

Constitution

Arts & Humanities Association of Graduate Students

Bass School of Arts, Humanities and Technology | The University of Texas at Dallas

August, 2023

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be “Arts, Humanities & Technology Association of Graduate Students,” also known as AHT-AGS and/or AGS.

Article II. Purpose

Section 1. The AGS provides professional development and social networking opportunities for graduate students in art, humanities, and Technology. The AGS represents graduate students on administration committees, presents student concerns to the administration, and seeks to inform students about official events and matters of academic and professional importance. These include but are not limited to: program changes, TA hiring conditions, upcoming events, etc. The AGS hosts monthly information sessions designed to address important topics concerning academics and professional development. The AGS also hosts periodic social events designed to foster a sense of community among graduate students at the Bass School of Arts, Humanities & Technology.

The AGS is responsible for conducting the Research, Art, and Writing Graduate Conference during the spring semester of each academic year.

Article III. Authority

Section 1. The AGS is a body which represents and advocates for concerns of the graduate student body in the Bass School of Arts, Humanities & Technology at The University of Texas at Dallas. The AGS is not an officially recognized body of student government either in the Bass School of Arts, Humanities & Technology or at The University of Texas at Dallas.

Section 2. The AGS may seek official recognition by the Bass School of Arts, Humanities & Technology and/or The University of Texas at Dallas at such time as a majority of elected AGS Senators and Officers present at a regularly scheduled organizational meeting where a quorum is present votes to do so. Upon official recognition by the Bass School of Arts, Humanities & Technology and/or The University of Texas at Dallas, this Section shall be removed from this Constitution, Section 3 shall become Section 2, and the language in Section 1 shall be changed to reflect official recognition.

Section 3. The AGS will establish bylaws to govern administrative and procedural matters. Bylaws shall not conflict with this constitution. Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or temporarily suspended by a majority vote of AGS Senators and Officers at a regularly scheduled organizational meeting where a quorum is present.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1. The AGS is a representative body. The population represented by the AGS consists of all registered UTD AHT graduate students, defined as any person currently registered for one or more graduate-level credit hours, whose major field of study is within the Bass School of Arts, Humanities & Technology. Those who enroll in graduate-level courses while enrolled as undergraduate students are classified as undergraduate students.

Article V. Officers & Senators

Section 1. The officers of the AGS shall consist of an Executive Board, which includes the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and two RAW Conference Coordinators.

Section 2. In addition to the Executive Board, the AGS shall include a representative body of Senators consisting of one (1) elected representative from each of the graduate degree programs in the Bass School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology (History of Ideas, Humanities, Literature, and Visual & Performing Arts, Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication).

Section 3. The Executive Board and Senators together shall be referred to as *AGS Leadership*.

Section 4. All currently enrolled UTD Arts, Humanities & Technology graduate students are eligible to run for office and serve in an AGS Leadership position; persons not enrolled as graduate students in the UTD the Bass School of Arts, Humanities & Technology shall not be permitted to seek election to or hold an AGS Leadership position. Those who are choosing to run for the office of AGS President must be enrolled in at least their second long semester as an A&H graduate student at UTD.

Section 5. An eligible individual may serve in only one leadership position at a time.

Section 6. Elections for Officers and Senators shall be held no later than the Monday and Tuesday of the third week of the fall semester. Nominations for Officers and Senators shall be opened no later than the third class day of the fall semester and shall close no later than 11:59 pm on the Friday of the second week of the fall semester. Nominations and voting shall be conducted via online survey. The sitting President shall be responsible for opening and closing nominations, and for opening the voting period. If the sitting President graduated during the previous spring semester, the Vice President or the next highest-ranking sitting officer shall assume this responsibility. Votes shall be tabulated by the sitting members of the Executive Board in a special called meeting and verified by the AGS Faculty Sponsor. Election results shall be made public via email and social media no later than 11:59 pm on the Friday following the elections.

Section 7. The term of office for each officer and senator shall include the fall and spring semesters, and the summer sessions for the academic year in which they are elected to serve. Enrollment is not required during the summer session(s) to retain the office to which they were elected.

Section 8. Officers and senators shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive academic years in any office or senate seat.

Section 9. Members of AGS Leadership shall be in good standing with the Bass School of Arts, Humanities & Technology and with The University of Texas at Dallas and shall be active participants in AGS meetings and activities. Any member of AGS Leadership not in compliance may be removed from office pursuant to Article VIII of this Constitution.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. The AGS Leadership shall gather monthly to discuss the ongoing activities of the organization and to vote on new proposals. The first meeting of the academic year shall be conducted no later than ten (10) days following the publication of election results as delineated in Article V, Section 6.

Section 2. Special Executive Board meetings may be called by the President, or by agreement of a majority of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Plans for advocacy initiatives and events shall be submitted to the AGS Leadership for discussion and approval prior to their implementation. A majority vote consisting of at least 50%+1 of the elected AGS Leadership is required for approval of proposals. Any member of AGS Leadership may submit a proposal for consideration.

Section 4. Proposals to amend the AGS Constitution or to remove an officer from AGS Leadership requires the approval by vote of at least 2/3 of the entire elected AGS Leadership.

Section 5. The President is a non-voting Chair of the AGS Leadership meetings. In case of a tied vote, the President shall vote to break the tie. If the President is not present to break the tie, the proposal shall be considered tabled and may be resubmitted at the next regular meeting.

