

# The Constitution of the Graduate and Professional Student Association of the University of New Mexico



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Updated March 26, 2011 mm  
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Updated 2012 General Election mr  
Approved June 12, 2012 Regents  
Updated 2014 General Election wt

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the graduate and professional students of the University of New Mexico hereby establish the Graduate and Professional Student Association, in order to acknowledge and secure the right to pursue continuing education in a diverse community and to ensure fair and just access to resources provided by public institutions or available in the commons. As students with valuable experiences and unique pursuits, as well as common interests and concerns, we are united in our concern for the quality of our academic environment and recognize and affirm our right to organize for the purposes of protecting student welfare and expression. The establishment of this association provides for greater cooperation and influence to preserve and protect the rights of the students at this university including but not limited to the right to freely express ideas and thoughts, the right to have equitable access to a high quality education, and the right to participate in the processes and institutions that will ensure this

education remains worthy and acceptable, and to advance the interests of the graduate and professional student community.

## ARTICLE I. ORGANIZATION

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### Section 1. Name

The name of the organization is the Graduate and Professional Student Association of the University of New Mexico, hereafter referred to as GPSA.

### Section 2. Objective

To represent and serve graduate and professional students by promoting their rights and interests as students within the University community through advocacy, education, and financial support.

### Section 3. Membership

- A. Any graduate or professional student enrolled in a degree granting department or school at The University of New Mexico (the University) and who has paid the GPSA fee for that semester, as approved by the University of New Mexico Board of Regents (Board of Regents).
- B. A student may voluntarily resign their membership, but is not exempt from obligation to pay GPSA fees.

### Section 4. Regent Control

This Constitution, including all Constitutional amendments, shall be subject to modification by and under the control of the Board of Regents.

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## ARTICLE II. EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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The Executive Branch is composed of the President, Chief of Staff, Executive Committees, ~~Joint Committees~~, presidential appointees, and staff.

### Section 1. President

The President is head of the Executive Branch. Any GPSA member is eligible to run for the position.

- A. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities
  1. Serve as the official representative of GPSA to the Board of Regents and the public.
  2. Serve as Chairperson of the Student Fee Review Board in accordance with its governing documents.
  3. Have a working knowledge of the GPSA Constitution, Bylaws, policies, and the duties of positions within GPSA.
  4. Shall have the authority to approve or veto all GPSA legislation, excluding resolutions. The President shall have the authority to sign on to joint resolutions with the legislative branch.

5. Oversee the finances of the Executive Branch, including the executive budget.
6. Coordinate with Executive Committee Chairs and executive staff to prepare and submit a budget for the Executive Branch to the Council in accordance with budget procedures.
7. Supervise the administration of the GPSA Office.
8. Chair and coordinate the Executive Board.
9. Appoint Executive Standing Committee chairs, with approval from Council, and appoint representatives to joint Student-Faculty Senate and University committees.
10. Ensure delivery of executive committee reports at least once per semester to Council.
11. Produce a public annual GPSA report **that shall be available to any GPSA member upon request.** ~~to be held on file in the GPSA Office, the Student Activities Center, and Zimmerman Library.~~
12. Other duties as defined by the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

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B. Term of Office

1. The term is one year, beginning at noon of the last day of the Spring semester and ending at noon of the last day of the following Spring semester.
2. An individual may serve a maximum of two terms as GPSA President.

C. ~~Stipend~~Payment

1. **The President shall receive financial ~~compensation~~payment for their services. Such ~~compensation~~payment shall be set by Council in accordance with University policy. Changes to ~~compensation~~payment shall take effect at the start of the next Presidential term.** ~~The maximum limit shall be in accordance with the GA monthly stipend at the .5 FTE rate as determined by University policy.~~

2. ~~Compensation shall also include twelve (12) resident, graduate tuition hours per semester at the rates published by the Bursar's Office. The President's compensation shall be implemented through the annual budget process, but differential tuition and stipend amounts shall be funded by Appropriation.~~

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D. Removal

1. Removal by Council
  - a. Impeachment
 

The President may be impeached for willful neglect of office, gross misconduct, or malfeasance by a majority vote of Council Representatives at a regular Council meeting.
  - b. Removal
    - i. Removal of the President requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Council Representatives at a special meeting called by the Council Chair no less than five (5) academic days and no more than ten (10) academic days from the date of impeachment.
    - ii. Upon removal by Council, the Elections Committee will initiate a recall election by the GPSA membership.

