**Constitution of**

“**Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español”**

*Established March 1, 2003*

*Amended April 2, 2006*

*Amended July 16, 2008*

*Amended April 24, 2013*

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the “Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español”. This organization will use the acronym OEGE in all publicity materials and correspondence. The website of the organization is to be located at <http://oege.weebly.com>.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The primary purpose of this organization is to promote the language and cultures of Spain and Latin American countries, and to represent the graduate students of the Spanish section of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Our goals are to provide a voice for the graduate students at faculty meetings and to inform the graduate students of department issues.

The organization will promote and provide a social outlet for graduate students interested in Spanish and Latin American cultures through academic and artistic events, including guest speakers on issues affecting Spain and Latin America. The organization will hold research presentations and discussion sessions and other similar educational events. The organization will also coordinate social events to build relationships within the Spanish and Portuguese graduate student community and the university at large.

This organization shall be not for profit or non-commercial in nature.

**ARTICLE III. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, the Organización de estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures.  Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

**ARTICLE IV. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act.

**ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida.  Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office.  All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

**ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS**

Section A: The elected officers of the Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) shall be a President (or primary contact) and Vice-President (also known as Treasurer or financial officer).

Part 1: The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and shall coordinate the work of the officers and committees, as well as act as the official representative of the organization. The remaining responsibilities will be shared by both officers, in a manner decided by them, and they will work in cooperation to carry out and coordinate all activities.

Part 2: The Vice-President shall serve as an aide to the President and shall perform the duties of the President in her/his absence or inability to serve.

Part 3: The Vice-President/Treasurer shall receive all monies of the Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE); shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; shall pay out local funds in accordance with the approved budget as authorized by the organization. The Vice-President/Treasurer shall present a financial statement when requested by the President or Vice President.

Section B: Any member of the organization may make nominations for officers. Solicitation of nominations will take place in the first week of March.

Part 1: Elections will take place the second week of March. All elections will be done through secret ballot to be turned into a departmental employee.

Section C: Officers will hold office from April 1st to April 1st of the next year. Although there are no term limits, it is expected that officers will change each year.

Section D: Any officer of the Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) may be removed from office or impeached through the following process:

Part 1: A written request by at least three voting members of the organization shall be submitted to the Faculty Advisor. Written notification shall be sent to the officer in question sking that officer meet with the Faculty Advisor and be prepared to respond to the removal request.

Part 2: Impeachment can only occur when a two thirds majority vote of members present is necessary to remove the officer.

Part 3: In the event of the removal of an officer, a special provision may be granted to the remaining officers to appoint an interim replacement until an election may be held.

Section E: Committees may be formed at any time, according to the needs of this organization.

Part 1: Each committee will consist of volunteers. The volunteers shall

independently nominate and elect someone to serve as chairperson for that committee.

Part 2: The chairperson shall serve until the project for which the committee was formed is completed. It is the responsibility of the chairperson to report to the rest of the organization the progress of the committee.

Part 3: The committee which is specific to the planning of the Coloquio, an annual academic event sponsored by the OEGE, is free to make plans and organize details of the Coloquio as desired, with the exception of the following items:

a. The Coloquio must always take place in the Spring (as per majority vote, 2008) semester in order to ensure a positive and consistent response from participating students and institutions. In the event of an extreme case in which the Coloquio does not seem to fit in said semester, the committee must conduct a vote before changing the date. A majority vote is necessary to change the date of the Coloquio.

b. The website of the Coloquio must always remain at <http://oege.weebly.com>, and must be updated and maintained only by the representatives of the OEGE.

c. In conjunction with the representatives of the OEGE, the committee must provide consistent and timely updates regarding the progress of planning to the student body.

d. The representatives of the OEGE must always be included in planning meetings, and must always maintain a supervisory role in the planning process.

**ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS**

Elections of new officers will take place annually in late March, by means of a secret ballot, and officers must be elected by a simple majority vote. Any club member that has attended at least two meetings can be nominated for any office. Nominations will be requested from club members

and nominees will then have 24 hours in which to accept or reject their nomination; a non-response will be taken as a rejection of the nomination. If an officer decides to step down from office at any time, another officer will fill the position, as decided by the members.

**ARTICLE VIII. FACULTY ADVISOR**

The office of Faculty Advisor is to be chosen by the officers and, when possible, will be filled by the coordinator of graduate studies. The choice for faculty advisor will be made by the incoming officers by the second week in April. The Faculty Advisor will serve as a resource person and provide advisory support for the officers and members of the organization. The Faculty Advisor will attend executive and general meetings; however, s/he may not vote in any matters concerning the Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE). S/he also support the club members in fulfilling the purpose of the club, be a resource, and represent the club to the community and the University of Florida as needed.  In the event that the faculty advisor is unable to continue in their position, officers may nominate a replacement at any time, to be confirmed by a majority vote of the members.

**ARTICLE IX. FINANCE**

The Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) will not require membership dues from its members. The Organización de Estudiantes Graduados de Español (OEGE) will also apply for Student Government funding.

**ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION**

In the event this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be donated to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

**ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution may be suggested by any member of this organization, and the proposed amendment(s) shall be subject to approval of the Center for Student Activities and Involvement. Amendments should be submitted to the President and will be considered at the next meeting; a simple majority is required for approval.