

# **Graduate Organization for Partnerships and Learning with Adolescents and Youths (GO PLAY)**

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I. INTRODUCTION**

#### **SECTION 1. Statement of Need**

Graduate students in psychology at Nova Southeastern University do not have an opportunity to work with children and adolescents in non-clinical settings. In this environment graduate students can gain an awareness and understanding of challenges facing different child, adolescent, and family populations as well as hands on experience with adolescents and youth in the community (i.e. at risk youth, children with medical conditions, developmental delays; ages birth to 19). The proposed organization will encourage and provide opportunities for NSU CPS students to participate in service-learning projects with this population. The goals of this organization include:

1. Creating and providing enjoyable and enriching experiences, which are memorable, exciting, fun, and empowering despite any challenges they may face, for adolescents and youth in the community.
2. Providing respite and resources for parents and guardians.
3. Disseminating up-to-date information and educating graduate students and the health professions community on the challenges facing adolescents and youth in the community as well as providing graduate students with opportunities for involvement in service-learning projects.
4. Partnering with community agencies that serve various adolescent and youth populations (e.g., at risk youth, children with medical illnesses, and children with developmental delays) to see how graduate students can help serve their needs.
5. Create interdisciplinary collaboration among students, faculty, and related professionals to promote service-learning with adolescents and youth in the community.

#### **SECTION 2. Statement of Purpose**

To provide opportunities for graduate students in psychology to advance their awareness, understanding, and experiences with adolescents and youth in the community, while providing enjoyable and enriching activities for children in the community as well as respite and resources for parents and guardians. These articles will remain consistent with the Policies and Procedures Handbook at Nova Southeastern University.

#### **SECTION 3. Limitations**

This association shall remain non-partisan in its form and function. GO PLAY may educate students on public policy or legislative issues that affect education and service-learning.

## **ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES**

### **SECTION 1.**

- A. *Create and provide enjoyable and enriching experiences for adolescents and youth in the community.*
  - 1. Allow adolescents and youth to have experiences that are memorable, exciting, fun, and empowering.
  - 2. Allow adolescents and youth to cope with the challenges they face and to just enjoy being kids.
  - 3. Provide adolescents and youth experiences to learn new skills through play.
- B. *Provide respite and resources for parents and guardians.*
  - 1. Allow parents to get needed time off by providing activities for their children.
  - 2. Create and facilitate educational sessions and information for parents and guardians on various topics, including, but not limited, to parenting skills and behavioral management techniques.
- C. *Disseminate up-to-date information and educate graduate students and the health professions community on the challenges facing adolescents and youth in the community as well as provide graduate students with opportunities for involvement in service-learning projects.*
  - 1. Provide students with opportunities to become involved with service-learning events and activities.
  - 2. Provide students with the information and opportunities to successfully develop the tools necessary for effective service-learning projects.
  - 3. Assist students in applying fundamental skills that are crucial to providing support to adolescents and youth in the community.
  - 4. Share new and developing information concerning adolescents and youth in the community with the NSU community, greater south Florida community, and national organizations. .
- D. *Partner with community agencies that serve various adolescent and youth populations to see how graduate students can help serve their needs.*
  - 1. Work with community organizations to assist with events and projects they already coordinate.
  - 2. Provide a medium where students may explore research ideas and develop and implement research endeavors based on needs of organizations.
  - 3. Assist organizations and charities with events that they coordinate.
- E. *Create interdisciplinary collaboration among students, faculty, and related professionals to promote service-learning with adolescents and youth in the community.*
  - 1. Create and facilitate opportunities for students to attend lectures on topics related to the needs of adolescents and youth in the community
  - 2. Provide students with opportunities to become involved with faculty and community organizations on issues related to service-learning with community adolescents and youth.

3. Reach out and make connections with graduate student trainees across the health professions who are interested in service-learning opportunities with a variety of adolescent and youth populations.

## **SECTION 2. Funding**

This association will be funded through monies acquired through fundraising events and CPS-SGA appropriated funds.

