

GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR CULTURAL STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION
CONSTITUTION Last Updated: 10/18/2014 by CLST-GSO Provisional Government Adopted
unanimously by the Provisional Government on 10/20/2014

I) NAME of the ORGANIZATION

Cultural Studies Graduate Student Organization (CLST-GSO)

II) ACCEPTANCE and COMPLIANCE to CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
and LIMITATIONS

The Cultural Studies Graduate Organization and its membership accept and will fully comply with the requirements and limitations of certification.

III) LIMITS of CERTIFICATION

The organization and members accept and will comply with the following limits of certification: Certified student organizations are student associations and are not official components of the University. Certification does not permit a student organization to use or act in the name of the University, to represent the University, engage in any contractual obligation in the name of the University nor represent the organization as being an official part of the University. While certified student organizations are permitted to have external affiliations, may be part of an incorporated external organization or may be individually incorporated. Certification expressly permits certified student organizations to only operate on campus. Off campus activities of certified student organizations are the sole responsibility of the organization, officers and members, unless expressly approved in advance by the University. Membership in a certified student organization and participation in its activities are voluntary and all risks of personal injury, property damage or other losses incidental to membership or participation in activities are assumed solely by the student organization and/or individual member(s) or participant(s).

IV) ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION

The organization will submit its annual recertification application to the SORC within one week after the election of new officers.

V) PURPOSE

The University of Pittsburgh Cultural Studies Graduate Student Organization is the primary student organization within the University's Graduate Program for Cultural Studies. We believe graduate students are important members of an academic program and have particular interests and concerns that are best served by a governing body of fellow graduate students. We advance the interests of

graduate Cultural Studies students to affiliated departments and university administrators, foster a vibrant intellectual community among graduate students, provide students opportunities to socialize with students in various stages of each of our programs as well as with faculty, and afford students the opportunity to become involved with the administration of a large academic program.

VI) ACTIVITIES

Each year we elect new officers, appoint members to departmental committees, convene monthly meetings, and organize a number of activities and events. We encourage all CLST certificate students to participate in the GSO and to become involved in the program as a whole. Annual social and intellectual events, such as a welcome event for potential and returning members, book sale, or colloquium with guest speakers, will be planned in a manner consistent with the purposes of the GSO.

VII) MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Membership is open to currently enrolled Pitt students as defined herein.
2. All members must accept and comply with all of the requirements and limitations of certification as a condition of membership.
3. Membership in the Cultural Studies Graduate Student Organization is voluntary and all risk of personal injury, property damage or other losses that occur incidental to membership or participation in activities are assumed solely by the student organization and/or individual member(s) or non-member participant(s). Accordingly, the University of Pittsburgh, its officers and agents shall not be responsible nor liable for any claims or causes of action for damage or loss of property or personal injury of any kind or nature which may arise out of or are incidental to the conduct of any organization's activities or that of any individual's participation in any group-related activity. It is further understood and agreed that it is the responsibility of the officers of the organization to assure that all of the organization's members and non-member participants in all activities sponsored by the Cultural Studies Graduate Student Organization are fully informed and advised of this ASSUMPTION OF RISK, and in the event any individual member or participant should express or indicate non-acceptance, the organization's officers shall forbid participation and/or membership of such individual. In regard to the organization member or non-member participant Assumption of Risk, the Cultural Studies Graduate Student Organization acknowledges that the University recommends that the organization members and non-member participants make every

effort to arrange for the acquisition of liability insurance sufficient to protect all participants against those risks being assumed. For sport-related organizations, the University recommends that each individual have insurance sufficient to allow for any risks by participation, accident or by deficiencies in physical health.

4. No hazing or illegal discriminatory criteria for membership, including those listed in the University of Pittsburgh's non-discrimination policy, will be used as a condition for membership in the organization. These factors include race, color, religion (except for religious organizations which may restrict membership to those who share their faith-based beliefs), national origin, ancestry, sex (except same sex organizations permitted under Title IX), age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability or status as a veteran. This non-discriminatory policy will be applied in a manner consistent with the requirements of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and other laws applicable to student organizations.
5. Members must be students enrolled in the University's Cultural Studies Certificate Program in good academic standing.
6. There are no financial obligations for membership in the Cultural Studies Graduate Student Organization.

VIII) MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

Recruitment takes place throughout the year whenever new applications are submitted for approval to the University's Cultural Studies Certificate Program. All members of the University's Cultural Studies Certificate Program are eligible for membership. Members are removed upon graduation from the University or leaving the Certificate Program.

IX) VOTING PRIVILEGES

Voting privileges are limited to currently enrolled Pitt student members in good standing with the organization. Good standing is maintained by continued membership and progress towards the Cultural Studies certificate, dropping from the certificate program will result in suspension of MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES. Officers will announce meetings at which a vote will be held to all members at least 10 days before the meeting is to be held, members must be present at the meeting in order to vote.

XI) OFFICERS

The organization will have the following officers

- PRESIDENT
- VICE PRESIDENT
- SECRETARY/ TREASURER/ BUSINESS MANAGER
- SOCIAL MINISTER
- GSO REP

XII) TERMS of OFFICE

Terms of office shall last from beginning of the Summer term to the end of Spring term.

