

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the Graduate Student Government of Princeton University, henceforth abbreviated as GSG.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to represent and advocate the interests of graduate students at Princeton University (hereafter "The University"), excluding industrial action, to provide a forum for free and open discussion of matters affecting this community, and to provide financial and organizational support for social events within this community.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

The GSG shall consist of an Assembly and an Executive Committee. All full-time enrolled Princeton graduate students, including degree students, non-degree students, and leave-of-absence students who were enrolled the previous year, shall be electors of the Assembly, and will henceforth be referred to as members of the Graduate Student Body.

In addition, "all but dissertation" (ABD) students (technically known as ETDC students— "enrollment terminated; degree candidacy continuing") who are in residence in Princeton or who are employed by their departments may continue their membership by payment of the membership fee.

ARTICLE IV: THE ASSEMBLY

1. The Assembly shall be the representative body of the GSG. Representatives, Delegates, and Councilors shall be the members of the Assembly.
2. Representatives of the Assembly are members of the Graduate Student Body elected by and from the Academic Units of the University. Each academic department as defined by the Registrar of the University shall be considered an Academic Unit of the University; programs within departments may be represented as separate Academic Units if the majority of graduate students in those programs desire to be represented separately, subject to the approval of the Assembly in the By-Laws. Such separate representation may be terminated either by a majority vote of the members of that program, or by amendment of the By-Laws. Members of interdepartmental

programs shall be represented through their department of primary affiliation, unless the program is represented separately under this Clause. In the event that an Academic Unit is abolished or removed by the University or the Assembly, that Unit's Representative shall cease to be a member of the Assembly. In the event that a Representative ceases to be a member of the Graduate Student Body, or in the event that the Representative ceases to be a member of his or her constituency, that Representative shall cease to hold his or her seat in the Assembly.

3. Delegates of the Assembly are members of the Graduate Student Body chosen by the residential communities and certain interest groups specified in the By-Laws. Because the GSG wishes to establish a diverse forum for communication with the many nonacademic organizations on campus and recognizes the contributions of these organizations, Delegates shall hold every power held by Representatives of the Assembly except the right to vote in matters before the Assembly, including, but not limited to, the right to move matters before the Assembly, propose amendments to such matters, and debate. Some interest groups, as defined in the By-Laws, shall be considered voting interest groups, and shall send voting Delegates instead of non-voting Delegates. These voting Delegates shall have the right to vote on all matters before the Assembly, except for funding requests. In order to be considered a voting interest group, a group must be so designated by By-Law and must represent a unique minority viewpoint which is otherwise underrepresented. [Legislative Intent: The Assembly recognizes that certain groups of individuals on campus are likely to be underrepresented in the Assembly. The purpose of this clause is to encourage greater participation and ensure that these individuals are not excluded from the work of the Assembly. Each group should represent at least 1% of the Graduate Student Body and submit to the Parliamentary Secretary annually a list of its members.]

4. Councilors of the Assembly are members of the Graduate Student Body who hold positions of trust within the GSG. Councilors shall hold every right and privilege accorded to Delegates. Councilors may also be Representatives or Delegates, and Councilors who are Representatives shall exercise such rights to which they are entitled as Representatives. All Officers of the Assembly shall be Councilors. The Assembly may, by By-Law, confer the rank of Councilor on other persons. [Legislative Intent: Councilors are those charged with representing the Assembly or the Graduate Student Body to external parties or organizations.]

5. The duties of a Representative shall be:

1. to attend GSG Assembly meetings,
2. to bring issues and concerns from his or her constituents to the GSG Assembly,
3. to post or distribute minutes of GSG Assembly meetings as necessary,
4. to distribute information from the GSG to his or her constituents, and to designate a proxy for Assembly and Committee meetings when necessary.

6. The duties of a Delegate shall be:
 1. to attend GSG Assembly meetings, and
 2. to bring issues and concerns from his or her constituents to the GSG Assembly.
 3. for voting delegates, to designate a proxy for Assembly and Committee meetings when necessary.

7. The duties of a Councilor shall be:
 1. to attend GSG Assembly meetings,
 2. to attend meetings of any external organizations to which they are elected or appointed,
 3. to report on said meetings and other activities according to their office or position, and other duties as specified by By-Law.