2. ~~Election by GPSA Membership~~

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- a. ~~Recall requires the presentation at a regular Council meeting of a petition with GPSA members' signatures numbering at least thirty percent (30%) of the total number of votes counted in the most recent general election. Council shall have the authority to verify the validity of petition signatures. Upon verification of the petition signatures, the Elections Committee will initiate a special election by the GPSA membership.~~
  - b. ~~The recall election shall be publicized and shall occur within fifteen (15) academic days of the meeting at which the petition was presented.~~
  - e. ~~Removal of the President requires a two thirds (2/3) vote in the recall election.~~
- 3.2. The President shall be relinquished of all powers and privileges immediately upon a vote of removal.
- 4.3. The Council Chair shall serve as Interim President until a special election can be scheduled within twenty (20) academic days following the removal of the President.

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## Section 2. Chief of Staff

The Chief of Staff works directly with the President, Executive Board, Staff, and other branches of GPSA. Any GPSA member is eligible to apply for the position.

### B. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities

1. Serve as an alternate representative for the President on official business to the administration, Board of Regents, and the public.
2. Have a working knowledge of the GPSA Constitution, Bylaws, policies, and the duties of positions within GPSA.
3. Shall have the authority to sign on behalf of the GPSA President for official business, only if the President is unavailable to signat the President's behest.
4. ~~Oversee the finances of the Executive Branch, including the executive budget.~~
5. ~~Coordinate with Executive Committee Chairs and executive staff to prepare and submit a budget for the Executive Branch to the Council in accordance with budget procedures.~~
6. ~~Supervise the administration of the GPSA Office.~~
7. ~~Coordinate the Executive Board.~~
8. ~~Aide in appointment of Executive Standing Committee chairs and representatives to joint Student Faculty Senate and University committees.~~
9. ~~Ensure delivery of executive committee reports at least once per semester to Council.~~
- 10.4. ~~Produce a public annual GPSA report, to be held on file in the GPSA Office, the Student Activities Center, and Zimmerman Library.~~
- 11.5. Other duties as defined by the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

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### B. Term of Office

1. The term is one year coinciding with the President's term of office, beginning upon appointment by the President and ending at noon of the last day of the following Spring semester.

C. ~~Stipend~~Payment

1. The Chief of Staff shall receive financial compensation-payment for their services. Such compensation-payment shall be set by Council in accordance with University policy. The compensation-payment shall neither be increased nor diminished during the duration of their term.
2. ~~The Chief of Staff shall receive financial compensation. The maximum limit shall be in accordance with the GA monthly stipend at the .5 FTE rate as determined by University policy.~~
3. ~~2. Compensation shall also include nine (9) resident, graduate tuition hours per semester at the rates published by the Bursar's Office. The Chief of Staff's compensation shall be implemented through the annual budget process, but differential tuition and stipend amounts shall be funded by Appropriation.~~

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D. Removal

1. The Chief of Staff may only be removed by the President.
2. ~~The Chief of Staff may be removed for willful neglect of office, gross misconduct, or malfeasance.~~
3. ~~2. In the case of removal of the President, the Chief of Staff shall only remain if re-appointed by Presidential replacement.~~

**Section 3. Executive Committees**

Executive Committees shall be established for the purposes of effective governance and will report directly to the GPSA President. All committee members must be members of GPSA. All Executive Committee Chairs will be appointed by the President.

A. Executive Standing Committees

1. For all Executive Standing Committees, quorum shall be established if more than half of the voting members are physically present.
2. Grants Committee
  - a. Allocate funds from all GPSA grants and scholarships. ~~the GPSA Research Grant, the GPSA Professional Development Grant, and the New Mexico Research Grant according to the GPSA Bylaws.~~
  - b. ~~The Research Grant is funded by the Student Research Allocation Committee Endowment. The Professional Development Grant is funded by the Specialized Travel Endowment. The New Mexico Research Grant is funded by the Graduate Research and Development Endowment. These funds may be supplemented by the budget process, Council appropriation, or other funding sources.~~
  - c. ~~Provide a written report to the President and Council Chair each semester.~~
  - d. ~~May have two (2) co-chairs.~~
  - e. ~~Will have two (2) votes on the Executive Board.~~
3. Elections Committee
  - a. The Committee shall Administer GPSA elections according to the GPSA Bylaws.

