

## **Constitution**

### **Graduate Rackham International (GRIN)**

**Preamble:** We, the members of the Graduate Rackham International, in order to create an inclusive environment and to provide support for all international graduate students and domestic students who identify as multi-ethnic/cultural/racial, do hereby establish this constitution.

#### **Article I: Name**

The name of the organization will be Graduate Rackham International, henceforth referred to as GRIN.

#### **Article II: Affiliation with other groups**

GRIN is affiliated with the Rackham Graduate School at the University of Michigan.

#### **Article III: Purpose, vision, mission, aims, functions of the organization.**

Section 1. Purpose: GRIN is established to foster a diverse and inclusive community at the University of Michigan, while providing international graduate students with tools to grow professionally and personally.

Section 2. Mission: Through mentorship programs, social and professional events, GRIN improves students' experience at University of Michigan.

Section 3. GRIN understands and is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities of abiding by the University of Michigan policies and procedures.

#### **Article IV: Membership**

Section 1. Active membership shall be automatic for all international graduate students registered with Rackham Graduate School at the University of Michigan, and open to persons officially connected with the University of Michigan as faculty, staff, alumni or registered students. GRIN openly admits students to its membership and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status.

Section 2: Joining the organization: Interested individuals may join the organization by signing up on Maize Pages.

Section 3: A member may voluntarily withdraw from the organization by notifying the executive board of their desire to discontinue membership.

#### **Article V: Officers**

GRIN will be governed by an executive committee consisting of at least five officers:

a) GRIN will elect two Co-Presidents, one per year, each serving a 2-year term. The Presidents shall be doctoral students and shall not be from the same department. One of the elected Presidents will preside at all meetings. The Presidents will maintain the power to appoint all committee chairpersons, shall present all motions to the body, and shall be present at 90% of the GRIN events and meetings. To be qualified to be elected as Co-President, member should have served at least one semester on the executive committee.

b) GRIN shall also elect a Vice President, who will serve a 1-year term. The Vice President's duties shall be to preside at all meetings and functions that the President cannot attend.

c) GRIN shall also elect a Secretary, serving a 1-year term, who will handle all records, new members, rule observances at state meetings, protocol, compliance with university policies, etc.

d) GRIN will also elect a Treasurer, serving a 1-year term, who will handle all dues, accounts and budgets, financial protocol, compliance with university policies, etc.

e) GRIN will also elect two Co-Chairs, serving a 1-year term, for each of the following teams: Professional Development, Outreach, Mentorship Program, Webmaster and DE&I Initiative.

#### **Article VI: Advisor**

The role and duties of the faculty/staff advisor shall include attending meetings, providing counsel to the executive committee, and advising the organization on policies, decisionmaking, and leadership development as needed. A willing faculty or staff member can be asked to serve in the role by the executive board in consultation with the general body members. The advisor shall not vote on official organization business.

#### **Article VII: Operations**

Section 1. Voting Eligibility: Those members sitting on the executive committee as set forth in Article V will be granted voting privileges.

## Section 2: Election process:

- a) All officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the eligible voting members as set forth in Article VII Section 1. All elections will be held on an annual basis between the last week of March and first week of April. Incoming officers will assume their positions on May 1st.
  
- b) The outgoing President will take nominations from a designated form, the nomination process must be closed and the movement seconded. The nominated parties will be allowed to vote.
  
- c) All voting shall be done by secret online ballot to be collected and tabulated by the outgoing President and one other voting member of GRIN, appointed by the outgoing President who is not a nominee for another position.

## Section 3: Meetings

All meetings will occur on a bi-weekly basis at a time selected by the executive committee and will follow the procedure set forth below.

- i) Attendance
- ii) Report by the President
- iii) Committee Reports
- iv) Vote on all committee motions/decisions
- v) Any other business
- vi) Dismissal by the President

## **Article VIII: Finances**

GRIN will finance the activities it engages in by the following means:

- a) Applying to funding grants from Rackham Graduate School.
- b) Applying to funding grants from Central Student Government.
- c) Collecting funds from events participants.
- d) Requesting donations from alumni.

## **Article IX: Quorum**

Three-Quarters (3/4) of the active committee members must be present to constitute quorum for elections and official business that requires a vote.

## **Article X: Removal of Membership or Officers**

### Section 1: Removal of Officers

Any officer of GRIN in violation of GRIN's purpose, constitution, or who fails to fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in Article V, may be removed from office by the following process:

- a) A written request by at least five members of the executive committee.
- b) Written notification to the officer of the request, asking the officer to be present at the next meeting and prepared to speak.
- c) A three-quarters (3/4) majority vote of eligible voting executive committee members is necessary to remove the officer.

#### Section 2: Removal of Membership

Any member of GRIN in violation of GRIN's purpose, constitution, or who fails to meet the membership requirements as outlined in Article IV, may have their privileges as a member revoked through the following process:

- a) A written request by at least three members of the organization must be sent to the executive committee.
- b) Written notification to the member in question, asking the member to be present the next executive committee meeting and prepared to speak.
- c) A unanimous decision by the executive committee members, in consultation with the advisor, to remove the member from the organization.

### **Article X: Amendments**

Section 1: This constitution is binding to all members of GRIN but it is not binding unto itself. Amendments to the constitution may be proposed in writing by any voting executive committee member of GRIN at any meeting at which quorum is met. The amendments will be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting and voted on at that time.

Section 2: Proposed amendments will become immediately effective following both approval of three-quarters (3/4) vote of all active executive committee members in attendance and 72-hour following notice to absent active executive committee members seeking rejections, where the absence of electronic response constitutes approval.

### **Article XI: Ratification**

This constitution must be ratified by three-quarters (3/4) of all active executive committee members to take effect and shall be reviewed every 3 years, or as needed, proposed by both the sitting Co-Presidents .

### **Article XII: Statement of Compliance**

GRIN has read and agrees to fully comply with the University's policies. We understand that the organization's registration is contingent on acceptance of these policies.