Constitution

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ARTICLE I  NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of the organization shall be the Graduate and Professional Student Senate of the University of Washington, hereinafter referred to as the GPSS.

ARTICLE II  PURPOSE

Section A  The GPSS shall, in every way possible, attempt to improve all aspects of graduate and professional student life at the University of Washington. It shall consider any matter that directly influences or affects the graduate and professional student body as a valid item for its interest and deliberation.

Section B  The GPSS shall act as the representative organization for graduate and professional students at the University of Washington.

ARTICLE III  MEMBERSHIP

Section A  The members of the GPSS shall be selected senators from each graduate or professional degree granting unit, hereinafter referred to as an academic area. Spatially or administratively isolated portions of a degree granting unit may petition to the Executive Committee to be eligible to select their own senators. Specific selection procedures for and duties of the senators are set forth in the GPSS Bylaws, hereinafter referred to as the Bylaws.

Clause 1  Each academic area shall have the right to select two senators who are registered graduate or professional students as members. Selection procedures are set forth in Article II of the Bylaws.

Clause 2  Each senator shall have one vote at GPSS meetings, which may be cast in person or by proxy, as set forth in the Bylaws.

Section B  The GPSS shall make every effort to obtain representation from all academic areas.

Section C  Under-represented graduate and professional minority groups may petition the Senate to elect one senator to represent that group.

Clause 1  Petitions shall be governed by the same procedure that applies to Senate resolutions.

Clause 2  The Senator elected in this manner will have the rights and privileges of other Senators.

Clause 3  The Senate seat for under-represented graduate and professional minority groups may be removed by a 2/3rds vote or above of the Senate if underrepresented Senate seat remains vacant for two years or more.

Clause 4  Groups that gain representation by petition are not eligible for departmental funds.

Section D  The Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW) shall have two voting members on the GPSS. The ASUW representatives to the GPSS shall be appointed by the ASUW and shall have all the rights and responsibilities of GPSS senators.

ARTICLE IV  SENATE MEETINGS

Section A  At least two meetings shall be held each quarter, excluding summer quarter.

Section B  The President shall call special GPSS meetings when requested by the Executive Committee or by a written petition from 1/3 of all senators, or as he or she deems necessary.

Section C  The Judicial Committee may, by unanimous vote, call a special meeting of the Senate.

ARTICLE V  ADMINISTRATION

Section A  Officers

Clause 1  The officers of the GPSS shall be a President, Vice President of Internal Affairs, Vice President of External Affairs, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Clause 2  The GPSS officers shall be elected annually by the membership as set forth in the Bylaws.

Clause 3  During their term in office, the GPSS officers must be registered graduate or professional students fall through spring quarters.

Clause 4  The GPSS officers shall serve on the Executive Committee.
ARTICLE VIII  AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

Section A  Any senator or officer may propose an amendment to this constitution.

Clause 1  Proposed amendments shall only be considered during fall, winter or spring quarters when the full GPSS is in session.

Clause 2  The proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least two weeks before it can be considered.

Clause 3  The Secretary shall distribute copies of the proposed amendment to the GPSS at least seven days before the GPSS meeting at which it is to be considered.

Section B  Any amendment to this constitution shall require approval at a Senate meeting by a 2/3 majority vote of those senators present, in person or by proxy.

Section C  Any amendment which receives the required 2/3 majority shall become effective immediately after adjournment of the meeting at which it is adopted, unless the motion to amend specified a time that the amendment shall take effect.