



**MICHIGAN STATE**  

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**UNIVERSITY**

The CONSTITUTION of the  
**STT Graduate Student Organization**

of the

Department of Statistics and Probability (STT)

in the

College of Natural Science (NatSci),

Michigan State University (MSU)

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# Preamble

**Whereas** the Bylaws of the Department of Statistics and Probability (“STT”) specify in Section 2 the membership of the student constituency of STT and, through subsection 2.2.2, allow the graduate student constituency of STT to adopt its own procedures to elect two graduate student representatives for the purpose of representation in the Committee of the Whole (Section 3.5), the Student Advisory Council (Section 2.3), and any Standing Subcommittees of the Committee of the Whole as nominated by the STT Chairperson and the President of the Committee of the Whole and approved by the Committee of the Whole (Section 3.6);


**Whereas** the STT Bylaws further provide for the election of student members to the Colloquium Committee (Section 3.6.8); and

**Whereas** the STT graduate student constituency regularly engages with college/university-level graduate student organizations, including the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) MSU, the College of Natural Science Student Advisory Council, and the Graduate Employees Union, as well as academic, sports, cultural and community events within STT, but lacks an established formal mechanism for communication and coordination;

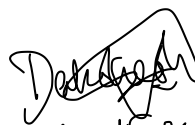
**Now, therefore, we, the members of the graduate student constituency of STT, as defined in Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Department of Statistics and Probability, having resolved to constitute a structured self-governing Graduate Student Organization (STT-GSO) that fosters graduate student participation in the academic governance of STT, promotes student success, and supports an enjoyable graduate school experience marked by unity, collaboration, integrity, and dynamism; this Wednesday, the 15th of April do hereby adopt and give to ourselves this Constitution.**

Ratified by the current student representatives on behalf of the graduate student constituency.

Haohao Su

  
Apr. 15, 2026

Dakshesh Vasani

  
Apr 15 '26

# Article I: Membership

1.01: All students enrolled in the M.S. or Ph.D. programs, offered by the Department of Statistics and Probability in the College of Natural Science, Michigan State University that are not jointly offered with other departments, and Dual Major STT Doctoral students shall make up the STT graduate student constituency and be members of the STT Graduate Student Organization (GSO), provided they have not been subject to removal proceedings under Article IV of this Constitution.

1.02: A person that is not currently enrolled in any M.S. or Ph.D. program offered by the Department of Statistics and Probability but was previously enrolled in some graduate courses/programs offered by the department, or is currently enrolled in any graduate program offered jointly between multiple departments of which STT is one; may join the GSO if they wish to participate in STT graduate student events, unless objected to by any member of the STT GSO or the department chairperson.

## Article II: Organization

2.01: The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) shall function through general body meetings (GBM) serving as a 'legislative' body, and the executive board as mentioned in this Article hereafter.

2.02: The Executive Board shall comprise of the below listed GSO Officials.

### 2.02.1 President, GSO:

- a. The President, as elected by guidelines laid out in Article III, shall supervise and coordinate the general affairs of the Organization as the chief executive.
- b. The President shall respond to student/department administration needs, coordinate between the department administration and the graduate student constituency, call for a vote/meeting of the general body as and when necessary to assist in decision-making and fulfill the objectives of the Organization.
- c. The President shall act as one of the two student representatives in the Committee of the Whole and the Student Advisory Council as specified in the STT Bylaws.

### 2.02.2: Vice President, GSO:

- a. The Vice President shall assist the President in their duties with documentation and maintenance of an event calendar for graduate students in STT including but not limited to

colloquia, cultural, community events (like Department Picnic, Game Day), reading club meetings.

- b. The Vice President shall interpret this Constitution whenever there is a dispute/disagreement/ambiguity in any of its contents. Vice Presidential interpretation is final and can only be overturned by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority Constitutional GBM vote.
- c. The Vice President shall act as one of the two student representatives in the Committee of the Whole and the Student Advisory Council as specified in STT Bylaws.

#### 2.02.3: Secretary, GSO:

- a. The Secretary shall convene meetings of the general body when directed by the President.
- b. The Secretary shall preside over said meetings and ensure a fruitful discussion/debate and/or a democratic vote on graduate student matters as per requirement, record meeting minutes and make them available to the graduate student constituency promptly after approval by the President.
- c. The Secretary shall represent the department in the NatSci Student Advisory Council and the Council of Graduate Students (COGS MSU).

