

# CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Established 1983  
Revised May 19, 2020

Revisions approved by the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and  
incorporated by the 2019-2020 GPC President

The graduate and professional students of the University of Missouri, recognizing the common interests, needs, goals, and perspectives of graduate and professional students, do hereby establish the Graduate Professional Council, hereafter GPC. GPC is designed to be a federation of the four existing graduate and professional student associations and all other recognized graduate and professional associations. Its purpose is to unite the graduate-professional students of this campus so that their interests can be best represented to the campus and the University Administration. Its goals are to promote academic achievement, to provide user-friendly services, and to facilitate career development.

## Nondiscrimination Clause:

GPC prohibits any constitutional, ritualistic, or selective restriction that shall deny membership, participation, or any other appropriate form of inclusion to any graduate or professional student for any reason, including those specifically cited pursuant to state and federal law in the M-book.

## Investiture of Power Clause:

Any authority not explicitly installed by writ in the governing documents of the GPC, which includes the Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions, aside from the power that is absolutely necessary to attain goals or tasks explicitly assigned in said documents, is to be understood as lying with the General Assembly.

## ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1. All students enrolled with the Office of Graduate Studies, School of Medicine, School of Law, College of Veterinary Medicine, Post-Baccalaureate Program, and Post-Doctorate Program shall be members of the GPC.

## ARTICLE II – STRUCTURE

- 2.1. The governing body of the GPC shall be the General Assembly, hereafter the Assembly.
- 2.2. The executive body of the GPC shall be the Executive Board.

## ARTICLE III – GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 3.1. Represented Areas of the General Assembly shall be chosen from:
  - 3.1.1. Departments, or equivalent entities, with graduate programs of the colleges, schools or various entities, where such graduate programs are overseen by the Graduate School.
  - 3.1.2. Graduate Programs not housed under a department or equivalent entity, but which are housed under, or recognized by, the Graduate School.
  - 3.1.3. Professional programs of the professional schools.
- 3.2. The size of Represented Areas shall be evaluated and updated as necessary prior to or during each Spring semester from the most recent graduate and professional student Census Data.
  - 3.2.1. In the event of a merger or splitting of a Represented Area, or some other state of affairs which would cause a dramatic change in the enrollment status of a Represented Area, the Executive Board will reevaluate the size of each affected Represented Area.
- 3.3. The Secretary shall contact each Represented Area at the University of Missouri to encourage them to select Representatives. Persons selected to be Representatives must be registered with the Secretary as soon as possible.
- 3.4. Selection of GPC Representatives
  - 3.4.1. Each Represented Area will be responsible for holding elections or appointing their Representative(s).
  - 3.4.2. Representatives shall serve two academic semesters. If a Representative can only serve during the first term, a new Representative will be appointed or elected within the first month of the new semester.
  - 3.4.3. All Representatives must be enrolled in their Represented Area as a graduate, professional, or post-baccalaureate student.
  - 3.4.4. At-Large Representatives
    - 3.4.4.1. For every 500 graduate and professional students enrolled as measured by the most recent Census Data from the Graduate School, there shall be one Representative-At-Large position.
    - 3.4.4.2. There shall be one Post-Baccalaureate At-Large Representative, in addition to those At-Large Representative provided for under Section 3.4.4.1.
    - 3.4.4.3. Each Represented Area shall not have more than one At-Large Representative.
    - 3.4.4.4. If there is a greater number of interested persons than available positions, each interested person must give their name to the Secretary to be placed on a ballot prior to an election. The election is to be held at the next meeting of the Assembly. Prior to this election, the availability of these positions shall be advertised or otherwise made known to the graduate and professional student body at the University. Once on the ballot, each candidate will be given the opportunity to speak before the Assembly votes.
    - 3.4.4.5. Once an At-Large Representative Position is vacated for whatever reason, that position will be lost. The Post-Baccalaureate At-Large Representative position shall be exempt from this section and be eligible to be filled by another Post-Baccalaureate student.
    - 3.4.4.6. Proxies are not permitted for At-Large Representatives.
- 3.5. When any member of the Assembly, who is not an At-Large Representative, is elected to an executive office, the Secretary shall notify the Representative's constituent Represented Area. The Represented Area will select a new Representative in the manner it deems proper.
  - 3.5.1. In the event that any Assembly member withdraws or is removed, for such cause as the Assembly deems proper, the Secretary shall notify the Representative's constituent department or professional school. The department or professional school shall select a new Representative in the manner it deems proper.
- 3.6. The functions of the Assembly are to:
  - 3.6.1. Elect the Executive Officers;

