ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization is Graduate Comics Organization. This organization will utilize either its full name (Graduate Comics Organization) or the acronym GCO in all publicity materials and correspondence. The Graduate Comics Organization is affiliated with the free online academic journal *ImageTexT: InterDisciplinary Comics Studies*, operating out of the English Department at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL. The ImageTexT website is: [www.english.ufl.edu/imagetext/](http://www.english.ufl.edu/imagetext/).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE STATEMENT

GCO is a non-commercial and non-profit entity which does not require dues from its members. The purpose of GCO is to:

1. Serve as a pre-professional and social support group for English graduate students and other graduate students at the University of Florida working on Comics Studies.
2. Aid teaching assistants with the development of pedagogical skills thorough open workshops on teaching comics and animation.
3. Enhance the academic resources available to the entire University by organizing academic activities such as lectures and national conferences focusing on interests generated by our graduate students.
4. Provide student representation on faculty committees.

ARTICLE III. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, Graduate Comics Organization shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Graduate Comics Organization shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

ARTICLE IV. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Non-Discrimination

Graduate Comics Organization agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.

Section B. Sexual Harassment
Graduate Comics Organization agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment.

Section C. Hazing

Graduate Comics Organization agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization.

Section D. Responsibility to Report

If this organization becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, Graduate Comics Organization will report it immediately to Student Activities and Involvement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, or the University’s Title IX Coordinator.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

Given the importance of an active relationship with CLASSC and its governing bodies, it is the task of the President and Treasurer of each organization to maintain active relations with the Student Body Treasurer's Office, or the Executive Board of their respective umbrella organization, and remain in accordance with Student Body

1. President or Co-Presidents: call and preside at all meetings, serve as GCO's primary representatives to other organizations, and supervise the work of any members of GCO. At the beginning of the term, one of the co-presidents will be designated to sign all necessary documents and papers.

   If during the general election at least two people are not interested in the position of Co-President, then the GCO Presidency can be held by a single person.

2. Vice-President: assists the co-presidents in running of meetings and serves in a president's absence.

3. President: conducts meetings and serves as GCO's primary representative to other organizations.

4. Secretary: keeps minutes of all meetings and distributes minutes to all GCO members.

5. Treasurer: keeps accurate records of all finances of GCO, acts as liaison to Student Government finance office and provides access of financial records to all GCO members.

6. Executive Member at Large: commit to attending most GCO meetings and functions. (There may be as many Executive Members at Large as are nominated and accept the position.)
Terms of Office:

When elected, officers in the Graduate Comics Organization can serve for a term of one year. Officers do not hold their term for longer than one year, but can be re-elected to the same positions in subsequent terms. An officer can be re-elected to the same office no more than four times, for a cumulative total maximum time of five years in one office. These years do not have to be consecutive, and time served in one office in the Graduate Comics Organization does not count towards time served in any other office.

Process for Vacancies:

When one or more officer vacancy occurs before the next scheduled election, the officers remaining shall appoint interim officers as necessary to fill any vacancies. These interim officers shall hold office until the next scheduled election. The time served as an interim officer does not count towards time served as an elected officer in subsequent terms, even if the interim officer is elected to the same office to which they were appointed. The interim officer will hold the vacated office until the next general election even in those cases when the elected officer's leave is temporary. The elected officer will then have a chance for re-election to the post at the next scheduled election.

Officer vacancies can occur due to an officer losing eligibility, an officer's resignation, an officer's temporary leave or the impeachment of the officer for not fulfilling duties. An officer loses eligibility when he or she no longer meets the officer requirements laid out in ARTICLE VII (i.e., when the officer is no longer a UF graduate student in good standing, no longer an active member of the Graduate Comics Organization, or no longer a regular attendee at Graduate Comics Organization meetings and events). An officer's resignation occurs when they inform the faculty advisor of their resignation from their post and announce their resignation at the next general Graduate Comics Organization meeting. An officer's temporary leave occurs when they announce their intent to leave at a Graduate Comics Organization meeting. Impeachment occurs only after one member requests an impeachment vote. After the vote is requested, a 2/3 majority vote is required to impeach the officer.