XIII) OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The PRESIDENT as the executive will be responsible for the setting, organization, and running of meetings. The PRESIDENT is responsible for ensuring the will of the organization as expressed in those meetings is properly executed and the duties related to that responsibility include but are not limited to the establishment of committees, selecting members of those committees, and the receiving and dispensing of information of interest to the organization. The VICE PRESIDENT assists the PRESIDENT in the executive functions and will serve in the President's stead in cases of absence or incapacity. SECRETARY/ TREASURER/ BUSINESS MANAGER oversees spending of funds held in reserve by the A&S GSO if available, contributions via the website, and of petty cash. They will also record and report the minutes of meetings. The SOCIAL MINISTER is in charge of organizing and running membership drives and social events. The GSO REP serves as the organization's representative to the Arts and Sciences GSO and will report at meetings on information of interest to members.

XIV) ELECTION of OFFICERS (1) CLST students can be nominated via the distribution list beginning on February 1st. They can also be nominated for a position at the election meeting itself. Students can nominate themselves or be nominated by others. (2) Anyone who is a member can be nominated for office. (3) The election of officers will take place at the March meeting each year by secret ballot, which will be counted and announced at the same meeting. (4) Any member present at the March meeting can vote in the officer election. (5) An officer will be elected by a simple majority of eligible votes. (6) A person can hold only one office, but if agreed upon by the majority of members present at the election meeting, more than one person can hold an office (i.e., co-presidents). (7) If a member is unable to attend the meeting for professional or academic reason,

proxy or absentee ballots may be accepted at the discretion of the current officers. In the event of a proxy or absentee ballot, the officers will anonymously cast the ballot in accordance with the member's directive.

XV) VOTING POWERS of OFFICERS

All officers retain voting rights. In the event of a tie, the measure fails.

XVI) REMOVAL of OFFICERS

Officers can be removed from office by a petition from one or more of the officers that is backed by a simple majority vote by secret ballot at a monthly organizational meeting. The vacancy created is dealt with in the next session.

XVII) OFFICER VACANCIES

In the event of a vacancy of an office, either due to removal or resignation, that office remains vacant while nominations are accepted up until the next monthly organizational meeting, at which time there will be an election by secret ballot to fill that position. Whichever candidate gets a simple majority of votes will fill the vacancy until the end of the term and election of new officers. EXCEPTION: In the event the president is removed or resigns from office, the vice president assumes the president's duties until the next monthly organizational meeting.

XVIII) COMMITTEES

Committees are established upon proposal by an eligible member and then voted upon by eligible members present at the following meeting. Committees will be formed if they receive a simple majority of the vote. Ad hoc committees will be formed by the same procedure and automatically terminated after an academic year. Upon the forming of a committee, the president shall ask for a volunteer chair. If more than one person volunteers, then the chair shall be decided by a simple majority vote. The chairperson shall call meetings of the committee and be responsible for reporting back on their work to the full organization. Standing committees will seek new chairs at the beginning of each fall term.

XIX) MEETINGS

Meetings of the entire CLST-GSO should take place on a monthly basis or as often as the executive team decides is necessary. There should be no fewer than three full organizational meetings a term. The executive team should send notice of a full organizational meeting to the distribution list at least 10 days in advance. There must be at least 5 members present at a meeting in order to meet quorum requirements for transacting business. The president, who is the chairperson for full organizational meetings, is also able to call special meetings for the executive

team with 5 days' notice. The president shall follow modified Roberts rules of order in conducting meetings.

XX) FINANCES

The secretary/treasurer/business manager oversees spending of funds held in reserve by the A&S GSO if available, contributions via the website, and of petty cash. The organization will not maintain an outside bank account if it receives funding from the SGB.

XXI) PUBLICATION CODE

In compliance with the Publications Code for Student Organizations, all the publications of the organization will comply with current copywriter laws, be distributed according to policies and procedures, refrain for expressions that are considered obscene or libelous according to current statute, advocate or insight the material interference or physical disruption of the educational process or the peace, order and decorum of the campus, or that advocate or insight imminent, lawless action or the violent overthrow of the government and identify the organization as publisher and specify that the group is a certified student organization at the University of Pittsburgh.

XXII) ADVISOR

The faculty advisor shall be the Director of the Graduate Program for Cultural Studies. He or she shall provide guidance to the organization, ensure that the organization operates according to its constitution, and act as the liaison of the organization to program faculty and administrators. At the end of the advisor's term as Director of the Graduate Program for Cultural Studies, the new Director of the Program will be instated as advisor.

XXIII) EXTERNAL AFFILIATIONS

Members are, by necessity, simultaneously affiliated with their home departments and organizations. No conflict of interest is construed through this EXTERNAL AFFILIATION as membership in CLST is strictly voluntary. All officers are allowed and encouraged to hold office in their home departments. EXCEPTION: The GSO-REP may not concurrently hold the same office in any other department.

XXIV) BY-LAWS The constitution acts as the organization's by-laws.

XXV) AMENDMENTS

An amendment to the constitution can be proposed at any full organization meeting by any member of the organization. To pass, the amendment must receive

two-thirds of the vote of all members present at the meeting at which it is proposed.