8. A Representative or voting Delegate shall be considered Active if he or she has attended one of the previous three Assembly meetings. Any Representative or voting Delegate who fails to attend or send a proxy for three consecutive Assembly meetings shall be subsequently considered Inactive.

9. The Assembly shall not limit the number of terms which a Representative or Delegate may serve.

10. Representatives and voting Delegates shall be elected annually, their terms not to exceed fifteen months.

11. An individual may hold no more than one Representative or voting Delegate seat in the Assembly at a time, nor serve as a Representative from more than one Academic Unit at any meeting, even if one or more of those representations is by virtue of holding a proxy.

12. In the event that no written membership list exists for a non-academic constituent group, the Delegate shall be that individual who collects a petition with the most signatures from the members of that constituency. In the event that no petition is submitted, any member of that group attending a particular meeting may be considered upon request to be the Delegate of that constituency.

13. The Assembly, by a simple majority, may vote to vacate Inactive seats.

14. The number of Representative seats shall be set by By-Law, but must in all cases equal or exceed the number of Academic Units, and each Academic Unit containing at least one member must have at least one Representative seat. Seats are to be allocated annually based on figures from the Registrar's Office concerning the total number of

graduate students in each Academic Unit. To these totals should be added the number of post-enrolled students who have paid their dues and joined the membership of the Graduate Student Body. The procedure for assigning the number of Representatives for each Academic Unit shall be:

1. Each Academic Unit shall be assigned one seat.
2. The number of students per Representative seat in each Academic Unit shall be calculated.
3. If the total number of Representative seats specified by the By-Laws has not been reached, an additional seat shall be allocated to the Academic Unit or Units with the highest ratio of students per seat, and steps (b) and (c) shall be repeated until the number of Representative seats equals that specified by the By-Laws.
4. In the event that more than one Academic Unit has the same number of graduate students per seat, both Academic Units will have an additional seat allocated.

This procedure may result in the number of Representatives being slightly higher than the number specified in the By-Laws, in the event that more than one Academic Unit has the same number of graduate students per seat at a given iteration of the assignment process and the number of such Units exceeds the number of unassigned seats.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS OF THE GSG

1. The Officers of the GSG shall be: President, Vice President, Communications Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and Special Events Chair.
2. The President shall
 1. preside over meetings of the GSG Assembly. In the event that the President is absent or unable to preside for any reason, including joining actively in debate, the other officers shall preside as Acting President in the order in which the offices are listed above. If there is an Assistant to the President, the Assistant to the President shall succeed before the Vice President.
 2. coordinate meetings of the Executive Committee.
 3. report to the Assembly all actions of the Executive Committee since the previous Assembly meeting.
 4. schedule and call Extraordinary Meetings of the GSG Assembly.
 5. set the agenda for GSG Assembly meetings.
 6. appoint other Officers as deemed necessary by the President, such as an Assistant to the President, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee. Such Officers as may be appointed under this Clause shall not serve on the Executive Committee by virtue of their appointment under this Clause. They shall serve as Officers at the pleasure of the President.

7. determine the legitimate holder of a position in the Assembly for the duration of an Assembly meeting at which a dispute arises and subsequently convene the Executive Committee to resolve the dispute permanently.
 8. cast tie-breaking votes in the Assembly. In the absence of the President, the Acting President shall cast such votes.
3. The Vice President shall
 1. serve as Parliamentarian of the Assembly.
 2. take the roll and record votes at Assembly meetings.
 3. maintain the record of the Constitution and By-Laws.
 4. conduct all elections within the Assembly.
4. The Communications Director shall
 1. coordinate the updates to the GSG Web Site.
 2. coordinate the response to official correspondence.
 3. establish and maintain contacts with campus media organizations.
 4. encourage coverage of graduate concerns and GSG activities in campus media and in local and national media when appropriate.
 5. prepare and disseminate press releases when necessary.
5. The Secretary shall
 1. record minutes of the meetings of the GSG Assembly and Executive Committee and present them at the subsequent regular Assembly meeting.
 2. maintain an organized archive of committee reports, Assembly meeting minutes, and other records.
 3. coordinate with the Communications Director the publication on the GSG Web Site of all documents presented to the GSG Assembly.
6. The Treasurer shall
 1. manage GSG financial records.
 2. file all financial reports required of the GSG.
 3. prepare and submit the Annual Budget to the Assembly.
 4. summarize the previous month's disbursements and receipts at each regular Assembly meeting.
 5. submit a written financial report each year to be approved by the Assembly.
 6. ensure that all financial transactions are in accordance with the Constitution and budgetary By-Laws.
 7. coordinate and organize regular and ongoing GSG social events.
 8. provide assistance to individuals and student groups who are organizing social events.
 9. manage and distribute any credit cards, credit instruments, and credit accounts provided to the GSG by the University.

