

The Slavic Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Operating Guidelines

I. Mission Statement: To serve as a facilitator between the Graduate Students in the Slavic Department at UW-Madison and the faculty of said Department. The GSO pledges to discuss student concerns and redress these concerns to the faculty at monthly faculty meetings. Additionally, the GSO pledges to organize cultural and social events that will strengthen the bonds of our Slavic community.

II. Guaranteed Events and Programs Each Year:

1. Graduate Student Representation at each Slavic faculty meeting.
2. Organization of Russian Table.
3. Organization of Fall picnic.
4. Organization of at least one cultural event each semester that pertains to the Slavic world, such as a concert or film.
5. Monthly meetings.
6. Yearly T-shirt fundraiser

III. GSO Membership Requirements

1. Any graduate student affiliated with the Slavic Department may join.
2. Members must attend at least one meeting per semester.
3. Be willing to share ideas openly.
4. Be willing to listen to others.
5. Be able to disagree graciously.
6. Be willing to strive for consensus whenever possible.

IV. Organizational Structure and Responsibilities

1. President

a. Responsibilities include setting the agenda for meetings, reserving meeting space, keeping the meeting focused and running smoothly, calling additional meetings if necessary, and seeking out new events and fundraisers to organize.

b. Position is up for re-election each academic year.

2. Vice President

a. Responsibilities include assisting the President whenever necessary and organizing outreach events.

b. Position is up for re-election each academic year.

3. Treasurer

a. Responsibilities include maintaining the GSO's checking account at the University of Wisconsin Credit Union, depositing and withdrawing funds from said account, and keeping a detailed record of all expenses and earnings.

b. Position is up for re-election each academic year.

4. Secretary

a. Responsibilities include taking the minutes for each GSO meeting and distributing these minutes via email to all other members.

b. Position is up for re-election each academic year.

5. Faculty Liaison

a. Responsibilities include attending monthly faculty meetings, serving as a mediator between students and faculty, and emailing minutes from faculty meetings to other members.

b. Position is up for re-appointment each academic year.

V. How GSO meetings shall be run:

1. The President and Vice President will work together to ensure that meetings run in a timely and organized manner.

2. The President will announce the agenda and bring up points for discussion in the order listed, allowing ample time for everyone to contribute their ideas.

3. The President will strive not to move on to the next point until a consensus and/or agreement has been reached.

4. Once the President has finished with his/her planned agenda, he/she will open up the floor to any concerns that other members may have.

5. At the end of the meeting, the Secretary will recap all that has been discussed.

6. President will adjourn meeting.

VI. How decisions will be made:

1. The GSO strives for consensus in all decisions on a case by case basis, as our primary goal is to serve as a unified voice for Slavic Graduate Students.
2. Budgetary Decisions will require a majority (50% + 1) of the organization's membership and leadership.

VII. Election of Leadership

Elections will be held for the leadership positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary at the end of each Spring semester. Officers may be re-elected. Votes will be submitted via ballot, with a majority (50% + 1) necessary to receive a leadership position.