

Constitution  
The History Graduate Society at the University of  
Southern Mississippi

**Article I Name:** The name of this organization is “The History Graduate Society at the University of Southern Mississippi.” [Hereinafter, “HGS”]

**Article II Purpose:** The primary purposes of the HGS are to promote the study of history at the graduate level at the University of Southern Mississippi, to assist current graduate students at the University of Southern Mississippi Department of History in pursuing their research, education, and career goals, to foster the diffusion and publication of historical scholarship, to recognize excellence in the field of history, to encourage the exchange of historical research and scholarship, to facilitate communication and the diffusion of information among its members, and to further the professional aims of graduate students at the Department of History generally. The HGS shall be not-for

semester in said office. Further, the President may not be elected to any office after having served his or her term.

Section 4: The Faculty Advisor (Director of Graduate Studies) will support the HGS members in fulfilling the purpose of the HGS, be a resource, and represent the HGS to the community and the University of Southern Mississippi as needed.

Section 5: Roles of the officers.

Par. 1: The President is responsible for presiding over meetings and acting as the official representative of the HGS.

Par. 2: The Vice President is responsible for presiding over meetings when the President is unable to attend. In addition, the VP has an assisting function to the president.

Par. 3: The Secretary is responsible for presiding over meetings when the President and Vice President are unable to attend and for maintaining an accurate membership roster.

Par. 4: The First Year Representative is responsible for advising the other officers on the Executive Committee and acting as a liaison between current and prospective graduate students.

Par. 5: The Liaison to Graduate Office of the University of Southern Mississippi will work in conjunction with fellow representatives from other departments.

Par. 6: The officers collectively shall comprise the Executive Committee of the HGS, which shall be responsible for conducting the day-to-day and discretionary business of the HGS. It shall further be the responsibility of the Executive Committee collectively, and of each Officer individually, to maintain active relations with the Executive Board of the College of Liberal Arts and to remain in accordance with Student Body Laws.

Section 7: The impeachment of an officer can occur only when said officer has engaged in material and substantial dereliction of his or her duties.

Par. 1: Except as provided at Article VI, Section 3, any member may nominate any other member for any office, provided the nominee has been registered for at least one full semester and intends to be in residence at the University during the relevant academic year. No member may accept nomination for more than one office, without withdrawing their acceptance of any prior nomination for a different office.

Par. 2: Nominations may be made at any point prior to one week before the election meeting. Nominations made within an official HGS meeting require 2 members to endorse a candidate and may be made vocally. Nominations made outside of official HGS meetings require 2 members to submit their endorsement in writing or electronically to a member of the executive committee.

Section 3: At the annual election meeting, the elections will be conducted in the following manner:

Par. 1: Business other than the elections shall be concluded prior to the commencement of the voting. The President shall be the presiding officer of the annual election meeting, but if the President is unavailable or otherwise unable to preside, the Vice President shall preside. If the Vice President is unavailable or otherwise unable to preside, then the next highest ranking officer who is not seeking office in the elections shall preside. The presiding officer of the election meeting shall be assisted by the next highest ranking officer who is not seeking office in the elections. The President shall announce to the members the name of the presiding officer of the election meeting no later than seven days prior to the election.

Par. 2: Members may vote either by attending the annual election meeting and submitting a ballot, or by submitting a proxy ballot in writing, either hard copy or electronic, to the presiding officer of the election meeting, no later than midnight of the day before the annual election meeting. The proxy ballot should clearly state the name of the candidate they wish to support for each position. A member submitting such a proxy ballot may not thereby empower another to decide their vote, but instead must state for which candidates they are voting.

Par. 3: The election for the office of President shall be held first, followed by that for Vice President and Secretary, in that order. All voting shall be conducted by secret ballot, except when a candidate is running unopposed, when election may be accomplished by acclamation.

Par. 4: Before each officer election, the candidates shall be given an opportunity to make a brief statement and answer questions. At the conclusion of the candidate statements and questions, paper ballots shall be distributed to the members attending, who shall then vote. The votes shall be collected and, along with the proxy ballots, counted by the presiding officer and the officer assisting. The candidate receiving a majority of votes shall be declared the winner, and the result shall be announced at the meeting. In the event no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election will immediately be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes. In the event of a tie, a run-off election will immediately be held between those candidates who tied. In the event of a run-off election, proxy ballots that support a candidate participating in the run-off shall be counted, but proxy ballots that support a candidate not in the run-off election shall be forfeited. Elected officers shall take office the following day.

