

GPSG Constitution

Preamble:

We, the graduate and professional students of the Bloomington campus of Indiana University, in order to represent our interests, concerns and unique perspectives to the university community and to participate in that degree of governance proper to our role within the university, do ordain this Constitution for the Graduate and Professional Student Government and thereby establish a government for graduate and professional students.

Article I Section 1: Name.

The name of this organization shall be the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG).

Article I Section 2: Mission Statement.

The objectives of this organization shall be:

1. To act as the sole official representative of all members of the Indiana University-Bloomington (IUB) graduate and professional student population before the administration, faculty and student governance bodies;
2. To appoint graduate and professional student representatives to administrative, faculty, student and community committees, and other such venues in which graduate seats currently, or in the future, will exist; and
3. To address matters pertaining to the general academic, professional and social climate of IUB and the City of Bloomington as they affect the life and well-being of the graduate and professional student population.

Article I Section 3: Authority and Powers.

The GPSG can take any legal means to carry out its mission and advance the general welfare of the graduate and professional students of IUB. However, the GPSG and its members shall always comply with the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct and any other laws, rules and regulations governing Indiana University and its students.

Article II Section 1: Eligibility for Membership.

All graduate, professional and other post-baccalaureate students enrolled at IUB are members of the GPSG.

Article II Section 2: Non-Discrimination Statement.

No graduate or professional student at IUB shall be denied the benefits of membership in the GPSG on account of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation. The use of gendered pronouns in this document shall not imply that the provision in question does not apply to a member of another gender.

Article II Section 3: Hazing Prohibition.

The GPSG shall not in any way endanger the mental, emotional or physical health or safety of any student for the purpose of initiation or admission into the organization.

Article III Section 1: Composition of Assembly, Eligibility and Term of Office.

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (the "Assembly") shall be the legislative body of the GPSG. The Assembly shall be composed of voting and non-voting Representatives. Voting Representatives must be either graduate or professional students enrolled in a degree-granting program at IUB during their entire term of office. Non-voting representatives must be a graduate or professional students enrolled at IUB during their entire term of office. That term of office shall be one year, beginning, at the discretion of the department, on the first day of the fall or spring semester. Representatives may serve an unlimited number of terms.

Article III Section 2: Distribution of Seats.

Part 1: Each department shall be entitled to one voting representative for each 200 students or fraction thereof. Departments may elect co-Representatives to any seat they are entitled, but all co-Representatives assigned to any particular seat shall have only one vote between them.

Part 2: These seats will be based on enrollment numbers secured through the University Graduate School, the Office of the Registrar or the Recorder within each school.

Part 3: The Graduate Diversity Council and the International Center will each be allocated 5 voting seats on the Assembly. The same method of election will apply to these seats as the seats for each department.

Part 4: Non-voting seats may be provided for: 1) non-degree granting programs; or 2) interest groups that are primarily composed of graduate or professional students.

Part 5: One voting seat may be provided for a single voting caucus comprised of qualifying special interest groups that are at least partly composed of graduate or professional students. In order to qualify for participation in the voting caucus, the following criteria must be fulfilled: 1) the special interest group must be registered and in good standing with the Indiana University Student Activities Office; 2) any individual speaking on behalf of a registered student organization in the voting caucus must be eligible for membership in the GPSG as stipulated in Article II Section 1 above; 3) any individual speaking on behalf of a registered student organization in the voting caucus must be recognized by the Student Activities Office as a legitimately elected officer of that organization; and 4) representatives of special interest organizations wishing to participate in this voting caucus must alert the Executive Committee 48 hours in advance of a representative assembly meeting or election in order to allow the Executive Committee to verify legitimacy of the student as an organizational officer with the Student Activities Office.

Part 6: The term of office for each Assembly seat shall be one full year. Each department, program or organization should have a representative selected by the first Assembly meeting of the fall semester.

Article III Section 3: Method of Election.

Each department and its graduate or professional students are responsible for conducting an annual election for their representatives or otherwise selecting them for service in the Assembly. If a selection is not made, the Assembly reserves the right to accept volunteers from departments that are not already represented.

Article III Section 4: Duties and Powers of Representatives.

Part 1: Representatives are expected to perform the following duties:

- 1) represent the interests of their constituents in all matters before the Assembly;
- 2) inform the graduate or professional students in their departments of the issues and events important to the GPSG and its members;
- 3) attend all monthly meetings or send a proxy;
- 4) serve as members of a standing or ad hoc committee and participate in the activities therein.

Part 2: Representatives have the following powers:

- 1) propose agenda items for debate before the entire Assembly;
- 2) discuss proposals and issues before the Assembly; however, only voting members may actually vote on motions before the Assembly.

Article III Section 5: Vacancies, Removal and Recall.

