Article I: Name and purpose

1. The name of the organization is the Graduate Linguistics Association, which may be abbreviated to GLA when context makes clear its meaning.

2. The purpose of the GLA is to care for the interests of graduate linguistics students, including, but not limited to:
   - assisting in funding for professional activities,
   - providing the membership with equipment to prepare food and hot beverages.

Article II: Membership

1. All graduate students in the Department of Linguistics are members of the club. The club also accepts all graduate students interested in linguistics and its subdisciplines.

2. Voting membership: all and only the graduate students in the Department of Linguistics who have paid their Student Activity Fee have voting privileges.

Article III: Organization

1. The officers of the club are elected for one-year terms by popular vote of the members at an annual election meeting. The officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Senator, Alternate Senator, Webmasters and Chief Excellence Officer. The office of Chief Excellence Officer may be left vacant if there is no suitable candidate. Each officer holds one position unless their second position is that of webmaster.

2. Senators and senate alternates are selected in accordance with GSA regulations.

3. All voting members are eligible to hold any one of the elected positions.

4. Eligible members are elected to office by ballot.

5. In order to be eligible for inclusion on the ballot, a candidate for office must:
   (i) have been nominated either by himself/herself or by a member other than himself/herself, and have had his/her nomination seconded by a member other than himself/herself,
   (ii) affirm that he/she wishes to be considered for candidacy.
6. The duties of the President are:
   (i) to organize and chair GLA meetings as is deemed necessary and convenient,
   (ii) to forward, in a tasteful and discriminating manner, such emails as are deemed necessary and proper, to the Linguistics graduate student listserv,
   (iii) to perform all other tasks deemed necessary and proper.

7. The duties of the Vice President are:
   (i) to act in the president’s stead whenever sickness, wounding, death, mental torment, or want of volition prevent the president from performing any necessary and proper presidential duties,
   (ii) to organize social events for the GLA,
   (iii) to mediate between department faculty members and the GLA.

8. The duties of the Treasurer are:
   (i) to keep detailed records on the club’s financial standing,
   (ii) to make periodic reports of a financial nature at club meetings,
   (iii) to establish clear and compelling documentation for all club matters subject to approval by higher organizations, lest any undesirable delays be introduced in enacting the club’s business,
   (iv) to offer advice, when requested, on prospective club financial decisions.

9. The duties of the Secretary are:
   (i) to take notes and keep minutes for meetings,
   (ii) to establish clear and compelling documentation for all club matters subject to approval by higher organizations, lest any undesirable delays be introduced in enacting the club’s business,
   (iii) maintain a written history of the club, including the names of the past presidents and a list of notable and/or notorious achievements by past members.

10. The duties of the Chief Excellence Officer are:
    (i) to carry out all actions deemed necessary and proper to promote excellence in the department,
    (ii) to uphold the dignity of the GLA on points of honor.
Article IV: Voting

1. The membership is to be consulted on all decisions concerning

   (i) the holding of office,
   (ii) expenditures by the club from funds other than the discretionary fund,
   (iii) the establishment of new partitions in the general fund,(iv) any other matters deemed necessary and proper.

2. Votes may only take place at GLA meetings held on campus, with the following exceptions:

   (i) votes may take place electronically outside of the Fall and Spring semesters, as defined by the UB Office of the Registrar.
   (ii) electronic voting is subject to regulation by suitable administrative rules written and amended from time to time by the club officers.

3. Votes may not be held unless

   (i) a duly constituted quorum is achieved, where
      (a) a duly constituted quorum consists of the physical presence of at least five persons or one tenth of club members, whichever is greater, at a GLA meeting. At least one person present must be an officer.
      (ii) the general substance of the matter to be dealt with by a vote has been communicated to the membership in writing at least 24 hours prior to the vote.

4. A matter subject to a vote shall be considered approved if a simple majority of a duly constituted quorum endorses it with an ‘aye’ vote.

Article V: Amendments to the constitution

1. This constitution may be amended at any GLA meeting by a duly constituted quorum with an ‘aye’ vote of three-quarters of voting members present at said meeting.

2. Any proposed amendments to the constitution must be announced on the agenda prior to the GLA meeting at which the amendment is to be discussed.

Article VI: Interpretation of the constitution

1. The officers of the club, may elect, from time to time, to establish administrative rules guiding the interpretation of this document.
2. Administrative rules are to be made available to the membership for inspection, and may be added or changed by unanimous consent of the officers of the organization at any time such as the officers deem convenient and proper.