ARTICLE I - NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the Graduate and Professional Student Association of The Pennsylvania State University, herein referred to as the Graduate and Professional Student Association.

SECTION B. All references herein, and throughout the materials of the Graduate and Professional Student Association, to the Graduate Student Association are understood to refer to what is now the Graduate and Professional Student Association.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVE

The mission of The Pennsylvania State University Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) is to represent and support the interests of the University’s current and future graduate and professional student community by supporting scholarly activities and providing leadership, service, and social opportunities. GPSA exists to enrich the experience of the University’s graduate and professional students, all of whom are members of GPSA. GPSA accomplishes these objectives by responding to the changing collective needs of our primary constituents – graduate and professional students. GPSA, recognized by the University as the graduate and professional students’ central organization, is appropriately organized to accomplish the following unique functions: advocate the position of the graduate and professional student body to other University and external constituencies; represent the broad interests of graduate and professional students to the University’s academic units through a network of departmental delegates; furnish accessible, reliable, and valuable information, services, and programs to current and prospective graduate and professional students; provide a forum for interaction among an extraordinarily diverse graduate and professional student population; encourage and facilitate communication with and interaction among other graduate and professional student organizations; seek funding to support organizational activities; and promote a sense of community among graduate and professional students and their families.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A.

All students enrolled in the Graduate School and/or Dickinson School of Law, University Park Campus, shall be active members of the Graduate and Professional Student Association.
SECTION B.
Postdoctoral students shall be Associate Members. Associate members may not hold office, preside, officiate, vote, officially represent, or solicit funds on campus on behalf of the organization.

SECTION C. Any interested undergraduate registered full time may become an associate member upon request.

SECTION D. The majority of the active membership of the Graduate and Professional Student Association must be graduate or professional students of The Pennsylvania State University. Only currently registered students of The Pennsylvania State University are eligible for active membership.

ARTICLE IV - STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ORGANIZATION

The governing body of the organization shall consist of three branches: the Assembly, the Executive Board, and the Judiciary.

ARTICLE V - THE ASSEMBLY

SECTION A. ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. The active members shall be divided into voting active members and nonvoting active members. Voting active members shall be referred to as delegates. Selection of delegates and the number of delegates to the Assembly shall be as determined by the Bylaws of this Constitution.

2. The non-voting members of the Assembly shall include the Executive Officers, the Judiciary, and all other active registered Graduate and Professional Students

SECTION B. EX-OFFICIO AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. Any individual who does not hold status as a delegate in the Assembly and is a representative from another body shall be an ex-officio nonvoting member of the Assembly.

SECTION C. MEETINGS

1. The Executive Vice President will chair the Assembly; in the absence of the Executive Vice President, then the President or the Vice President of External Affairs will chair the Assembly. The agenda for assembly meetings will be prepared by the Executive Vice President according to the Bylaws.
2. Meetings shall be held at least once a month during the academic year (September to May). There shall also be at least one meeting during the summer.

3. Any member of the University community shall have the right to attend Assembly meetings as an observer. Observers may address the Assembly upon recognition by the Chair of the Assembly and by the Delegates.

4. Special meetings of the Assembly shall be called by the Chair of the Judiciary upon receipt of a petition, duly signed by ten percent of the delegates to the Assembly.

SECTION D. VOTING

For voting to take place a quorum, as defined in the Bylaws, must be present. A simple majority carries unless otherwise specified in the Constitution or Bylaws. Voice or ballot voting shall be at the discretion of the Chair of the Assembly, unless there is a voice petition by delegate(s) for secret ballot vote. Counting of the voice and secret votes shall be the duty of two members of the Executive Board.

SECTION E. POWERs

1. The Assembly shall have the power to pass resolutions on the behalf of the graduate student body.

2. The Assembly shall have the power to approve appointments by the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association.

3. The Assembly shall be the final authority in all matters of the Graduate and Professional Student Association except where the Judiciary has precedence by Constitutional right.

4. Any individual delegate may petition the Executive Board to review Graduate and Professional Student Association finances.

5. The Assembly shall have the power to remove any person from office elected or appointed to any position in the Graduate and Professional Student Association. The procedure shall be stated in Article IX.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

There shall be five executive officers: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of External Affairs, Treasurer, and Executive Secretary. Specific duties of these officers shall be defined in the Bylaws.

