

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY (GAPSA) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

## **Article I – Name**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, alternately referred to as “GAPSA.”

## **Article II – Purpose**

Section 1. The purpose of this organization shall be the advocacy for and governance of all graduate and professional students. GAPSA shall speak on behalf of all graduate and professional students at the University of Minnesota.

## **Article III – Membership**

Section 1. Membership in GAPSA shall be defined according to the following groups: Councils, General Body, the Assembly, and the Board.

Paragraph 1: Councils. The graduate and professional student councils shall make up the General Body of GAPSA, hereafter known as the “Councils:” Council of Graduate Students, Dental School Student Council, Graduate Students of Education & Human Development, Law Council, MBA Association, Medical School Student Council, Nursing College Board, Pharmacy College Board, School of Public Health Student Senate, and Veterinary Medicine Student Council. GAPSA shall recognize the independence of the Councils to act and advocate on their own behalf.

Paragraph 2: General Body. Members of GAPSA, alternately referred to as the “General Body,” shall be all graduate and professional students at the University of Minnesota as defined by the Board of Regents.

Paragraph 3: Assembly. Representatives from all Councils and Officers shall make up the Assembly of GAPSA, alternately referred to as the “Assembly” or “Assembly Members.” Representatives to the Assembly shall be selected in accordance with the procedures of their respective Councils.

Paragraph 4: Board. The Executive Board shall be composed of Officers of GAPSA.

## **Article IV – Meetings and Procedures**

Section 1. GAPSA shall meet at least three [3] times per semester.

Section 2. GAPSA shall operate as defined in this document and the Bylaws.

Section 3. GAPSA shall adopt no policy, bylaw, or constitutional article that is in violation of the Constitution and/or policies of the University of Minnesota.

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Section 4. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, alternately referred to as "Robert's Rules," shall govern the proceedings of GAPSA. The GAPSA Constitution and Bylaws shall supersede Robert's Rules in case of conflict.

Section 5. Quorum for Assembly Meetings of GAPSA is defined as one-half [1/2] of its voting members plus one [1]. A quorum is needed for the transaction of official business and votes.

### **Article V – Officers**

Section 1. Officer positions are open to any Member of the General Body, and students who will be Members during the next academic year.

Section 2. GAPSA shall have the following Officers: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Vice President for Finance, Vice President for Public Affairs, Vice President for Programming, Vice President for Grants, and Vice President for Student Affairs. A maximum of two [2] At-Large Directors may be appointed by the President and ratified by the Assembly. Upon ratification, At-Large Directors shall be Officers.

Section 3. In alternate years, when GAPSA is given two [2] seats at the Student Senate, an At-Large Director shall be appointed by the President and ratified by the Assembly to fill the second seat. Additional duties will be negotiated between the At-Large Director and the President.

Section 4. The duties of each Officer shall be reviewed by the Internal Affairs Committee annually before elections, subject to ratification by the Assembly.

Section 5. The length of term for each Officer position shall be one [1] year, beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on May 31<sup>st</sup> of the next year, unless otherwise specified by University policy or the GAPSA Bylaws.

### **Article VI – Election and Removal**

Section 1. Officer elections must take place at least once per year in the Spring semester by the end of April.

Section 2. Newly-elected Officers shall make a reasonable effort with outgoing officers to transition.

Section 3. Removal

Paragraph 1. Officers of the Board, whether elected or appointed, may be subject to removal. Grounds for removal include but are not limited to: malfeasance, failure to perform duties mandated in the Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Job Descriptions, direct and substantial interference with actions of other members of the student government system in their attempt to carry out constitutionally mandated duties, deliberate misuse of funds, substantial violation of local, state,

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or federal laws while in office, substantial violation of University of Minnesota policy while in office, or deliberately misleading the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly or its committees while in office.

Paragraph 2. Board Officers may be impeached by the following process: Assembly and Board Members, except for the President, may petition the Internal Affairs Committee through the formal impeachment process using the official impeachment form. The Officer in question shall have the opportunity to present their case to the Assembly. Officers in question must be given seven [7] calendar days to prepare their defense. At the next Assembly Meeting of GAPSAs following this period, the Accuser(s) and Officer(s) in question will present their cases before GAPSAs. Following the presentation the Assembly may vote to remove that Officer by a two-thirds [2/3] vote. No anonymous accusations will be entertained by the Assembly.

Section 4. Any Officer that leaves the University of Minnesota or is otherwise unable to perform the duties of office shall resign immediately. In the event of the resignation or removal of any Officer other than the President, a special election shall be initiated at the next Assembly Meeting to fill the remainder of the Officer's term. If there is less than one [1] week until the next Assembly Meeting, the election must be moved to the next Meeting. The Board is responsible for publicizing any and all special elections. Presidential duties shall be assumed by the Executive Vice President in the event of the President's resignation or removal.

### **Article VII – Bylaws**

Section 1. Bylaws of GAPSAs shall be established and altered by a two-thirds [2/3] vote of the Assembly at GAPSAs Meetings.

### **Article VIII – Financials**

Section 1. GAPSAs will operate as a non-profit organization.

Section 2. The fiscal year of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly shall commence on July 1<sup>st</sup> and end on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

Section 3. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly shall not provide monetary gain, incidental or otherwise, to its Officers or Members. This does not restrict payment of wages, salaries, stipends, or compensation for services rendered.

### **Article IX – Assembly Actions**

Section 1. Resolutions adopted by GAPSAs represent a majority viewpoint of graduate and professional students at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and professional students at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Section 2. Any Member of the General Body may submit a resolution to be adopted by GAPSAs except for the President of GAPSAs, who may co-author a resolution, but may not vote or author a resolution. The Vice President for Administrative Affairs, who may

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not vote, may author or co-author a resolution, but must step down as parliamentarian for that agenda item.

Section 3. Resolutions require a majority vote to be adopted by GAPSA.

Section 4. No person acting as a representative of GAPSA may act in contradiction to or in violation of passed resolutions, or take an official position in absence of a passed resolution.

Section 5. Written copies of resolutions under consideration will be available at the Assembly Meeting. Resolutions must be submitted to GAPSA no later than five [5] business days before Assembly Meetings. Resolutions introduced within five [5] business days of Assembly Meetings and up until approval of the agenda may be allowed onto the agenda by a majority vote of the Assembly.

### **Article X – Amendments to and Interpretation of the Constitution**

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths [3/4] vote of the present Assembly at GAPSA Meetings. Any Member of the Assembly or Board can propose amendments. Amendments become effective upon adoption.

Section 2. Any questions or disagreements concerning the language or interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws shall be referred to the Board for review and adjudication.

### **Article XI – Establishment**

This constitution shall be established by a vote of three-fourths [3/4] majority of the Assembly.

### **Article XII – Dissolution**

Section 1. Dissolution of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly may only occur through either a unanimous vote of the Assembly or a two-thirds [2/3] majority vote of all Membership.

Section 2. In case of dissolution, the Executive Board is responsible for liquidating all assets and satisfying all liabilities. The Executive Board will surrender all remaining assets to the University of Minnesota under the condition that they be distributed among graduate and professional students in the form of a fee credit.

*Ratified by the Assembly October 17, 2007*

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**AMENDMENTS**

I. This is an example Amendment Title

This is the text of the amendment. Only grammatical/technical changes may be reflected in the body of the original Constitution. All substantive amendments must be listed at the end of the document in this format so as to avoid confusion.

*Ratified by the Assembly Month XX, 20XX*