7. The Special Events Chair shall
 1. coordinate and organize the GSG's large social events and parties
8. The terms of all Offices shall be set by By-Law but shall not exceed fifteen months. The Assembly may, by By-Law, enact term limits on such Offices as they consider appropriate.
9. Officers shall be elected annually, as directed by By-Law.
10. The Assembly may draft By-Laws to supplement the duties of the Officers.
11. Officers shall be members of the Graduate Student Body.

ARTICLE VI: PROCEDURES OF THE ASSEMBLY

1. All GSG Assembly meetings shall be open to all members of the Graduate Student Body, with the following exceptions:
 1. The Assembly may vote by a simple majority to restrict part of a meeting to Assembly members, their proxies, and those required to answer points of information. No business may be transacted during such parts of a meeting as are closed, except as specified in VI-1(b). The Assembly may reopen a meeting by a simple majority vote.
 2. Either the President or a simple majority of the Assembly may close a meeting for the transaction of judicial business under Article VIII of the Constitution. The only business that may be transacted at such a meeting, or during the closed part of such a meeting, is the specific business for which the meeting was closed. No non-judicial business may be brought to the floor of the Assembly while the meeting remains closed. Such meetings shall not be minuted, unless the Assembly directs otherwise, with the exception that the judicial decisions reached by the Assembly, if any, must be minuted.
2. Extraordinary meetings are called by the President when the President determines that there is urgent business to be conducted by the Assembly. The only business which may be transacted at an Extraordinary Meeting is the business for which the meeting was called.
3. A quorum of the Assembly shall consist of a majority of Active Representative seats.
4. When necessary for order, meetings shall be conducted by the rules of Parliamentary procedure as described in Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise specified by By-Law.

5. The Assembly may decide during an Assembly meeting, by a simple majority, to hold a vote on any manner of business between Assembly meetings by e-mail or a similar means, or establish regular procedures for such votes by By-Law. A quorum for such a vote shall be a majority of Active and Inactive seats.
6. The Assembly may establish such committees as are deemed necessary and may establish their mandates and procedures. Committees may be composed partially or entirely of members of the Graduate Student Body who are not members of the Assembly.
7. The Assembly shall have the sole power to ratify the Annual Budget and approve expenditures, including expenditures which fall outside the budget.
8. Resolutions and Statutes may be passed by a simple majority of those Representatives present.
9. An absent Representative, Delegate, or Councilor, may appoint a proxy from amongst the Graduate Student Body, and the proxy shall exercise all the rights and responsibilities of that member in the meeting for which he or she was designated a proxy.
10. The Assembly may adopt By-Laws to supplement this Constitution. A By-Law or amendment to a By-Law may be enacted by a vote of two-thirds of the Active and Inactive Representatives and Special Voting Delegates of the Assembly at the meeting after which it was introduced. No By-Law may be adopted which contradicts this Constitution.
11. The Graduate Student Body may propose and adopt amendments to the By-Laws by the same procedure, outlined in Article XI, by which they may adopt amendments to this Constitution.

ARTICLE VII: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the GSG, as defined by Clause 1 of Article V, and the Chairs of the Standing Committees of the Assembly, as defined by the Standing Rules. An Officer who serves as the Chair of a Standing Committee shall be considered to hold a single seat on the Executive Committee.
2. The charge of the Executive Committee shall be set by the Constitution, the By-Laws, and the Assembly.
3. The President shall report at each regular meeting on the recent activities of the Executive Committee.

