

Constitution of the GIS Student Organization

Article I - General

Article II - Members

Article III - Officers

Article IV - Executive Board

Article V - Committees

Article VI - Meetings

Article VII - Parliamentary Rules

Article VIII - Financial Matters

Article IX - Amendments

Article I - General

Section 1: The official name of this organization shall be the GIS Student Organization (GISSO).

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

Section 3: The GISSO shall abide by the applicable rules and policies of the University of Minnesota pertaining to student organizations.

Section 4: The purposes of the GISSO shall be:

- a. To provide support to students enrolled in the MGIS program, Geography Department, and others interested in GIS;
- b. To provide a forum for presentations on GIS and careers in GIS;
- c. To provide or identify opportunities to participate in GIS-related conferences and field trips;
- d. To provide social activities and events for the membership.

Article II - Members

Section 1: Voting membership is open to all students, faculty and staff and the University of Minnesota.

Section 2: No more than one-third of the voting membership shall consist of non-students.

Section 3: Membership in the GISSO is open to all students, faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota 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, an application form must be filled out and returned to the secretary of the GISSO.

Section 5: Membership dues shall be set by the Executive Board, payable on a semester basis.

Section 6: Any officer or voting member of the GISSO may be removed from office or from the organization for misconduct, including failure to perform duties, lack of attendance, or misuse of funds. The officer or member shall be given a ten day notice and an opportunity to defend himself or herself. A vote to remove an officer or member shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the voting membership.

Article III - Officers

Section 1: The officers of the GISSO shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2: All officers must be currently enrolled students at the University of Minnesota and registered for at least six credits. Exceptions to the requirement are permitted for graduate students upon receipt of a letter from the Director of Graduate Studies of the student's department certifying that the student is actively pursuing a degree.

Section 3: Officers shall be elected at the regular September membership meeting and shall serve for a period of one year or until a successor is elected. Their term of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. Officers shall be elected by a plurality of the voting members present, provided a quorum is present.

Section 4: The duties of the officers are as follows:

- a. President - Preside over all meetings of the GISSO and serve as Chairperson of the Executive Board.
- b. Vice-President - Preside at meetings in the absence of the president. Succeed the President if the president is unable to complete his or her term of office.
- c. Secretary - Record and produce minutes of all meetings. Receive membership application forms.
- d. Treasurer - Handle all financial transactions for the GISSO. Maintain accurate records of all financial transactions. Produce financial reports as required by the GISSO.

Article IV - Executive Board

Section 1: The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers and chairpersons and members of all active committees. Any registered member of the GISSO in attendance at a meeting of the Board may participate in the meeting and vote.

Section 2: The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the GISSO. The Board shall establish the date and place for membership meetings, shall establish committees, shall set membership dues with the approval of the membership, and shall make recommendations to the GISSO membership at regular and special meetings. The Executive Board shall be responsible for planning and arranging for guest

speakers, arranging for field trips and conferences, and planning and arranging other events held by GISSO.

Section 3: The Executive Board shall meet at least once a month during the academic year. At least four days notice, including time and place, shall be given of any meeting of the Executive Board.

Section 4: A quorum of five members of the Board, including at least two officers, shall be present at a meeting of the full Executive Board to conduct official business.

Article V - Committees

Section 1: Committees may be established by the Executive Board from time to time as deemed necessary to complete assignments specified at the time of the creation of the committee. A committee shall be dissolved upon completion of the duties assigned to it.

Article VI - Meetings

Section 1: A regular meeting of the membership shall be held once a month during the academic year. A special meeting may be called by the Executive Board or by a petition of five registered members of the GISSO.

Section 2: A quorum is required to conduct official business of the GISSO. Fifteen registered members present at a meeting of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3: Decisions of the GISSO shall be enacted by a majority vote of those present at membership meetings plus one.

Article VII - Parliamentary Rules

Section 1: Executive Board meetings and membership meetings shall be conducted informally. Parliamentary or procedural disputes shall be resolved by the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order to the extent the rules are not inconsistent with the constitution or any special rules of order adopted by the GISSO.

Article VIII - Financial Matters

Section 1: The GISSO shall not provide monetary gain, incidentally or otherwise to its officers or membership. This does not restrict the payment of wages, salaries or incentives by the GISSO for services rendered. Section 2: Unless otherwise specified by the membership at the time of dissolution of the GISSO, residual assets shall be distributed to the following not-for-profit organizations according to the proportions below:

MGIS Program of the University of Minnesota, Geography Department = 100 percent

Article IX- Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by any registered member of GISSO. Such proposals shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board for recommendations and a first reading to the membership at the regular meeting prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be voted on.

Section 2: Duly proposed amendments shall be submitted to a vote of the voting members provided a quorum is present. A two-thirds majority vote in favor of the proposed amendment(s) shall be required for adoption of any amendment.