

**Constitution of the Zoology Graduate Student Association**  
**Approved by the ZGSA November 1988**  
**Revised and Approved by the ZGSA September 2016**

**Article I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Zoology Graduate Student Association. It shall be hereinafter referred to as the ZGSA.

**Article II. Objectives**

The objectives of this organization shall be: 1) To present representative opinions on matters pertaining to the Zoology and Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology (hereafter FWC) graduate students to the Departments of Applied Ecology and Biological Sciences and 2) To disseminate information of interest or importance to the students.

**Article III. Membership**

**Section 1. Composition**

- A. The ZGSA shall be composed of all graduate students registered as Zoology or FWC

**Section 2. Elections**

- A. Regular elections shall be held each spring (April or May) for president, vice-president, and treasurer.

**Article IV. Amendments**

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution or by-laws shall be presented by members of the club in writing and read at a regular meeting but shall not be voted upon until the next regular meeting, and then only after informing each member of the proposed amendments. A majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting shall be required.

Section 2. All amendments to this constitution or by-laws shall be subject to the approval of the Student Government.

Section 2. Any article of this constitution or part thereof that is in direct violation of the Student Government constitution or by-laws shall be null and void and declared unconstitutional by the President of Student Government. Any

differences in opinion between the club and the President of Student Government shall be brought before the Legislature, whose decision shall be final.

## **Article V. By-Laws**

### **Section 1. Election of Officers**

- A. The permanent offices shall be those of president, vice-president, and treasurer.
- B. Temporary offices may be created, for a specified term to perform specified duties, by a two-thirds majority of votes received after such a proposal has been posted in the Zoology Graduate Student mail rooms for one week. The term specified for such special offices shall not extend past the next regular election.
- C. Regular elections shall be held in April or May of each year.
- D. Special elections shall be whenever one of the permanent offices becomes vacant or whenever a temporary office is created. All vacancies shall be announced and posted by the presiding officer and the election shall occur by voting on the notice which will be posted in the mailrooms for one week.
- E. Elections shall be by a plurality of votes cast.

### **Section 2. Removal of Officers**

- A. An officer may resign by submitting written notification prior to the effective date of resignation.
- B. An officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote after a written motion to that effect has been posted for one week.

### **Section 3. Duties of Officers**

- A. The president shall call and preside over ZGSA meetings, appoint ZGSA committees and their chairperson, call ZGSA elections whenever necessary and perform duties imposed on his office by the ZGSA constitution. The president shall also serve as the UGSA representative. The president shall also receive a travel award (for research or conference travel) worth up to \$200 per term.
- B. The vice-president shall preside over ZGSA meetings in the president's absence and perform duties imposed on his office by the ZGSA Constitution. Vice-president shall serve as alternate UGSA representative and is the chair for leading the Brandt lecture committee. The vice-president shall also receive a travel award (for research or conference travel) worth up to \$150 per term.
- C. The treasurer shall oversee finances, both of the University account and the private account, and disseminate information of interest to the ZGSA

membership. The treasurer will also oversee the annual fundraising event (Pig Pickin') each fall. The treasurer shall also receive a travel award (for research or conference travel) worth up to \$150 per term.

#### **Section 4. Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the active voting membership, and no vote will be considered valid unless at least the quorum has voted. An active member shall be a graduate student in the zoology department who has signed the roll verifying this status.

#### **Section 5. Voting**

Each member shall have one vote. The president shall vote only to break or make a tie.

#### **Section 6. Meetings**

Meetings shall be held at least once a semester during the school year. The date of the meeting will be posted in the graduate mail rooms. Meetings shall be open to all graduate students registered in the zoology department at North Carolina State University and to guest of members, but non-members shall enter discussion only with the permission of the presiding officer. Procedure shall be according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

#### **Section 7. The Executive Committee**

The executive committee shall be composed of the officers and representatives from the various components of the zoology department.

#### **Section 8. Non-discrimination**

Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation is in violation of federal and state law and North Carolina State University policy, and will not be tolerated.