

ACT 1314-SP-014

An Act Establishing a Code of Ethics

Author: Governmental Relations Committee

Sponsor: The Executive Committee

Section 1. The purpose of this act shall be to amend the Constitution of The Council of Graduate Students (CGS) to include a Code of Ethics

Section 2. Whereas, a Code of Ethics is necessary to maintain professional standards year to year and to give direction to both the Executive Committee and the Organizations and Elections Committees

Section 6. Therefore, be it resolved that The Council of Graduate Students include a new Article XIII to read as follows:

Article XIII - Code of Ethics and Values

(This code is based on the work of the Santa Clara University's Associated Student Government and the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics)

Preamble

The Council of Graduate Students of Ohio State University (CGS), hereinafter referred to as CGS and the Organization, is the official body representing graduate students' diverse issues, concerns, and needs at Ohio State University. We involve students in a productive partnership in governance of the University, promote the internal welfare and unity of the student community, further the goals of our University, and respond to the challenges of our society. To these ends, CGS has adopted this Code of Ethics and Values (hereinafter referred to as our Code) to (1) live out the mission espoused in our Constitution; (2) and establish basic standards of ethical behavior for personal and professional life. A CGS representative is defined as any member of CGS acting in any capacity for the organization, including, but not limited to: Officer, Committee Chair, Committee Member, Senator, Delegate, and so on. Every CGS representative is a signatory to the Code, which symbolizes a united pledge to abide by the Code's spirit and principles. The ten values enumerated in this Code represent ten equally-significant guiding ideals of the Organization, and delegates hold themselves and each other accountable for adherence.

Behavioral Standards and Values

1. As a CGS Representative, I value *Honesty*.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I express my genuine opinion on issues even if my view is unpopular.
- b. I only make promises that I genuinely believe I can keep.
- c. I disclose my affiliations with any organization or with any friends or groups that have substantial business with CGS.
- d. I abstain or recuse myself from the decision-making process in all situations when I believe that I cannot exercise impartial judgment.

2. As a CGS Representative, I value *Fairness*.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I seek out diverse ideas/opinions and reserve judgment until I have all of the relevant information.
- b. I treat all viewpoints with respect, even if I do not personally agree with them.
- c. I only take credit for work that I have done and acknowledge everyone who assists me in accomplishing tasks.
- d. I observe the established procedures detailed in the Constitution and Bylaws and demonstrate transparency in my decision-making process.

3. As a CGS Representative, I value *Flexibility*.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I am willing to re-evaluate a prior decision in light of unforeseen circumstances in order to uphold the fundamental mission of CGS.
- b. I adapt my communication style to the situation, and to accommodate the concerns of persons involved.

4. As a CGS Representative, I value *Responsibility*.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I seek to maintain personal integrity and the integrity of the organization.
- b. I can clearly articulate how my decision will advance the Organization's core values.
- c. I use CGS materials and resources solely for CGS-related activities.
- d. I take ownership for the decisions I make or fail to make, the actions I take or fail to take, and the consequences that result.
- e. I protect confidential information that has been entrusted to me.

5. As a CGS Representative, I value *Communication*.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I clearly convey messages and relay necessary information to fellow delegates as soon as possible.
- b. I ask clarifying questions if I disagree or do not understand.
- c. I actively seek feedback from a diverse range of students and promote the mission and goals of the Organization.
- d. I only act on behalf of CGS or OSU when I am authorized specifically to do so.

6. As a CGS Representative, I value *Responsiveness*.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I am available to all students and fellow delegates and keep them informed on CGS projects and events.
- b. I am ready to respond in a direct and respectful manner to issues that implicate the well-being, justice, and unity of our community.

7. As a CGS Representative, I value *Cooperation*.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I seek to work with others and divide responsibilities on tasks.
- b. I encourage new ideas and share all relevant information with others.

- c. I strive to reach a consensus that best serves the OSU community.

8. As a CGS Representative, I value *Commitment*.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I continue to pursue worthy goals, regardless of their difficulty.
- b. I have a clear set of objectives, a general time-frame for accomplishment, and am willing to see difficult projects through to their completion.
- c. I make every effort to recommend potential services when I am unable to fulfill a request.

9. As a CGS Representative, I value *Professionalism*.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I prepare for meetings by reading the necessary materials and arriving on-time.
- b. I make guests at meetings feel welcome, and devote my full attention to their presentations.
- c. I speak respectfully, without profanity or sarcasm.
- d. I approach directly those persons with whom I have a conflict or disagreement.

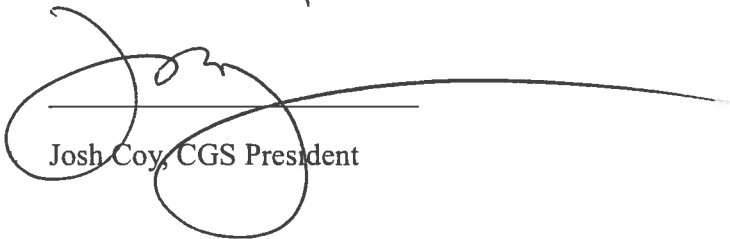
10. As a CGS Representative, I value *Service*.

In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I make a concerted effort to assist my peers in any capacity.
- b. I focus on the needs of the greater student body, with consideration for my own position as a student within that body.
- c. I understand my role as a CGS Representative as service to the values articulated in our Constitution.

Section 7. Further, be it resolved, the additions contained within this act, shall be effective immediately and the Constitution will be updated to reflect such a change.

Date Approved: 4/18/14



Josh Coy, CGS President

