University of Maryland
Graduate Student Government
Constitution

Preamble

We, the graduate students of the University of Maryland College Park, in order to secure and protect the rights of all graduate students at this institution, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the graduate student body, and in so doing, outline a graduate student body organization charged with serving and representing all graduate students under a unified organization.

Article 1: Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Graduate Student Government of the University of Maryland College Park (herein referred to as "GSG").

Section 2: Purpose

2.1 It shall be the supreme graduate student governmental body for implementing the objectives set forth in the Preamble, subject only to the laws of our state and the nation, and the right of review by the President of the University of Maryland College Park, or his/her specifically designated representative.

2.2 It shall formulate policies promoting and governing the activities and welfare of the students of the University of Maryland College Park (herein referred to as "University"), and it shall advise the Dean of the Graduate School, the University Senate, the President of the University, and the Maryland General Assembly on the graduate student viewpoint concerning all matters affecting graduate student life.

2.3 It shall be responsible for the allocation of accumulated Graduate Student Activities Fees.

2.4 It shall act to improve the quality of education and enhance the quality of life of the graduate student body.

Article 2: Membership

Section 1: All graduate students, by virtue of their enrollment in active graduate programs at the University, are members of the GSG and are granted all the rights and privileges of this Constitution.

Section 2: The GSG shall be comprised of the executive (herein referred to as "Executive Committee") legislative (herein referred to as "Assembly") , and judicial (herein referred to as the "Court") branches. The duties and responsibilities of these branches are set forth in this Constitution, which powers cannot be increased or decreased except by amendment to this Constitution.

Section 3: All members shall be entitled to vote in special and general elections of the GSG. Any graduate student has the right to call for a University-wide referendum/recall election, provided that a petition signed by at least one-twentieth (5%) of the GSG's total membership is submitted as specified by statute.

Article 3: The Executive Committee

Section 1: The Executive committee shall contain of the following offices:

· President
· Vice President for Legislative Affairs
· Vice President for Financial Affairs

Other offices may be created as provided in the bylaws (see Article 6).

Section 2: Duties and Responsibilities of the President

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the organization. It shall be the duties and responsibilities of the President to:

2.1 Nominate and, with the advice and consent of the Assembly, appoint all non-elected executive officials and committee chairs.

2.2 Appoint and remove, with the advice and consent of the Assembly, all program heads.

2.3 Recommend graduate students for appointments to, or removals from, University-wide councils, committees, and boards.

2.4 Sign or veto, within ten (10) University working days all bills, resolutions, amendments, bylaws, and budgetary allocations passed by the Assembly. The President's failure to act during this specified time shall be deemed approval of such legislation. The Assembly may

override any presidential veto by a two-thirds (66%) vote of its total present and voting membership.

Other duties and responsibilities may be provided by the bylaws (see Article 7).

Section 3: Duties and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Legislative Affairs

It shall be the duties and responsibilities of the Vice President for Legislative Affairs to:

3.1 Serve as President *pro tem*, if, for any reason, the office becomes vacant, or when requested to serve in the President's absence.

3.2 Perform such duties as the President may assign him/her in the administration of the Executive.

3.3 Preside over the Assembly.

Other duties and responsibilities may be provided by the bylaws (see Article 6).

Section 4: Duties and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Financial Affairs

It shall be the duties and responsibilities of the Vice President for Financial Affairs to:

4.1 Order the disbursement of funds of the GSG as directed by the Assembly.

4.2 Perform such duties as the President may assign him/her in the administration of the Executive.

4.3 Oversee the financial affairs of the GSG.

Other duties and responsibilities may be provided by the bylaws (see Article 6).

Section 5: Election of members of the Executive Committee

The election of officers shall take place in general elections each April. All graduate students shall be eligible to vote in these elections. Those graduate students seeking offices may be nominated by themselves or by another member of the GSG. Following nominations, a University-wide vote shall take place to decide the elections. The candidate who receives the most votes for a given position shall be deemed elected to that office.

No person shall be elected to the same Executive office more than twice, and no person who has held Executive office for more than one semester of a term to which some other person was elected shall be elected to that same office more than once.

Article 4: The Assembly

Section 1: Membership and Organization

The Assembly shall consist of two (2) main groups of members:

Graduate Students
Administration

Section 2: Graduate Students

2.1 Elected representatives from every active graduate program (herein referred to as "departmental representatives)

Departmental representatives shall serve terms of one (1) year. Representatives may serve unlimited consecutive terms, provided that they are selected legitimately by the graduate students in their programs. Each program shall be entitled to one (1) representative for each one hundred (100) of its graduate students or part thereof, with minimum representation of one (1) representative per program. Departmental representatives shall have voting rights.

