

THE PPGSA CONSTITUTION

Article I

Section 1. The official and recognized title shall be "Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association."

Section 2a. The purpose of the Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association (PPGSA) is as follows: 1) To promote communication and interaction between students, faculty, staff, and administrators; 2) To provide a forum for discussing pertinent issues; 3) To serve as a vehicle for acting on students' requests for information and their suggestions for broadening and improving the quality of their educational experiences, and 4) To promote the participation of graduate students in the discipline of Plant Pathology at national and international scientific meetings relevant to their educational experience.

Section 2b. The Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association (PPGSA) is a non-profit organization, thus making profit is not the primary function of the organization. Funding of the activities are provided through volunteer-based activities, such as charities. PPGSA is not an official part of the Ohio State University, but will nonetheless respect many of the bylaws laid forth by the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) when appropriate.

Section 3. The Plant Pathology Graduate Association and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reason of race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or veteran status.

Article II

All currently enrolled graduate students in the Department of Plant Pathology are automatically a member of the PPGSA. Currently enrolled graduate students and undergraduate students of other disciplines are welcome to join the PPGSA with full voting rights, but will be unable to serve as officers due to the nature of those positions. Others such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc. are welcome to participate as non-voting associate or honorary members. Active participation in the organization is a personal decision for each member. No dues are charged.

Article III

Section 1. Elections for the PPGSA offices are held during the Summer term each year and the term of office begins on the first day of Autumn semester. Nominations are taken from the voting members at large and the ballot is drawn up after the nominees have expressed their willingness to serve. All members who are currently enrolled as a plant pathology graduate student at The Ohio State University are eligible to vote and hold office. The format of the ballots is chosen by the members of PPGSA each year, and can

include e-mail ballots, paper ballots, or a combination as decided by a simple majority at a meeting held in Summer term.

Section 2. The election is conducted by the outgoing president. Officers are elected by a simple majority of the votes cast. At least 51% of the voting membership must be present. Members elected are limited to a one year term in their elected office. Members who have served in one office are eligible for nomination only in offices that they have not served.

Section 3. The elected officers and their duties are as follows:

President. Oversees the actions of the other elected officials; acts as liaison between students, faculty, and staff; expresses student opinions as a member of the PPGSA; informs students of departmental issues; calls and conducts graduate student meetings; appoints various committees as the need arises, recommends students for graduate studies committee, academic affairs committee and vision committee (positions interact with and are at the discretion of the faculty) after first confirming their willingness to serve if selected. It is encouraged that the president remains as an advisor ex officio for at least one semester after their term comes to an end.

Vice President. Assists president in the presidential duties listed above; serves as acting president when president is unable to fulfill his or her duties. Must be located on the campus opposite of the President to facilitate the President's role in absentia for pressing issues.

Secretary. Is responsible for maintaining the PPGSA's records and files; serves as a liaison between prospective new students and the department of Plant Pathology; sends new students information about the department, housing, university facilities, and the Columbus and Wooster area, if needed.

Treasurer. Is responsible for the PPGSA's finances. A proposed budget for each year should be made and given to all officers for events such as plant sales, visiting exchange students, retreats or other activities. Money from the savings account should only be used in emergencies.

Article IV

Section 1. The PPGSA faculty advisor must be a full-time assistant, associate, or full professor in the department of Plant Pathology, and is selected by PPGSA at the beginning of each academic year to serve a one year term beginning September 1. Appointments can be renewed annually.

Section 2. The faculty advisor oversees all actions of the PPGSA, and provides counsel when deemed

necessary.

Article V

Section 1. PPGSA meetings are held at least once per semester. Additional meetings can be scheduled as the need arises and are called by the president. The meetings will be held in the department of Plant Pathology conference rooms at the Columbus and Wooster campuses. Communications will be established via speaker phone or video link. At the discretion of the PPGSA members, a meeting can be scheduled so that all students meet in person on either the Wooster or Columbus campus.

Section 2. Allocation of PPGSA funds requires a simple majority of votes from the voting membership present. PPGSA sponsored activities can be voted on via e-mail ballots open for one week, only after being decided to be voted upon at an official PPGSA meeting. For the established committees below in amendment I and III, funds can be allocated with only the approval of the committee members to facilitate the carrying out of their duties, i.e. the plant sales committee purchasing pots and/or the travel grants committee paying a recipient their award.