4. The Executive Committee shall initiate action to fill vacant seats of the Assembly.
5. The Executive Committee shall represent the Assembly in the interim between Assembly meetings.
6. The Executive Committee shall be collectively responsible for the physical offices and property of the organization, if any. No blame or responsibility shall be attached to the Executive Committee or any member thereof if physical property of the GSG is stolen or misused through no fault of theirs.

ARTICLE VIII: JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

1. Disputes with regard to the interpretation of the GSG Constitution or By-Laws, the determination of the legitimate holder of Representative seats, Delegate seats, Councilor positions, or other positions subject to GSG oversight, or any formal charges of negligence, incompetence, or malfeasance brought against a Representative, Delegate, Councilor, or holder of another position subject to GSG oversight shall be adjudicated according to the procedures in this Article.
2. Under regular circumstances, all such disputes will be heard by the Executive Committee, which, by simple majority, shall have the authority to
 1. determine the legitimate holder of a Representative seat, Delegate seat, Councilor position, or other position subject to GSG oversight.
 2. issue a formal Interpretation of any By-Law or portion of the Constitution in question.
 3. issue a formal Order to a member of the GSG in resolution of the matter.
 4. recommend to the Assembly the expulsion of a Representative, Delegate, or Councilor.
 5. recommend to the Assembly the exercise of any power of oversight such as censure or recall, it may possess with respect to the accused.
 6. dismiss the case without action.
3. All such actions by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Assembly at the next Assembly meeting. The Executive Committee may, by simple majority, establish such procedures for the conduct of its hearings as it sees fit. The procedures shall be recorded by the Secretary.
4. Charges against members of the Executive Committee, or against the entire Executive Committee, shall proceed directly to appeal without hearing by the Executive Committee.
5. Appeals will be heard by the full Assembly in the following cases:

1. the Executive Committee has recommended the expulsion of a Representative, Delegate, or Councilor;
 2. the Executive Committee has recommended the exercise, by the Assembly, of any other power of oversight it may possess, such as censure or recall, with respect to the accused;
 3. charges have been brought against members of the Executive Committee, or against the entire Executive Committee; or
 4. the Assembly votes, by simple majority, to review the matter.
6. The Assembly shall have the authority to resolve matters considered under Clause 4 of this Article and may, by a two-thirds majority of Active seats:
1. censure an Officer;
 2. suspend an Officer for a definite period of time and appoint an Interim Officer;
 3. remove an Officer and vacate his or her Office; or
 4. ban an Officer from holding Office again or remove such a ban.
7. The Assembly shall have the authority to follow or ignore the recommendation of the Executive Committee and may, by a two-thirds majority of Active seats:
1. expel a Representative, Delegate, or Councilor.
 2. censure a Representative, Delegate, or Councilor.
 3. ban a member of the Assembly from serving in the Assembly or remove such a ban.
8. The Assembly shall have the authority to override an Executive Committee decision on a judicial matter and may, by a two-thirds majority of Active seats:
1. determine the legitimate holder of a Representative seat, Delegate seat, non-Officer Councilor position, or other position subject to GSG oversight.
 2. issue a formal Interpretation of any By-Law or portion of the Constitution in question.
 3. issue a formal Order to a member of the GSG in resolution of the matter, or revise or rescind the Executive Committee's Order.
 4. dismiss the case without action.
9. Under regular circumstances, the GSG President shall preside over appeals before the Assembly. If charges have been brought against the President, or if the President wishes to take a non-neutral position in the case, the appeal shall be presided over by the Vice President. If charges have been brought against both the President and the Vice President or against the entire Executive Committee, or if the Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of Active seats, decides the action is warranted, the Assembly shall elect one of its members Inquisitor to preside over the appeal.

