

**The Graduate Student Assembly  
The University of Texas at Austin**

**Sponsor:** Samantha Fuchs, GSA President  
Payton Anderson, GSA Vice President

**Resolution:** G.B. 19 (S) 1 – Amendment to the GSA Constitution for Full-Time Status Eligibility of the President and Vice President

**Executive Summary:** The current GSA Constitution does not explicitly state the full-time status requirement to campaign for or hold elected office. This amendment allows for the GSA President and Vice President to drop below full-time while still maintaining full-time status by taking at least 3 credit hours per semester during their time in office. To campaign for Executive Alliance, the candidates must have full-time status, whether by being registered for 9 credit hours, or already being an office holder granted an exemption. This lessening of full-time status allows for graduate students to have more time necessary to dedicate to GSA activities and their remaining class and research or employment obligations.

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**WHEREAS** (1): The Constitution of the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) currently states:

“**1.1. Elected Officers.** The President, and Vice-President shall be elected by the graduate student body during the campus-wide elections held each spring.”

(Art IV. §1.1); and,

**WHEREAS** (2): The conditions of eligibility for President and Vice-President are not explicit; and,

**WHEREAS** (3) The positions of GSA President and Vice President require a significant time commitment both during and outside of normal class times, including but not limited to: appointing students to University Boards and Committees, meeting with administrators, meeting with student leaders, organizing events, and directing the executive board via in-person meetings and electronic communication; and,

**WHEREAS** (4): Both Student Government and the Senate of College Councils have provisions in their constitutions allowing for their Executive Alliance/President and Vice President respectively, to maintain full-time status while pursuing a lower course load during time in office; and,

**WHEREAS** (5): Graduate Students are required to maintain full-time enrollment status in order to be eligible for employment appointments and associated healthcare, Graduate School-administered fellowships and scholarships, student visa status for international students, accessibility to university housing, and other benefits<sup>1</sup>; now,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** (1): Article IV, Section 1.1.1. and 1.1.2 of the GSA Constitution be added to Section 1.1. to state:

“**1.1. Elected Officers.** The President, and Vice-President shall be elected by the graduate student body during the campus-wide elections held each spring.”

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<sup>1</sup> “Full-Time Graduate Student Status.” The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School. Accessed 31-1-19. <https://gradschool.utexas.edu/academics/policies/full-time-graduate-student-status>

**1.1.1. Full-time Status Required to Campaign.** A student must be registered as a full-time student, as so defined by the Office of the Registrar, in order to file for and campaign for Executive Alliance within the Graduate Student Assembly, unless the student is a current officeholder who is granted exception by this Constitution.

**1.1.2. Full-time Status Required to Hold Elected Office.** In order to hold an elected office within the Graduate Student Assembly, each student must maintain their full-time status. The President and Vice-President are considered full-time students as certified by the Dean of Students office and may register for less than 9 credit hours of class per semester, but must register for at least 3 credit hours each semester of their term, except summer session.”

(Art IV. §1.1); and,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (2):** Copies of this bill be sent to the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School, the Vice President for Student Affairs, and the Office of the President for approval and updating of the Constitution.

**PASSED** by the GSA Assembly on February 27, 2019.

Signature of the GSA President: 