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- b. **The Committee shall** conduct themselves in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the election process and ~~shall will~~ not publicly support or campaign for any candidate.
  - ~~e. Presidentially appointed Committee Chair must be presented to the GPSA Council for approval no later than the December meeting.~~
  - ~~d.c.~~ Distribute a written public report after every election.
  - ~~e.d.~~ Provide a written annual report to the GPSA President.
4. Lobby Committee
- a. Coordinate long term research and study of legislative issues as directed by the President.
  - b. Produce the annual proposed legislative platform.
  - c. Recommend to the President the appointment of student lobbyists during the annual New Mexico Legislative Session.
  - ~~d. Provide an annual written report to the President.~~
5. Programs Committee
- a. Implement programs that serve and facilitate interaction between graduate and professional students and the University.
  - b. Foster positive relationships with the University and with the local community through service programs.
  - ~~e. Provide an annual written report to the President.~~
6. Student Support and Advocacy Committee
- a. Assist and advocate for students requesting the support of GPSA.
  - b. Act as a GPSA liaison for students and respond to student inquiries about GPSA.
  - c. Conduct on-campus outreach and education about services and resources available through GPSA and the University. Collaborate with graduate and professional student organizations.
  - ~~d. Provide an annual written report to the President.~~
7. ~~Finance Committee~~
- ~~a. Make recommendations regarding the GPSA budget and all appropriations that come before Council.~~
  - ~~b.a. Provide an annual written report to the President.~~
- B. Executive Standing Committee Chairs
1. Duties, Power, Responsibilities
    - a. Assemble and administer committees according to the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.
    - b. Monitor committee budget and prepare annual budget request.
    - c. Provide annual written public report to the President to be included in annual GPSA report.
  2. Term
 

Term of office is from the date of appointment until noon on the last day of the academic year or when letter of resignation is submitted to the President.
  3. ~~Stipend Payment~~

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The Chairs shall receive financial ~~compensation~~ payment for their services. Stipend for the Executive Standing Committee Chairs shall be determined through the annual budget process.

4. Removal

The President can remove a committee chair at any time, but the president must appoint a replacement within twenty (20) academic days of the date of removal.

C. Executive Ad Hoc Committees

1. May be created by the President as deemed necessary.
2. All Executive Ad Hoc Committees shall be dissolved at the end of the term of office of the president who created them.
3. ~~Committee shall submit an annual written report to the President to be included in annual GPSA report.~~

D. Other Committees

1. May include, but is not limited to, Joint Student-Faculty, University Committees, and other policy making bodies.
2. Representatives, as appointed by the President, shall maintain communication with the Executive Board of GPSA.
3. Appointed representatives shall attend meetings of their respective committees.
4. Committee representatives shall submit an annual written report to the President to be included in annual GPSA report.

**Section 4. Executive Board**

An Executive Board consisting of the President, Chief of Staff, Council Chair, and the Chairs of the Executive Standing Committees and Joint Standing Committees shall be established for the purposes of effective governance by the Executive Branch.

A. Representation

1. ~~Any school or college not represented on the Executive Board may petition to have a representative added from that school or college.~~
2. ~~Voting members of the Executive Board shall include the chairs of the Executive and Joint Standing Committees.~~
3. ~~The President shall oversee the Executive Board and will have no vote except in the event of a tie.~~

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B.A. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities

1. ~~Meet at least one (1) time per month that Council is in session.~~
2. ~~Recommend agenda items for Council meetings.~~
3. ~~Draft and maintain the GPSA annual calendar with deadlines for Executive committees.~~
4. ~~Review all executive committee activities.~~
5. ~~All meetings shall be open to the public with advance notice of the date, time, meeting location, and agenda provided at least one (1) calendar week in advance of each meeting. This notice shall be made available by means including, but not limited to, the GPSA website and electronic mailing list.~~

C.B. Quorum

Quorum shall be established if more than half of the voting members are physically present.

