LEGISLATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

BILL

SPRING 2024 SESSION

Constitution

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Justin Lauriano

1st Reading: ________ Referral To: ________

2nd Reading: ________ Committee Action: ________

3rd Reading: ________ Council Action: ________

Executive Action:

☐ Approved ☐ Vetoed

GPSA President Date

Unsigned by the President on this ____ day of _____ 2023. Bill automatically becomes law.

Legislative Response:

Veto override vote taken: ________ Council Action: ________

Summary of key points:

This proposed legislation addresses GPSA’s dire financial situation in the present and future and seeks to protect GPSA’s grantmaking ability which is currently being threatened.

Updates within this Bill:

• Seeks an upward adjustment of the current GPSA fee which has not been increased for two decades.

• Proposes a 5-year adjustment plan until it reaches the $50 cap.

• Ends the regular removal of funds from the grant accounts.

Found in GPSA Constitution:

Article V. Finance

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.

The GPSA fee shall be forty dollars ($40) per student per semester beginning in Fall of 2024. It shall then increase every fall semester by two dollars ($2) per academic year for
the next five years until it reaches the fifty-dollar ($50) cap, and any increase shall be subject to approval 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. The GPSA funds from GPSA agencies or branches shall be considered balance forwards.

D. 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.

Section 3: GPSA Budget

A. This budget shall be based upon the anticipated revenue for the upcoming fiscal year as determined by SGAO.

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.

C. A final budget must be approved no later than the April council meeting.

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

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

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

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

H. Council shall have the authority to determine the process of reversion of funds allocated through the budget.