Constitution of Horticultural Sciences Graduate Students Club

Article I. Name
The name of this organization is Horticultural Sciences Graduate Students Club (HSGSC).

Article II. Purpose Statement
The primary purpose of this organization is to create an environment for graduate students in the Horticultural Sciences Department within the University of Florida can meet and interact with one another on a social and intellectual level. These goals shall be achieved through club meetings, social gatherings, and seminars on topics related to the field of horticultural sciences. *This organization shall be not for profit or non-commercial in nature.

Article III. Compliance Statement:
Upon approval by the Center for Student Activities and Involvement, the Horticultural Sciences Graduate Students Club shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. The Horticultural Sciences Graduate Students Club shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

Article IV. Non-Discrimination
In compliance with the University of Florida Non-Discrimination Policy (Regulation 6C1-1.006), The Horticultural Sciences Graduate Students Club will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act.

Article V. Membership
Membership in this organization is open to enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-students, spouses, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

Article VI. Officers

Section 1: The elected officers shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

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

Part 2: The Vice-President is responsible for all Presidential duties in the event the president is unable to fulfill his or her role.
Part 3: The Treasurer is responsible for handling funds, whether collected or distributed for formal or informal events, as well as, maintaining accurate records of all financial transactions.

Part 4: The Secretary is responsible for recording minutes at the meetings, as well as maintaining important documents for the club.

Section 2: The officer positions will be filled through a nomination being offered, followed by the nominee accepting. A vote will then be held in the event of more than one person is nominated for a position. Any member of the organization may make nominations or hold a position.

Section 3: Officers will hold office from the beginning of the fall semester through the end of the spring semester, at which time elections will be held for all positions. There will be no limit to the number of terms any single person can be re-elected.

Section 4: The office of Faculty Advisor is to be agreed upon by more than 50% of all members. The faculty advisor may then accept or decline the position. The faculty advisor should be one whose ideals are aligned with the organizations purpose and is willing to serve as a source of information and advice for the club.

Section 5: The Faculty Advisor will support the club members in fulfilling the purpose of the club, be a resource for ideas and advice, and represent the club to the community and the University of Florida as needed.

Section 6: The impeachment of an officer can only occur when 2/3 of all the full members of the club vote in approval. The Faculty Advisor must also agree to the impeachment.

Article VII. Elections

Section 1: Elections of new officers will take place May 01 of every year.

Section 2: Any full club member can be nominated for any office.

Section 3: Members who are running for office must accept the nomination.

Section 4: Officers must be elected by simple majority by a hand vote.

Section 5: If an officer decides to step down from office, a different officer will temporarily fill the position, as decided by the remaining officers. An emergency club meeting will be held at which point an election for the position will occur. The election will proceed as stated above.
Article VIII. Faculty Advisor
The faculty advisor shall serve as a resource person and provide advisory support for the officers and members of the organization. The faculty advisor should attend executive and general meetings. The faculty advisor shall be nominated by the officers and confirmed by a majority vote of the members. The advisor may be removed with a resignation document signed by the president, club advisor, and department head. The club will search for a new advisor who has to be a faculty member of the Department of Horticultural Sciences. Current members in the club have the rights to vote for the best candidate. The candidate who has most votes will be nominated as the club advisor.

Article IX. Finance
HSGSC will not require membership dues; however, it will raise funds through sales and similar activities, for travel to leadership conferences, t-shirts, and field trips. Members are expected to participate in these fundraising activities.

Article X. Dissolution of Organization
In the event this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be donated to the Horticultural Sciences Department.

Article XI. Amendments to Constitution
Amendments to this Constitution may be suggested by any member of this organization. Any amendment proposed must be done in writing and voted upon by all members. No less than 2/3 of the members must agree to the amendment.