

GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE CONSTITUTION

Established May 5th, 2004

ARTICLE I: NAME AND MISSION STATEMENT

Section I: Name

The name of the organization under this constitution shall be the "Gay Straight Alliance," referred to herein as the GSA.

Section II: Mission Statement

The Gay Straight Alliance, in accordance with the vision and values of Seattle University, will actively bridge GLBT persons and their straight allies together by serving as a constructive medium which encourages the campus community to *explore their relationship with humanity*.* GSA believes that its mission is fulfilled in three ways:

1. **Building Community.** GSA will function as a social venue which brings GLBT and straight people together through various events, activities, and meetings. GSA realizes that person-to-person interaction is essential in the establishment of an open, accepting, and inclusive environment on campus.
2. **Understanding.** In the *promotion of justice** and acceptance of others, GSA will also be a forum which provokes thought through education and awareness. GSA recognizes that real understanding comes from the channeling of discussion and welcomes free dialogue amongst all people.
3. **Supporting.** GSA will strive, to the best of its abilities, to provide for those who feel they are in need of support by maintaining an open door policy for talk and providing outside resources. It must be understood that, in certain circumstances, GSA cannot guarantee total confidentiality.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Section I: Membership

GSA shall not deny consideration for membership to any student because of gender, race, religion, creed, national origin, handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation. All voting members and officers of GSA must be regularly admitted students at Seattle University. GSA reserves the right to collect a one-time membership fee.

Section II: Meetings

Meetings shall be free and open to everyone. GSA will meet on a regularly scheduled interval of every other week. One (1) meeting per academic quarter will be designated for the planning and scheduling of the following academic quarter. One (1) meeting per academic year will be designated for the planning and scheduling of the following academic year. Two-thirds (2/3) of members must be present to achieve quorum. All meetings will be chaired by the Director unless otherwise specified (Article III, Section I).

ARTICLE III: VOTING

Section I: Eligibility

Only GSA members, including Officers, who are present during the voting call, are eligible to vote.

* Seattle University Mission Statement, "How We Educate."

Section II: Procedure

All votes, excluding amendment votes (Article VIII, Section I), pass by a simple majority. If general votes tie, the highest Officer present will break the tie. If election votes tie, the primary Advisor will break the tie.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section I: Eligibility

All Officers must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher to hold office.

Section II: Director

The GSA Director will be in charge of guiding GSA in its mission while maintaining the principles and values of Seattle University. He/She will be responsible for:

- A. Acting as primary contact between GSA and its advisors, faculty, staff, and the university as a whole.
- B. Supervising and guiding the Coordinators and Committee Heads.
- C. The organization and proceeding of meetings.
- D. Facilitating any team-building and/or workshops amongst the Officers that may become necessary.

Section III: Administrative Coordinator

The GSA Administrative Coordinator will act as standing Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. He/She will be responsible for:

- A. All finances. This includes but is not limited to: budgeting, maintaining the club account, and the allocation of funds.
- B. The organization, recording, and distribution of meeting minutes, paperwork, and files.

Section IV: Public Relations Coordinator

The GSA Public Relations Coordinator will be the liaison between GSA and the general campus community. He/She will be responsible for:

- A. All publications. This includes but is not limited to: flyers, banners, advertisements, and the maintenance of the GSA website.
- B. The oversight of publications made by Officers, Committee Heads, and members as necessary.

Section V: Community Committee Head

The GSA Community Committee Head will be in charge of promoting social interaction through a variety of events and activities. He/She will be responsible for:

- A. Implementing the "Building Community" component of the GSA Mission Statement (Article I, Section II).
- B. Working with Officers, Committee Heads, committees and members to aid in organizing social events and activities.
- C. The organization of at least one major campus-wide social event per academic quarter.

Section VI: Awareness Committee Head

The GSA Awareness Committee Head will be in charge of promoting campus awareness through a variety of events and activities pertaining to social justice, advocacy, solidarity, and political issues. This includes but is not limited to: forums, panels, and guest speakers. He/She will be responsible for:

- A. Implementing the "Understanding" component of the GSA Mission Statement (Article I, Section II).

- B. Working with Officers, Committee Heads, committees and members to aid in organizing awareness events and activities.
- C. The organization of at least one major campus-wide awareness event per academic quarter.

Section VII: Education Committee Head

The GSA Education Committee Head will be in charge of networking GSA with other on-campus, local, and national organizations. As well as, the support and care of GSA's members and, when appropriate, campus affiliates. He/She is responsible for:

- A. Implementing the "Supporting" component of the GSA Mission Statement (Article I, Section II).
- B. The organization of educational events and activities including ones of confidential nature.
- C. Distributing of all educational materials pertaining to GSA to the campus community. Such as: pamphlets, buttons, and brochures.
- D. Acting as the primary contact for those who feel they are in need of support pertaining to GSA and to make referrals as necessary.

ARTICLE V: ELECTION APPOINTMENT AND TERM

Section I: Election

The GSA Director and Coordinators will be determined by a majority vote of all present members at the designated meeting. GSA allows for the position of Director to be held by no more than two persons.

Section II: Appointment

The GSA Committee Heads will be open for application by anyone. Positions are to be appointed by the Director with the Advisors consultation.

Section III: Term

Term for all Officers will be a single academic year. The following year's Officers will be determined at the end of each spring quarter.

ARTICLE VI: REMOVAL AND FILLING OF VACANCIES

Section I: Removal

Any GSA member may propose the removal of an Officer by submitting his/her reasons in writing to the primary GSA Advisor. The Advisor will submit the written request to the Officers for review if deemed necessary. The Officer in question has the right to submit a written response to the Officers. The Officers may make a majority vote for the removal of the Officer in question. The Officer in question has the right to vote in his/her defense.

Section II: Filling of Vacancies

All GSA members who meet the Officer requirements (Article IV, Section I) are eligible for member nomination to fill office vacancies. The primary Advisor will appoint a nominated member to fill the office vacancy for the remainder of the academic year.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section I: Structure

Committees will be organized under the appropriate designated Committee Head. Only GSA members are eligible to serve on the committee. Members will serve on the committee until it has completed its given task, as determined by the Committee Head.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Section I: Procedure

Any GSA member may propose a constitutional amendment by submitting his/her reasons and proposal in writing to the GSA Director. All proposals will be presented at a designated general meeting and voted upon by the GSA body. Amendment votes pass by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.