Part 1: In the event that a seat is vacant as of the first day of the fall or spring semester, the Executive Committee shall contact the department to request that the seat be filled. If within one month no representative has been found, the provisions of Article III, Section 3 may be utilized to fill the vacancy. In the event that a Representative becomes unable to perform his/her duties during the academic year, s/he will inform the Executive Committee in a timely manner. The vacancy will then be filled by the department and its graduate or professional students as soon as possible.

Part 2: In the event of malfeasance, severe dereliction of duty or egregious abuse of power by a Representative, the Executive Committee shall intervene with the Representative at their discretion.

Part 3: Any Representative may be removed by a two-thirds majority of the voting Representatives when there is evidence of malfeasance, severe dereliction of duty or egregious abuse of power. A bill of impeachment outlining the charges against a Representative may be prepared, introduced and passed at any Representatives' meeting. If a Representative is removed, the department will be notified immediately and asked to select a replacement as soon as possible.

Part 4: A Representative may be recalled by his/her constituents at any time for due cause. The department shall then immediately select a replacement to complete the Representative's term.

Article III Section 6: Collective Powers of the Assembly and Conduct of Meetings.

Part 1: The Assembly has the following collective powers:

- 1) to pass resolutions on matters of interest to graduate and professional students;
- 2) to make policy recommendations to the university on behalf of graduate and professional students;
- 3) to elect officers to the Executive Committee;
- 4) to approve the creation and maintenance of staff positions;
- 5) to review the annual budget;
- 6) to impeach Representatives and officers as specified in the appropriate articles;
- 7) to interpret and approve changes to the by-laws and Constitution.

Part 2: Regular meetings shall be held at least once per month during the fall and spring semesters. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Representatives shall receive notice of called meetings at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the start of such meetings.

Part 3: Quorum shall be considered to be one-third of voting Representatives currently occupying seats; vacant positions shall not count towards this total. Any legislative action by the Assembly, including censure and impeachment, requires that a quorum be present.

Part 4: Robert's Rules of Order shall be used to conduct meetings; however, with unanimous consent these rules may be waived.

Article IV Section 1: Composition of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall be the executive body of the GPSG. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the four elected positions, the four appointed positions, a representative from the University Graduate School and such staff positions as the Assembly may provide. Those elected officers are the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. Those appointed officers are the Awards Officer, the Benefits Officer, the Sustainability Officer, and the Diversity Officer. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a month. The Executive Committee will seek to reach all decisions through consensus. However, in situations requiring a vote, the voting members shall be the elected officers. Quorum for these meetings shall be three of these four elected officers.

Article IV Section 2: Eligibility and Term of Office.

The elected and appointed officers, as well as the staff members, must be currently-enrolled graduate or professional students in a degree-granting program at IUB. The term of office for all elected and appointed officers is one calendar year and runs from May 1 to April 30. If serving as a Departmental Representative, the Executive Committee officers must immediately resign their seats upon inauguration; their departments shall then select voting representatives to replace them. All officers may serve an unlimited number of terms, but no officer may hold more than one position on the Executive Committee at the same time.

Article IV Section 3: Method of Election.

Officers shall be elected through secret ballot by the voting Representatives of the Assembly by a majority of those casting ballots before the conclusion of the March meeting and shall take office May first. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall immediately participate in a

run-off election, also conducted via secret ballot. All members of the incoming Executive Committee will train with their predecessors in the semester prior to assuming office.

Article IV Section 4: Method of Appointment

The GPSG President will advertise the appointed positions to the graduate and professional student body in early spring. The Executive Committee will nominate individuals for the appointed offices from the pool of interested parties. The Executive Committee will present the slate of nominees to the Assembly to be approved at the April meeting. All appointed officers of the incoming Executive Committee will train with their predecessors in the month prior to assuming office.

Article IV Section 5: Powers of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall have the following collective powers:

- 1) to delegate work to committees, officers and staff;
- 2) to appoint standing committee chairs in consultation with the committees themselves;
- 3) to remove standing committee chairs with the concurrence of three-quarters of the members of the Executive Committee;
- 4) to create ad hoc committees and appoint their chairs;
- 5) to enforce the Constitution and by-laws;
- 6) to create Assembly meeting agendas;
- 7) to oversee the implementation of decisions made at Assembly meetings;
- 8) to assist the Treasurer in creating the annual budget;
- 9) to advise the President on issues of importance to graduate and professional students.

Article IV Section 6: President.

The President shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1) to represent the graduate and professional student body to the university at large;
- 2) to serve as chair at all Executive Committee and Assembly meetings and inform Assembly as to the decisions made at Executive Committee meetings;
- 3) to prepare and submit draft agendas for both Assembly and Executive Committee meetings;
- 4) to serve as a representative to the Graduate Council, the Bloomington Faculty Council and the Student Advisory Board meetings and provide regular reports to the Executive Committee and Assembly;
- 5) to supervise, along with the appropriate administrative liaison, the staff positions;
- 6) to appoint graduate and professional students to university committees;
- 7) to serve as representative to the All University Student Association and provide regular reports to the Executive Committee and Assembly;
- 8) to perform any other functions necessary and proper to advance the welfare of the GPSG not expressly prohibited or delegated by the provisions of the Constitution or by-laws;

Article IV Section 7: Vice President.

