

Resolution # 71-05

**The Graduate and Professional Student Association
(GPSA)
The Pennsylvania State University**



of the 71st Assembly
September 29, 2021

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

**Constitutional Amendment Clarifying Presidential Veto Powers
Resolving Discrepancy Between GPSA Constitution and Bylaws
(Decided: [Y / N / A])**

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2
3 The Graduate and Professional Student Association is guided by and bound to its Constitution
4 and Bylaws. Since the Bylaws “shall not conflict with the GPSA Constitution”, it is imperative to
5 resolve any discrepancies between the Constitution and Bylaws.
6

7 The Constitution states in Article VI, Sec. J that “All general business and expenditures shall
8 require a majority of those present and voting to be rendered unless otherwise dictated by
9 parliamentary authority. All business shall require perfection to take effect. Perfection shall be
10 the consenting signature of the President, a 3/4 vote in act of overriding the veto of the
11 President, or implicit consent through no action of the President within five (5) academic days of
12 initial decision by the Assembly”.

13
14 However, the Bylaws in Article III, Sec. B that “The President shall have the power to approve or
15 veto all legislation, with the exception of Constitutional Amendments. This veto is subject to an
16 override of 3/4 of the Delegates to the Assembly.”
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18 This discrepancy regarding Presidential veto powers in the Constitution and Bylaws must be
19 resolved by the GPSA Assembly so that future confusion on this matter will not arise.
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21 **Recommended Course of Action:**

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1 The Graduate and Professional Student Association proposes a Constitutional Amendment to
2 amend GPSA Constitution Article VI, Sec. J to state (proposed new text is bolded):
3

4 “All general business and expenditures shall require a majority of those present and voting to be
5 rendered unless otherwise dictated by parliamentary authority. All business shall require
6 perfection to take effect, **with the exception of Constitutional Amendments**. Perfection shall
7 be the consenting signature of the President, a 3/4 vote in act of overriding the veto of the
8 President, or implicit consent through no action of the President within five (5) academic days of
9 initial decision by the Assembly.”

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11 Additionally, it is proposed that the following bolded clause be included at conclusion of GPSA
12 Constitution Article XIII, Section A:
13

14 SECTION A. Constitutional Amendments

- 15 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed, at any time, by the Assembly as a
16 resolution, subject to standard submission and perfection rules.
17
- 18 2. Amendments on the agenda and discussed at a minimum of two Assembly meetings
19 are eligible to be called to a vote. The Assembly may pass the amendment with a 3/4
20 vote of the Assembly.
21
- 22 3. All amendments are subject to approval by the Office of Student Activities, per the
23 University’s policies for registered Student Government Associations.
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- 25 **4. Constitutional amendments shall not be subject to Presidential veto.**
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27 These changes to the Constitution will resolve the discrepancy and clarify that a Presidential
28 veto cannot be used on Constitutional Amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis Russell

Chair, Internal Development Committee
Delegate, College of Agricultural Sciences

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association