

# **CONSTITUTION OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY - BLOOMINGTON GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the graduate and professional students of Indiana University - Bloomington, 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.

### **1-1.NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Graduate and Professional Student Government “GPSG.”

### **1-2.MISSION STATEMENT**

The objectives of this organization shall be:

- 1-2.1.** To act as the sole official Representative of all members of the Indiana University-Bloomington (IUB) graduate, professional, and post-baccalaureate student population before the administration, faculty, and student governance bodies;
- 1-2.2.** 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
- 1-2.3.** 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.

### **1-3.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 must comply with the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct, and any other laws, rules and regulations governing IUB and its students.

### **1-4.ELIGIBILITY**

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

### **1-5.STATEMENT OF UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE**

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state, and federal laws.

## **1-6.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 identity, 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.

## **1-7.HAZING PROHIBITION**

GPSG shall comply with the Indiana University - Bloomington hazing policy. Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

# **2- ASSEMBLY**

## **2-1.ASSEMBLY**

The Assembly is the legislative voting body of GPSG.

## **2-2.COMPOSITION**

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (the "Assembly") shall be the legislative body of the GPSG.

## **2-3.DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS IN THE ASSEMBLY**

- 2-3.1.** The Assembly will be comprised of Representatives from each electorate.
- 2-3.2.** Each electorate shall be entitled to a minimum of one Representative. An additional Representative will be assigned for each 100 students within the electorate.
- 2-3.3.** The number of Representatives from each electorate will be based on enrollment numbers secured through the University Graduate School, the Office of the Registrar, or the Recorder within each school.
- 2-3.4.** The Graduate Diversity Council will be allocated up to 8 voting seats on the Assembly. Members of the Diversity Council will be chosen through an application process administered by the Diversity Chair.

## **2-4.ELECTORATES DEFINED**

- 2-4.1.** For the purposes of this Constitution, "electorate" will be defined as the students of a degree program, department, or school at Indiana University – Bloomington.
- 2-4.2.** The electorates for each academic school year shall be delineated by the Assembly Audit in the preceding spring.

## **2-5.POWERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

- 2-5.1. to pass resolutions on matters of interest to graduate and professional students;
- 2-5.2. to make policy recommendations to the university on behalf of graduate, professional, and post-baccalaureate students.
- 2-5.3. to elect officers to the Executive Committee;
- 2-5.4. to approve the creation and maintenance of staff positions;
- 2-5.5. to review and approve the annual budget;
- 2-5.6. to impeach Representatives and officers as specified in the appropriate articles;
- 2-5.7. to interpret and approve changes to the by-laws and Constitution.

## **2-6. DUTIES OF THE ASSEMBLY**

- 2-6.1. to represent the interests of the graduate, professional, and post-baccalaureate students of Indiana University – Bloomington.

## **2-7. ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

- 2-7.1. Attendance and Participation.
  - 2-7.1.1. All GPSG Assembly meetings are open to the general public.
  - 2-7.1.2. Any graduate, profession, or post-baccalaureate students can propose an agenda item for debate before the Assembly.
  - 2-7.1.3. Any graduate, profession, or post-baccalaureate student can discuss proposal and issues before the Assembly.
- 2-7.2. Conduct.
  - 2-7.2.1. 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.
- 2-7.3. Quorum.
  - 2-7.3.1. Quorum shall be considered to be one-third of voting Representatives currently occupying seats; vacant positions shall not count towards this total.
  - 2-7.3.2. Any legislative action by the Assembly, including censure and impeachment, requires that a quorum be present.
- 2-7.4. Order.
  - 2-7.4.1. Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used to conduct meetings; however, with unanimous consent these rules may be waived.

## **2-8. REPRESENTATIVES**

### **2-8.1. POWERS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- 2-8.1.1. Propose agenda items for debate before the entire Assembly;
- 2-8.1.2. Discuss proposals and issues before the Assembly;
- 2-8.1.3. Vote on motions before the Assembly.

### **2-8.2. DUTIES OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- 2-8.2.1. represent the interests of their constituents in all matters before the Assembly;
- 2-8.2.2. inform the graduate or professional students in their electorate of the issues and events important to the GPSG and its members;
- 2-8.2.3. attend all monthly meetings or send a proxy;
- 2-8.2.4. serve as a member and participate on a GPSG advocacy committee.