The Vice President shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1) to fulfill the duties of the President when s/he is temporarily unable to perform them;
- 2) to represent the GPSG to the university at large as required;
- 3) to oversee and receive reports from delegates to GPSG and campus committees and to regularly summarize these reports to the Assembly;
- 4) to perform other duties requested by the Executive Committee.

Article IV Section 8: Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1) to maintain the GPSG's financial records;
- 2) to prepare the annual budget for review by the Assembly and provide a brief financial update at Assembly meetings at least once a semester;
- 3) to request disbursement of funds as required;

- 4) to work with the Awards Officer and the Awards Committee to ensure the timely execution of the Awards process;
- 5) to perform other duties requested by the Executive Committee.

Article IV Section 9: Parliamentarian.

The Parliamentarian shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1) to assure proper order and decorum during all Executive Committee and Assembly meetings;
- 2) to ensure that the Constitution and Bylaws are complete and current;
- 3) to record minutes of all Assembly and Executive Committee meetings and provide the Communications Coordinator a copy of all minutes;
- 4) to tally votes and perform other tasks that the Executive Committee may require to ensure smooth operation of meetings;
- 5) to gather the necessary data to determine the number of seats in the Assembly;
- 6) to update, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, the official history of the GPSG at the end of each academic year;
- 7) to perform other duties requested by the Executive Committee.

Article IV Section 10: Diversity Officer

- 1) to chair and organize the Diversity Council and Diversity Committee, which may function jointly;
- 2) to represent the GPSG on committees relevant to issues of diversity and inclusion;
- 3) to maintain communications with the Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs;
- 4) to develop resolutions and initiatives related to furthering diversity and inclusion;
- 5) to update the assembly on initiatives related diversity and inclusion, when requested;
- 6) to perform other duties requested by the Executive Committee.

Article IV Section 11: Awards Officer

- 1) to recruit members for the Awards Committee and to chair the Awards Committee;
- 2) to oversee the Awards Committee and the review of GPSG Awards, including, but not limited to the Travel Grants, the Research Grants, the Faculty Mentor Award and the Pari Perana Award;
- 3) to ensure all applicants are notified of Awards Committee decisions
- 4) to maintain and update procedures for evaluating awards applications and nominations;
- 5) to update the Assembly on the status of the Awards process, when requested;
- 6) to perform other duties requested by the Executive Body.

Article IV Section 12: Benefits Officer

- 1) to recruit members for the Benefits Committee and to chair the Benefits Committee;
- 2) to represent the GPSG on committees relevant to the salaries and benefits of graduate students, including, but not limited to the Student Academic Appointee (SAA) Mandatory Health Plan Committee and the SAA Salaries Committee;
- 3) to develop GPSG resolutions and initiatives related to salaries and benefits;
- 4) to update the Assembly on initiatives related to salaries and benefits, when requested;
- 5) to perform other duties requested by the Executive Body.

Article IV Section 13: Sustainability Officer

- 1) to recruit members for the Sustainability Committee and to chair the Sustainability Committee;
- 2) to represent the GPSG on committees relevant to issues of sustainability, including, but not limited to the Student Transportation Board-Campus Bus, the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee and the Office of Sustainability Advisory Board;
- 3) to maintain communications with the Office of Sustainability;
- 4) to develop resolutions and initiatives related to issues of sustainability governing the practices of the GPSG and the campus community;

- 5) to update the Assembly on initiatives related to sustainability, when requested;
- 6) to perform other duties requested by the Executive Body.

Article IV Section 14: Staff Positions.

Part 1: Staff positions are recruited by the elected officers for an academic year appointment.

Part 2: The duties that may be delegated to these staff positions include the following:

- 1) administrating the daily activities of the GPSG office;
- 2) maintaining correspondence and communication activities for the GPSG;
- 3) assisting the officers in maintaining GPSG records;
- 4) maintaining a list of Assembly members and attendance records;
- 5) maintaining a permanent file of all Assembly and Executive Committee minutes;
- 6) recording minutes of all Assembly and Executive Committee meetings;
- 7) distributing Assembly minutes to the Representatives in a timely manner;
- 8) updating, with the assistance of the Parliamentarian, the official history of the GPSG at the end of each academic year;
- 9) facilitating committee and assembly meetings;
- 10) promoting GPSG social functions and service activities;
- 11) performing other duties as requested by the elected officers.

