

# Council of Economics Graduate Students

## Article I

### Name and Purposes

Section 1 - Name: This organization shall be known as the Council of Economics Graduate Students (CEGS).

Section 2 - Purposes: The primary purpose of this organization shall be to enhance the academic quality of the graduate program by

- A. facilitating communication of graduate students and faculty members;
- B. promoting interaction, both academic and social, between graduate students and faculty members as well as among graduate students; and
- C. empowering graduate students to organize and implement their ideas.

Section 3 – Use of Name:

- A. The name of the organization, or any part thereof, or derivative therefrom, may be employed only in connection with the official activities of the organization.
- B. Permission for the use of such name may be granted only by the Executive Committee of the Council of Economics Graduate Students.

## Article II

### Membership

Section 1 – Membership: Any individual, who is enrolled in the Ph.D. in economics at Vanderbilt University and in residence, shall be a member of CEGS.

## Article III

### Chapter Officers

Section 1 – Executive Committee: The CEGS Executive Committee shall consist of the President, one Class Representative from years one through four, and one free seat. The CEGS President and Class Representatives shall be elected by CEGS members. The free seat and the position of President may be filled by a member of any class, while class representatives must be enrolled in the particular class being represented.

Section 2 – Other Officers: The Executive Committee shall elect a Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Social Chair from the members of the Executive Committee. The

Elections Warden will be elected from the members of the Executive Committee or appointed by the Executive Committee. The organization shall create additional officer positions as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

### Section 3 – Officer Responsibilities:

#### A. The CEGS President

1. shall preside at all organization meetings, shall guide the conduct of the affairs of the organization, and shall perform such other duties as the department may specify.
2. shall act, or appoint a delegate to act, on behalf of the CEGS in all matters affecting the organization.
3. shall communicate the needs of the faculty, the Director of Graduate Studies and the Departmental Chairperson(s) to the Executive Committee.
4. shall, together with the CEGS Secretary, prepare the organization's annual report at the end of each year.
5. shall perform such other duties as the organization may specify.

#### B. The CEGS Vice-President

1. shall, in the absence or incapacity of the President, perform the duties of the President.
2. shall be responsible for planning and implementing activities to raise funds for the organization.
3. shall organize and perform such other duties as the organization may specify.

#### C. The CEGS Secretary

1. shall keep the members of CEGS and the faculty of the Economics Department accurately informed of the status of all organization members and of the organization elections, meetings, programs, and all other official functions.
2. shall keep the minutes of organization meetings and an accurate list of members of the organization. The approved minutes of the meeting shall be posted publicly after every executive meeting.
3. shall be responsible for maintaining CEGS archives. The archives should include any publications relating to the organization, photographs and descriptions of organization activities, programs from organization events, copies of all national publications, and any other documents judged to be of possible historical significance.
4. shall compile and keep an accurate list of names and contact information for all former members of the organization and of other alumni and alumnae.
5. shall perform such other duties as the organization may specify.

#### D. The CEGS Treasurer

1. shall receive and disburse all organization funds and personally shall be responsible for all CEGS funds in his or her possession; shall deposit, in an approved bank or with the appropriate school officer, the funds of the organization, and shall pay or cause to be paid all claims against the organization upon the approval of the CEGS Executive Committee.
2. shall, at the first and last meeting of the school year, submit to the Executive Committee a complete statement of the organization finances and shall at all

- times render such information about CEGS finances as shall be requested by the CEGS President or the faculty.
3. shall submit complete financial statements to the Faculty Advisor at the end of the school year.
  4. shall perform such other duties as the organization may specify.
- E. The CEGS Elections Warden shall be the official custodian of the ballot box, for which she or he shall be personally responsible, and perform other such duties as the organization may specify.
- F. The Social Chair shall be responsible for planning any official CEGS social activities. This includes activities planned in conjunction with other campus organizations and non-affiliated groups.

Section 4 – Decisions of the Executive Committee: Decisions by the Executive Committee shall be approved by fifty percent of the Executive Committee members.

Section 5 – The Faculty Advisor: The Faculty Advisor shall be by default the acting Director of Graduate Studies, or any other faculty member from the Vanderbilt University Economics Department, who is chosen by the Executive Committee and accepts the responsibility. He or she shall act in an advisory capacity and shall be a liaison between the CEGS, the Committee on Graduate Studies (COGS) and the Economics faculty.