SECTION A. ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS
Any full-time officially registered student who shall have graduate or professional school standing throughout the term of office is eligible, except in the position of Vice President of External Affairs: the individual filling this position must be a student in the Graduate School. He/she should demonstrate willingness and ability to serve a full term of one year. He/she should also demonstrate an understanding of the office and organization. The five executive officers may not be considered delegates from their constituencies.

SECTION B. PRESIDENT

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Graduate and Professional Student Association. The President shall preside over the Executive Board.

SECTION C. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

The Executive Vice President shall assume the Presidency in the event of a vacancy in that office. The Executive Vice President shall fill in for the President if he or she is not able to fulfill their duties in the Executive Board. The Executive Vice President shall chair the Assembly and be the center of communication for all internal affairs.

SECTION D. VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Vice President of External Affairs shall serve as a policy officer of the Graduate and Professional Student Association. The Vice President of External Affairs shall be the center of communication for all external affairs specifically with the Graduate School and other University administrative offices. The Vice President of External Affairs shall oversee all Graduate and Professional Student Association liaisons and University Committee appointments. The Vice President of External Affairs will have a working relationship with the student concerns committee.

SECTION E. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Executive Secretary shall also be responsible for the management of the Graduate and Professional Student Association office and the distribution of materials from the office.

SECTION F. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all Graduate and Professional Student Association finances and the preparation of budget requests.

SECTION G. REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

There shall be five graduate council representatives, each from a different College. The representatives shall be charged with attending all meetings of the Graduate Council and Executive Board meetings of the Graduate and Professional Student Association.
SECTION H. REPRESENTATIVE TO FACULTY SENATE
The representative shall attend all meetings of the University Faculty Senate and meetings of the Graduate and Professional Student Association Executive Board.

SECTION I. VACANCIES IN ELECTED OFFICES
1. The office of President shall be filled by the Executive Vice President.
2. All other vacancies shall be filled by special election as defined in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE BOARD

The following shall be considered members of the Executive Board:

1. President
2. Executive Vice President
3. Vice President of External Affairs
4. Executive Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. The representatives to Graduate Council
7. The representative to Faculty Senate
8. The Chair of the Judiciary
9. Advisor to the organization

SECTION A. MEETINGS
1. The President shall preside over the Executive Board.
2. Meetings shall be held at least once a month except during recesses and final exam periods.
3. Emergency meetings may be called by the President, with a minimum 24 hours notice.
4. The President shall invite silent observers or participating guests to the Executive Board meetings. They may be asked to leave the meeting at the request of a majority of all members of the Executive Board.

SECTION B. VOTING
1. All members of the Executive Board with the exception of the Chair of the Judiciary and the Advisor to the organization will be considered voting members of the Executive Board.
2. The quorum shall be 50 percent of the voting members.
3. In all matters of the Executive Board, a simple majority carries the vote. The President may only vote in case of ties.

SECTION C. POWERS AND DUTIES
1. The Executive Board shall have interim powers to conduct business in the interests of the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Any action required to conduct such business must be approved by a majority of the voting members of the Executive Board. Said powers shall pertain to all business not requiring specific action by the Assembly. Action on very pressing matters may be taken by the Executive Board in lieu of specific action and must be reported at the next Assembly meeting. Such interim action is therefore subject at all times to confirmation or revision by the Assembly at its next meeting.

2. The Executive Board shall act as a means of communication between divisions, the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Council, and the Executive Officers.

SECTION D. ADVISOR

The Graduate and Professional Student Association must, at all times, retain an advisor who is a full-time faculty, staff, or administrator at the Pennsylvania State University. As per the Graduate and Professional Student Association’s status as a student government organization, the Vice President of Student Affairs shall nominate an advisor, who will be brought before the Assembly for an approval vote.

ARTICLE VIII - JUDICIARY

SECTION A. MEMBERS

The Judiciary shall consist of three full-time graduate/professional students, appointed by the President. The appointments must be approved by a majority of the Assembly. The Chair shall be elected from within the Judiciary by the members of the Judiciary. Vacancies shall be filled by Presidential appointment with confirmation at the next Assembly meeting. Judiciary members may hold office as long as they fulfill the requirements cited above, and remain a full-time graduate/professional student. If the Judiciary member cannot fulfill his/her term, he/she give must advance notice of one month before the next Assembly meeting.

SECTION B. MEETINGS

Meetings shall be called by Chair and be held at least once a month and within one month prior to elections.

SECTION C. VOTING

A ruling shall be determined by a simple majority of the three members of the Judiciary.