#### 2.02.4 Colloquium Committee Representative:

- a. One Doctoral student from the Graduate Student Constituency of STT shall represent graduate students in the department's colloquium committee.

- b. The Colloquium Committee Representative shall ensure the conduct of regular student seminars throughout the Presidential tenure.

#### 2.03: General Body Meetings (GBMs):

- a. The general body comprises of all members of the GSO. GBMs are convened and presided over by the Secretary. The Secretary shall moderate any debate/discussion and conduct voting. Voting may be open or closed, however if even one member in a GBM is opposed to open voting, the vote shall be closed.
- b. Any vote in a GBM may be restricted to the Graduate Student Constituency (i.e., currently enrolled graduate students) if so deemed by the President. If a matter is only relevant to a subset of the general body, then the President may choose to restrict the electorate unless opposed by more than half of the general body.
- c. Any vote shall be decided by a simple majority of those in attendance, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution. Closed voting shall be strictly anonymous.
- d. The President, Vice President and Secretary shall not participate in GBM voting. The Vice President however will vote to break a tie, if one arises.

# Article III: Tenure of the Executive Board, Transfer, and Timeline

## 3.01: Election of the President and Vice President

3.01.1 **Voter Eligibility:** All members of the graduate student constituency of STT as defined in Article I 1.01 are eligible to one vote for each office, provided they are in good standing, and have not been removed from the GSO under the provisions of Article IV during the election.

3.01.2 **Candidature Eligibility:** All voters who have not been impeached from any office listed in this Constitution following a no-confidence motion under the provisions of Article IV since April 20 the previous year may submit their candidature if they are otherwise eligible as voters, and if they do not expect to graduate in the upcoming Spring and Fall Commencements.

3.01.3 **Call for Nominations:** The Secretary shall call for nominations for the positions of President and Vice President on March 15 of each year.

### 3.01.4 **Final Candidature:**

3.01.4.1 The Secretary shall announce the final list of candidates by April 10, after reviewing eligibility of candidature in accordance with 3.01.2 and by consultation with the Graduate Program Director to verify each candidate's enrollment status for the

upcoming year, as well as disciplinary considerations, if any, set by the department.

3.01.4.2 The Secretary shall privately inform disqualified candidates the decision of their removal from the Final List of Candidates as well as the reason for the same, as soon as such a decision is made and no later than 5 p.m., April 10.

3.01.4.3 If a disqualified candidate wishes to dispute their disqualification, they may do so immediately in writing to the Secretary and Vice President. The Vice President may intervene, only, if necessary, in their role as specified in 2.02.2 (b). Any changes thus arising to the final list of candidates shall then be made and announced by April 13 at the latest.

3.01.4.4 The Secretary shall clearly inform candidates of deadlines and procedures that shall be adopted for the free and fair conduct of elections by, in accordance with 3.01 no later than April 11. The Secretary shall appropriately resolve any and all concerns in a timely manner.

**3.01.5 Election Meeting and General Procedure:**

3.01.5.1 An Election Meeting shall be called by the Secretary on April 15 or on the next business day if April 15 is a weekend/university holiday.

3.01.5.2 Any candidate that does not attend the Election Meeting or is otherwise found to engage in unfair means shall be publicly disqualified by the Secretary at any

point in time during the Election Meeting with reasonable explanation.

3.01.5.3 Agenda for the Election Meeting:

- a) Presidential Pitch: The Secretary shall call upon Presidential candidates to present their pitch in a manner that provides all candidates a fair and equal opportunity to present themselves.
- b) Presidential Vote: The Secretary shall conduct a closed plurality vote among eligible voters to elect the President. The Secretary shall however not exercise a vote unless a tie arises.
- c) The candidature, if any, of the President-elect shall be disqualified from any subsequent election.
- d) Vice Presidential Pitch: The Secretary shall call upon Vice Presidential candidates to present their pitch in a manner that provides all candidates a fair and equal opportunity to present themselves.
- e) Vice Presidential Vote: The Secretary shall conduct a closed plurality vote among eligible voters to elect the Vice President. The Secretary shall however not exercise a vote unless a tie arises.

3.01.5.4 In the case that the Secretary is a candidate for a Presidential/Vice-Presidential election, the Graduate Program Coordinator shall take up the roles of the Secretary that are specified in and under 3.01.5, or

nominate an individual to do so, in order to ensure a free and fair election.

