

Constitution of the
Systems Design Engineering - Graduate Student Association
(SYDE-GSA)

1. Name

The name of the organization is Systems Design Engineering – Graduate Student Association herein referred to as SYDE-GSA

2. Purpose

The University of Waterloo SYDE-GSA is organized to serve the needs of graduate students in the department of System Design Engineering at the University of Waterloo. The main objectives are:

1. To provide student representation and to participate in the development of policies (academic and administrative) in the System Design Engineering Department.
2. To participate in the affairs and development of policies affecting graduate students at the University of Waterloo
3. To cultivate community and to promote and coordinate social and academic activities among SYDE-GSA members

This association agrees to adhere to the stated regulations of the University of Waterloo Graduate Student Association.

3. Membership

1. All full-time and part-time registered students in a graduate degree program in Systems Design Engineering at the University of Waterloo shall be considered members of SYDE-GSA
2. Rights of Membership include the right to:
 - a. Vote in elections,
 - b. Speak at Executive Council Meetings and General Meetings
 - c. Vote on all Governing Document Amendments
 - d. Participate in all activities of the SYDE-GSA, and
 - e. Inspect official records of the SYDE-GSA,
3. Members are subject to the rules and restrictions as established in the By-Laws

4. Executive Officers

1. The Executive Officers of SYDE-GSA shall be:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President, Communications
 - c. Vice President, Operations
2. The Executive Officers shall have duties established by and be elected according to the By-Laws
3. The Executive Officers must be of the SYDE-GSA Membership

5. Meetings

1. Executive Council:
 - a. The affairs of the SYDE-GSA shall be managed by the Executive Council
 - b. Voting Members of Executive Council consist of the Executive Officers
 - c. The President shall call meetings of the Executive Council monthly to administer the affairs of the SYDE-GSA, provide updates to the SYDE-GSA membership, and hear student concerns, questions, or feedback.
 - d. All Members of the SYDE-GSA may submit motions, attend, and speak at Executive Council.
 - e. Special Meetings of the Executive Council may be called by a signed petition of ten (10) Members of the SYDE-GSA or the President.
 - f. Quorum for Executive Council is (2/3) Voting Members.

6. Governing Documents

1. There shall be the following documents specifying the organization of SYDE-GSA:
 - a. Constitution
 - b. By-Laws
2. Amendments to the Governing Documents
 - a. Proposal
 - i. Any member of the SYDE-GSA may propose an amendment or repeal of the Governing Documents.
 - ii. Any change must be published to the membership for 30 days in advance of an Executive Council Meeting for which the agenda includes the amendments.
 - iii. Member submitted amendments must be on the agenda for the subsequent meeting that follows this 30 day publishing period
 - b. Adoption
 - i. Any amendment must be approved with a majority vote of the Executive Council.
 1. Upon a receipt of a petition for this purpose bearing the signatures of at least five members of the SYDE-GSA, amendments not approved by Executive Council will proceed to a referendum of the voting members.
 - ii. Amendments must be ratified through a referendum before the end of the next Academic Term, for which quorum is 2/3 voting members. Failure to ratify voids the change.
 - c. Date of Effect
 - i. Adoption, amendment, or repeal of a Bylaw shall take effect immediately upon its approval by the Executive Council of the GSA, pending ratification.