2.2 Representatives from every non-academic graduate student organization (herein referred to as "non-departmental representatives")

Non-departmental representatives shall serve terms of one (1) year. Representatives may serve unlimited consecutive terms, provided that they are selected legitimately by the graduate students in their organizations. Each organization is entitled to an unlimited number of representatives, with minimum representation of one (1) representative per organization. Non-departmental representatives shall not have voting rights, but they may contribute freely and openly to discussions.

Section 3: Administration (herein referred to as "administrative representatives")

Various members of the University's administration shall be invited to each Assembly meeting. These include but are not limited to the GSG Faculty Advisor, the Coordinator for Graduate Student Involvement, the Graduate Ombudsperson, and the Dean of the Graduate School. Administrative representatives shall not have voting rights, but they may contribute freely and openly to discussions.

Section 4: Meetings of the Assembly

4.1 The Assembly shall meet once per month in legislative session.

4.2 Special meetings may be called at the request of the President, or by a petition signed by at least twenty voting members of the Assembly.

4.3 Meetings shall follow parliamentary procedure as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order, most recent edition. A Parliamentarian may be elected or appointed provided by the Bylaws (see Article 6).

4.4 A quorum of at least twenty (20) members of the legislature must be present in order to conduct official business.

Section 5: Duties and Responsibilities of the Assembly

5.1 All legislative powers granted herein shall be vested in the GSG Assembly.

5.2 The Assembly shall receive and initiate action upon all petitions of initiative, referendum, and recall submitted by the graduate student body.

5.3 The Assembly may override a presidential veto on any action by a two-thirds (66%) vote of its total voting membership.

5.4 The Assembly shall form such standing committees and *ad hoc* committees as it deems necessary.

5.5 The Assembly shall be charged with the investigatory duties of the GSG.

5.6 The Assembly, by a majority vote of its total present and voting membership, may bring impeachment proceedings before the Assembly for any just cause, including but not limited to neglect, unsatisfactory performance, or misrepresentation of duty against appointed or elected officers of any class, branch, or department of the GSG.

5.7 All presidential appointments are subject to approval of the Assembly with a majority vote of its total present and voting membership.

Article 5. The Court

The Judicial Court shall be the third branch of the Graduate Student Government whose scope and authority shall be proscribed in the GSG Bylaws.

Article 6: Standing and *Ad Hoc* Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees

1.1 Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee shall prepare the GSG budget for ratification by the Assembly and serve to oversee all GSG financial matters.

1.2. Elections Committee

The Elections Committee shall organize and oversee the elections of members of the Executive Committee and representatives to the Assembly.

1.3. Graduate Student Affairs Committee.

The Graduate Student Affairs Committee shall be responsible for all issues that pertain to the quality of life of graduate students.

1.4. Ways and Means Committee

The Ways and Means Committee shall review all proposed legislation before being brought to the Assembly, as well as set the agendas of the Assembly meetings.

Other committees may be created as provided by the bylaws.

Section 2. Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc committees shall be established as deemed necessary by the bylaws and the Assembly.

Article 6. Bylaws

The Assembly may adopt bylaws such as it deems necessary in keeping with this Plan of Organization. Bylaws shall be adopted, changed or amended by a two thirds (66%) majority of the Assembly total present and voting membership. The bylaws shall include the duties of all Executive and Assembly members and the rules of standing committees.

Article 7: Amendments and Reviews

Section 1: Amendments to this Constitution must be approved by a majority of the GSG's total membership during general elections, provided that at least one-twentieth (5%) of the GSG's total membership votes in said elections.

Section 2: Any member of the graduate student body may propose amendments to this Constitution.

2.1 Amendments shall be presented in writing to the Ways and Means Committee, which shall transmit them to the Court. After reviewing an amendment as specified in the GSG Bylaws, the Court shall forward said amendment and the

conclusions of its review to the Ways and Means Committee. The Ways and Means Committee shall transmit the text of an amendment to the to members of the Assembly at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the Assembly meeting at which the amendment is to be considered.

2.2 Amendments approved by a majority of the Assembly's total present and voting membership shall be placed on the ballot of the next general elections.

2.3 Should amendments not be approved by a majority vote of the Assembly's total present and voting membership, any graduate student shall have the right to call for a University-wide referendum on said amendments, provided that a petition calling for such a referendum is signed by least one-twentieth (5%) of the GSG's total membership and is submitted as specified by statute.

2.3.1 If approved in referendum under the same conditions outlined in Article 7, Section 1, the amendment shall be passed into law.

Section 3: The current Constitution and bylaws shall be reviewed every fifth (5th) year by a special committee appointed by the President. All recommended amendments from said committee shall be administered according to Article 6:Section 2.

Article 8: Supersession

This Constitution supersedes all previous Plans of Organization.

Date of Ratification by Referendum: **October 27, 2005**