### 3.02: Appointment of the Secretary and the Colloquium Committee Representative

- a. The Secretary shall be appointed by the President-elect in their discretion, subject to fulfillment of candidate eligibility as listed in 3.01.2.
- b. The Colloquium Committee Representative shall be appointed by the President-elect in their discretion and in consultation with the Vice President-elect, subject to fulfillment of candidate eligibility as listed in 3.01.2 and the requirement that the candidate be a doctoral student.
- c. These appointments shall be finalized and announced to the General Body and the Department on or before May 1.

### 3.03: Tenure, and Premature Vacancy:

- a. The President and Vice President shall fulfill a one year term from May 15 to May 14 of the following year.
- b. **Tenure Transfer:** Between May 1 and May 15, the newly constituted executive board and the outgoing executive board shall communicate with each other in any manner they deem appropriate to ensure a smooth transfer.
- c. If for any reason, the Presidency is prematurely vacant, the following Line of Succession shall be followed:  
Vice President > Secretary, followed by a Presidential appointment for the resulting vacant Secretary position subject as specified in 3.02 (a).

- d. If for any reason, the Vice Presidency becomes prematurely vacant, the President shall appoint a replacement subject to candidate eligibility under 3.01.2 and approval by the outgoing Vice President if said Vice President was not removed from office by a non-confidence/removal proceeding provided for by Article IV.
- e. The offices of the Secretary and the Colloquium Committee Representatives, if prematurely vacant shall be filled by appointment as per 3.02.

### 3.04: General Body Meeting Timeline

- a. General Body Meetings to discuss the state of affairs of the graduate students shall be held from time to time between May 15 and March 15 of the following year. The period between March 16 and May 14, shall be reserved for processes relevant to the election and smooth transition between the outgoing and incoming executive board. However, General Body meetings may be called during this period, if deemed necessary.
- b. At least one in-person GBM shall be held between Aug 1 to Sep 15 with mandatory attendance of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and the Colloquium Committee Representative. An events' calendar shall be prepared and maintained by the Secretary that includes extra-curricular, reading-clubs academic and colloquia-related schedules for the Fall Semester. [For eg, Agenda for CW Meetings, Student Seminar, Colloquium, IM Soccer Teams, etc may be discussed here.]

- c. At least one in-person GBM shall be held between Jan 1 to Feb 15 with mandatory attendance of the President, Secretary, Convener, and the Colloquium Committee Representative. An events' calendar shall be prepared and maintained by the Secretary that includes extra-curricular, reading-clubs academic and colloquia-related schedules for the Spring Semester. [For eg, Agenda for CW Meetings, Student Seminar, Colloquium, IM Soccer Teams, Game Day, Pie Day, etc may be discussed here.]

### 3.05: Constitutional GBM:

- a. It is expected that as the department grows, more nuances may need to be addressed by this Constitution. As mentioned in Article V, this constitution contains provisions for amendments.
- b. The President shall call for a Constitutional GBM (either separately, or in conjunction with a GBM) to discuss requirements for any constitutional amendment in line with the provisions of Article V once every five years. If 4 years and 360 days have passed without a Constitutional GBM having been called since the last Constitutional GBM, a Constitutional GBM must be conducted within the next ten days.
- c. In the first five-year period since the ratification of the original Constitution, the President must call for a Constitutional GBM to discuss any need for an amendment in one year cycles for the first two years and at least once in the last two years.

# Article IV: Censure, No Confidence and Removal

It is foreseeable that disagreements may arise from time to time. When such disagreements become drastic enough to warrant systematic addressal, this Article IV provides some solutions.

## 4.01: Removal Proceedings:

- a. If any member of the general body sees reason to nominate a fellow member for removal from the GSO, they may propose the removal of the member to the President anonymously in writing. The President is mandated to respect said anonymity.
- b. If the President believes the reasons provided with the nomination may provide sufficient grounds for removal or if the removal proposal is seconded by another general body member, the President shall direct the Secretary to call a GBM as specified in Article II to initiate removal proceedings.
- c. The member whose removal is being proposed shall be provided a right to defense in said GBM following which a removal vote shall be conducted. Unlike normal GBM voting, removal shall require a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority.
- d. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Colloquium Committee Representative cannot be subject to removal proceedings. Article IV 4.03 must first be applied to these positions before they may be removed under the provisions in 4.01 (a)-(c).
- e. Members subject to removal can request the president to consider their inclusion after one year since removal based on

whether they have rectified whatever issues that led them to face removal. Any other arrangement for inclusion before a period of one year since removal shall be subject to a GBM vote with 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority. For the period of removal, they shall not be considered a member of the graduate student constituency or the general body for any purpose listed in this Constitution.