- 3.6.2. Elect ad hoc Committee Chairs with Presidential and Vice-Presidential confirmation;
- 3.6.3. Approve the annual budget and approve the allocation of miscellaneous funding and programming expenditures;
- 3.6.4. Make resolutions;
- 3.6.5. Propose amendments to this constitution;
- 3.6.6. Establish and amend the Bylaws;
- 3.6.7. Create its own procedural rules;
- 3.6.8. Serve as a forum for graduate-professional student interaction; and
- 3.6.9. Take any other reasonable action it deems necessary to fulfill the stated purpose of GPC.
- 3.7. The function of Committees shall be to serve the stated purpose of the particular committee in order to meet the needs of the of the graduate, professional, and post-baccalaureate students.
- 3.8. The Assembly shall meet at least once a month during the fall and spring semesters.
  - 3.8.1. A majority vote of either the Executive Officers or the Assembly shall be necessary to call a special meeting.
  - 3.8.2. A majority vote of either the Executive Officers or the Assembly can vote not to hold a meeting under special circumstances (e.g., three meetings in one month or a scheduling conflict with finals).
- 3.9. Quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Assembly members registered with the Secretary and shall be necessary to transact all business except that fewer members may adjourn a meeting. Note in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, quorum must be called at a given meeting in order to affect business that may come before the GPC.
- 3.10. A simple majority of those members present shall be sufficient to pass any resolution. A vote of two-thirds of those members present shall be necessary to pass a resolution authorizing an expenditure in excess of four percent of the annual budget or to amend the Constitution and Bylaws.

#### ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- 4.1. The Executive Officers shall be voting members of the Assembly, except the conducting officer who shall vote only in the event of a tie. However, the conducting officer is eligible to vote in Officer Elections but will not act as a tie-breaker.
- 4.2. Election of Officers
 

The Executive Officers shall be elected at the April meeting of the General Assembly of the Spring Semester, and shall serve for a term of one year, which shall run from the day of the May meeting of the General Assembly until the day before the May meeting of the General Assembly of the following year. The Borda count will be used to elect officers. See Bylaws Section 5.1.6. for details.

  - 4.2.1. The period of time between the April election and the May meeting of the General Assembly shall be used for training and transition between the newly elected Executive Officers and the outgoing Executive Officers.
  - 4.2.2. In the event any Executive Officer withdraws or is removed, an election shall be held at the next meeting of the General Assembly, unless special circumstances dictate otherwise.
- 4.3. The Executive Officers shall be:
  - 1. President;
  - 2. Vice President;
  - 3. Treasurer;
  - 4. Secretary;
  - 5. Director of Professional Development
  - 6. Director of Programming;
  - 7. Director of Public Relations;
  - 8. Director of National Affairs;

9. Director of State Affairs
- 4.4. The Executive Board shall be composed of all Executive Officers and Ex-Officio members.
- 4.4.1. Executive Officers shall be:
- 4.4.1.1. Required to attend all Executive Board meetings;
  - 4.4.1.2. Able to vote at all Executive Board meetings; and
  - 4.4.1.3. Delegated duties as outlined in the Bylaws.
- 4.4.2. Ex-Officio Members shall be:
- 4.4.2.1. The Immediate Past President and any position appointed or hired by the Executive Board as indicated by the Bylaws;
  - 4.4.2.2. Will not be required to attend all Executive Board meetings, unless otherwise indicated;
  - 4.4.2.3. Shall have no voting powers at Executive Board meetings; and
  - 4.4.2.4. Be required to fulfill all obligations as outlined in the Bylaws.
- 4.5. Succession of Officers-
- 4.5.1. Temporary Leave
- 4.5.1.1. In the event of the absence of the President, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President and so forth.
  - 4.5.1.2. In the event of the absence of the Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary, the President shall appoint a member to fulfill the duties of the vacant office for that particular meeting.
- 4.5.2. Vacancies
- 4.5.2.1. In the event of the resignation or removal of the President, the Vice President shall assume the position of President. Should the Vice Presidency be vacant, the next Executive Officer as outlined in Section 4.3 shall assume the position of President, and so forth.
  - 4.5.2.2. In the event of the resignation or removal of Executive Officers, excluding the President, the President shall have the power to appoint an interim Officer, with the approval of the Executive Board, to fulfill the duties of the vacant position until an election can be called.
- 4.6. Removal of Officers - The Executive Officers shall be subject to removal by the Assembly.
- 4.6.1. Procedure for impeachment shall require that the Executive Board, having voted in the majority, submit a written statement of reason(s) for removal to be distributed to all Representatives of the Assembly. The statement shall be read at a regular meeting of the Assembly.
- 4.6.2. Impeachment may also be had by submission of a petition, stating the reasons for removal and the signatures of twenty percent of Representatives of the GPC, as certified by the Secretary to the Assembly. In the event that the Secretary is named in the impeachment, the highest non-named Officer shall verify the signatures.
- 4.6.3. It will take a three-fourths vote to terminate that person's position.
- 4.6.4. No vote may be taken on the issue of removal until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Assembly after the impeachment is introduced.