10. The Assembly may establish, by By-Law, such procedures for the conduct of its hearings as it sees fit.

ARTICLE IX: THE BUDGET

- 1. All expenditures must be approved by the Assembly.**
- 2. The Assembly shall approve an Annual Budget.**
- 3. The Annual Budget must be balanced such that the anticipated expenditures shall not exceed the anticipated income.**
- 4. Expenditures beyond those approved in the budget must be individually approved by the Assembly.**
- 5. A record of expenditures shall be open to inspection by any member of the Graduate Student Body.**
- 6. The Assembly may appoint an Auditor.**
- 7. The GSG is a non-profit organization. [Legislative Intent: The State of New Jersey requests proof of non-profit status, ideally to be supplied by the Constitution of the organization in question, before granting approval for event liquor licenses and other similar matters.]**
- 8. The GSG shall not provide assistance, financial or otherwise, to any political cause. [Legislative Intent: Funding political causes jeopardizes our tax-exempt status.]**

ARTICLE X: FEES

- 1. An annual fee shall be assessed to all graduate students who are enrolled full-time and are in residence, and collected from such qualified others as wish to join under the provisions of Clause III-2. The fee shall be fifteen dollars for the 2013-2014 academic year, and shall increase by the same proportion as the University Fellowship in subsequent academic years.**
- 2. The income from this fee will be used to help fulfill the purpose of the GSG. The uses of the proceeds from this fee include, but are not limited to, GSG operating and communications costs, GSG events and activities, and support of other organizations and events that address graduate concerns.**
- 3. This article is amendable only under the conditions prescribed by Clause XI-6.**

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENT

- 1. An amendment to this Constitution may be submitted for consideration either by a majority of the Assembly or a petition signed by at least 10% of the Graduate Student Body.**
- 2. Any submitted amendment must be presented in writing at a meeting of the Assembly and must be publicized by the GSG to the Graduate Student Body at least one week prior to a vote on it.**
- 3. An amendment shall be deemed accepted if either**
 - 1. it is approved by a two-thirds vote of all Representative seats, or**
 - 2. it is approved in a referendum presented to all members of the Graduate Student Body and receives the approval of a majority of those voting, which majority must be equal to or greater than one-third of those eligible to vote.**
- 4. If an amendment is submitted through a petition and the Assembly does not ratify it, the amendment must be referred to a referendum of the Graduate Student Body. The Assembly may, by a simple majority, refer any other proposed amendment to a referendum.**
- 5. Sections II, IV-2, IV-3, IV-4, IV-10, IV-13, IX-5, and XI of this Constitution shall be amendable only by referendum.**
- 6. Any proposed change in Article X or this Clause must be presented in a referendum to all members of the Graduate Student Body. For the change to be adopted, three-fifths of those voting must approve the amendment, and that three-fifths must be greater than or equal to one-third of those eligible to vote.**

ARTICLE XII: RATIFICATION AND TRANSITION

- 1. Ratification of this Constitution shall require:**
 - 1. a two-thirds majority of all Active Assembly seats as the Assembly is constituted prior to the ratification of this Constitution, and**
 - 2. approval by a referendum of the Graduate Student Body, in which a majority shall approve this Constitution, and that majority shall be equal to or greater than one-third of the Graduate Student Body.**
- 2. Ratification of a Constitution to replace this Constitution shall require similar approval to that described in Clause 1 of this Article.**
- 3. The current members of the Assembly shall remain in office until their existing terms expire.**

4. The current Officers shall remain in office until new elections are held.
5. All old statutes passed by the existing Assembly, such as do not contradict this Constitution, shall remain in effect until repealed or replaced.
6. Such By-Laws as the Assembly shall approve, to come into effect upon the approval of this Constitution, shall come into effect at the time of the ratification of this Constitution.
7. The GSG is the successor organization to the former Graduate Student Union, and assumes all responsibilities and commitments of the former Graduate Student Union. The GSG is not a labor union, and shall not participate in or lend support to industrial action. [Legislative Intent: Legislative Intent: "support" for purposes of this clause constitutes monetary, material, or organizational support, the Assembly being free to express support, through statements of opinion or encouragement, in its capacity to represent and advocate the interests of the Graduate Student Body, as it sees fit. "Industrial action" constitutes protected union activities as defined by the National Labor Relations Act, and any other applicable law, in which material involvement by the GSG, in legal status an administrative unit of the employer (Princeton University; cf. GSG's inheritance of non-profit status and resultant University prohibition, as a condition for recognition as a student organization, on disbursement of funds to outside organizations (qv. Rights, Rules, & Responsibilities II / "Use of University Monies (Including Student Fees)")) may constitute illegal assistance and support (or, in the case of organizational support, domination) to a labor union by an employer under Section 8(a)(2) of that Act.]