### **2-8.3. ELIGIBILITY OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**2-8.3.1.** A Representative must be a graduate, professional, or post-baccalaureate student at Indiana University – Bloomington within the electorate in which they are a student.

**2-8.3.2.** All GPSG Representatives must be either graduate, professional students, or post-baccalaureate enrolled in a degree-granting program at IUB during their entire term of office.

## **2-9. TERM OF OFFICE**

That term of office shall be one year, beginning, at the discretion of the electorate, on the first day of the fall or spring semester. Representatives may serve an unlimited number of terms.

## **REMOVAL OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **2-9.1.1. VACANCIES.**

In the event that a Representative becomes unable to perform their duties during the academic year, they will inform the Executive Committee in a timely manner. The vacancy will then be filled by the corresponding electorate according to 6-2. Assembly Representatives.

### **2-9.1.2. REMOVAL**

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 electorate will be notified immediately and asked to select a replacement as soon as possible.

### **2-9.1.3. RECALL**

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

## **3- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **3-1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee shall be the executive body of the GPSG.

### **3-2. COMPOSITION**

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the three elected positions, the five appointed positions and a Representative from the University Graduate School.

#### **3-2.1 ELECTED OFFICERS.**

3-2.1.1 Those elected officers are the President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

3-2.1.2 The GPSG President position is a Student Academic Appointee of the University Graduate School. The terms of employment are defined by contract.

#### **3-2.2 APPOINTED OFFICERS.**

- 3-2.2.1 Those appointed officers are the Awards Officer, Benefits Officer, Diversity Officer, Health and Wellness Officer, and Sustainability Officer.
- 3-2.3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
  - 3-2.3.1 The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a month.
  - 3-2.3.2 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 and appointed officers. In the event of a tie, the elected officers will vote.
  - 3-2.3.3 Quorum for these meetings shall be five of eight elected officers and appointed officers.

### **3-3.ELIGIBILITY**

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.

### **3-4.TERM OF OFFICE**

- 3-4.1. The term of office for all elected and appointed officers is one calendar year, running from May 1 to April 30.
- 3-4.2. 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.
- 3-4.3. If serving as a Representative at the time of assuming office, the Executive Committee officer must immediately resign their seats upon inauguration; their electorates shall then select voting Representatives to replace them.

### **3-5.POWERS**

The Executive Committee shall have the following collective powers:

- 3-5.1. to delegate work to committees, officers and staff;
- 3-5.2. to appoint standing committee chairs in consultation with the committees themselves;
- 3-5.3. to remove standing committee chairs with the concurrence of three-quarters of the members of the Executive Committee;
- 3-5.4. to create ad hoc committees and appoint their chairs
- 3-5.5. to enforce the Constitution and Bylaws;

### **3-6.POWERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### **3-6.1. POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT**

- 3-6.1.1. to represent the graduate and professional student body to the university at large;
- 3-6.1.2. to serve as chair at all Executive Committee and Assembly meetings and
- 3-6.1.3. to supervise, along with the appropriate administrative liaison, the staff positions;
- 3-6.1.4. to appoint graduate and professional students to university committees;
- 3-6.1.5. 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 Bylaws;

#### **3-6.2. POWERS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

- 3-6.2.1. to fulfill the duties of the President when they are temporarily unable to perform them;
- 3-6.2.2. to ensure that the Constitution and Bylaws are followed;
- 3-6.2.3. to conduct the annual Assembly audit

### **3-6.3. POWERS OF THE TREASURER**

- 3-6.3.1. to prepare the annual budget for review by the Assembly;
- 3-6.3.2. to oversee the disbursement of funds in accordance with the budget;

### **3-6.4. POWERS OF THE AWARDS OFFICER**

- 3-6.4.1. to oversee the Awards Committee
- 3-6.4.2. to oversee the review and distribution of GPSG Awards, including, but not limited to the Travel Grants, the Research Grants, the Faculty Mentor Award;

### **3-6.5. POWERS OF THE BENEFITS OFFICER**

- 3-6.5.1. to oversee the Benefits Committee
- 3-6.5.2. to develop GPSG resolutions and initiatives related to salaries and benefits;