SECTION D. POWERS AND DUTIES

1. The Judiciary shall rule on questions about the nature of constituencies and credentials of delegates.

2. The Judiciary shall hear cases of impeachment and appeal and make final decisions in such cases.
3. The Judiciary shall be responsible for the interpretation of the Graduate and Professional Student Association Constitution.

4. The Judiciary shall serve as nominations board and election committee.

5. Members of the Judiciary should attend Assembly meetings. They are ex-officio, nonvoting members unless they are delegates.

6. The Judiciary shall audit finances of the Graduate and Professional Student Association at the beginning of each Fall, Spring, and Summer semester.

7. The Judiciary shall be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Constitution and Bylaws, including the addition of any amendments that have been voted on by the Assembly.

SECTION E. REMOVAL OF JUDICIARY MEMBERS

Removal of a member of the Judiciary shall take place by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all voting members of the Executive Board and two-thirds of the delegates present at an Assembly meeting. There shall be no process of appeal.

ARTICLE IX - REMOVAL FROM POSITION

SECTION A. CONDITIONS

Any person elected or appointed to any position in the Graduate and Professional Student Association except Judiciary members shall be considered to have resigned from his/her position if he/she has not fulfilled his/her duties as specified in the Constitution or Bylaws. Notification of removal shall come from the Executive Board.

SECTION B. REMOVAL BY ASSEMBLY

Any person elected or appointed to any position in the Graduate and Professional Student Association except Judiciary members may be removed from his/her office by the Assembly for just cause. The procedure for removal can be found in the Bylaws of the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Notification of removal shall come from the Executive Board.

SECTION C. APPEALS

All appeals shall be made to the Judiciary.

ARTICLE X - REFERENDA

All referenda shall begin in either the Executive Board or the Assembly. The Assembly must approve referenda. Referenda can be binding or non-binding but such intent must be
stated in the referenda. The number of votes of approval necessary to pass a referendum shall be defined in the referendum.

**ARTICLE XI - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order - Newly Revised shall govern the Graduate and Professional Student Association in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Graduate and Professional Student Association.

**ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION A. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

1. All amendments shall be proposed in writing by member(s) of the Assembly to a member of the Judiciary. Amendments shall be signed and dated by the Chair of the Judiciary.

2. All amendments shall be read at two successive meetings of the Assembly. Discussion of an amendment may take place at the first reading but no vote shall be taken. At the second reading the amendment shall be deemed active by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates present at the reading providing a quorum is present.

3. All proposed amendments will be received by the assembly at least one week (seven days) prior to the meeting at which they are presented. The method of notification preferred is email.

4. All amendments approved by the Assembly shall be recorded in the Constitution by the Judiciary.

5. All amendments are subject to approval by the Office of Student Activities.

**SECTION B. BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

1. All Bylaw amendments shall be proposed in writing by member(s) of the Assembly to a member of the Judiciary. The amendment shall be signed and dated by the Chair of the Judiciary. Bylaw amendments shall be in effect after an affirmative vote by a simple majority of the Assembly.

2. All proposed amendments will be received by the assembly at least one week (seven days) prior to the meeting at which they are presented. The method of notification preferred is email.

3. All amendments approved by the Assembly shall be recorded in the Bylaws by the Judiciary.

**SECTION A. PROCEDURE**
ARTICLE XIII - RATIFICATION

1. This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon affirmative vote as specified in the amendment procedures of the previous Constitution.

2. The Bylaws shall take effect immediately upon a separate affirmative vote as specified in the amendment procedures of the previous Constitution.

3. All amendments to this Constitution are subject to the approval of the Office of Student Activities and a copy of this Constitution will be made available to anyone upon request.

ARTICLE XIV – ELECTIONS

A. Elections shall be held once a year in the spring semester.

B. No individual who is an official candidate may be involved in conducting elections.

C. The President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of External Affairs, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast in an election. In the event of a tie vote in the election, the tie breaker shall be a vote of the General Assembly between the two candidates. Whichever receives a majority vote shall be declared the winner.

D. Newly elected officers shall begin their terms at the last meeting of the Spring Semester.

E. Subject to these provisions, all elections shall be carried out in accordance with the manner specified in the Bylaws of this organization.

Article XV - FINANCES

1. No dues shall be required of the members of this organization as a condition of membership.

2. All organizational funds of the Graduate and Professional Student Association will be handled exclusively through the Associated Student Activities office and the organization will not maintain any off-campus account with a bank, savings and loan association, lender, or other financial institution. The expenditure of $750 or more by the officers of this organization or their designees towards any event, purchase, or expense shall require a vote of approval by the assembly.