

## Clemson Grand Challenge Scholar Program Constitution

### **Article I            The Name of the Organization**

National Academy of Engineering Grand Challenge Scholars—Clemson Chapter

From here, abbreviated as GCS (Grand Challenge Scholars).

### **Article II            Affiliation with Other Groups**

Open to partnerships with other student groups, CIs, research groups, and other contacts inside and outside the Clemson Community but no formal affiliation with other groups is necessary or desired.

### **Article III           Purpose, Aims, Functions of the Organization**

Engineers have an obligation to continually advance the quality of human life by changing the world and the systems within it. Threats to our planet require the reversal of environmental degradation and the development of new energy sources. Threats to our personal and societal health require more effective and readily available treatments. Threats from manmade and natural disasters require new methods of protection and prevention. Defusing these threats will certainly require engineers trained to solve technical problems, but it will also require engineers who can shape public policy, introduce new innovations to the marketplace, and draw from and contribute to social science and the humanities. The Grand Challenge Scholar Program at Clemson University is designed to help students prepare themselves to become these world changing engineers.

Grand Challenge Scholars will work with other Scholars, faculty mentors, and other University-affiliated members to develop and execute a personal plan tailored to solving one of the Grand Challenges for engineering in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Scholars will satisfy learning outcomes in each of the following five areas: research experience, interdisciplinary curriculum, entrepreneurship, global dimension, and service learning.

The purpose of this student organization is to provide the Clemson Grand Challenge Scholars with the tools and support necessary to meet these goals and complete the requirements put forth by the National Academy of Engineering. The organization will help members pay for potential Scholar efforts and plan events for the benefit of Scholars, future Scholars, and the entire Clemson community.

### **Article IV            Membership Requirements and Limitations**

## Section 1: Applicant requirements:

- 1) Applicants must have completed at least 24 institutional credits towards their degree and must have at least 24 credits remaining or a full year.
- 2) Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher

## Section 2: Application Process

The GCS application will be released to all students who meet the requirements early every Fall Semester with a deadline three weeks later. Applications may also be released in the Spring Semester if the maximum number of new students (Article IV, Section 3) has not been met yet.

The GCS application will consist of one essay and an intended plan of study roadmap. The essay will have a suggested length of 500 words. Example prompts include: “Why are you interested in being a Grand Challenge Scholar?” and “What would being a Grand Challenge Scholar mean to you?”

## Section 3: Application Selection

Applications will be initially reviewed by the faculty advisor and another faculty mentor, which will narrow down the applicant pool. The final decision will be made by the faculty advisor, faculty mentor, and a committee of officers and senior students, who collectively select the most qualified applicants according to demonstrated interest, essay strength, and roadmap credentials. If available, the Dean of the College of Engineering and Sciences will be asked to review the applications of the finalists prior to notification of acceptance.

With current resources, a maximum of 14 members can be added per school year over the course of the Fall and Spring semester. Only under special circumstances can more than 14 new members be added.

## Section 4: Current member requirements

In order to stay a member of GCS, every semester each student must:

- Attend the first and last meeting of the semester (unless special permission is given by the faculty advisor and president).
- Attend one general organizational meeting although there are no repercussions if there are less than three general meetings (besides the first and last meetings) held.

- Attend one community service event or collect 5 hours of another community service event as approved by the faculty advisor and president
- Complete the semesterly progress report (signed by the mentor, faculty advisor, and two peer Scholars)
- Update Website document at least once a semester
- Extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration before any member is deemed inactive.

If a student fails to meet these requirements, a warning email will be sent to them by the faculty advisor and/or president. If steps are not taken by the student by the end of the following semester, the student will be notified that they are no longer an active member. Inactive members may not apply for leadership positions, receive funding through GCS for their activities, or other similar perks. Inactive members can become active again when they complete all membership requirements in a given semester.

If there are circumstances (study abroad, co-op, etc.) which prevent a student from meeting the requirements of an active member, then the student may apply to become temporarily inactive. The student can become active again when the circumstances requiring inactivity have been resolved.

## **Article V                      Officers (Titles, Term of Office, How and when Elected)**

### Section 1: Officer positions:

President -- In addition to typical President responsibilities, is also charged with maintaining and expanding collaborative opportunities for the Scholars.

Vice-President/Outreach Chair -- Takes point on new member recruitment/acceptance

Vice President/Service Chair -- Takes point on organizing volunteer opportunities and other shared experiences for Scholars.

Treasurer -- All funding, update documents on orgsync, identify and pursue funding opportunities from external and internal sources

Secretary -- Logistics, meeting scheduling/location, meeting minutes/attendance

### Section 2: Officer Requirements

In order to serve as a GCS officer, students must have served as an active member of GCS the semester prior to their election. Students must be nominated to run for election (self-nomination allowed).

### Section 3: Officer Term Length

The maximum term length for an officer is one year, however he or she can decide to abdicate during any semester (but must make the decision before the final meeting of the semester to allow for reelection). Students who leave to study abroad, co-op, or graduate must step down. Impeachment of an officer can occur if there is unanimous agreement among all other officers and the faculty advisor.