~~D.C.~~ Term of Office

Executive Board members shall serve from the time of their appointment until noon on the last day of the academic year, or until written resignation is given to the President.

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### ARTICLE III. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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The Legislative Branch is composed of the Council Chair, Council, Legislative Committees, ~~Joint Committees~~, and staff.

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#### Section 1. Council

All legislative powers in GPSA shall be vested in a Council.

##### A. Composition

1. The Council shall consist of GPSA Representatives selected through each Recognized Departmental Student Association (RDSA).
2. Each graduate and professional RDSA will be entitled to a minimum of one (1) Representative. Each RDSA representing a degree-granting department or school with more than one hundred (100) graduate or professional students are entitled to one (1) additional Representative for each one hundred (100) or part of one hundred (1-99) graduate and professional students enrolled in the department.

##### B. Council ~~Procedures~~ Meetings: Council shall meet on a regular basis during the academic year in accordance with the Bylaws.

- ~~1. Regular meetings: Council shall meet on a regular basis during the academic year in accordance with the bylaws. Must be held at least one (1) time per month during the fall and spring academic semesters. The date and time are to be determined by the Council Chair.~~
- ~~2. Special meetings: Called by the Council Chair, or by a petition of Council Representatives from a minimum of six (6) separate RDSAs.~~
- ~~3. Quorum: Consists of Council Representatives from at least six (6) RDSAs physically present at a Council meeting.~~
- ~~4.1 Notice: The Council Chair shall post notice of the date, time, meeting location, and agenda at least one (1) calendar week in advance of each regular Council meeting and forty eight (48) hours before each special Council meeting. This notice shall be made available to the Council Representatives, GPSA members, campus media, and general public by means including, but not limited to, the GPSA website and electronic mailing list.~~

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##### C. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities

1. The Council shall make all laws that it deems appropriate and necessary for GPSA.
2. ~~The Council shall approve appointments and removals in accordance with the Constitution.~~



3. The Council shall have the authority to override a presidential veto with a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a meeting.
4. The Council shall consider budgetary recommendations and vote on the GPSA budget, ~~by at the March Council meeting.~~
5. Other duties including, but not limited to, the appropriation of the General Fund and endowments, approval of GPSA resolutions, impeachment of specified GPSA officials, ~~and any other duties as defined by the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.~~

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### **Section 2. Representatives**

Representatives must be members of GPSA that are selected at will by the RDSA in the department or school in which they are enrolled.

#### **A. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities**

1. Attend and participate in Council meetings.
2. Represent respective constituents' concerns and interests to the Council.
3. Regularly communicate Council business and decisions with constituents.
4. Representatives are eligible to participate in designated ~~Legislative Committees and Joint~~ Committees.
5. All representatives must have the proper credentials on file with the Council Chair.

#### **B. Term**

Representatives serve at the discretion of their respective RDSAs.

### **Section 3. Council Chair**

The Council Chair must be a member of GPSA and shall be elected by Council at the regular April Council meeting in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

#### **A. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities**

##### **1. The Chair shall:**

- a. Call and preside over Council meetings.
- b. Serve as the official representative of the Council to the public.
- c. ~~Fulfill the duties of the President in the event of a leave of absence or removal.~~
- d. Serve as an ex officio member on the Executive Board, and Legislative Committees.
- e. Administer and oversee the Council budget.
- f. ~~Shall not vote in Council except in the case of a tie.~~
- g. Other duties as defined by the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

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##### **2. The Chair shall not vote in Council, except in the case of a tie.**

#### **B. Term**

1. The term is one year, beginning at noon of the last day of the Spring semester and ending at noon of the last day of the following Spring semester.
2. An individual may serve a maximum of two (2) terms as the Council Chair.