### **3-6.6. POWERS OF THE DIVERSITY OFFICER**

- 3-6.6.1. to oversee the Diversity Council and Diversity Committee, which may function jointly;
- 3-6.6.2. to develop resolutions and initiatives related to furthering diversity and inclusion;

### **3-6.7. POWERS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER**

- 3-6.7.1. to oversee the Sustainability Committee;
- 3-6.7.2. to develop resolutions and initiatives related to issues of sustainability governing the practices of the GPSG and the campus community;

### **3-6.8. POWERS OF THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OFFICER**

- 3-6.8.1. to oversee the Health and Wellness Committee;
- 3-6.8.2. to develop resolutions and initiatives related to issues of health and wellness

## **3-7.REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **3-7.1. VACANCIES**

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.

### **3-7.2. CENSURE**

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.

### **3-7.3. IMPEACHMENT**

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.

### **3-8. STAFF POSITIONS**

#### **3-8.1. HIRING PROCESS**

**3-8.1.1.** Staff positions are recruited by the elected officers in the spring of the preceding academic school year.

#### **3-8.2. DESIGNATION**

**3-8.2.1.** GPSG Staff Positions are Student Academic Appointees of the University Graduate School. The terms of employment are defined by contract.

#### **3-8.3. POWERS**

**3-8.3.1.** To perform any functions necessary and proper to advance the welfare of the GPSG not expressly prohibited or delegated by the provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws. Staff positions will support the efforts of the GPSG Executive Committee.

#### **3-8.4. REMOVAL OF STAFF POSITIONS**

**3-8.4.1.** 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 voting Executive Committee members.

## **4- COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL**

### **4-1. COMMITTEES**

#### **4-1.1. 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.

#### **4-1.2. 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

## **4-2. DIVERSITY COUNCIL**

### **4-2.1. Composition**

The Diversity Council will be comprised of five graduate, professional, and post-baccalaureate students who are not already serving as Representatives from their electorate. The students selected must be confirmed by a majority of the Assembly present.

### **4-2.2. Voting Rights**

Each member of the Diversity Council shall vote on all motions before the Assembly.

## **5- AUXILIARY FUNCTIONS**

### **5-1. JUDICIAL POWER**

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.

### **5-2. BUDGET**

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. The budget is to be voted on during the last Spring Assembly meeting, prior to the start of the fiscal year. If any changes need to be made they will be done by making and approving amendments to the budget, no later than the October Assembly meeting. The budget must be passed by a majority of the Assembly members present.

## **6- GOVERNING DOCUMENTS**

### **6-1. 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.

### **6-2. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

#### **6-2.1. 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 electorates with an enrollment of graduate or professional students at IUB at the time of ratification. Approval shall be acquired through existing electorate graduate or professional student organizations; if such an organization does not exist in a electorate, a special convention of the graduate or professional students in that electorate 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 electorate, and the results of the election must be announced to the GPSG by some official Representative of the electorate 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.

#### **6-2.2. AMENDMENT**

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

#### **6-2.3. REPLACEMENT**

This Constitution may be superseded only through a ratification process similar to the one outlined in 5-2.1. Ratification. Until that time, this Constitution shall be considered to be the ultimate source of authority for the GPSG.

#### **6-2.4. 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 by the Assembly members present.

## **7- ELECTIONS**

### **7-1.EXEUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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.

### **7-2.ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES**

Each electorate is responsible for conducting an annual election for their Representative(s) at the beginning of the academic school year, no later than September 30.

#### **7-2.1. Nomination**

Each prospective Representative may either self-nominate or be nominated by a member of their electorate.

#### **7-2.2. Election**

- 7-2.2.1.** After receiving nominations each electorate must hold an election to select their Representative(s). Each member of the electorate must be given an opportunity to vote for their prospective Representatives.
- 7-2.2.2.** If the number of prospective Representatives is less than or equal to the number of seats allotted for the electorate, then those individuals may be chosen through unanimous consent.
- 7-2.2.3.** After Representatives are chosen from each electorate, administration affiliated with the corresponding electorate is to communicate the chosen Representatives to GSGP no later than October 1.

### **7-2.3. APPOINTMENT**

The President has the power to appoint individuals to any unfilled seat(s) after October 15. The individual must be a member of the corresponding electorate.

*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*

*Ratified December 2, 2016*