## **ARTICLE III. IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES**

### **SECTION 1.**

- A. *Create and provide enjoyable and enriching experiences for adolescents and youth in the community.*
  1. Meet and coordinate events with community partners (e.g. Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Baudhuin School at Mailman Segal Center at NSU, Lauren's Kids).
  2. Organize and execute regular events at various organizations in the community to provide adolescents and youth with memorable, exciting, fun, and empowering experiences.
    - a. Events can include, but are not limited to: arts and crafts projects at community agencies, making meaning out of challenging situations, implementation of sexual abuse prevention curriculum in schools, fundraisers (such as walks/runs, donation drives), and awareness events.
  3. Provide adolescents and youth experiences to learn new skills through play.
- B. *Provide respite and resources for parents and guardians.*
  1. Hold educational sessions on topics, such as parenting skills and behavioral management techniques.
  2. Provide handouts and information on various topics.
  3. Help parents and guardians locate resources in the community.
- C. *Disseminate up-to-date information and educate graduate students and the health professions community on the challenges facing adolescents and youth in the community as well as provide graduate students with opportunities for involvement in service-learning projects.*
  1. Generate a monthly newsletter to inform interested students of events, upcoming activities, and other opportunities.
  2. Hold regular meetings with students and provide information pertaining to current and ongoing events and activity projects in the Center for Psychological Studies, within the University community and the greater South Florida community.
  3. Encourage students to share their service-learning interests and provide a medium in which these ideas may be discussed and developed.
  4. Encourage students to pursue service-learning activities through fostering interdisciplinary collaboration in support of service-learning implementation.

- of adolescents and youth in south Florida. Topics may include, but are not limited to:
- a. Children with Medical Illnesses (Chronic or Terminal), with Developmental Delays, with Genetic Conditions, Autism Spectrum Disorders, At-Risk Youth
5. Host an annual continuing education forum on the needs of adolescents and youth in South Florida community for NSU students, faculty, and the greater South Florida community.
- D. *Partner with community agencies that serve various adolescent and youth populations to see how graduate students can help serve their needs.*
1. Provide students with opportunities to foster a strong foundation in developing connections with local South Florida hospitals and mentorship groups.
    - a. Investigate avenues for professional growth.
  2. Collect data and implement research in order to help organizations provide the best services to the population they service.
  3. Assist in the planning and execution of events and projects that the community agencies already implement (e.g., various holiday parties/events, fundraisers, parent trainings).
  4. Provide community agencies with other services and assistance as the needs of their organization change.
- E. *Create interdisciplinary collaboration between students, faculty, and related professionals to promote service-learning with children in the community.*
1. Invite students, faculty, and community professionals to speak at monthly meetings and/or be interviewed for the monthly newsletter.
  2. Organize presentations and brown bag meetings with guest speakers at the Center for Psychological Studies, the Health Provisions Division, and other NSU departments.
  3. Organize opportunities to design and participate in service-learning events and activities with students and faculty at the Center for Psychological Studies, the Health Provisions Division, and other NSU departments.

## ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

### **SECTION I. GO PLAY Membership**

Membership forms for GO PLAY will be made available to the entire CPS student body. The forms must be returned to be added to the listserv and to be apprised of meetings and events.

## ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE BOARD

### **SECTION I. Selection of Board Members**

For the inaugural year, the executive board positions will be appointed by the President and Vice President and will work collaboratively and share responsibilities as outlined below. In each subsequent year, the Executive Board will be formed through a process in which members interested in leadership roles are nominated by themselves or another GO PLAY member. Students who choose to accept nomination for an Executive Board position must submit a short essay demonstrating their commitment to the GO PLAY objectives, qualifications for the position, and a description of their leadership skills. Nominated students will be oriented to GO

PLAY bylaws, specific role responsibilities, and time commitments. Candidates will be elected should they receive the majority vote of GO PLAY student members. The current President is required to mentor the President-Elect to ensure that GO PLAY's mission is continued and that organization continues to thrive. One position may be held per academic year per student, and a maximum of two students may share an Executive Board position. Students may hold a position for no more than two consecutive academic terms.

## **SECTION II. Selection of Faculty Advisor**

The executive board will select faculty advisor(s) at the time of the creation of the board. One advisor must be a faculty member within the Center for Psychological Studies. The selection will be based upon the faculty member's expertise in research, service, advocacy, and experience with service learning. The advisor will be informed of all ongoing projects of the association during scheduled meetings.

## **SECTION III. Executive Board Meetings**

Executive board meetings will be held at a mutually agreed upon time decided at the start of each semester. Meetings will be scheduled monthly for executive board members and the faculty advisor, and monthly for the executive board and current members. All board members are expected to attend both meetings unless granted permission otherwise. A simple majority (51%) of officers constitutes a quorum to transact business. A simple majority (51%) vote is needed to decide on an issue.

