



Resolution No. 1718-03

A Resolution to Propose a Process for Unifying Graduate Student Association and Graduate Professional Council

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE GATHERED THAT:

WHEREAS, The specific unification of GSA and GPC provides unique and long-lasting benefits for graduate students; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By 2/3 majority vote of the General Assembly here gathered that the Graduate Professional Council does approve following the unification proposal outlined in Appendix A.

SUBMITTED,

The GPC Executive Board

Appendix A

Blueprint of Proposal to Unify GSA in to GPC

The Big Picture

- Under this proposal, the functions of the Graduate Student Association will be subsumed into the Graduate Professional Council. GSA will cease to operate as a separate body, but the functions it serves to graduate students, including travel grants, professional development programming, and Superior/Outstanding Graduate Student and Staff awards, among others, will continue under the purview of GPC.
- GPC will create new positions to handle GSA's former roles, including a new executive board-level Director of Professional Development and three Assistant Director roles.
- This document provides an overview of the changes. If this document is approved, the boards of GSA and GPC will be empowered to make the necessary revisions to their respective bylaws. These revisions will be communicated to the GSA General Council and the GPC General Assembly by their first regularly-scheduled meetings of the Winter semester. Should these revisions fail to meet the requirements of this blueprint, any member of those bodies would be able to call for a vote to suspend unification until the revisions adequately meet the standards of these guidelines.
- These changes would take effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1, 2018.

Positions

- The new Director of Professional Development Executive Board-level position will be responsible for professional development and "alt-ac/non-ac" resources, programming, and advocacy. Current GSA programming and any existing GPC professional development programming will be the purview of the Director of Professional Development.
- Assistant Director Positions
 - AD of Academic Affairs (*reports to VP: sits on GFS*)
 - AD of Fundraising (*reports to Treasurer*)



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- AD of Professional Development (*reports to Director of Professional Development*)
- Each of the above positions will be appointed by the executive board member that the assistant reports to, and confirmed by simple majority of the executive board. AD positions may come with no greater than a \$100 honorarium to help offset incidental expenses incurred in the course of AD duties. AD positions do not convey voting privileges on the GPC Executive Board, nor remit to officially represent the organization except as specifically authorized by the executive officer to whom they report.

Recognition Awards

- The Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Superior Graduate Student Award, and Outstanding Staff Award will continue to be provided. Logistics will be the responsibility of the Vice President.

Funding

- *The Director of Professional Development* will be paid an honorarium of at least \$2,500, consistent with the minimum contract for other GPC officer positions.
- *Professional Development Travel Award* - GPC shall maintain a budget line specific to professional development travel funding, with an initial amount comparable to GSA's professional development travel funding at the time of passage of this proposal (\$5,000). Consistent with what existing students are familiar with, the new GPC Professional Development Travel Award will be treated as distinct from the GPC Conference Presentation Award, and prospective applicants may apply to either or both during each travel cycle.
- *Professional Development Programming* - GPC shall maintain a budget line specific to professional development programming, with an initial amount comparable to GSA's professional development programming budget at the time of passage of this proposal (\$4,000)

Transition Provisions

- The unification will be effective as of July 1, 2018.
- The Immediate Past President (IPP) of both GPC and GSA as of AY17-18 will be granted privileges to play an active advisory role in the AY18-19 implementation of the unification, including speaking privileges in the GPC General Assembly and a standing slot in the GPC General Assembly agenda subject to the provisions for standard guest presentations. Additionally, the IPP of GSA shall be granted an *ex officio*, non-voting seat on the GPC Executive Board, including a standing invite to all Executive Board meetings. These privileges are revoked effective August 1, 2019.
- By May 1, 2018, the outgoing GSA President shall provide to the incoming AY18-19 Executive Board a document outlining existing GSA programs and identifying specific recommendations for program priorities and improvements.

Assorted Functions

- GSA's seat on Graduate Faculty Senate shall be transferred to GPC and assigned by GPC's VP to the AD for Academic Affairs.



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Failsafe Clauses

- Upon approval of this unification proposal, a comprehensive set of modifications to the GPC bylaws codifying the provisions laid down in this blueprint will be generated by the current (AY17-18) executive boards of both GSA and GPC and presented in tandem to the representative bodies of each organization at their regularly scheduled meetings of January 30, 2018 and February 6, 2018, respectively. Any voting member may trigger a vote at a regularly-scheduled meeting of that body to remand the full language to the drafting group on the basis that the proposed bylaws fail to adequately accommodate the provisions outlined herein. Passage of this vote shall place a temporary halt on the unification. This failsafe privilege extends no later than the final regularly scheduled meeting of each body for AY17-18.
- As per the current GPC-MSA Articles of Cooperation, GPC is required to transfer 50% of its student activity fee revenue to MSA (the undergraduate student government). Unification shall not occur if the sum of the student activity fee for GSA, upon transfer to GPC, would be subject to this requirement.

Appendix B

Timeline for the Above Proposal

Oct 31: GSA GA (*Presentation Only*)

Nov 7: GPC GA (*Presentation & Vote*)

5pm: Mini Town Hall

6pm: GPC Vote

Nov 15: Joint Town Hall (*12-2pm*)

Nov 28: GSA GA (*Vote*)