## ARTICLE V – GPC ADVISOR

- 5.1. Selection of Faculty/Staff Advisor – The function of the Faculty/Staff Advisor shall be to serve as both counsel and liaison to the Executive Board and Assembly in matters dealing with University policy, function of the organization and issues affecting graduate-professional students.
- 5.2. The Executive Officers shall select a Faculty/Staff Advisor and present that selection to the Assembly at the next scheduled meeting. Once approved by the Assembly, the advisor will serve for an indefinite term.

- 5.3. In the event that the Advisor no longer wishes to serve the organization in this capacity, the Executive Board will meet within 30 days to select a new Advisor.
- 5.4. The Faculty/Staff Advisor is subject to removal by the Assembly. Procedure for removal shall parallel the steps necessary for removal of any Executive Officer as outline in 4.6 of the Constitution.

#### ARTICLE VI – INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

- 6.1. Referendum – A referendum is the principle or practice of referring measures proposed or passed by a legislative body to the vote of the electorate for approval or rejection.
- 6.2. Referendum – Passage of a referendum that requests to add or increase a student fee(s), shall require a three-fifths majority of the student body voting on the referendum. All other referendums shall require a simple majority for approval as outlined in the MSA/GPC Articles of Cooperation.
- 6.3. Resolution(s)/Constitutional Amendment(s) presented by graduate or professional Assembly Representative(s)
  - 6.3.1. The Assembly Representative may initiate a resolution or constitutional amendment by presenting petitions bearing the issue to be voted upon as it shall appear on the ballot and the signatures of ten percent of the membership is verified by the Secretary to the Executive Officers.
  - 6.3.2. The Executive Officers must call a general election within thirty days of its receipt of a valid petition.
  - 6.3.3. Approval of any Resolution(s) shall require a simple majority vote by those members present in the Assembly.
  - 6.3.4. Passage of Constitutional Amendment(s) shall require a two-thirds vote by those members present in the Assembly.
- 6.4. Resolution(s)/Constitutional Amendment(s) presented by the Executive Board
  - 6.4.1. The Executive Board may initiate a resolution or constitutional amendment by presenting to the Assembly one week prior to being presented to the Assembly for approval.
  - 6.4.2. Approval of any Resolution(s) shall require a simple majority vote by those members present in the Assembly.
  - 6.4.3. Passage of any Constitutional Amendment(s) shall require a two-thirds vote by those members present in the Assembly

#### ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENT

- 7.1. This Constitution may be amended by the membership. The Constitution shall be rewritten to reflect any amendment.
- 7.2. The Constitution may be amended under the provisions of Article VI.
- 7.3. The Assembly may amend the Constitution by two-thirds vote, provided that notice of the proposed amendment was distributed to the membership at least seven days before the meeting.

#### ARTICLE VIII – RATIFICATION

- 8.1. This Constitution shall become effective when ratified by a majority of those voting in each of the four graduate and professional student divisional councils.

#### ARTICLE IX – GPC-GSA UNIFICATION PROVISION

- 9.1. The Graduate Professional Council shall subsume the duties of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.