

**ACT 2526-FA-002: AN ACT UPDATING AND CLARIFYING THE LANGUAGE OF THE
COMBINED BYLAWS & STANDING RULES OF THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE
STUDENTS**

Authors: Katie Conner.280, Co-Chair Membership Wellness; Sabrina Durso.19, President;
Andy Vance.128, Parliamentarian, Senator;

Sponsoring Committee: Executive Board

Section 1. The purpose of this act shall be to amend the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules of the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) to address concerns raised during AY2425 by President (Sabrina Durso), then-Vice President (Katie Conner), and Parliamentarian (Andy Vance), as well as additional feedback from 24-25 members of CGS.

Section 2. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules do not dictate if there are exceptions to the mandated minimum number of votes in the delegate election process, which require at least 5 votes per candidate to be elected, that can be made for departments which have less than 10 enrolled graduate students; and

Section 3. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules do not stipulate that summer meetings will be held virtually; and

Section 4. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules dictates that the vice president should have the automatic option of becoming president should a vacancy arise mid-term, despite their role being entirely different from that of the office they initially ran for; and

Section 5. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules stated the Chief of Staff, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Secretary should fulfill duties as directed by the Council and the Executive Committee, despite that the President, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively, can allocate those responsibilities to the respective positions without duplicating efforts or causing confusion; and

Section 6. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules define that the Council's advisor should assist the Vice President in finding faculty representation for the Edward F. Hayes Research Forum, despite advisors largely not having any access to do so; and

Section 7. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules does not define or outline the differences of Regular, Special, and Executive Meetings; and

Section 8. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules does not dictate that the Parliamentarian and Vice President should ensure rules of virtual meeting etiquette are followed, nor defining who should do so when either of them are unavailable; and

Section 9. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules dictates the President should get approval for guest speakers from the Executive Board despite challenges to get guest speakers to appear before CGS in a timely manner; and

Section 10. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules require all voting to be appended to the end of meeting minutes and publicly distributed despite many CGS members asking for their voting record to be private for safety concerns; and

Section 11. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules states the executive committee should appoint senators to their academic area despite the Vice President best knowing how to do so, as they do so for all other aspects of the Council; and

Section 12. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules states the President will cast tie-breaking votes within the Senator elections despite the fact they have nothing to do with that process, and the Election Chair does; and

Section 13. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules does not dictate who the vice president must consult when making CGS appointments; and

Section 14. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules does not stipulate how often committee statements of purpose should be revised; and finally,

Section 15. Whereas the current version of the CGS Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules does not have a process for removing committee chairs from their positions;

Section 16. Therefore be it resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to ensure there are exceptions made in the delegate election process for departments which have less than 10 enrolled members;

Section 17. Therefore be it further resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to ensure summer meetings will be held virtually;

Section 18. Therefore be it further resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to dictate that the VP may only serve as president pro tempore until the Council is able to elect a new president;

Section 19. Therefore be it resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to ensure the Chief of Staff, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Secretary are only getting instructions from one body within CGS instead of three bodies who may have conflicting information due to their roles;

Section 20. Therefore be it resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to remove the requirement of the Council's advisor assisting the Vice President in finding faculty representation for the Edward F. Hayes Forum, as they do not have access to do so;

Section 21. Therefore be it further resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to define and outline the differences of Regular, Special, and Executive meetings to better make use of these meetings;

Section 22. Therefore be it resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to ensure the rules of virtual etiquette are followed by appointing the Parliamentarian and Vice President to do so, and laying out who should do so if they are not available;

Section 23. Therefore be it further resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to dictate that the President should discuss guest speakers with Executive committee without approval to ensure as many guest speakers as possible can attend meetings;

Section 24. Therefore be it further resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to ensure CGS members' safety regarding their vote by including only total vote counts on all legislation, with the exception of executive sessions, in which all voting will not be recorded or publicly distributed;

Section 25. Therefore be it resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to ensure the Vice President is appointing senators to their academic areas instead of the entire executive committee;

Section 26. Therefore be it resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to ensure the Elections Chair is making tie-breaking votes during Senator elections instead of the President;

Section 27. Therefore be it further resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to dictate that the vice president must consult relevant members when making CGS appointments;

Section 28. Therefore be it resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to ensure committee statements of purpose are updated every two years;

Section 29. Therefore be it resolved that as of today, CGS is amending the Combined Bylaws & Standing Rules with the proposed changes attached in Appendices B and C in order to ensure there is a process for removing committee chairs who violate governing documents and/or fail to fulfill their responsibilities via a fair voting process involving the executive committee who voted them into their position and detailing how the chair in question will be notified of their removal;

Section 30. And therefore be it finally resolved that the changes contained within this act shall be effective immediately after an affirmative majority vote of two-thirds of voting members at a regular meeting of CGS in accordance with *Article 12 of the CGS Constitution*.

Date of Vote: November 7th, 2025

Yay Votes: 50

Nay Votes: 0

Abstentions: 1

Approved: Yes/No

S Durso

Sabrina Durso.19, CGS President

