

May 16, 2006

**Constitution**  
**Department of French Studies Graduate Association**

**Preamble**

We, the members of the "Department of French Studies Graduate Association" do hereby establish this Constitution in order that our purposes be realized to the fullest extent.

**Article I**

The name of the organization will be the "Department of French Studies Graduate Association" at Louisiana State University and A & M College at Baton Rouge, henceforth referred to as "DFSGA"

**Article II**

DFSGA's purpose is to foster a social and academic support group for graduate students in the Department of French Studies and other connected graduate programs at LSU. Through social activities, writing workshops, and other programs we hope to increase graduate students' senses of community. Given the international and multi-state backgrounds among DFS graduate students and graduate students in other related departments such as Comparative Literature and History, the DFSGA will provide an unrivaled communal organization to students.

**Article III**

Section 1 DFSGA shall be non-commercial.

Section 2 DFSGA and the names of our members in connection with all official capacities shall not be used in connection with a commercial concern.

Section 3 DFSGA shall cooperate with Louisiana State University to support the improvement of education in ways that will not interfere with administration of the University.

Section 4 DFSGA may cooperate with other organizations and agencies, but persons representing the organization in such matters shall make no commitments that bind the organization.

Section 5 The organization agrees to abide by all University polices and local, state and federal laws.

**Article IV**

Section 1 Any LSU student, faculty member or staff member who subscribes to the purpose and basic polices of the organization may become a member of this organization, subject only to compliance with the provisions of the constitution.

Section 2 Active membership is restricted to LSU students. Associate memberships is restricted to LSU faculty and staff and other members of the LSU community. Associate members are non-voting members.

**RECEIVED**  
Office of the Dean of Students  
Date: 06/28/06

*approved*  
*06/28/06*  
*JF*

Guidelines:

Section 1 All members of the LSU community are welcome to membership

Section 2 There are no restrictions on membership

Section 3 New members can always join DFSGA, membership is attained by paying yearly dues.

Section 4 Non-restricted members of DFSGA are welcome to participate in yearly elections for club government. Paying dues ensures good standing.

Section 5 Dues will be due once a year. Dues will directly contribute to photocopies and pamphlets that advertise DFSGA events. Members can withdraw from the club at anytime, however, dues must be paid to remain a member.

Section 6 If the organization becomes inactive monies left in the club will be donated to the Department of French Studies—an irrefutable intellectual supporter of DFSGA.

**Article V**

Section 1 To be eligible to be elected to, appointed to, or to hold an office or be a standing committee chairperson, a student must:

A Be enrolled as a full-time student at LSU

B Be in good standing with the University, have at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA, and not on disciplinary probation or deferred suspension;

C Meet all other reasonable academic standards establish by the student organization and included in the organization's constitution and/or bylaws.

Section 2 The officers of this organization shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, a public-relations representative.

Section 3

A. The president shall preside at all meetings of the association and of the executive committee; shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed in the constitution or are assigned by the membership or the executive committee; and shall coordinate the work of the officers and committee, in orders that projects be promoted.

B The vice-president shall act as an aid to the president and shall perform the duties of the president in the absence or inability of that officer to serve.

C. The secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the organization and of the executive committee and shall perform other duties as may be delegated.

D. The treasurer shall receive all monies of the organization; shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; shall pay out local funds in accordance with the approved budget as authorized by the organization. The treasurer shall present a finical statement at every meeting of the organization and at other times when requested by the executive committee. The treasurer' accounts shall be examined annually by an auditor or an auditing committee of not less than three members, who, satisfied that the treasurer's annual report is correct, should sign a statement of that fact at the end of the report. The auditing committee shall be appointed by the executive committee at least two weeks before the meeting.

E. The public-relations representative shall be responsible for handling the website and email account as well as generally promoting the DFSGA.

F. The faculty advisor shall serve as a resource and support mechanism for the officers and members of the organization. The faculty advisor should attend regular and executive board meeting sand other events as necessary.

Section 4

A. Officers shall be elected by ballot annually at the last regular meeting of the organization.

B. Officer shall assume their official duties at the close of the last regular meeting of the academic year and shall serve for a term of one year and/or until their successors are elected.

C. A person shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 5 There shall be a nominating committee consisting of five (5) members elected by the organization at its second regular meeting. Following the report of the nominating committee, nominations may be made from the floor provided that the consent of the nominee has been secured.

Section 6 A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled for the non-expired term by a person appointed by the president.

Section 7 Any officer of DFSGA in violation of the Organization's purpose or constitution may be removed from office by the following process:

A. A written request by at least three members of the Organization

B. Written notification to the officer of the request, asking the officer to be present at the next meeting and prepared to speak.

C. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of active members or of members in good standing is necessary to remove the officer.

**Article VI**

Section 1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the organization, past president, the chairperson of each standing committee.

Section 2 The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to transact necessary business between organization meetings and such business as may be referred to it by the organizations to approve the plans of work of each standing committee chairperson; and to present a report at the regular meeting of the organization.

Section 3 Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held during the academic year, the time to be determined by the Committee at its first meeting of the year.

**Article VII**

Section 1 Such standing committees shall be created by the Executive Committee as may be required to promote the objects and interests of the organization. The chairperson of the standing committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Their terms in office shall be one year.

Section 2 The chairperson of each standing committee shall present plans of work to the Executive committee, and no work shall be undertaken without the approval of the Executive Committee. Any vacancies occurring in the chairpersonship of a standing committee shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

Section 3 The president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.

### **Articles VIII**

Section 1 Regular meetings of this organization shall be held. The dates and times shall be decided by the Executive Committee, any change shall be publicized no less than five (5) days prior the date of the scheduled meeting.

Section 2 Twenty-five (25) percent of active members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in any meeting of the organization.

Section 3 The privilege of holding office, introducing motions, debating, and voting shall be limited to active members.

### **Article IX**

Section 1 This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the organization by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given at the previous meeting and that the proposed amendment shall be subject to approval of the Dean of Students or his/her designee.

### **Article X**

DFSGA will apply to the Center for Student Leadership & Involvement for registration on an annual basis two weeks after DFSGA's new officer elections.

## **Founding Members**

Faculty Advisor  
Dr. Sylvie Dubois  
Department of French Studies Chair

President  
Logan Connors  
PhD Candidate, French Studies

Vice-President  
Marianne Halloran  
PhD Candidate, French Studies

Treasurer  
Carole Salmon  
PhD Candidate, French Studies

Secretary  
Carla Bota  
PhD Candidate, French Studies

Public-Relations Representative  
Heather McNeil  
PhD Candidate, French Studies