#### **C. StipendPayment**

1. ~~The Council Chair shall receive financial compensation payment for their services. Such compensation payment shall be set by Council in accordance with University policy. The compensation payment shall neither be increased nor diminished during the duration of their term.~~

2. ~~The Council Chair shall receive financial compensation. The maximum limit shall be in accordance with the GA monthly stipend at the .5 FTE rate as determined by University policy. Compensation shall be implemented through the annual budget process, but differential stipend amounts shall be funded by Appropriation.~~

3. ~~Compensation shall also include nine (9) resident, graduate tuition hours per semester at the rates published by the Bursar's Office. The Council Chair's compensation shall be implemented through the annual budget process, but differential tuition and stipend amounts shall be funded by Appropriation.~~

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#### D. Removal

1. The Council Chair may be impeached for willful neglect of office, gross misconduct, or malfeasance by a majority vote of Council Representatives at a regular Council meeting.
2. Upon an affirmative vote of impeachment, Council shall consider a vote of removal to be held at a special meeting within eleven (11) academic days. The Council Chair shall be relinquished of all powers and privileges immediately upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of removal by Council.
3. The Legislative Steering Committee Chair shall serve as interim Council Chair until an election by Council can be scheduled within twenty (20) academic days following removal.

#### Section 4. Legislative Committees

Legislative Committees shall consist of Council Representatives.

##### A. Composition

1. The Council Chair shall appoint all chairs and members of the Legislative Committees **and shall submit these appointments for** with approval by Council.
2. Council Representatives may recommend nominations for committee positions for Council consideration.
- 2-3. ~~Shall be composed of a minimum of five (5) and not more than twelve (12) Representatives representing a minimum of three (3) RDSAs~~

##### B. Legislative Standing Committees

1. ~~Must meet minimum composition requirements by the September Council meeting.~~
  - a. ~~Shall be composed of a minimum of five (5) and no more than twelve (12) Representatives representing a minimum of three (3) RDSAs.~~
  - b. ~~Quorum shall be established if more than half of the voting members are physically present.~~
2. ~~Finance Committee~~

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- a. ~~Review recommendations from the Executive Branch regarding the GPSA budget and all appropriations and make subsequent recommendations to Council.~~
- b. ~~The Finance Committee Chair shall oversee the committee and will have no vote except in the event of a tie.~~
- e. ~~Other duties as defined by GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.~~

~~3.1.~~ Steering Committee shall make recommendations regarding legislations sent to the Council.

- a. ~~shall make Make recommendations regarding legislation and appointments sent to the Council.~~
- b. ~~The Steering Committee Chair shall oversee the committee and will have no vote except in the event of a tie.~~
- e. ~~Other duties as defined by GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.~~

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C. Legislative Standing Committee Chairs

1. Duties, Power, ~~and~~ Responsibilities
  - a. Chairs shall Administer committees according to the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.  
~~Provide annual report to the Council Chair, to be included in annual GPSA report.~~
  - b. The Steering Committee Chair shall oversee the committee and will have no vote except in the event of a tie
2. Stipend Payment  
~~Stipend for the Legislative Standing Committee Chairs shall be receive financial payment for their services, determined through the budget process.~~
3. Removal  
The Council Chair can remove a committee chair in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws, but shall present a replacement to Council at the next regular meeting.

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D. Legislative Ad Hoc Committees

1. May be created by the Council Chair with a majority vote of approval from Council or created by Council with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
2. All Legislative Ad Hoc Committees ~~shall~~ will be dissolved by the end of the session.

**ARTICLE IV. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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The Judicial Branch is composed of the GPSA Court of Review.

**Section 1. Court of Review**

A. Jurisdiction

The Court of Review shall have jurisdiction over disputes arising under ~~this the GPSA Constitution and B~~ the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws. The Court may also have appellate jurisdiction as defined in the GPSA Bylaws.

B. Composition

1. The Court shall consist of a minimum of three (3) Justices, of which no more than two shall be appointed from the same department or school.
2. There shall be one Chief Justice and no less than two (2) Associate Justices.

C. Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities

1. ~~The Court of Review shall with h~~ Hear and have jurisdiction over complaints brought forth by a GPSA member regarding:
  - a. Matters arising under the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws Court of Review will have jurisdiction.
  - b. Acts of the President, Council Chair, GPSA staff, or other GPSA official when acting under the authority of GPSA.
2. ~~Determine questions of constitutionality and adherence to GPSA law as a result of official complaints.~~
3. ~~Create a written record of all decisions and actions of the court to be maintained in the GPSA Office.~~
4. ~~Create an annual written report of the court to be included in the annual GPSA report.~~
5. ~~The court may, at its discretion, decline to hear cases that it deems are not appropriate under the Bylaws.~~
6. 2 Members of the Court of Review shall not serve in any other position within GPSA.
7. ~~Other duties as defined by the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.~~

