

Constitution of the
Tulane Linguistics Students Association

Article I: Mission

1. To consolidate and focus on the interests and problems of Linguistics graduate students at Tulane University.
2. To provide channels of communication between graduate students and graduate faculty working in Linguistics.
3. To facilitate interaction and promote academic exchange and support among graduate students.

Article II: Organization

1. The name of the organization shall be **Tulane Linguistics Students Association (TLSA)**.
2. The membership of TLSA shall be comprised of all Linguistics graduate students at Tulane University. This includes students in the Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics PhD, students completing the Plus One MA in Linguistics, and students in the Computational Linguistics MA Program. All use of the term ‘membership’ in this document shall be understood to refer to the group defined in this section, and the terms ‘member’ and ‘members’ shall refer to constituents of this group.
3. Membership dues shall be imposed only by a majority vote of the full membership.
4. The director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics will serve as the faculty liaison to the student organization when necessary. If necessary, the director of the program can nominate another faculty member to serve as liaison.
5. The officers of this organization will form the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will consist of a President, Secretary, and a Treasurer, who will serve as the official TLSA representative to the Graduate Studies Student Association (GSSA).
 - a. The number of TLSA representatives to GSSA will not exceed one for every fifteen members. Should the membership exceed thirty members, one additional GSSA Representative will be elected for every fifteen members over the fifteen member threshold. The additional GSSA Representatives will be members of the TLSA Executive Committee.
6. The Executive Committee shall be elected by the membership.
7. The Executive Committee shall be elected in the spring, to serve for the following academic year. Alternatively, they can be selected in the fall of every year. Outgoing officers will form an Emeritus Executive Committee in order to facilitate transition.
8. The officers of the Executive Committee will be required to fulfill the duties of the office to which they are elected. These duties are the following:
 - a. President: Leads meetings. Organizes meeting agenda. Communicates with the faculty liaison regarding organizational concerns and goals.
 - b. Secretary: Takes minutes of meetings. Maintains a list of the membership.
 - c. Treasurer: Tracks funds. Requests funding for functions. Serves as the official TLSA representative to GSSA.

9. In addition, the Executive Committee coordinates organizational goals and establishes the organizational agenda. The Executive Committee will also update the student information on the Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics website.

Article III: Meetings

1. A minimum of two meetings will be conducted per semester. Additional meetings may be called as necessary. All meetings will be open to anyone interested in attending. Members may attend via audio or video conference if they are unable to attend in person.
2. Any member may raise an item. Should a vote be required, a quorum will consist of those members present at the meeting. Voting privileges will be restricted to the membership. A motion will be passed by a simple majority of those present.
 - a. Constitutional amendments represent an exception to this provision and may only be enacted via the mechanism established in Article IV.

Article IV: Amendments

1. Any member may propose an amendment via one of two mechanisms:
 - a. Orally at any meeting of the organization,
 - b. In writing, via email to a member of the currently elected Executive Committee.
2. Proposed constitutional amendments will be made available in writing by email to all members for review.
 - a. The review period will last for at least one week.
3. Voting on constitutional amendments will be conducted via an anonymous electronic process.
4. All members will be eligible to vote on constitutional amendments.
5. Amendments will be ratified by a simple majority of the membership.