## **Article IV**

### **Organization Officer Elections**

#### Section 1 – Nominations:

- A. The nominations period for members of the CEGS Executive Committee will be opened in the first week of April and shall remain open for exactly 7 days. Nominations will be conducted by secret ballot.
- B. Any member of CEGS may nominate any CEGS member for any office, provided the nominated member meets all qualifications for the proposed office.
- C. The nominations shall be posted for exactly 3 business days. During this time, nominees for office may withdraw their names from the list. After this period has elapsed, the nominees shall be candidates in the election. The names of all candidates shall be added to the official CEGS ballot.

#### Section 2 – Elections:

- A. Voting shall take place during the third week of April. The polls shall open on a date approved by the CEGS Executive Committee and shall remain open for exactly seven days. The results of the voting will be announced within one day of the polls closing.
- B. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. The Executive Committee, or an appointed member thereof, shall be responsible for preparing ballots prior to the election including names of all candidates nominated for each office. The ballots should be prepared according to the specifications approved in the January 31, 2003 minutes.

- C. The CEGS Warden shall be responsible for counting the votes. If the Warden is a candidate for the office under consideration, another CEGS member shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to assume responsibility for counting the votes. The Warden or his replacement shall be responsible for announcing the results of elections. The number of votes received by each candidate shall remain secret.
- D. Each CEGS member may cast one ballot. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.
- E. Successful election follows the "First Past the Post" system. In order to be elected, a candidate must obtain the highest vote count of any candidate running for the same office. If there is a tie vote between candidates for an office, the election shall be decided by coin toss.

Section 3 – Term of Office: The regular term of office shall commence immediately following the announcement of election results and extend until the the announcement of election results in the subsequent year.

#### Section 4 – Vacancies

- A. If a vacancy occurs for any reason, the President shall immediately appoint a temporary replacement to discharge the duties of the vacant office until such time as the organization elects a replacement to complete the remainder of the term.
- B. The President shall accept nominations for the office at the first meeting following the vacancy and the organization shall hold a special election at the following meeting.
- C. If the vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the Vice President shall assume office of the President, and shall immediately deal with the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President according to the procedure outlined above.

#### Section 5 – Election of the First Year Class Representative

- A. The executive committee of GEGS will organize and hold elections for the entering class of first year PH.D. students, who are by design excluded from the April election process, according to the spirit of the guidelines governing the election of other officers, outlined in Article IV, section 1 and 2 of this constitution.
- B. The first year representative will be duly installed as the first year representative on the CEGS executive committee no later than one month following the first day of classes.

## Article V

### Rules for Ratification and Amendment of the Constitution

Section 1 – Ratification: This Constitution shall take effect when approved by fifty percent of CEGS members.

Section 2 – Amendments:

- A. Proposed amendments to this constitution may be submitted to the CEGS Executive Committee by any member of CEGS at any time. The Executive Committee must review and submit the proposed amendment in writing to a special meeting of the CEGS membership within one month of receipt. The proposed amendment receiving an affirmative vote by more than two thirds of all members voting shall be deemed “approved”. An approved amendment shall take effect immediately or at such a time as specified in the wording of the amendment.
  
- B. The text of an approved amendment shall be appended under Article VII, Amendments, of this Constitution.

**Article VI**

**Other Structures of Authority**

Section 1 – Federal, State, and Local Law: If this document at any time conflicts with any Federal, State, or Local Law, the conflicting section of this document shall immediately be rendered void. Once the Executive Committee is aware of this conflict, they are responsible for immediately revising the conflicting portion to bring it into compliance.

Section 2 – University Policy: If this document at any time conflicts with any policy of Vanderbilt University, the conflicting section of this document shall immediately be rendered void. Once the Executive Committee is aware of this conflict, they are responsible for immediately revising the conflicting portion to bring it into compliance.

Section 3 – Department of Economics: If this document at any time conflicts with any policy of official policy of the Department of Economics, the conflicting section of this document shall immediately be rendered void. Once the Executive Committee is aware of this conflict, they are responsible for immediately revising the conflicting portion to bring it into compliance.