

Trinity Western University Graduate Student Association (GSA) Constitution

Approved by Council: February 2026

Effective Date: March 2026

The following Constitution governs the Trinity Western University Graduate Student Association (GSA), a student-led body operating under the authority of the TWU Board of Governors, through the TWU President and Vice President of Student Life.

Article I: NAME, MISSION AND AUTHORITY

Section 1.1 – Name

The official name of this organization is the “Trinity Western University Graduate Student Association,” identified by “GSA” within this document.

Section 1.2 – Mission

The mission of the GSA is to represent, serve and empower graduate students at Trinity Western University, while promoting a mature and active commitment to Jesus Christ among its members.

To realize its mission, the GSA will:

1. Advocate for graduate student needs and concerns to the University administration.
2. Initiate and implement a network of communication by which student concerns and interests are positively represented to the various sectors of the University.
3. Facilitate academic, spiritual and social activities in order to emphasize a greater sense of community.
4. Allocate student fees transparently and responsibly.
5. Encourage and support spiritual and intellectual pursuits on and off campus that are consistent with the mission.

Section 1.3 – Authority

GSA operates with authority delegated by the TWU Board of Governors, through the TWU President and VP of Student Life, and must comply with all applicable University policies. GSA is recognized as the official representative body for graduate students and may collaborate with other organizations after the Council and Advisor have given approval.

Article II: MEMBERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Section 2.1 – Membership

Membership eligibility shall include all graduate students enrolled in a minimum of one course (credit-bearing or not).

Section 2.2 – GSA Council

1. The GSA Council shall be the governing body of the GSA, identified herein by the term “Council.”
2. The Council shall be organized and operated according to the Bylaws and the Policy & Procedures Manual of the GSA.
3. The voting membership of the Council of the GSA shall consist of all elected members.
4. The GSA Council shall be responsible to provide general leadership of the business affairs and activities of the GSA.

Section 2.3 - Officers

The Council shall include at minimum a President, Executive Vice President and Vice President of Finance. No official business or representation may be conducted by the Council until the minimum positions have been filled. All Officers are chosen by an election in which any GSA member in good standing may vote.

Section 2.4 - Advisor

The Vice President of Student Life or their delegate at TWU shall serve as the advisor to the Council.

Article III: AUTHORITATIVE DOCUMENTS

Section 3.1 – Constitution

The Constitution contains the nine (9) Articles which identify the founding principles and basic structure for the GSA.

Section 3.2 – Bylaws

The Bylaws shall further define the operation and structure of the GSA and provide instructions for daily operations.

Section 3.3 – Policies & Procedures Manual

The Policies & Procedures Manual will outline specific operating procedures pertaining to the GSA. It shall deal with any additional policies on matters that do not require Constitutional or Bylaw entrenchment.

Article IV: AMENDMENTS

Constitutional amendments require the following process in the order listed below:

1. A proposal by any Member of GSA;
2. Review and approval by the Council;
3. Review and feedback by the Advisor;
4. Approval by two-thirds (2/3) of Members who vote;
5. Review and approval by the VP of Student Life and TWU President.

Article V: ENABLING ACT

This Constitution shall become effective immediately upon approval by the members of the GSA and TWU President after which all previous constitutions shall be deemed void.

Article VI: REMOVAL

In the event there is potential cause to conduct removal of an Officer, any Member may follow the instructions provided in the Policies & Procedures Manual for such an action to take place.

Article VII: REFERENDUM

Any Member may initiate a Referendum process whereby a matter related to the business or affairs of the GSA believed to be important is brought to the GSA for a vote. Specific procedures for a Referendum are stated in the Bylaws.

Article VIII: LIMITATIONS

Matters not addressed by the existing Articles herein will be referred to the current GSA President, Advisor and VP of Student Life for recommendation and direction.

Article IX: DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the GSA, after settling all debts and liabilities, remaining assets shall be transferred to the University for student scholarships.