

**Graduate Experience in Museum Studies (GEMS)  
Constitution  
4/23/2009**

**Article I-Name**

The name of this organization shall be: Graduate Experience in Museum Studies (GEMS).

The organization is a student organization at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities

**Article II-Objectives**

The objective of the organization shall be:

- a. To promote interest in the education of museums as pertaining to art, anthropology, art history and natural history, aquariums, arboreta, art centers, botanical gardens, children's museums, historic sites, nature centers, planetariums, science and technology centers, and zoos.
- b. To provide fellowship among students and faculty.
- c. To present students needs and wants in regard to museum education and pursuing a career in museums.
- d. To provide a forum for the presentation of innovative ideas to the benefit of the WIU-QC community.

**Article III-Membership**

1. Any student at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities is eligible to be an active member and may hold office.
2. Non-students may act as associate members, but may not vote or hold office.

**Article IV-Officers**

1. Election of Officers
  - a. The officers of this organization will be president, vice president, records officer, and treasurer.
  - b. Officers will be elected by written ballot, with each active member casting a vote. A majority of the votes cast will constitute election.
  - c. Election terms
    - i. President and vice president will be elected at the end of fall semester with the term taking immediate effect.
    - ii. Records officer and treasurer will be elected at the beginning of fall semester with the term taking immediate effect.
    - iii. Senator will be elected at the beginning of fall semester with the term taking immediate effect.
  - d. Officers will assume office for the period of one year.
2. Recall of Officers
  - a. Officers are subject to recall for malfeasance in office.

- b. Recall procedures will be initiated at the request of five active members.
- c. A hearing will be conducted at a regular meeting for the presentation of evidence from all concerned parties.
- d. A majority of active members voting in a recall at the end of the hearing is necessary to remove any office.

### **Article V-Voting**

- 1. This constitution and by-laws may be amended by a 2/3-majority vote of those voting, a quorum being present.
- 2. Voting on amendments must be conducted after a minimum of two weeks.

### **Article VI-Not-For-Profit Statement**

This is a Not-For-Profit organization

### **Article VII-Statement of Non-Discrimination**

This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of age, color, ethnicity, gender, nation origin, disability or handicap, race, religion, sexual orientation, Vietnam Era veteran status. This policy will include, but is not limited to recruiting, membership, organization activities or opportunities to hold office.

(As exempted by Federal Law, religious organizations may omit "sexual orientation" if it can be proved to the Department of Student Services/Student Activities that inclusion of such is in conflict with the doctrine of their religion.)

### **Article VIII-Financial Obligation**

A majority of voting members of this organization may determine reasonable dues and fees assessed to each member at the beginning of each semester.

A specific number of members, designated by this organization shall be responsible for payment in full of all debts accumulated by the organization not covered by funds on deposit.

### **Article IX-Statement of Non-Hazing**

This organization will not conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student of person attending this institution.

## **Article X-Statement of Compliance with WIU-QC Regulations**

This organization shall comply with all WIU-QC policies and regulations and local, state, and federal laws.

### **Amendments**

1c. Election of officers will take place each semester as needed.

## **By-laws**

### **I. Cabinet**

- A. President
  1. Coordinates all activities of the organization.
  2. Liaison to WIU-QC community.
  3. Official representative of organization.
  4. Calls regular and special meetings.
  5. Presides at meetings.
  6. Prepares agenda for meetings.
- B. Vice President
  1. Assumes duties of president, when necessary.
  2. Assists president in coordinating activities.
- C. Records Office
  1. Maintains accurate and current information of the organization and membership.
  2. Assists president and vice president to coordinate organization.
  3. Keeps accurate minutes of each meeting and forwards copies to other officers.
  4. Keeps attendance records for meetings.
- D. Treasurer
  1. Liaison to WIU-QC for the purpose of organizational funding.
  2. Maintains accurate and current account of all organizational funds.
  3. Responsible for dispensing of funds in accordance with goals and programs established by organization.
- E. Senator
  1. Attend weekly Student Government Association (SGA) meetings.
  2. Represent the interest of G.E.M.S. at the meetings.
  3. Report pertinent information discussed at SGA meetings to the G.E.M.S. body at whole.

### **II. Meetings**

Meetings will be open to all the organization's active and associate members, faculty, and student program representatives. A notice of at least two weeks will be given prior to all meetings. The meetings are to be organized and controlled by officers and active members.