

CONSTITUTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

27 January 2009

ARTICLE I: NAME

The official name of this organization is the **Agricultural Economics Graduate Student Association** (AEGSA).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to serve as a forum for the discussion of graduate student affairs and concerns in the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and to serve as a liaison to the faculty of the department and to the university administrative system. This organization will seek to represent fully and accurately the collective opinions and concerns of the graduate student in the Department of Agricultural Economics. The AEGSA will also provide information to incoming graduate students and visiting potential graduate students on request and will provide information and guidance to current graduate students on navigating the university administrative system.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Selection. All Agricultural Economics graduate students are full members of the AEGSA. Additional members shall be selected by methods adopted by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Non-Discrimination. AEGSA shall not discriminate in the selection of members or appointments when discrimination is defined as denying individuals membership or appointment on the basis of gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veterans status, national or ethnic origin, gender identity or expression, place of residence, or sexual orientation.

Section 3. Non-student participation. A student organization shall consist of at least five currently enrolled student members. Non-students will be allowed to participate in any student organization activity, but will not be a voting member, or an elected or appointed officer of said organization. A non-student is someone who is not currently enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall or spring semester.

Section 4. Dues. The Executive Committee or members may prescribe dues with a simple majority vote of a quorum as defined in Article 5, section 4.

Section 5. Revokation. Membership may be revoked in accordance with the procedures in the

parliamentary authority or adopted by the Executive Committee. Membership will be revoked by the organization under the following conditions:

- a. Withdrawal from the Department of Agricultural Economics graduate program or from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- b. Completion of degree requirements and graduation from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- c. Academic misconduct, or other actions classified as misconduct in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Code of Conduct.

Section 6. Resignation. Members may resign from AEGSA by providing the Executive Committee with written notice.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers of the organization shall be president; vice-president/student representative/ and secretary/treasurer.

Section 2. Powers and duties of the officers shall be as follows:

- a. The President of the AEGSA will organize, schedule, and lead meetings of the organization. The President will have the power to set an agenda for the meeting and to lead discussion of issues such that the agenda will be accomplished. The President will be responsible for advertising the AEGSA to faculty, alumni, and other organizations pursuant to the recognition of the AEGSA as a viable student organization and a suitable applicant for funding, meeting space, etc., in fulfillment of the purpose of the AEGSA.
- b. The Vice-President of the AEGSA will act as Student Representative and liaison to the faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics and to the university administrative system. The Vice President will have the power to suggest items for meeting agenda and to act in the place of the President in the absence of the President.
- c. The Secretary/Treasurer will be responsible for administering funds raised by AEGSA efforts, including opening and maintaining a bank account or other account for the Association, as required by ASUN regulations. The Secretary/Treasurer will take notes during meetings and generate written meeting minutes for distribution to organization members who are absent from a meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer will have the power to suggest items for meeting agenda and to act in the place of President in the absence of other officers.

Section 3. Election of Officers

a. To qualify for officership, one must be a full member of the AEGSA and have been enrolled in the Department of Agricultural Economics graduate program for at least one semester prior to being nominated for officership.

b. Nominations will be by voice, with at least one member seconding the nomination. If no member seconds the nomination, the nomination will be null. Nominees have the right to reject their nomination by another person, or to withdraw their nomination at any time before voting takes place.

c. Election will be by written secret ballot, with all votes being tallied by the current Secretary/Treasurer. The nominee for each office having the most votes will be considered the elected officer for that position.

d. The term of office for each elected position shall be one academic year, from Fall semester to Fall semester. Elections for the next year's officers should be held at the end of each spring semester. No term limits are herein imposed.

Section 4. Should vacancies occur before the completion of a term of office, they will be filled by special election, with the procedures for nomination and election being the same as those followed each spring semester for the election of officers (Article IV, Section 3).

Section 5. Removal from Office. An officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote by those present and voting, provided that the Secretary/Treasurer notify the membership at least three days before the vote. Impeachment proceedings will be brought against an officer for the following reasons:

a. Unauthorized appropriation of or misuse of AEGSA funds for purposes not approved by the officers or members of the organization.

b. Repeated failure to perform the duties of officership and failure to improve performance of duties if complaints are registered against the officer.

c. Engagement in misconduct as outlined in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Code of Conduct, which results in disciplinary action by the Department of Agricultural Economics or the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings shall be at the call of the Executive Committee, provided notice is given to the membership. The first meeting of the academic year shall be at the call of the president, provided one week's notice is given to the membership. Electronic communications may be used as notice.

Section 2. Annual Meetings. The last regular meeting of the calendar year shall be the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the president or the Executive Committee and shall be called at the written request of five members. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in case of emergency, at least three days' notice shall be given.

Section 4. Quorum. Fifty percent of members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition. The officers shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Regular meetings. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be at the call of the president, provided notice is given to the committee. Special meetings of the Executive Committee shall be at the call of the president and shall be called at the written request of one member of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Quorum. Two members of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Such Committees, standing or special, shall be created as AEGSA or the Executive Committee shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of AEGSA. The President shall appoint members of all committees. The Vice President shall ex officio a member of all committees.

ARTICLE VIII: ADVISORS

AEGSA shall have one Primary Advisor, which must be a permanent Academic/Administrative or Managerial/Professional faculty/staff member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and may have any number of secondary advisors, which may be permanent Academic/Administrative, Managerial/Professional, or Office/Service staff members or Graduate Assistants of the University of Nebraska. Only the Primary Advisory may approve expenditures of funds.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCE

Organizational monies will be handled by Student Organizational Financial Services, regardless of source. No part of the earnings of AEGSA shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, and trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered. AEGSA shall not engage in any activities not permitted to an organization exempt from federal income tax

under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Laws).

ARTICLE X: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern AEGSA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the constitution and any special rules of order AEGSA may adopt.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting. All amendments to this constitution must be approved by ASUN.

ARTICLE XII: EFFECTIVE DATE

This constitution shall go into effect January 23, 2009