

**Constitution of**  
**“Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español”**

*Established March 1, 2003*

*Amended April 2, 2006*

*Amended July 16, 2008*

*Amended April 24, 2013*

*Revised/Amended July 27, 2017*

**ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization shall be the “Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español.” This organization will use the acronym OEGE in all publicity materials and correspondence. The website of the organization is to be located at <https://sites.clas.ufl.edu/spanishportuguese/graduate-programs/organizacion-de-estudiantes-graduados-de-espanol-oege/>.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The primary purpose of this organization is to promote the language and cultures of Spain and Latin America, and to represent the graduate students of the Spanish section of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Our goals are to serve as a liaison between graduate students and faculty members in order to enhance and facilitate departmental communication.

The organization will promote and provide a social outlet for graduate students interested in Spanish and Latin American cultures through academic and artistic events, including guest speakers on issues affecting Spain and Latin America. The organization will hold an annual research colloquium and other similar educational events. The organization will also coordinate social events to build relationships within the Spanish and Portuguese graduate student community and the university at large.

This organization shall be not for profit or non-commercial in nature.

**ARTICLE III. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, the Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. The Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) 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, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

**ARTICLE IV. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

Section A. Non-Discrimination

The Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.

#### Section B. Sexual Harassment

The Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment. Behaviors that could create a hostile environment include sexual harassment (which could include inappropriate sexual comments), sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

#### Section C. Hazing

The Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization.

#### Section D. Responsibility to Report

If this organization becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, [Name of organization] will report it immediately to Student Activities and Involvement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, or the University's Title IX Coordinator.

### **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled 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 A: The elected officers of the Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) shall be a President (or primary contact), Vice-President, and Treasurer (also known as Financial Officer).

Part 1: The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and shall coordinate the work of the officers and committees, as well as act as the official representative of the organization. The remaining responsibilities will be shared by the three officers, in a manner decided by them, and they will work in cooperation to carry out and coordinate all activities.

Part 2: The Vice-President shall serve as an aide to the President and shall perform the duties of the President in her/his absence or inability to serve.

Part 3: The Treasurer/Financial Officer shall receive all monies of the Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE); shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; shall pay out local funds in accordance with the approved budget as authorized by the organization. The Treasurer/Financial Officer shall present a financial statement when requested by the President or Vice President.

Section B: Any member of the organization may make nominations for officers. Solicitation of nominations will take place during late February (see Article VII).

Section C: Officers will hold office from April 1st to April 1st of the next year. No officer shall serve in the same capacity for more than two consecutive terms, and it is expected that officers will change each year.

Section D: Any officer of the Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) may be removed from office or impeached through the following process:

Part 1: A written request by at least three voting members of the organization shall be submitted to the Faculty Advisor. Written notification shall be sent to the officer in question asking that officer meet with the Faculty Advisor and be prepared to respond to the removal request.

Part 2: Impeachment can only occur when a two thirds majority vote of members present is necessary to remove the officer.

Part 3: In the event of the removal of an officer, a special provision may be granted to the remaining officers to appoint an interim replacement until an election may be held.

Section E: Committees may be formed at any time, according to the needs of this organization.

Part 1: Each committee will consist of volunteers. The volunteers shall independently nominate and elect someone to serve as chairperson for that committee.

Part 2: The chairperson shall serve until the project for which the committee was formed is completed. It is the responsibility of the chairperson to report to the rest of the organization the progress of the committee.

Part 3: The committee which is specific to the planning of the annual research colloquium, an annual academic event sponsored by the OEGE, is free to make plans and organize details of the colloquium as desired, with the exception of the following items:

a. The colloquium must always take place in the Spring semester (as per majority vote, 2008) in order to ensure a positive and consistent response from participating students and institutions. In the event of an extreme case in which the colloquium does not seem to fit in said semester, the committee must conduct a vote before changing the date. A majority vote is necessary to change the date of the colloquium.

b. The website of the colloquium must always remain at <https://sites.clas.ufl.edu/spanishportuguese/graduate-programs/organizacion-de-estudiantes-graduados-de-espanol-oege/>, and must be updated and maintained only by the OEGE "Website" committee.

c. In conjunction with the representatives of the OEGE, the committee must provide consistent and timely updates regarding the progress of planning to the student body.

d. The representatives of the OEGE must always be included in planning meetings, and must always maintain a supervisory role in the planning process.

#### **ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS**

Elections of new officers will take place annually in late March, by means of a secret ballot, and officers must be elected by a simple majority vote. Any active member of the organization is eligible to be nominated for any office. The term active member refers to any and all members who have attended at least two official OEGE meetings per semester. Nominations will be requested from club members in late February. Nominated members will then have 24 hours in which to accept or reject their nomination; failure to respond during this time period will be taken as a rejection of the nomination. Official elections will take place after all nominees have accepted or rejected. If there are more than two candidates running and no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a run-off vote between the top two vote recipients at the next general meeting. No person shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. FACULTY ADVISOR**

The office of Faculty Advisor is to be chosen by the officers and, when possible, will be filled by the coordinator of graduate studies. The choice for faculty advisor will be made by the incoming officers by the second week in April. The Faculty Advisor will serve as a resource person and provide advisory support for the officers and members of the organization. The Faculty Advisor will attend executive and general meetings; however, s/he may not vote in any matters concerning the Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE). S/he also support the club members in fulfilling the purpose of the club, be a resource, and represent the club to the community and the University of Florida as needed. The faculty advisor will serve a one year term with the opportunity to be reappointed on an annual basis. In the event that the faculty advisor is unable to continue in their position, officers may nominate a replacement at any time, to be confirmed by a majority vote of the members.

#### **ARTICLE IX. FINANCE**

The Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) will not require membership dues from its members. Funds will be raised by petitioning contributions from University of Florida departments who plan to participate in OEGE events. Other fundraising events (such as bake sales, carwashes, etc...) may be proposed by any member for official OEGE use (such as for additional funding of the annual colloquium) and must be approved by a simple majority vote of the members. The Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) will also apply for Student Government funding.

#### **ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION OF THE 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 Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Nothing may be left to an individual nor another registered organization.

#### **ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

Amendments to this Constitution may be suggested by any member of this organization, and the proposed amendment(s) shall be subject to approval of the Center for Student Activities and

Involvement. Amendments should be submitted to the President, who shall consult with the Vicepresident and Treasurer/Financial officer, and will be considered at the next meeting; a simple majority is required for approval.