Appointed Positions:

These positions may be appointed at the beginning of Fall term by new GCO leadership or appointed by outgoing leadership at the end of Spring term and then ratified by new leadership at the beginning of Fall term.

1. Historian: records events with pictures and saves newspaper clippings and save it in an GCO scrapbook. Should also save programs and announcements, and get pictures of GCO conference events and parties.
2. Webmaster: posts minutes and relevant information on the GCO website.
3. Chancellor: offers assistance and advice to GCO officers if needed or requested. This position is generally given to the outgoing president.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS

Officers will hold office for one full year. Elections will be held in March with term of office beginning the following fall semester. Nominations will be solicited from the members at large, and elections will
be held the following week. If the nominees run unopposed, then the nominee for that position will automatically become that officer. Officers for positions with multiple nominees will be elected by a 2/3 majority vote. If there are more than two candidates running and no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a run-off vote between the top two vote recipients at the next general meeting.

In case of a tie between two candidates, the candidates will be offered the chance to co-fill an officer position. If co-filling a position is not a viable option, the candidate with seniority in an organization will be offered the position. In cases of ties between two candidates who choose not to co-fill a position and between whom there is no seniority, the faculty advisor will be given an additional, tie-breaking vote.

In the event that one or more positions become vacant prior to a regularly scheduled election, the remaining officers shall appoint such interim officers as necessary. These members shall hold office until the next scheduled election. An officer could be impeached for not fulfilling duties by one member requesting an impeachment vote and then the impeachment would require a 2/3 vote to impeach the officer.

Eligibility for Candidacy:

To be eligible for candidacy, a potential officer must:

1. be a graduate student in good standing at the University of Florida
2. be an active member of the Graduate Comics Organization
3. be a regular attendee at Graduate Comics Organization meetings and events
4. have been a member in good standing of the Graduate Comics Organization for a period of no less than one academic year.

ARTICLE VIII. FACULTY ADVISOR

Faculty advisors will be appointed by general consensus of GCO's membership. Duties will be to provide advice and act as liaisons. The faculty advisor will be kept for his or her tenure at the University or if a 2/3 majority vote called to request the choosing of a new faculty advisor.

In the event that the faculty advisor is unwilling or unable to continue in their position, any officer will be able to nominate a replacement faculty advisor at any time, to be confirmed by a 2/3 majority vote of Graduate Comics Organization members.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCE

GCO does not require or collect membership fees. However, the GCO will regularly seek funding in the form of grants and donations to support its annual Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels.

- Membership entails no dues nor membership fees in accordance with statute 810.20E from the Student Body Constitution. GCO complies with the Student Government 800 codes, specifically 808.11, which states, "Student organizations can only receive student body funds if they are registered with the University of Florida Office of Student Activities and adhere to
Student Body Laws."

- GCO shall petition Student Government for an initial budget for each academic year. Other funds shall be acquired from the English Department, donors, and other student organizations who share GCO's interest in promoting the humanities. Expenditures shall require a majority vote at two consecutive meetings.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION

In the event of the dissolution of the organization, any funds donated for the express purpose of sponsoring the GCO's annual Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels will be returned to their donors (minus any non-refundable expenditures already made in preparation for that event before the group's dissolution). All monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be given to the English Department for the redistribution to other student groups in that department. Any remaining assets shall also be given to the English Department for the redistribution to other student groups in that department. Any additional monies in the treasury that cannot be redistributed to other student groups will be donated to the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

ARTICLE XI. LEAVING THE ORGANIZATION

GCO members may leave and dissociate themselves from GCO without fear of retribution or harassment.

ARTICLE XII. RULES OF ORDER

Meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Amendments to the GCO constitution shall be solicited annually at the end of the spring semester from all GCO members. Passage of amendments requires approval by 2/3 of membership.