#### Section 4: Election Process

Elections will be held every semester during the final meeting if an officer position is opening up. For each position, each candidate is allowed time to speak about their qualifications or interest in the position. Voting will be done in class via ballot and counted that day. Newly elected officers begin their role the day after elections although exiting officers do not officially exit their role until the semester is officially over. This overlap time gives the new officer time to understand the position better.

#### Section 5: Officer Power

The officers will ensure that:

- Each Grand Challenge Scholar is given the space and opportunity to present ideas for the advancement of the organization and its members. In doing so, officers will also ensure that the organization's members are willing and able to collaborate and listen to each other's ideas as objectively as possible.
- The organization maintains a steady pace in accomplishing its goals and activities.
- The requirements and conditions for being a Grand Challenge Scholar are followed by all members.
- All members are informed of available opportunities pertaining to each members area of focus. Examples include internship, research, service, and leadership opportunities that might benefit the members of the program.
- Each meeting is run smoothly and its purposes are followed.

Additionally, all decisions made by the officers must be decided by at least a 4-1 vote. The president has veto power, although his veto can be overruled by the faculty advisor or by a class referendum (Article IX). In most cases, GCS officers will solicit votes from all Scholars to help inform their decisions.

### **Article VI            Advisor (Term of Service, How Selected)**

#### Section 1: Term of Service:

Faculty advisors serve until they choose to abdicate their position or leave Clemson University.

## Section 2: Selection

All Grand Challenge Scholars are allowed to search for and recommend potential Faculty advisors. However, officers will actively search for Faculty advisors, and final selection must be unanimous by all officers.

## **Article VII            Meetings (Frequency, Special Meetings, and Who Calls Them)**

### Section 1: Meeting frequency and purpose

There are three types of meetings for GCS:

- 1) **Mandatory meetings:** One meeting following the arrival of new members and one meeting the last week before exams (exact dates are flexible). These are mandatory for all Grand Challenge Scholars unless formal permission is granted by the faculty advisor and/or president. The purpose of these gatherings is to acclimate new members, plan the semester (or next semester), and elect officers (if applicable).
- 2) **Organizational meetings:** As planned by the officers during the course of the election. The purpose of these meetings could include opportunities to hear guest speakers from academia or industry. The number of this type of meeting will vary by semester. Organizational meetings will be made as far in advance as possible to ensure that the most students are able to attend. Students must give notice in advance if unable to attend.
- 3) **Community service events:** Volunteer opportunities in the Clemson community as arranged by GCS. The purpose of this meeting is to tangibly give back to the University by serving an unmet need. This could include anything from building a ReWiGo ramp to a Habitat for Humanity build to tutoring at a local High School to speaking to a Clemson General Engineering class.

Students are highly encouraged to participate in all organizational meetings and community service events. Special permission can be granted (in advance) to students with schedule conflicts.

### Section 2: Definition of an official meeting

In order to qualify as an official meeting, the Secretary must provide the date and time to the students with at least one week notice but preferably two or three weeks notice. In addition, the meeting must be within 15 miles of Clemson University campus and fit into one of the categories listed above.

## **Article VIII            Quorum (Number of Members Required to Transact Business)**

### Section 1: Quorum for Official Meeting

In order to qualify as an official GCS meeting, at least 50% of current members must be in attendance OR at least 14 members must be in attendance. Organizational and/or community service meetings that do not meet this number will not qualify as a meeting when tallied at the end of the semester. Mandatory meetings require all members to attend; if less than 75% of Scholars are able to attend then the mandatory meeting must be rescheduled.

### Section 2: Number of members required to elect officers

At least 75% of members must be present at any meeting during which an election is held. If not, the election is postponed or presented online (as determined by the current President and agreed on by all candidates unanimously).

## **Article IX                Referendum and Recall (Procedures and Handling)**

### Section 1: Officer Impeachment Referendum

Members may impeach an officer if over 75% of active members sign a petition requesting the officer to step down. The petition signatures must all be gathered in one academic semester and be presented to the faculty advisor prior to elections that same semester.

### Section 2: General referendum

Members may propose and pass a new law or requirement by speaking to an officer. The officer can then propose the idea to the rest of the leadership. If this is not a viable route, members may create a petition. If 75% of members sign the petition, then the idea will be passed. However, this process must be completed in one academic semester. The petition resets the following semester.

## **Article X            Amendments (Means of Proposal, Notice Required, Voting Requirements)**

### Section 1: Officer Amendment Proposal

Any officer can propose an amendment to this document at any time. The regular Officer decision-making process is applied here where an officer vote of 4-1 is required to pass the amendment.

### Section 2: General Member Amendment Proposal

Follow procedure for general referendum in Article IX, section 2.

## **Article XI            Ratification (Requirements for Adopting This Constitution)**

### Section 1: Constitution ratification

This constitution must be ratified by a majority of the members of the inaugural GCS class of Fall 2014 in addition to the faculty advisor.

### Section 2: New Constitution

If an entirely new constitution is required, the officers and faculty advisor must draft a proposal and then present it to all members. A majority of the organization is needed to ratify this constitution in addition to an unanimous vote by the officers. All members must be given the opportunity to read and/or amend the new constitution before its ratification.