#### 4.02: Censure Motion against a member of the Executive Board and the Colloquium Committee Representative

- a. If a member of the general body believes either the President or the Secretary has engaged in misconduct or misrepresentation of the general body, they may propose a Censure Motion in writing to the Vice President. If a member of the general body believes either the Vice President or the Colloquium Committee Representative has engaged in misconduct or misrepresentation of the general body, they may propose a Censure Motion in writing to the Secretary.
- b. The Secretary shall convene a GBM to initiate censure proceedings. If the Secretary is the defendant, the Vice President shall take the role of the Secretary for said GBM.
- c. The Censure motion shall be discussed in the absence of the defendant after the defendant has been given an opportunity to their satisfaction to defend themselves in the GBM. The defendant will however be considered to have had ample opportunity to defend themselves in the case of any unexcused absence.
- d. Following adequate discussion, a closed vote shall be conducted. Censure motion shall be adopted by simple

majority. If passed, said motion shall restrict/nullify any action by the defendant that was the cause for said motion.

- e. More than one censure motion within the same tenure against shall place them in 'bad standing' and deem them ineligible for candidature for any position listed in this Constitution, in the next tenure.

#### 4.03: No-Confidence Motions against a member of the Executive Board and the Colloquium Committee Representative

- a. If a member of the general body believes either the President or the Secretary has engaged in misconduct or misrepresentation of the general body, they may propose a No-Confidence Motion in writing to the Vice President. If a member of the general body believes either the Vice President or the Colloquium Committee Representative has engaged in misconduct or misrepresentation of the general body, they may propose a Censure Motion in writing to the Secretary.
- b. The Secretary shall convene a GBM to initiate censure proceedings. If the Secretary is the defendant, the Vice President shall take the role of the Secretary for said GBM.
- c. The no-confidence motion shall be discussed in the absence of the defendant after the defendant has been given an opportunity to their satisfaction to defend themselves in the GBM. The defendant will however be considered to have had ample opportunity to defend themselves in the case of any unexcused absence.

- d. Following adequate discussion a closed vote shall be conducted. No-confidence motion shall be adopted by simple majority.
- e. If said motion is passed, the defendant shall be impeached from their office upon the declaration of results of the voting by the Secretary (or Vice President if the Secretary is the defendant).

## Article V: Constitutional Amendments

5.01: Any Constitutional Amendment can only be passed by a special Constitutional GBM that may be conducted anytime between May 1 and March 15. It may be convened in conjunction with another GBM, provided it is conducted before March 15. The President shall direct the Secretary to convene the same as is practice for any GBM.

5.02: The Constitutional Amendment has to be discussed in the Constitutional GBM following which a vote will be conducted. Only members of the graduate student constituency of STT as defined in Article I 1.01 are eligible to one vote each, provided they are in good standing, and have not been removed from the GSO under the provisions of Article IV at the time of conduct of this Constitutional GBM.

5.03: Amendment of Articles of the Constitution shall require the support of at least 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total number of eligible voters in attendance. Amendment of the Preamble shall require a 100% consensus of all eligible voters in attendance.

5.04: Following a successful vote on any amendment that adds or edits content, the amendment must be included in the constitution, with clearly defined marking and numbering. Said marking must be referenced in the Appendix, along with a mention of when the amendment is adopted. The President shall sign against the reference in the appendix.

5.05: Following a successful vote on any amendment that removes content, the removal shall be done within the constitution, with a

clearly defined marking and numbering in the Footer. Said marking must be referenced in the Appendix, along with a full description of the amendment, and mention of when the amendment is adopted. The President shall sign against the reference in the appendix.

5.05: Constitutional GBMs to discuss the need for amendments must be called regularly as per the mandated timeline in Article III 3.05.

# Appendix:

Format (This may be removed after the first amendment):

- 1) Amendment 1: These amendments in [Article X Section Y, Article X2, Section Y2, ... ] were ratified and adopted as per the provisions of Article V of this Constitution, on [Day], [Date].  
- [Name of President], President  
[Signature]
- 2) Amendment 2: The Section XYZ that stated “..” was removed as per the provisions of Article V of this Constitution, on [Day], [Date].  
- [Name of President], President  
[Signature]