Section 3. Any activity that does not require the use of PPGSA funds can be initiated as a PPGSA activity with a simple majority of votes from the voting membership present. At least 51% of the voting membership must be present before an item is put to vote. (change in 2001: Members at the meeting will fulfill the quorum; however, the meeting with the voting has to be announced to all the voting membership at least one week in advance.)

Article VI

Proposed constitutional amendments should be submitted in writing to the president. Amendments must be disseminated according to agreed upon ballot measures, similar to those for elections, to all members at least one week prior to the close of the ballot. At least two-thirds majority of positive votes is necessary to accept the amendments.

Article VII

In the event of PPGSA dissolution all assets will be forfeited to the department of Plant Pathology at The Ohio State University.

Amendment I

The following committees and positions are to be established each year as they serve functions vital for the success of PPGSA.

Plant Sales Committee. Headed by an appointed chairperson for each campus. Other committee members are volunteers or are appointed. The main function of this committee is to meet regularly to ensure that the planning, organizing, and conducting of the annual fundraising is conducted at the highest standards to ensure a steady source of income for PPGSA. This committee is to be formed by the end of the first week of Autumn semester. All students are encouraged to participate in plant sales located on their campus. Both campuses' income reported ultimately to the treasurer or proxy. It is imperative that the appointed chairperson for each campus be involved in all aspects of the sale the previous year.

Travel Grant Committee. Headed by an elected chairperson. Other committee members are volunteers or are appointed. The main function of this committee is to meet regularly to ensure that the planning, organizing, and granting of student travel grants is conducted properly. It is crucial that this committee represents a wide range of students to ensure fairness of grant evaluation. This committee is to be formed by the end of the first week of Autumn semester.

Student Exchange Representative. Headed by an elected individual from PPGSA. This individual will function as a liaison with colleges involved with the student exchange program. This person will arrange housing and seminar times for individuals visiting Ohio State Department of Plant Pathology and establish connections with student exchange representatives from participating universities.

Student Seminar Committee. Headed by an elected chairperson. Other committee members are volunteers or are appointed. The main function of this committee is to plan and organize the end of the year seminar for new students. The elected chairperson will also function as a liaison between students and faculty concerning the weekly seminar.

Student Social Committee. Headed by an elected chairperson. Other committee members are volunteers or are appointed. The main function of this committee is to plan and organize social events throughout the year for PPGSA members and other members of the department who wish to participate. Activities may include but are not limited to these ideas: retreats, mushroom forays, nature walks, potlucks, and dinners. It is important that these events are considered for both campuses.

Graduate Studies Committee Representative. The President will nominate two current Plant Pathology graduate students to the Department Chair at the beginning of the fall semester to serve as the new member on the graduate studies committee. One student will be selected by the Chair and/or faculty and will begin their term as PPGSA representative to the Graduate Studies Committee. This position will be on a 1 year rotation.

Academic Affairs Committee Representative: The President will nominate two current Plant Pathology graduate students to the Department Chair at the beginning of the fall semester to serve as the new member on the Academic Affairs committee. One student will be selected by the Chair and/or faculty and will begin their term as PPGSA representative to the Academic Affairs Committee. This position will be on a 1 year rotation.

Amendment II

Vision Committee Representative: The President will nominate two current Plant Pathology graduate students to the Department Chair at the beginning of the fall semester to serve as the new member on the Vision Committee. One student will be selected by the Chair and/or faculty and will begin their term as PPGSA representative to the Vision Committee. This position will be on a 1 year rotation.

Amendment III

Outreach Committee. Headed by an elected chairperson. Other committee members are volunteers or are appointed. The main function of this committee is to both create a greater student awareness and understanding of plant pathology in order to broaden the numbers of future plant pathologists in our department and across the country as well as to increase community awareness of the general nature of plant pathology. The committee will meet at least once a semester to discuss upcoming events, plan new ones, and constantly be finding ways to integrate plant pathology into the community around us. Events will include presence at OSU/OARDC agricultural events and PPGSA plant sales.