
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Graduate & Professional Student Senate Constitution



Revised: April 20, 2022

Adopted: April 20, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	2
ARTICLE II	PURPOSE	2
ARTICLE III	MEMBERSHIP	2
ARTICLE IV	SENATE MEETINGS	3
ARTICLE V	ADMINISTRATION	3
ARTICLE VI	JUDICIAL PROCESS	4
ARTICLE VII	BYLAWS	4
ARTICLE VIII	AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION	4

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.

 Clause 1 The GPSS shall admit Senators who were chosen through a fair, consistent, and democratic process. Their names shall be submitted by a school/college, department, or program's graduate program advisor or equivalent.

 Clause 2 Challenges to the Selection of Senators

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 the 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, Vice President of Equity and Inclusion, Vice President of Administration, and Vice President of Finance.
 - 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.
 - Clause 5 The GPSS officers shall not be senators while in office, but shall have all the rights accorded to senators.
 - Clause 6 The GPSS officers shall perform such duties as are specified in the Bylaws.
 - Clause 7 An officer may be recalled according to the provisions set forth in Article X of the Bylaws.
- Section B Committees of the Senate
 - Clause 1 The standing committees of the GPSS shall include the Executive Committee, the Finance & Budget Committee, and the Judicial Committee. The compositions and functions of these committees are set forth in the Bylaws.
 - Clause 2 The creation and elimination of additional GPSS standing committees shall require approval at a Senate meeting by 2/3 of those senators present, in person or by proxy, as set forth in Article VI, Section E of the Bylaws.
 - Clause 3 The creation and elimination of ad hoc committees shall require the approval at a Senate meeting of a simple majority of those senators present, in person or by proxy, as set forth in Article VI, Section E of the Bylaws.
- Section C The GPSS may have such other paid, administrative positions as requested by the GPSS Officers, approved by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee, and approved at a Senate meeting through the approval of the annual budget. The Vice President of Internal Affairs is authorized to create and maintain the GPSS Personnel Policy Manual, with the approval of the Executive Committee, consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws, which may expand on any provision related to personnel and specify additional personnel rules. All hires and terminations must take place in accordance with the Bylaws and Personnel Policy Manual.

ARTICLE VI JUDICIAL PROCESS

- Section A Should a grievance arise concerning an interpretation of the Constitution or Bylaws, or concerning any procedure, committee, officer, officer candidate, or senator of the GPSS, the system of adjudication shall be as follows:
 - Clause 1 The official Judicial Committee complaint review process shall follow the guidelines specified in Article VI, Section B, Clause 2(b) of the GPSS Bylaws.
 - Clause 2 The Senate shall vote on recommendations of the Judicial Committee. Recommendations of action must be passed by a 2/3 majority. The decision of the GPSS Senate is final.

ARTICLE VII BYLAWS

Bylaws conforming to this constitution shall be adopted at a Senate meeting by a simple majority vote of those senators present, in person or by proxy.

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 President at least two weeks before it can be considered.
 - Clause 3 The President 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.