## **SECTION IV. Executive Board Roles**

1. *Faculty Advisor:* Jessica M. Valenzuela, Ph.D.
2. *President*
  - a. Organize and conduct monthly meetings with faculty advisor.
  - b. Organize and lead monthly meetings with Executive Board members.
  - c. Oversee projects and events carried out by elected positions.
  - d. Communicate and collaborate with the Center for Psychological Services' Student Government Association as well as other organizations within the university as necessary.
  - e. Vote in Executive Board meetings only in the case of a tie.
  - f. Form committees of the Executive Board as needed.
  - g. Complete University required Logistics training.
3. *Vice President*
  - a. Coordinate membership events for GO PLAY.
  - b. Oversee formation of committees and monitor events and projects carried out by various committees.
  - c. Assist President in overseeing projects and events carried out by chaired positions.
  - d. Assume the duties of the President in his/her absence and shall become President in the event of a vacancy during the school year
  - e. Coordinate all Executive Board position changes at the beginning of each new academic year and in the event of position vacancies or removals.
  - f. Perform other duties as prescribed by the President

4. *Secretary*
  - a. Send out monthly newsletter to all GO PLAY members and interested graduate psychology students.
  - b. Regularly check GO PLAY email.
  - c. Record minutes during meetings and email them to GO PLAY members.
  - d. Maintain active and up-to-date listserv of membership.
  - e. Collaborate with NSU information technology personnel to maintain a GO PLAY section of the CPS website that will include up-to-date links to information regarding the service-learning opportunities and organizations devoted to this purpose.
  - f. Perform other duties as prescribed by the President
5. *Treasurer*
  - a. Coordinate events and projects to raise money for GO PLAY.
  - b. Responsible for collection, accounting, and distribution of all GO PLAY funds
  - c. Endorse all approved GO PLAY expenditures.
  - d. Maintain records of all expenditures and complete University required Treasurer and Logistics training.
  - e. Perform other duties as prescribed by the President
6. *Public Relations Director*
  - a. Advertise around campus for GO PLAY meetings and events.
  - b. Gather information to create informational/advocacy materials.
  - c. Promote an awareness week of issues facing adolescents and youth in our community
  - d. Write, and distribute to local media, press releases regarding GO PLAY activities.
  - e. Perform other duties as prescribed by the President
7. *Communications Director*
  - a. Communicate and keep in constant contact with local charities and organizations to plan community events, with oversight of the faculty advisor.
  - b. Keep an updated database of contacts.
  - c. Organize an awareness week promoting service learning opportunities.
  - d. Work with the Public Relations Director to advertise for events.
  - e. Perform other duties as prescribed by the President

## ARTICLE VI. RESIGNATIONS, REMOVALS, AND VACANCIES

### **SECTION 1. Resignations**

An officer may resign from the Executive Board by delivering a written resignation, with as much notification as possible, to the President, or if the resigning officer is the President, then the President shall submit the resignation to the Vice President. That office is thereupon deemed vacant and the selection of board member process, as outlined above, will take place.

### **SECTION 2. Removal**

An officer may be removed from office before his or her term would have otherwise expired by a 2/3 majority of votes cast at an Executive meeting. At least one of the following conditions must be met before said removal can take place:

- A. Appropriate grounds leading to the termination of that office due to not fulfilling the duties

- of his or her respective position, as outlined in the bylaws, and that office becomes vacant upon said removal; or
- B. Appropriate grounds leading to the termination of that office due to a blatant disregard of one or more of the provisions of these Bylaws, or of a blatant disregard for said office characterized by a lack of "good faith" effort to carry out the necessary and appropriate duties and responsibilities of said office, will cite that officer for removal, and that office becomes vacant upon said removal.
- C. The position of an officer who ceases to be in good standing will automatically become vacant.

### **SECTION 3. Filling Vacancies**

If an officer's position becomes vacant, the vacancy will be filled within one month of said vacancy by appointment of the Executive Board with the final approval granted by the President.

## **ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS**

### **SECTION 1. Purpose**

Amendments to these Bylaws may be necessary in order to maintain consistent and impartial service to the students of the Center for Psychological Studies at Nova Southeastern University, and to address issues or needs pertinent to adolescents and youth in the community

### **SECTION 2. Process**

- A. Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be initiated by any student and presented to the President.
- B. To be placed on a ballot for referendum, proposed amendments to these Bylaws must receive one of the following:
1. A two-thirds majority roll-call vote from the Executive Board, or
  2. A signed petition of 15% of enrolled members.
- C. An amendment shall be considered passed by referendum if a simple majority of members vote in the affirmative.

### **SECTION 3. Revisions**

Revisions to these Bylaws must be made by President and approved by a two-thirds majority vote by the executive board.

### **SECTION 4. Ratification**

If approved by the referendum, the amendment shall be incorporated into these Bylaws.