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**Section 2 H Justices**

A. Term of Office

1. The term of office for the Chief Justice shall be ~~one~~ two years. The term shall begin after appointment and upon confirmation of the Council, and shall terminate on the least day of the Spring semester, from noon of the last day of the Spring semester until noon of the last day of the Spring semester two years later.
2. The term of office for the Associate Justices shall be for one year. The term shall begin after appointment and upon confirmation of the Council and shall terminate on the last day of the Spring semester.
3. The President and Council Representatives shall have the authority to recommend Justices. All recommendations must be considered.
4. All Justices must be approved by the Council.
5. ~~Justices shall be appointed at the first Council Meeting of the legislative session.~~
6. 5 No Justice shall serve more than two terms.

B. ~~Stipend~~ Payment

Stipends for t The Chief Justice and Associate Justices shall ~~be determined through the budget process.~~ receive financial payment for their services

C. Removal

1. Justices may be impeached for willful neglect of office, gross misconduct, or malfeasance by a majority vote of Council Representatives at a regular Council meeting.
2. Removal of a Justice requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Council Representatives at a special meeting called by the Council Chair following vote of impeachment.

## ARTICLE V. FINANCE

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### Section 1. Fees

Subject to authorization by the Board of Regents, a nonrefundable fee, henceforth referred to as the GPSA fee, shall be levied on all degree-seeking graduate and professional students. The University shall collect these fees and forward them immediately to the GPSA.

- A. The GPSA fee shall not exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25) per student per semester and any increase must be approved through a referendum and by the Board of Regents.
- B. Five percent (5%) of the total collected GPSA fees are taken by the University in the form of an accounting fee payable to the Student Government Accounting Office (SGAO). The remainder of the total is added to the General Fund.

C. Purpose: Collected fees shall be allocated by the GPSA Council to fund the general GPSA government and to benefit chartered student organizations and graduate and professional students through GPSA Committees and Council.

~~Collected fees shall be allocated by the GPSA Council to fund the general GPSA government and to benefit chartered student organizations and graduate and professional students through GPSA Committees and Council.~~

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### Section 2. Oversight and Distribution

A. The Finance Committee (FC)

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1. The FC shall be established as a Joint Standing Committee.
2. The FC shall make recommendations to Council on appropriations and compile and recommend the GPSA budget in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.
3. The Finance Committee Chair and/or Vice Chair shall have all necessary authority to approve budget revisions. The FC shall prepare a monthly report of revisions to be included as a supporting document for the next Council Meeting
  - 1.a. When Council is not in session, the President, Grants Chair, and Council Chair, and Grants Chair must jointly review and decide on approve budget revisions.

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~~SGAO acts as the agent of all GPSA financial transactions.~~

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B. SGAO acts as the agent of all GPSA financial transactions

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C. The GPSA financial records including, but not limited to, the GPSA budget and appropriations may be subject to a financial review as requested by a Council

Representative, the President, the Council Chair, or through a complaint filed with the Court of Review.

**Section 3: GPSA Budget**

~~B. A.~~ This budget shall be based upon the anticipated revenue for the upcoming fiscal year as determined by SGAO. ~~The proposed budget shall not exceed ninety five percent (95%) of said revenue to allow for appropriation funds and any decrease in projected enrollment.~~

~~C. The branches of government and student organizations shall submit budget requests to the FC in the Spring semester.~~

~~D. B.~~ All branches of the GPSA government must follow budget processes as defined by the GPSA Constitution, Bylaws, and applicable standing rules to be eligible for funding.

~~E. Council shall vote on the budget in the regular March Council meeting. Council's decision shall be forwarded to the President within two (2) academic days.~~

~~F. The President may approve or veto Council's budget proposal in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.~~

~~G. C.~~ A final budget must be approved no later than the ~~first (1<sup>st</sup>) Friday in April~~ April council meeting.

~~H. The FC Chairs shall have all necessary authority to approve budget revisions. All budget revisions must be reported at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.~~

~~1. When Council is not in session, the President, Grants Chair, and Council Chair must jointly review and approve budget revisions.~~

~~I.D.~~ Forty percent (40%) of the ~~total~~ GPSA budget shall be reserved for the Pro-Rated Benefits Fund.

