

# Constitution of the Gwíðəq Student Union

Effective June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

## **Preamble**

We, the students of The Evergreen State College, establish the Gwíðəq Student Union as the representative body for the students. In order to promote an equitable and safe learning environment, to contribute to the overall welfare of the student body, and to ensure that students remain the top priority of the college's faculty, staff, and administration, we hereby establish this constitution by the authority given to us by the Board of Trustees of The Evergreen State College.

## **Article 1: Name**

This union will be known as the Gwíðəq Student Union of The Evergreen State College, or the Geoduck Student Union, hereinafter called the GSU.

## **Article 2: Membership**

All enrolled students of The Evergreen State College are members of this union.

## **Article 3: Powers and Authorities**

### Section 1:

The GSU is recognized by the Board of Trustees of The Evergreen State College as the college's official body responsible for representing and advocating for all students of the college to various bodies. These bodies include college faculty, staff, and administration, legislators of the State of Washington, communities of which the college is a part of, and student bodies across colleges and universities across the nation.

### Section 2:

The GSU may employ student staff in a manner consistent with College policy and procedure.

## **Article 4: Governing structure**

The GSU governing structure shall be outlined in the bylaws.

## **Article 5: Elections**

The GSU governing structure shall be outlined in the bylaws.

## **Article 6: Vacancies**

Procedures addressing vacancies shall be outlined in the bylaws.

## **Article 7: Removal**

A member of the GSU Assembly may be removed by a 2/3 majority vote as outlined in the GSU bylaws, unless otherwise specified in GSU bylaws.

## **Article 8: Finances**

The GSU shall be primarily supported with revenue generated from the GSU fee that students attending The Evergreen State College pay. The GSU fee is a voluntary student fee, as defined and governed per RCW 28B.15.610. Changes or adjustments to the GSU fee shall be made per RCW 28.15.610.

## **Article 9: Referendum Items**

Section 1:

The GSU referendum allows for students to vote directly and express their position on proposals brought forth by members of The Evergreen State College community. Referendum items can include student fees, amendments to the GSU Constitution, advisory votes about college and state policy, among others. The process through which proposals can be added to the referendum shall be outlined in the GSU Bylaws.

Section 2:

The minimum voter participation required for referendum items is 10%. Certain types of items may require higher voter participation, as defined in the GSU Bylaws.

**Article 10: Bylaws**

The GSU has the authority to adopt and amend the its bylaws by a majority vote of that body, unless a higher threshold is specified.

**Article 11: Extraordinary Circumstances**

Section 1:

During an extraordinary event or circumstance beyond the control of the union, the GSU may temporarily suspend specific requirements outlined in its governing documents with a 2/3 majority vote and advisor support. Proposals to suspend should only be made if (1) the requirement is significantly difficult/burdensome for the union to execute due to the extraordinary circumstance or (2) the section otherwise unreasonably hinders the GSU from acting in the best interest of the student body.

The GSU may not suspend any part of the GSU's governing documents which create a conflict with college policy and procedure, or state or federal law.

Section 2:

If the extraordinary circumstance prevents the union from achieving quorum, the body may take temporary measures to suspend requirements with advisor support. These measures must be voted on at the soonest meeting that achieves quorum