

**Constitution for the
Fellowship of Christian Graduate Students
at the University of Wyoming
Date ratified: April 22, 2006**

Article I - Name

This organization will be known as the Fellowship of Christian Graduate Students (a registered student organization at the University of Wyoming), hereafter, FCGS.

Article II - Purpose

The purposes of the FCGS shall be

- A. To serve the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional needs of graduate students
- B. To help graduate students grow toward maturity in the Christian faith
- C. To encourage graduate students to develop an integrated Christian understanding of their academic work and personal life
- D. To exemplify the Christian life in thought, word, and deed to the wider University community.
- E. To promote students and faculty developing knowledge of God's calling in their lives

Article III- Basis of Faith

Voting members and Members of the Servant Team shall subscribe to the articles of faith which form the basis of the organization. These are

- A. The Deity of Jesus Christ, as expressed in historical statements of the Christian faith communities, such as the "Nicene" Creed.
- B. The necessity and sufficiency of the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ as full payment for human sins.
- C. The historical fact of his resurrection
- D. The expectation of the personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Article IV – Participation and Membership

Participation in any of the events and activities of FCGS is open to all UW students, staff, faculty, and persons from the wider community. FCGS admits students without regard to their race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and other activities generally accorded or made available to members of the organization. Only persons subscribing to the Basis of Faith described in Article III may vote in elections. Voting members may include full or part-time University of Wyoming students, staff, or faculty who subscribe to the Basis of Faith.

Article V – Officers

Section 1. Only UW graduate students will be eligible for leadership positions. They must be a member of the organization and subscribe to the Basis of Faith (Article III). Undergraduate students, faculty or staff may serve in subsidiary leadership roles appointed by the elected officers.

Section 2. The duties of the servant team will be as follows:

A. **Servant Team Leader:** The role of the Servant Team Leader will be to direct the Servant Team and share with them the responsibility of ministering to the graduate student population on the University of Wyoming campus. The Servant Team Leader will inspire, lead, evaluate, correct, and love the team to effectiveness. The primary tasks of the Servant Team Leader will include, but are not limited to:

Manage and care for the core Servant Team

Lead and oversee the development of a graduate Christian community

Determine content that will build them individually and set a direction for life (i.e., goals, integration, mentoring, etc)

Look for and develop future student leadership

Keep in contact with Grad Resources and the faculty advisor

Help the servant team keep perspective as they are guiding the direction of the organization

Keep in contact with ASUW, particularly about requirements for RSOs

- B. **Servant Team Prayer Leader:** The role of the Prayer Leader will be in the development of a strong, dedicated prayer life of the graduate students in the FCGS. The Prayer Leader will keep us up to date on important prayer requests, prayer for the campus and community and also to organize a weekly informal prayer meeting.
- C. **Servant Team Administrative Leader:** The role of the Administrative Leader will be to handle funds, coordinate e-mail announcements and membership contact information, make posters, and do any other promotion necessary for upcoming events.
- D. The elected officers may appoint additional members of the leadership team for 1 year terms, as needed. Appointed leaders' terms expire when the new officers are elected.

Section 3. Officers will be elected in the following manner:

- A. The election of the 3 officer position will take place within two weeks of April 1. These officers will remain on the Team until the following spring elections.
- B. Nominations may only be made by current active members of the group.
- C. Nominated students must hold to and sign a consent to the Basis of Faith, if elected.
- D. The Servant team has the responsibility to approach a member they believe to be spiritually ready for a servant leadership position and to ask them to consider a position as a servant leader.
- E. Nominated students must clearly accept or decline a nomination.
- F. Following prayer for guidance, new officers will be elected by a simple majority vote of the eligible membership during the time specified in Section 3A&B.
- G. An e-mail announcement shall be sent out to the membership at least one week prior to the election announcing the nominations as well as the meeting time and location.
- H. An e-mail announcement shall be sent out within one week of the election stating who has filled the various positions on the servant team.
- I. If an office is vacated or otherwise open, the responsibilities of that office shall be assumed by the other Servant Team members until the next election time.

Section 4. Officers shall be removed in this manner.

- A. If any Servant Team officer fails to maintain University requirements for holding office, he or she shall resign immediately.
- B. If a Servant Team officer other than the Team Leader is believed to not be fulfilling his or her constitutional duties, failing in maintaining the statement of faith, then he or she will be approached by the other members of the Servant Team and presented with their concerns. In consultation and prayer with other Team Leaders, the Servant Team Leader has the final say in the course of action that will be taken and this includes giving a second chance or immediate removal.
- C. If members of the FCGS have concerns that the Servant Team Leader is failing in his/her role and constitutional duties, then they must present their concerns to other officers of the Servant Team. The Servant team is then to discuss these concerns with the Servant Team Leader. If the Servant Team, minus the Team Leader, feel the concerns are warranted and that actions to alleviate the concerns by the Team Leader are not sufficient, then they may remove the existing Team Leader by unanimous vote. The Faculty Advisor, if appropriate, may also preside over these meetings.
- D. If a Servant Team Leader is removed or resigns, then the Servant Team Leadership appoints a new Leader from among the existing Servant Team. This Leader will serve until the next Fall or Spring election.

Article VI – Advisor

Section 1. A full time UW faculty or staff member will serve as advisor to the organization.

Section 2. Nominations for advisor will be made by active members of FCGS and will be brought to the Servant Team Leadership. The Servant Team Leadership will make a final decision on an advisor.

Section 3. During yearly Servant Team elections, the organization will ask the advisor if he/she wants to continue his/her position for another school year. If so, the advisor will continue his/her position, with the consent of the Servant Team.

Section 4. The duties of Advisor include: meeting with and the Servant Team Leadership, reviewing the yearly budget, signing all required paperwork and advising on issues relating to the organization leadership, the progress of the group and University of Wyoming policy.

Section 5. The Advisor can be removed for not carrying out the duties and expectations as defined in this document. Any member can bring concerns to the Servant Team Leadership. The Servant Team Leadership will meet with the Advisor to discuss the concerns. After this meeting, the Servant Team Leadership will pray on whether to remove the Advisor. If there is a majority vote, then the Advisor will be removed.

Section 6. If an Advisor steps down or is removed, the Servant Team Leadership will follow the process stated in Article VI.

Article VII - Finances

FCGS is funded through donations from participants, and through the national Grad Resources organization. In the event that the organization is dissolved, the funds will be dispersed accordingly.

Article VII - Constitutional Amendments

Section 1. This constitution shall be adopted upon receiving the approval of at least two-thirds of the constituting founding members.

Section 2. Amendments to the constitution shall be submitted to the Leadership Team in writing for consideration. A reading at a group meeting and an e-mail or a regular mail of the proposed amendment(s) to all active participants will be required prior to submitting the amendment to a vote. A minimum of two weeks is required after submission and announcement of the amendment before a vote is held. After prayer over the issue, the vote shall be conducted by a public show of raised hands at a meeting where at least two-thirds of the active eligible voting members and not less than 7 eligible voting members are present.

Section 3. No amendments may be made to Article II or Article III, as these form the basis of the organization.

Section 4. Amendments are subject to the approval by the Assistant Director of the Wyoming Union, or other designated authority of the University of Wyoming.