective program (CNM, CRNA, FNP, MPH, MS in Nursing Education and PMHNP). Students in the doctoral program (DNP or PhD) shall elect three representatives. Three at-large representatives elected by the entire graduate student body. Each elected member shall have voting privileges.

Article VI.

Executive Officers & Representatives

Section I. Qualifications of Executive Officers & Representatives

- A. Students must be enrolled at least part time as a graduate student in the SON.
- B. Students must be in good academic standing as defined by the SON handbook.
- C. An individual seeking a position as an elected or appointed officer must be familiar with the duties of that specific office.
- D. Executive officers will be elected the previous academic year and plan on serving in the GNS for the entire academic year that they are to be an executive officer.
An individual seeking the office of President-Elect must be able to commit to two years of service – one year as President-Elect and one year as President.

Section II. Tenure

- A. Responsibility of each office shall be executed by that officer until the installation meeting of the following academic year as scheduled by the GNS.
- B. Elected executive officers shall serve no more than two terms in the same office.
- C. Failure to attend three consecutive meetings or five meetings throughout the year will result in dismissal by the GNS.

Section III. Duties and Responsibilities of Executive Officers

- A. The President shall:
 - a. Serve as primary spokesperson for the graduate nursing student body.
 - b. Mentor the President-Elect to assume leadership of the GNS for the next academic year.
 - c. Preside over all GNS meetings.
 - d. Serve as an ex-officio member to the committees except Nominations & Elections.
 - e. Prepare a year-end summary to be presented to the incoming GNS.
 - f. Perform other such functions as may be deemed proper activity for an officer of this organization by the GNS.
- B. The Vice-Presidents (2) shall:
 - a. Perform the duties of secretary and treasurer that include the following.
 - a. Preside over GNS meeting if the president is absent.
 - b. Prepare a year-end summary to be presented to the incoming GNS.
 - c. Record all the proceedings of all GNS meetings.
 - d. Distribute the minutes to the GNS.
 - e. Maintain a current roster of the names addresses and phone numbers of the GNS.
 - f. Handle all correspondence as directed by the GNS.

- g. Prepare written financial reports to the GNS at each meeting.
 - h. Act as a custodian of all GNS funds and deposit such funds in the GNS account.
 - i. Maintain all financial files.
 - j. Propose and oversee the annual budget.
 - k. Monitor the financial status of the GNS.
- b. Perform other such functions as may be deemed proper activity for an officer of this association by the GNS.
 - c. The executive council will determine responsibility for the stated specific duties at the beginning of the academic year.

Section IV. Duties and Responsibilities of Representatives

A. Representatives shall:

- a. Attend GNS meetings. (Representatives may send a delegate to the GNS meeting in their absence who may vote as proxy.)
- b. Serve as a liaison between the GNS and their respective programs.
- c. Make themselves available to students in their respective programs in order to forward comments, ideas and concerns to the GNS.
- d. Regularly disseminate GNS announcements to their respective programs.
- e. Encourage their classmates to attend GNS meetings and GNS events.
- f. Be involved in at least one GNS committee.

Article VII.

Meetings

The GNS will meet at least twice per quarter in the fall, winter and spring. The GNS will meet at least once during summer term. GNS meetings will be open to all interested parties and announced at least 7 days prior to the meeting. Official business can be conducted at these meetings if more than half of GNS executive officers and representatives is present.

Article VIII

OHSU Student Council

- A. There will be four graduate students from the SON elected to the OHSU Student Council. Two of these representatives will be from a master's level program. Two of these representatives will be from a doctoral level program.
- B. The GNS will facilitate the selection of the SON graduate students to the OHSU Student Council.
- C. If one of these representatives is not currently serving on the GNS, the GNS will appoint an elected GNS member to serve as a liaison between the GNS and the OHSU Student Council.

Article IX.

Committees

Section I. Standing Committees

- A. There shall be the following two standing committees: Finance and Leadership Succession.

- B. The GNS may create additional committees based upon the needs of the graduate study body.

Section II. Committee Functions

- A. The Finance committee will:
 - a. Be led by the Vice-President in charge of the treasurer duties.
 - b. Create an annual budget by May 1st.
 - c. Monitor expenditures to ensure that the organization is staying within the proposed budget.
- B. The Leadership Succession committee will:
 - a. Actively recruit graduate students to serve in leadership positions.
 - b. Be responsible for promotion of the elections.
 - c. Conduct elections by the end of spring quarter.
 - d. Announce the results of the elections no later than seven days after end of the election.

Article X. *Elections*

Section I. Frequency of Elections:

- A. President, Vice-President of Masters Students, Vice-President of Doctoral Students and At-Large Representatives (3) will be elected during spring quarter to serve during the next academic year.
- B. Representatives will be elected during the fall quarter to serve during the current academic year.
- C. Delegates to the OHSU Student Council will be elected during the fall quarter to serve during the current academic year.

Section II. Nominations and Elections:

- A. A call for GNS nominations will be made by the Leadership Succession committee to all graduate nursing students.
- B. The committee will determine the applications process.
- C. The Leadership Succession committee will propose a slate of candidates.
- D. Write-in candidates will be accepted so long as they meet the qualifications for the office.
- E. Elections will be conducted online.
- F. All SON graduate students will be eligible to vote for president and president-elect, Student Council Representatives (4), Ethics & Grievance Student Representatives (3), and one Student Health Representative. Masters level students will elect one Vice-President and one Curriculum Committee representative and doctoral level students will elect the second Vice-President and one Curriculum Committee representative. Program representatives will be voted on by their respective programs.
- G. A candidate that receives the plurality of vote will be elected.

Article XI. *Amendments*

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote at any GNS meeting that attains quorum.

