

2023 Amendments to the 2013 SPHS GSA Constitution:

Context:

A Constitution for the SPHHS GSA was created in 2013. Revisions were started in 2014 but do not appear to have been implemented via an AGM. The 2013 Constitution included both on campus and online students (i.e., MPH) whereas previously, the GSA was separated as on campus and off campus (online) students. At that time, the GSA had two de facto executive committees – one with on campus and one with off campus positions.

President/Co-presidents

Prior to 2013/2014, two co-presidents were intended to allow *one to represent on-campus students and one to represent off-campus students*. The practice of two co-presidents continued; however, in the last several years, the co-presidents have been registered on-campus students. **The 2013 constitution of record lists one president.** Given the challenge of finding even one president this past year, it is reasonable to leave one president as a minimal requirement for the legal functioning of the SPHS GSA.

Off-campus/Online/Professional Programs: Fees and Voting rights

The 2013 Constitution was created under the premise that all students (on campus and online) pay fees contributing to GSA funds; however, due to university guidelines, the GSA did not collect fees from off campus students. Students in online programs do not pay incidental fees according to University policy, and as a result the SPHS GSA was unable to collect fees from these students:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/finance/graduate-incidental-fees-fall-2022>

Online students that do not pay fees were not be able to vote on matters related to the SPHS GSA. In 2014, rather than a separate executive and two presidents, it was established that online students (Professional programs) should elect their own program representative into the SPHS GSA, and the *Association continues this practice.*

In 2022, two professional programs (MPH and MHI) held majority votes to contribute to GSA fees in order to be voting members of the association. Their fee structure will follow the Full-time (5.00) and Part-time (2.50) fee schedule. MHE did not obtain enough votes to reach a majority. These votes were verified and approved by the UW GSA and membership fees from MPH and MHI will begin in Fall 2023. As a result, the **SPHS GSA now represents research Graduate students plus MPH and MHI professional program students as voting members.** We will take this into consideration by continuing to involve professional students in governance and holding both in person and online events available to professional students.

SPHHS/SPHS:

The constitution has been **updated to reflect the name change of the school.**

Executive:

VP Internal/External title has been re-named Chief of Staff to align with the SPHS GSA practice. Role **descriptions** have been updated to align with SPHS GSA practice.

Officers:

According to the constitutions, “The **Association Officers**” are comprised of the Faculty Representative, SPHS School Council Representative, and elected Committee Coordinators.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee Coordinator has been **added** as coordinating an “Ad Hoc” committee, in line with the constitution. (This person currently fills The Dean’s Advisory Council on Mental Health and Wellbeing [DAC-MHW] representative role as well)

Note that the DAC-MHW representative role, and others such as awards nominating committees, are *not considered as Association Officers in the constitution* and are thus not named or required for the legal function of the Association; rather, these and other positions are filled on an ‘ad hoc’ or as-needed basis on request and as volunteer capacity allows.

Based on the 2013 constitution and the amendment, the **organizational structure** of the SPHS GSA is depicted below.

