

**ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization is Geist, sometimes referred to as Geist Quest, sometimes abbreviated GC.

**ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION**

As outlined in the RSO Classification Policy, Geist is considered a University Sponsored Student Organization. As a USSO, this organization is considered an extension of the Hamilton Center and operates within the scope and function of it. As such, Geist is governed by and under the jurisdiction of internal University policies, standards, and business practices as well as gains access to exclusive university resources through our sponsoring University unit. University-sponsored student organizations are not eligible for Student Government funding.

**ARTICLE III. PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The purpose of Geist is to provide a space on campus for those with an interest in the intersection of philosophy, hermeneutics, poetry, philology, comparative religion, aesthetics, historiography, physics, and neuroscience. By prompting a high-level dialogue on these topics, we intend to foster the indomitable human spirit that brooks nothing in its quest to know the truth. Thus, we are called “Geist,” a German religious and philosophical term which means: Spirit.

**ARTICLE IV. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT & UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

Upon approval by the Department of Student Engagement, Geist shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Geist 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, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

Section A. Non-Discrimination

Geist 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. Discrimination on the basis of the protected classes described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policies) is prohibited.

Section B. Sexual Harassment

Geist agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment. Behaviors that could create a hostile environment include sexual harassment (which could include inappropriate sexual comments), sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and repeated instances of cyber abuse. Sexual harassment as described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policy) is prohibited.

Section C. Hazing

Geist agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization. Hazing as defined in the University of Florida Regulation 1.0081 (Prohibition of Hazing; Procedures and Penalties) and 4.040 (Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code) is prohibited. If found responsible for hazing, sanctions may be imposed against the organization, its leaders and/or members.

Section D. Responsibility to Report

The University of Florida identifies Responsible Employees and Campus Security Authorities to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of campus. If Geist becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, they are encouraged to report it immediately to staff in Student Engagement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, the University’s Title IX Coordinator, or to their Student Organization Advisor, who are identified as mandated reporters.

Section E. Officer Eligibility

Geist understands, acknowledges, and agrees to uphold and abide by the specific minimal requirements regarding officer eligibility as defined in the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy.

**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 are prohibited from holding membership, office or voting powers. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

**ARTICLE VI. BYLAWS FOR GEIST**

Geist may elect to maintain separate bylaws document to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements sent forth by local, state, and federal laws, the university of Florida’s regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Student Engagement constitution requirements. Amendments and changes may be made to the bylaws and shall be consistent with the Student Engagement approved constitution on file and student engagement’s constitution requirements. Should the organization transition leadership, all bylaws and guiding documents will be transitioned to new student organization leaders and/or advisor(s). Geist agrees to provide all unaltered by laws and guiding documents and/or clarify its procedures in writing to any University of Florida student, faculty, or staff upon request.

**ARTICLE VII. STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR**

Each registered student organization must have an eligible student organization advisor. The student organization advisor must be a full-time, salaried faculty or staff member not on extended leave for 4 consecutive weeks or longer during their advisor term. The advisor and Hamilton Center hold the responsibility to oversee the day-to-day functions and operations of Geist, including the management of its finances, the selection of its members, and ensuring the organization adheres to University and department policies.

The elected president of Geist elects an advisor at the beginning of every term. If the other two elected board members (Vice President and Treasurer) come to a unanimous agreement, then an invitation is sent to the elected advisor. If the nominated advisor accepts, then they are instated as club advisor for a term of one year. There is no limit on the number of terms that an advisor can be re-elected. If the present advisor is deemed unsatisfactory by the board, they can nominate a replacement to take effect in the following academic year through the reregistration process.

**ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS**

Registered student organizations are required to have a minimum of a President, Treasurer, and Vice President as elected officers. These officers must abide by the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy.

The elected officers of Geist shall be President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. At no time should one person hold more than one of these positions.

Additional officer titles such as Secretary may be appointed by a 2/3 majority of the three elected officer positions. All officers shall assume their official duties at the close of the last general body meeting of the academic year and shall serve for a term of one academic year and/or until their successors are elected/appointed.

Any officer of Geist may be removed from office through the following 2-step process:

1. A written request by at least three active members of the organization shall be submitted to the President, Vice President, or Treasurer. Written notification shall be sent to the officer in question asking that officer to be present at the next meeting and prepared to respond to the removal request. The officers will deliberate on the validity of the written request. A two thirds majority vote of the officers present (of the officers not in accusation) is necessary to remove any other officer.
2. 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. Or if it be an appointed position (such as Secretary) that has been removed, an interim replacement may be appointed by the remaining officers. Any member may nominate any other active member, including himself or herself. Nominations may also be made during the election meeting prior to closing of nominations. Voting will occur by secret ballot and a simple majority vote is required to elect an officer. If there are more than two candidates running and no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a run-off vote between the top two vote recipients at the next general meeting. A simple majority shall suffice to determine the winner.

**ARTICLE IX. ELECTIONS**

Officers shall be elected from the members by the members at the end of each academic year up until the final general body meeting of the Spring semester from a pool of nominated candidates. Any member is allowed to nominate a candidate, and a candidate receives approval upon receiving a simple majority vote from all members present at the election. The election can take place during any general body meeting of the Spring semester up until the final general body meeting. All members, including eboard, are allowed to vote, and a minimum of three members apart from the standing eboard are required to be in attendance for a vote to be held. There are term limits of one full academic year. Votes shall be written.

In the absence of clear direction on election, amendment, and /or voting procedures, Geist agrees to follow the guidance and instruction of Robert's Rules of Order for the election or amendment process.

**ARTICLE X. FINANCE**

As a University Sponsored Student Organization, Geist does not receive any funding or resources from Student Government, rather, this organization is eligible to be funded by the Hamilton Center.

Geist will not require membership dues; however, we may raise funds through the selling of t-shirts and/or similar fundraising activities for various operational expenses.

As a USSO, Geist will comply with UF Finance and Accounting policies on purchasing, funding and fundraising.

**ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION**

Upon dissolution, student organizations are prohibited from leaving their organizational assets to any individual or any other student organization. Rather, student organizations may designate a specific charity that will receive such organizational assets. At the time of dissolution, after all outstanding debts are paid, Geist will leave any assets and outstanding funds to the Alachua County Crisis Center.

**ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

Student Engagement has established a process through which constitutions may be amended, reviewed, and approved. Student organizations wishing to amend their constitutions must utilize their constitution on file listed on GatorConnect to make amendments and submit those changes to Student Engagement.

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a 2/3 majority of the officers at the beginning of any semester.

All amended constitutions must be submitted directly to Student Engagement for review and approval.