Section 6. A quorum of 1/2 of the AGS Leadership is required for conducting business in the monthly meetings of the Executive Board and Senators.

Section 7. Any member of AGS Leadership may submit an agenda item for regular meetings. Agenda items must be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer in writing no later than 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting.

Section 8. The Secretary-Treasurer shall post the agenda for regularly scheduled meetings no later than 48 hours prior to the date of the meeting. The agenda shall be posted to the A&H graduate student body and the AGS Faculty Sponsor via UTD email.

Article VII. Responsibilities of Elected Officers (Executive Board)

Section 1. All Executive Board members are responsible for maintaining the regular and efficient functioning of the AGS, including maintaining elections and meetings as required by Articles V and VI.

Section 2. The President shall be responsible for representing the AGS in A&H faculty meetings and/or any other School leadership meetings deemed necessary and appropriate by A&H Administration. The President shall act as AGS liaison with other student government organizations at The University of Texas at Dallas. The President shall chair meetings of the

AGS Leadership and Executive Board. In the event that the President is absent, the Vice President shall act as AGS representative and shall chair such meetings.

Section 3. The Vice President shall be responsible for arranging monthly information sessions and other social events. All events are subject to approval of the AGS Leadership pursuant to Article 6, Section 3 of this Constitution.

Section 4. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep AGS Leadership and Executive Board meeting minutes, and shall report the current balance of AGS funds to the AGS Leadership at each regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 5. The Research, Art, and Writing Graduate Conference (RAW) Conference Coordinators are responsible for coordinating and organizing all aspects of the RAW Conference. The RAW Conference Coordinators shall have the authority to appoint a Conference Committee as they deem appropriate. The RAW Conference Coordinators shall make recommendations to the AGS Leadership regarding the conference date, theme, and proposed keynote speaker(s). The AGS Leadership shall vote by 50%+1 to approve or disapprove at a called executive session. The RAW Conference Coordinators will submit a proposed budget for the conference no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the conference. The AGS Leadership shall vote by 50%+1 to approve or disapprove the proposed budget at a called executive session. Changes to the approved budget shall be made only with the approval of a majority of the AGS Leadership. The RAW Conference Coordinators shall make a report on the progress of the conference to the AGS Leadership at each regularly scheduled AGS Leadership meeting.

Section 6. The AGS Leadership may choose to appoint a member of the AGS Leadership or an A&H graduate student who was not elected to the AGS Leadership to the office of Historian. The Historian shall be responsible for managing the organization's social media presence and communicating with the student body about upcoming events. This office is in name only, shall not be a voting member of the AGS Leadership, and does not conflict with Article V, Section 5.

Section 7. All AGS Officers listed above are voting members of the Executive Board and AGS Leadership, unless otherwise noted in this Constitution.

Article VIII. Removal or Resignation from Office

Section 1. Any member of AGS Leadership may submit a written petition to remove another member of AGS Leadership from office. Such petitions shall be made in good faith that the member of AGS Leadership is not compliant with expectations of the member pursuant to Article V, Section 7 of this Constitution, and shall not in any way be retaliatory in nature.

Section 2. The written petition for removal must be submitted to the AGS President and Vice President no less than two (2) weeks in advance of the date on which the vote is to be held. The President shall forward the petition to the officer whose position is in question within 24 hours of its receipt.

Section 3. The officer whose position is in question shall have the right to submit a written response in their own defense, in addition to offering a verbal defense prior to voting. If the officer does provide a written response, the petition and response shall be submitted in tandem to the AGS Leadership for consideration at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Section 4. Circumstances warranting removal from office include gross violations of the UTD Student Code of Conduct and/or gross negligence towards official AGS responsibilities.

Section 5. The vote for removal from office shall take place in a special called meeting of AGS Leadership no sooner than fourteen (14) and no later than twenty-one (21) days from receipt of the petition for removal by the President and Vice President. The officer whose position is in question shall be permitted to vote on their own behalf. No other business shall be conducted at this special called meeting.

Section 6. The vote for removal shall be conducted via anonymous ballot. The Secretary-Treasurer shall count the votes and report the results to the AGS Leadership. If the Secretary-Treasurer is the officer whose position is in question, this duty shall fall to the Vice President. A 2/3 majority of AGS Leadership present is required to remove an officer from their position. A quorum must be present to vote.

Section 7. If a 2/3 majority of AGS Leadership present votes in favor of removal, the officer shall be removed effective immediately and an election to replace the officer shall be scheduled by the President no later than two (2) weeks following their removal from office, unless there are fewer than nine (9) weeks remaining of the academic year, in which case, the office shall not be filled until elections are held in the new academic year. If the officer removed is the President, the Vice President shall immediately assume the office and duties of AGS President. Any officer removed from office shall not be eligible for election to any AGS Leadership office in the future.

Section 8. Any member of AGS Leadership who wishes to resign their elected office shall submit written notification to the President and Vice President no later than seven (7) days prior to the date upon which the resignation takes effect. An election to replace the officer shall be scheduled by the President no later than two (2) weeks following their resignation, unless there are fewer than nine (9) weeks remaining of the academic year, in which case, the office shall not be filled until elections are held in the new academic year. If the resigning officer is the President, the Vice President shall immediately assume the office and duties of AGS President. Any officer who does not submit written notice of their resignation in the designated time frame shall not be eligible for election to any AGS Leadership office for one (1) full academic year.