~~J.E.~~ No less than ten percent (10%) of the total GPSA budget shall be allocated to ~~SRG~~ The Grants Committee as Student Research Grants and Professional Development Grants. ~~PDG.~~

~~F. No less than five percent (5%) of the GPSA budget shall be reserved for appropriations.~~

~~K.G.~~ Funds not appropriated through the budget process shall be placed in the General Fund.

~~L.H.~~ Council shall have the authority to determine the process of reversion of funds allocated through the budget. ~~All funds distributed through the GPSA budget and appropriations and not used by the end of the fiscal year in which they were allocated shall revert to the General Fund.~~

**Fiscal Accountability**

**Section 4: Financial Budget Compliance**

A. GPSA shall be in accordance with all necessary local, state, federal, and University requirements as determined by SGAO.

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- B. ~~Student organizations seeking funding from the GPSA budget must be in compliance with guidelines set by the FC. Compliance with proposal guidelines of funded organizations for the fiscal year shall be determined by the FC in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.~~
- C. Misuse of GPSA funds ~~shall~~ may result in Council recourse, including ~~F~~ E financial ~~En~~ E njoinment.

**ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS**

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The Elections Committee shall administer annual GPSA elections and provide public notice of elections, in accordance with the Bylaws.

**Section 1. General Election**

- A. A general election of the President shall occur in the Spring semester of each academic year.
- B. The ballot shall include the opportunity to vote for GPSA President, and may include amendments, referenda, and any other items approved by Council.
- C. A plurality of votes shall decide all items presented on the ballot.
- D. All members of the GPSA are entitled to vote in general elections.

**Section 2. Council Chair Election**

- A. An election of the Council Chair shall occur at the April Council meeting.
- B. The Council Chair is elected by a majority of votes of eligible representatives at the April meeting.

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**Section 3. Special Elections**

- A. Special elections may be held as called by the Council or the President, or by a referendum petition. If so called, it must occur within thirty (30) Academic Days.
- ~~B. If a special election is called for by a referendum petition it must occur within thirty (30) academic days.~~

**ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS**

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~~Proceedings to introduce a Constitutional amendment may be initiated by any GPSA member.~~

**Amendments**

~~Requires a two thirds (2/3) approval by Council Representatives present at a regular Council meeting, plurality approval by GPSA members voting in the General Election, and approval by the Board of Regents.~~

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**Regent Control**

This Constitution, including all Constitutional amendments, shall be subject to modification by and under the control of the Board of Regents.

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## **ARTICLE VII. REFERENDA**

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A referendum is a ballot initiative put to a popular vote of the GPSA membership. ~~in a general election.~~

- A. Referenda may be submitted by the President with majority approval of Council, or a petition signed by at least fifty (50) GPSA members ~~and will be placed on the general election ballot.~~ The Elections Committee will have the authority to verify the signatures on a referendum petition.
- B. In order to be placed on the general election ballot, referenda must be submitted to the Elections Committee no later than thirty (30) academic days prior to the general election.

## **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

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Proceedings to introduce a Constitutional amendment may be initiated by any GPSA member.

### **Section 1. Amendments**

Requires a two-thirds (2/3) approval by Council Representatives present at a regular Council meeting, plurality approval by GPSA members voting in the General Election, and approval by the Board of Regents.

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## **ARTICLE IX. DEFINITIONS**

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These definitions shall apply throughout this document.

*Academic Day* - any day in which the University has regularly scheduled classes during the Fall or Spring semesters, unless specifically noted otherwise. This excludes weekends, holidays, and days which the University is closed.

*Academic Year* - starting the last day of the Spring semester through the day preceding the last day of the subsequent Spring semester.

*Ad Hoc Committee* – A temporary committee established for a specific purpose

*Anticipated Revenue* - anticipated aggregate sum of GPSA fees to be collected in the following fiscal year as determined by SGAO.

*Audit* - evaluation of financial records.

*Ballot* - the list of candidates and issues to be voted on in an election.

*Board of Regents* – governor appointed board of community members and students who are responsible for the assets and programs of the University, establishment of goals and policies and guide the University and oversight of the functioning of the University.



