

**Constitution for the Agronomy and Horticulture
Graduate Student Association
University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Agronomy and Horticulture Graduate Student Association, hereinafter AHGSA.

Article II. Object

The object of AHGSA shall be to serve in the following ways.

1. To serve as the representative body for graduate students in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
2. To promote interaction and a closer relationship among graduate students.
3. To serve as a channel of communication between graduate students, faculty, and staff.
4. To identify problems and issues unique to graduate students and propose solutions to them as well as provide an outlet for implementing these solutions when possible.

Article III. Members

Section 1. Membership is open to all graduate students within the department of Agronomy and Horticulture or closely related departments.

Section 2. Active membership. An active member is defined by regular meeting attendance (at least half of the meetings for a given year) as well as participation in committees, or other AHGSA events. Two hours of volunteer work for an AHGSA-related event and/or activity is also required to be considered an active member.

These requirements can be waived on a case by case basis via appeal to the executive committee and primary club advisor. Agreement to waive these requirements must reach a 4/5ths vote.

Section 3. Non-discrimination. The AHGSA shall not discriminate in the selection of members or appointments when discrimination is defined as denying individuals membership or appointment on the basis of sex, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, gender identity or expression, place of residence, or sexual orientation.

Section 4. Non-student participation. A student organization shall consist of at least five currently enrolled student members. Non-students will be allowed to participate in any student organization activity, but will not be a voting member, or an elected or appointed officer of said organization. A non-student is someone who is not currently enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall or spring semester.

Section 5. Resignation. Members automatically resign membership upon graduation or termination of degree from the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Article IV. Officers and Organizational Structure

Section 1. Executive Committee Composition. The officers, which include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall constitute the Executive Committee. Members of this committee are to be elected following the requirements set forth in article V section 5.

Officers of the Executive Committee include the following: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Duties and responsibilities of specific officers shall be defined as follows:

1. President

- a. Schedule and preside over general meetings of the AHGSA.
- b. Communicate club activities to the department.

2. Vice President

- a. Assume responsibility of the President in case of his/her absence.
- b. Coordinate and direct the activities of all Special Committees of AHGSA.

3. Treasurer

- a. Maintain financial records for inspection at any time by members of the AHGSA.
- b. Collect, keep records of, and arrange safekeeping for such monies as AHGSA may obtain.
- c. Disburse, at the direction of the President and advisor, such as monies as are required to meet the obligations of the AHGSA.
- d. Report for approval at all regular meeting, all income and expenses and maintain records of all transactions.

4. Secretary

- a. Record and file records of the activities of AHGSA.
- b. Handle and maintain all AHGSA correspondence.
- c. Present minutes of the prior meeting.
- d. Serve as the chair for the document revision and amendments.

Section 2. Executive Committee's Duties and Powers. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the AHGSA between its meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the membership, and encourage active membership. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the membership, and none of its acts shall conflict with the action taken by a majority of active membership. In addition, it shall be the duty

of the Executive Committee to listen to suggestions and problems from graduate students and prepare them for discussion at general meetings of the AHGSA. The Executive Committee will also act on the allocation of funds.

Section 3. Departmental Committees. The AHGSA may elect member(s) to take part in any eligible departmental committee as determined by the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. The AHGSA committee representatives are to be elected following the requirements set forth in article IV section 5.

Section 4. AHGSA Committees. The AHGSA reserves the right to form and dissolve committees to meet the current needs of students and the department. It is suggested that committees are formed and committee chair(s) be appointed to accomplish large tasks, events, or departmental changes. The chair(s) may be appointed by majority vote within the committee.

Section 5. Elections. All active members (as defined by Article III Section 2) of the AHGSA are qualified to fill any office or committee position.

Nominations and elections of officers and committee representatives shall be held prior to the final meeting of the spring semester.

Self-nominations are acceptable for all officer positions. Nominees need not be present to be elected, provided the nominee has indicated his/her prior approval of the nomination. Each AHGSA member present at the election is eligible to cast one vote per office. Voting shall be done by secret ballot. The nominee receiving the majority of the votes is elected to fill the position. All elected officials shall serve for a term of one year. All officers are eligible for reelection, provided that their status as a graduate student does not change during the following term for which the vote is being cast.

All office vacancies can be filled by order of succession (ex: president vacancy filled by the vice president) or a new election may be run to fill the vacant office.

Article V. Advisor.

Section 1. Primary Adviser. AHGSA will have at least one primary advisor, which must be a regular Academic/Administrative or Managerial/Professional faculty/staff member of the University of Nebraska- Lincoln, and may have any number of Secondary Advisors, which may be regular Academic/Administrative or Managerial/Professional faculty/staff member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Any adviser may approve the expenditure of funds.

Section 2. Method of Selection. Advisors will be nominated by an AHGSA member and elected by secret ballot prior to the final general meeting of the spring semester. This vote must occur prior to the end of an existing adviser's term or can be conducted to replace an adviser as needed.

Section 3. Length of Term. Advisors will serve a three year term, beginning with their election. Typically election may happen in conjunction with the executive committee election.

Article VI. Organization Finances.

Section 1. Dues. No dues are required.

Section 2. The AHGSA shall operate according to the rules and guidelines of a non-profit entity. No part of the organization's net earnings will inure to the benefit of individuals. The AHGSA must establish that it will not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests such as the creator or the creator's family, shareholders of the organization, other designated individuals, or persons controlled directly or indirectly by such private interests. The AHGSA shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in this document. The organization will not, as a substantial part of its activities, attempt to influence legislation (unless it elects to come under the provisions allowing certain lobbying expenditures) or participate to any extent in a political campaign for or against any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution the AHGSA shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt Federal Income Tax under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue laws). Organizational monies will be handled by Student Organizational Financial Services (SOFS), regardless of source.

Section 3. SOFS Liaison. The AHGSA President and Treasurer will serve as liaisons to the SOFS for finance management.

Section 4. Scholarships. The AHGSA reserves the right to offer scholarships to its members using club funds.

Article VII. Process for Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the AHGSA the officers and advisors shall after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the AHGSA, dispose of all the assets of the AHGSA exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purpose as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization. Under section 501c of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue laws), as the officers and advisors shall determine. Any such purposes to such organization(s), as determined by the Office of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

Article VIII. Amendment

This constitution may be amended by a 3/4 vote of members present at a given meeting provided that the amendment has been made available for review by the membership. All amendments must be approved by ASUN.

Article IX. Effective Date

This constitution shall go into effect starting in April 7, 2014.

President Osler Ortiz Date 6-10-2020