

Graduate Student Council Policy and Procedures; Approved on TBD

I. The purpose of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) is to represent all UMCES students and to serve as the liaison between graduate students, the faculty, and the staff during the deliberation of policies in the spirit of partnership of shared governance and cooperation with the President and Administration of UMCES.

A. The GSC shall serve both as an advisory body to the President and as an appropriate forum, recognized by the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland and the Board of Regents, to support and improve the quality of the environment for the graduate students at UMCES.

B. The GSC may advise on specific institutional issues, participate in the development of community-building, networking, and educational events conducted for the benefit of graduate students, and otherwise act at the request of the President.

C. The GSC shall facilitate graduate students' access to information regarding resources and services available to graduate students and in turn keep the President and administrative staff advised of the collective needs and interests of the students on issues, concerns, and activities facing them.

II. Functions

A. In all matters, the GSC shall be subject to the powers and authorities of the Board of Regents, the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, and the President of UMCES.

1. Actions of the GSC shall not contravene any provision of Maryland Law or University System policy.

B. The functions of the UMCES GSC shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, the following:

1. Facilitate discussions of issues, policies, and activities related to UMCES students.

2. Advise the President and Administration and make appropriate recommendations.

3. Promote excellence in education among graduate students.
4. Accept shared responsibility with administration, faculty, and staff in an effort to improve the stature and effectiveness of UMCES and the University System.
5. Accept shared responsibility with the Administration, faculty, and staff in the mechanism for professional review of Laboratory Directors and Administrators.

C. In addition to performing such functions, the GSC shall, through recommendations to the President, consider matters of concern to the students of UMCES, including identification of needs for development of new policies or revision of existing policies.

1. The subject of such policies and programs shall include, but not be limited to, civil rights, social welfare, and economic well-being of graduate students.
2. The President shall inform the GSC in writing of all new policies and policy revisions officially adopted by UMCES.
3. The GSC may request information from the President on matters within its purview and for distribution either to its committees, the GSC as a whole, or the students, as the case may require.
4. At least once each calendar year, at either a regular or special meeting of the GSC, the UMCES President shall be invited to present a report on the state of UMCES and on any matters of concern.

D. The Secretary of the UMCES GSC shall provide a brief written report of all GSC actions to the President of UMCES.

III. Composition and election of the UMCES Student Council

A. Representation and eligibility

1. The GSC shall have two voting members from each of the UMCES Laboratory units.
2. The GSC Chair shall serve as a representative on the UMCES Administrative Council.
3. Any degree-seeking student registered for graduate credit with UMCES may be elected as a member of the GSC.
4. Membership, election, term limits and description of GSC position are detailed in the UMCES GSC By-Laws.

IV. Operation of the GSC

A. The GSC shall have such committees, rules, and procedures as may be provided in By-Laws and in rules and resolutions consistent with its By-Laws.

B. The GSC shall adopt By-Laws, including provisions for removal of its members for habitual lack of participation and for its own proceedings, so long as those By-Laws do not contravene Maryland laws, the powers of the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland, the powers delegated to the Chancellor or the President of UMCES, or policies of the University System or UMCES.

1. The By-Laws of the GSC may be amended only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the elected members taken at a meeting held at least thirty (30) days after notice of each proposed amendment has been given to each member.