

Constitution of ASCIE: Association of graduate Students in Computer and Information science and Engineering
June 2006

Article I: Name

The name of the organization is ASCIE: Association of graduate Students in Computer and Information science and Engineering.

Article II: Relation to University

The organization is affiliated with the Department of Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE).

Article III: Purpose and Goals

The purpose of this organization is to provide a forum for the expression of views and interests of CISE graduate students, to resolve relevant issues of CISE graduate students and to foster interaction among graduate students, faculty and alumni in the department. These goals shall be achieved by organizing new student orientations, regular meetings, academic and social activities. This organization shall be not for profit or non-commercial in nature.

Article IV Membership:

Full membership shall be limited to registered students of the University of Florida. To obtain voting privileges a member must be a graduate student at the CISE department and have attended at least two meetings during a semester. Members can vote at the second required meeting. For example, if a student is attending his/her second meeting of that semester, and a vote occurs on that meeting, the member may vote. Faculty, staff, and the spouses of members may be associate members. Associate members may not hold office or vote on matters concerning this organization. Members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution or harassment.

Article V: Concerning Discrimination

This organization, including all of its members, will not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

Article VI Finance:

There are no membership dues.

Article VII Officers:

1. The officers shall be - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Benton Engineering Council Representative.
2. Roles of the officers:
 - The President will preside over meetings, organize events and act as the official representative of the organization.
 - The Vice President is responsible for dissemination of information through announcements and flyers, assisting the President in the organization of events, and presiding over meetings in the absence of the President.
 - The Secretary shall take and distribute the minutes of the meetings, and keep track of member attendance for determining voting privileges.
 - The Benton Engineering Council (BEC) Representative is responsible for attending bi-weekly meetings, ensuring that the CISE graduate students learn of the events and issues confronting the BEC (through discussion in ASCIE meetings), and fulfilling the other requirements stated in the BEC Constitution and By-Laws.
 - The Graduate Student Council (GSC) Representative will be elected during the general elections. The GSC Representative should be allocated time to speak in the general body meetings so that he/she may consult the CISE graduate students before presenting issues in the GSC meeting.

- The Treasurer is responsible for handling funds, whether collected or distributed for formal or informal events, as well as, maintaining accurate records of all financial transactions.
 - The Historian is responsible for documenting events/meetings through pictures, and maintaining the organization's website, and enabling easy access to archived information.
3. Nominations for office shall be open in the meeting preceding the election meeting and shall remain open until the start of the elections. Any member of the organization must be able to make nominations
 4. The impeachment of an officer can only occur when the members of the organization feel that the officer is not fulfilling their duties. Any voting member may impeach an officer and the officer shall be removed with a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at the meeting.
 5. If both the President and Vice President are unavailable for a meeting, that meeting will be rescheduled.

Article VIII Faculty Advisor:

1. The faculty shall notify the president (by e-mail) before the elections if they are interested in the position. The members shall choose the advisor from the interested candidates by a simple majority vote. The organization may re-nominate the advisor for another year, or may choose a new advisor. In the case of the position being declared vacant for any reason, interested candidates shall notify the president and the members shall hold a special election to fill the vacancy. The new faculty advisor shall serve until the next general election and may be re-elected.
2. The Faculty Advisor will support the members in fulfilling the purpose of the organization, be a liaison between the organization and the department, and represent the organization to the community and the University of Florida as needed. The Faculty Advisor will serve for one year from the current general election and may be re-elected, unless the organization declares the position to be vacant with a 2/3 vote at a meeting.

Article IX Elections:

1. Elections of new officers will take place at the end of the Spring term. Elected officers hold office until the next general elections of officers or until one year, whichever is earlier.
2. Any full organization member can be nominated for any office.
3. Members who are running for office must be nominated by any member or themselves. Nominations shall open on the meeting prior to the election and shall close 1 week from the election meeting. A nomination must include a prioritized list of the positions a candidate is interested in running for.
4. Candidates will have two (2) minutes to address the membership in the election meeting. The election will be held in the order mentioned in Article VII, point 1. A candidate who does not win the election for a particular position may run for the subsequent positions, if so indicated during his/her nomination.
5. Officers must be elected by a simple majority. Voting shall be done by a secret ballot.
6. Vacancy replacements: If a position becomes vacant, a special election will be held to determine the replacement officer. If an officer decides to step down from office, a one week notice needs to be given to the President or the Vice President. The special election will be announced in the next meeting and will be held a week after the announcement. Vacancy replacements shall serve until the next general election and may run for the same office. If the President steps down, the Vice President will assume the role of the President and the Vice President's position will be declared vacant. This position shall be filled in accordance with this statute.
7. In case of a tie, the presiding officer casts the deciding vote.

Article X Committees:

Committees may be formed at any time by the President or by a majority vote of the full members according to the needs of this organization. Each committee will consist of volunteers. The volunteers shall independently nominate and elect someone to serve as chairperson for that committee. The chairperson shall serve until the project for which the committee was formed is completed, or until the committee chooses to select another chairperson. It is the responsibility of the chairperson to report, to the rest of the organization, the progress of the committee at every organizational meeting.

Article XI Authority:

This organization shall conform to the regulations prescribed by the Student Guide and other laws and rules governing the University of Florida and its students. Hazing is, by all means, prohibited and not condoned by this organization. Any procedures not specified in this constitution should be assumed to follow Robert's Rules of Order.

Article XII Amendments:

Amendments to this Constitution may be suggested by any member of this organization. The amendments must be submitted in writing to the officers and shall be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting of the organization. The amendment must be made available to the members one week before the meeting where the amendment will be voted on. The author(s) of the amendment shall meet with the officers to discuss the presentation of the amendment to the membership. To protect the anonymity of the author(s), they may choose to let the officers present the amendment. After the amendment has been presented, there shall be a period of questions, and debate. Members can decide by a simple majority if they are ready to vote on the amendment. Amendments shall be adopted upon a simple majority vote on two separate meetings.