Part 3: Professional staff members may be removed for reasons outlined in University guidelines governing the dismissal of Student Academic Appointees, but only after mutual agreement is reached between the University Graduate School and a majority of the elected Executive Committee members.

Article IV Section 15: The University Graduate School

Part 1: GPSG is independent from the University Graduate School (UGS). The UGS plays an advisory role in most matters, providing feedback when necessary. However, UGS acts in a supervisory function with the GPSG budget. Failure to comply with fiscal operational guidelines and standard practices will result in GPSG responsibility for all monetary consequences.

Article IV Section 16: Vacancies, Censure and Impeachment.

Part 1: If any elected officer other than the President resigns or becomes permanently unable to perform his/her duties after the final Assembly meeting of the spring semester, the Executive Committee shall appoint an individual to serve out the remainder of his/her term. If the President resigns or becomes permanently unable to perform his/her duties, the Vice President shall assume the office of President until the next election. If any elected officer resigns or becomes permanently unable to perform his/her duties before the last Assembly meeting of the spring semester, the office shall remain vacant until the next Assembly meeting, at which a new officer is elected to serve out the remainder of that term. This provision does not apply to cases of impeachment.

Part 2: In the event of dereliction of duty or abuse of power by a member of the Executive Committee, the Assembly may, by a majority vote of voting Representatives, censure the Committee member in question.

Part 3: In the event of malfeasance, severe dereliction of duty or egregious abuse of power by an officer of the Executive Committee, the Assembly may vote to impeach the officer in question. A two-thirds majority of the voting Representatives is required for a vote of impeachment. A bill of impeachment outlining the charges against an elected officer may be prepared, introduced and passed at any Assembly meeting. Upon the passage of a bill of impeachment, an election shall immediately be held to fill that position for the remainder of the impeached officer's term.

Article V Section 1: Standing Committees.

Standing committees may be established or dissolved by a majority vote of the Representatives for any legitimate reason. The duties of each standing committee shall be established in the by-laws. Any graduate or professional student may serve as a member or a chair of a standing committee.

Article V Section 2: Ad-hoc Committees.

Ad-hoc committees may be formed and dissolved at the discretion of the Executive Committee for any legitimate reason. No automatic time limit applies to the duration of these committees, but the reasons for their existence should be reviewed annually by the Assembly. Any graduate or professional student may serve as a member or a chair of an ad-hoc committee.

Article VI Section 1: Scope of Judicial Powers.

The Assembly shall hold responsibility for monitoring the performance and behavior of the Executive Committee and its own membership and for hearing and adjudicating any official disputes, defined as potential instances of malfeasance, severe dereliction of duty and egregious abuse of power.

Article VI Section 2: Interpretation of Constitution.

The Assembly as a whole has the responsibility for interpreting the Constitution. Any disputes that arise under this Constitution are to be resolved by the Assembly.

Article VI Section 3: Establishment of Bylaws.

At the first meeting after the adoption of this Constitution, the Assembly must debate and adopt by a majority vote by-laws to govern the operations of the GPSG. Provisions of these by-laws may be changed at any Assembly meeting by a majority vote of the voting Representatives.

Article VII Section 1: Membership Fees.

No membership fee shall be charged to any member of the GPSG.

Article VII Section 2: Budgetary Matters.

An annual budget shall be prepared in accordance with university regulations by the President and the Treasurer and submitted to the Assembly for review. This budget shall govern all expenditures of the GPSG for one fiscal year, with allowances for modifications as the fiscal situation of the organization changes.

Article VIII Section 1: Ratification.

Upon ratification of this document, it shall immediately replace any previous constitution of the GPSG. Ratification shall occur upon approval by two-thirds of departments with an enrollment of graduate or professional students at IUB at the time of ratification. Approval shall be acquired through existing departmental graduate or professional student organizations; if such an organization does not exist in a department, a special convention of the graduate or professional students in that department shall be called for this purpose. Approval shall be defined as a favorable vote by a majority of those students participating. Voting may be conducted in any democratic manner preferred by the department, and the results of the election must be announced to the GPSG by some official representative of the departmental organization or convention. The members of the Executive Committee and the Representatives who are in office at the time of the ratification of this Constitution will be able to complete their terms under the conditions laid forth in the prior constitution and set of by-laws.

Article VIII Section 2: Amendment.

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly.

Article VIII Section 3: Replacement.

This Constitution may be superseded only through a ratification process similar to the one outlined in Article VIII Section 1. Until that time, this Constitution shall be considered to be the ultimate source of authority for the GPSG.

Ratified May 1, 2002

Amended October 4, 2002

Amended November 5, 2004

Amended December 2005

Amended December 2006

Amended September 5, 2008

Amended January 16, 2009

Amended September 4, 2009

Amended October 2, 2009

Amended January 24, 2014
Amended March 9, 2015
Amended April 15, 2015