*Budget Revisions* - a request to re-define funding previously allocated through the GPSA budget process or allocations. Budget revisions must be approved before GPSA funding may be spent on purposes other than originally approved or directed through Council.

*Bylaws* - active legislative supplement to the GPSA Constitution, composed of all codes which must not violate the Constitution but may further elaborate GPSA law.

*Chartered Student Organization* - any group which meets the chartering requirements of The University of New Mexico.

*Constituents* – GPSA members which a particular Council Representative represents.

*Constitution* - the instituting document of GPSA, and the organization’s ultimate legislative authority.

*Complaint* - official grievance presented to the GPSA Court of Review that initiates action within the Court.

*Council* - the primary legislative body of GPSA.

~~*Council Budget* – funding allocated for the administration of the legislative branch.~~

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*Credentials* – A form that verifies representative authority from a RDSA to serve as a Council Representative.

*Elections Code* - the GPSA Bylaws particularly concerning GPSA election law.

*Enrollment report* – a report distributed by the University indicating enrollment of graduate and professional students within degree granting departments and schools.

~~*Executive Budget* – funding allocated for the administration of the executive branch.~~

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*Financial Enjoinment* - a legislative action issued that prohibits a student group from engaging in any financial activities with the use of GPSA funds.

*Financial Review* – disclosure of financial records and subject to a review process.

*General Election* - the annual election of the GPSA President, during which other ballot issues may be presented to the voting members.

*General Fund* - the fund in which all fees collected on behalf of GPSA are deposited as well as all monies which revert back to GPSA.

*GPSA fee* - a fee levied upon all degree-seeking graduate and professional students that is forwarded to GPSA.

*GPSA Member (Member)* - any graduate or professional student enrolled in a degree granting department or school at the University of New Mexico main campus and who has paid the GPSA fee for the current semester.

*Gross Misconduct* – an intentional act forbidden or unlawful performed with indifference to known or obvious harmful consequences.

*Impeachment* – presentation of formal charges against a GPSA official by Council.

*Joint ~~Standing~~ Committee* – a committee established by both Executive and Legislative branches composed of members from both the Executive and Legislative branches

*Leave of absence* – an approved absence from duties of office as communicated in writing.

*Legislative Session* - the first day of the fall semester to the last day of the spring semester.

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*Malfeasance* – Commission of a wrongful act which an official has no legal right to do, or any wrongful conduct which affects, interrupts, or interferes with the performance of official duty, or an act for which there is no authority or warrant of law.

*Majority* - more than fifty percent (50%).

*Neglect of Office* – Willful knowing, and intentional failure to attend to one’s official duties.

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~~*New Mexico Research (NMR) Grant (NMRG)* – set up to assist larger projects that require substantial funding, as provided by the New Mexico State Legislature.~~

*Plurality vote* - a vote in which candidate or issue is decided by receiving the greatest number of votes.

*Professional Development (PD) Grant (PDG)* – a grant to fund student travel relevant to the applicant’s field.

*Pro-Rated Benefits Fund (PB Funds)* - ~~grants of pro-rated benefits funds allocated~~ based on student enrollment as requested by Recognized Departmental Student Associations.

*Quorum* – The minimum number of participants needed to conduct official business. Quorum shall be established if more than half of the voting members are physically present.

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*Recognized Departmental Student Association (RDSA)* - the primary student association of each program, department, and school as recognized by GPSA.

*Referendum* - a legislative initiative put to popular vote in a general or special election (pl. Referenda).

*Semester* - the Fall or Spring academic term as determined by the academic calendar of the University.

~~*Session*—the first day of the fall semester to the last day of the spring semester.~~

~~*Special Election*—~~ **An election scheduled at other than the usual date, for a specific purpose.**

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Standing Committee – A permanent committee established to conduct the business of GPSA

~~*Student Fee Review Board (SFRB)*—advisory board that recommends the distribution of the student activity fee in the University budget.~~

*Student Government Accounting Office (SGAO)* - a service department of UNM that processes all funds allocated by GPSA.

*Student Research* ~~(SR)~~ Grant (SRG)— a grant to fund expenses related to student research relevant to the applicant’s field.

*Term* – a term of office as stipulated, or part there of.

*University (UNM)* - the University of New Mexico, not including branch campuses.