We, the graduate students of Wright State University, have solemnly resolved to constitute Graduate Student Assembly in order to secure to all its members:

JUSTICE, social and economic;
LIBERTY of thought and expression;
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;
and to serve as the official voice of graduate students on matters of academics, student welfare, campus policy, and the implementation of this policy;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this Third day of December, 2015, do hereby ordain and establish this as the binding Constitution of the Graduate Student Assembly.

ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS
a) Graduate Student: A graduate student is defined as anyone registered as a degree seeking Graduate Student at Wright State University. The term student does not impinge upon the right of students to act as citizens of the greater community but recognizes that when they do so, they act exclusively as citizens and not as officially recognized or sanctioned students of the Graduate Students of Wright State University.
b) Department: A department is defined as a group of Graduate Faculty and Students in a field of study organized under a Department Chairperson and recognized by the Graduate School as having a graduate program.
c) College or School: An independent College or School of the Wright State University is determined by the Wright State University School of Graduate Studies.

ARTICLE II
ORGANIZATION

Section 1

a) Name: The name of the organization shall be the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA).
b) Authority: The Graduate Student Assembly is the principal body for the representation of the interests of graduate students at Wright State University.
c) Purpose: The Graduate Student Assembly shall seek to improve the academic, social, and professional lives of graduate students consistent with the goals listed in the Preamble to the Graduate Student Assembly Constitution. The Graduate Student Assembly shall strive to be a solicitous and deliberative student assembly that supports the mutually respectful relationship between graduate students and Wright State University. To serve as a Central
Body to direct Graduate Student recommendations and/or grievances to the appropriate body, office, or individual of Wright State University. GSA shall mentor the WSU undergraduate students for their needs.

d) **Registered Student Organization:** The Graduate Student Assembly is a Registered Student Organization of Wright State University. The GSA is recognized as coordinating organization by the Office of Student Activities. The President of the organization shall be responsible for maintaining the status of the organization.

e) **Representation:** The Graduate Student Assembly represents all graduate and professional students of Wright State University enrolled in the Graduate School through Raj Soin College of Business, College of Education and Human Services, College of Engineering and Computer Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, Boonshoft School of Medicine, College of Nursing and Health, School of Professional Psychology and College of Science and Mathematics.

**ARTICLE III**

**Membership**

**Section 1: Membership types**

One or more of the below mentioned memberships shall be given to the qualified individuals and/or group/entity regardless of but not limited to race, national origin, creed or political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or veteran's status.

a) Graduate Student Assembly general membership shall be limited to graduate students of Wright State University.

b) GSA Officer Membership is an additional status given to any GSA general member who is serving in one of the GSA legislature. This membership is terminated immediately as the individual steps down from the position he or she is holding. The criteria is set forth as stated in Article V Section 1: Eligibility Criteria.

c) Associate membership shall be granted to Wright State Alumni and Undergraduate students of Wright State University

d) Honorary membership shall be granted to anyone outside Wright State University with the approval of GSA Cabinet.

e) General membership is granted automatically once enrolled as a graduate student at Wright State University. **There is no membership fee.** For honorary membership, a letter of affidavit will be signed by the GSA President.
Section 2: Responsibilities and Rights

a) Only the general members will be able to contest in GSA elections, apply to GSA Cabinet/Senate or any other position opened by GSA.  
b) All members will be invited to participate in GSA events except for the events restricted to specific member groups by GSA President.  
c) All members of the Graduate Student Assembly will to the best of his or her ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the Graduate Student Assembly. Graduate Student Assembly members shall faithfully discharge the duties of the office or position they hold. Graduate Student Assembly members shall conduct themselves in a collegial manner consistent with their current and future roles as scholars, professionals, and leaders.  
d) General Members of the Graduate Student Assembly shall have all rights of membership including full participation in all Graduate Student Assembly activities. Full participation includes the right to attend at all Assembly meetings, Graduate Student Assembly committee and subcommittee meetings, and the right to read all Graduate Student Assembly formal and informal communications.  
e) All GSA members shall keep Graduate Student Assembly informed of their concerns and interests to the best interest of members of their constituency.

Section 3: Revocation of Membership

If at any time the Executive Committee feels a member’s participation is in question, the member will be contacted to have discussion about the individual’s integrity. If the executive committee has determined that a member’s participation is no longer viable, the executive committee may vote to cancel the membership with a simple majority.

ARTICLE IV
Powers and Duties

Section 1:

A. General Duties of GSA:

a) Act as representatives of the graduate student body to staff, faculty and administration of Wright State University  
b) Enact and enforce legislation aimed at accomplishing the objectives of the GSA Work in close with Student Government to represent the best interest of Wright State community as a whole.  
c) To be in constant communication with House of Representatives, Graduate Council, Faculty Senate and Office of Student Activities.  
d) To meet once in a month except May, June, July, August and December, at the discretion of the President of GSA, established in the Standard Operating Protocol at the beginning of the term. The President has the right to call for any executive meetings at any time with a 24 hour prior notice.
e) Appropriate and approve the expenditures of all funds under direct control of GSA.
f) Identify ways to promote and support academic research efforts of Wright State University Graduate and Professional Students.
g) Gather socially and academically to create a network of multi-disciplinary professionals by hosting academic and social events each academic term.
h) To be an official advisory body to the Dean of Graduate School.
i) To oversee and appoint student peer mentors in the graduate school for the benefit of students.
j) Appoint student members to University Committees and sub-committees to ensure graduate and professional student inputs on relevant matters.
k) Discuss and vote on amendments proposed to Student Government Constitution and to Wright State University and its associated documents and policies that affect the graduate and professional students.
l) Discuss with Office of Student Activities to recognize the registration status of any new or continuing student organizations that affect and represent a specific interest of graduate students.
m) To work with all offices of Wright State University that deals with International graduate and professional students, to assist and provide support as needed.
n) To officially communicate with all Dean’s Student Advisory Board/Council and discuss on changes to programs, policies that affect graduate students.
o) To officially voice the concerns of Graduate Students in the Graduate Council.
p) Assist the Graduate School in new student orientation.
q) Fulfill the duties and assume the powers assigned to GSA when GSA and Student Senate enter binding arbitration.

Section 2

A. Powers of GSA

The following powers are conferred upon GSA by the authority of Wright State University and by the preamble to this constitution,

a) Override a Presidential Veto of GSA legislation;
b) Request the impeachment of Student Government President and or Vice President, Speaker of House of Representatives or any of the senators who are elected by involving the graduate student body;
c) Request commissioning of special committee when the GSA believes any of the standing committee decision has been biased or does not represent the best interest of the graduate student body of Wright State University;
d) Overrule the decision of removal of a graduate student from any of the university committees, sub-committees;
e) Overrule the decision of GSA president, regarding the assignment of duties and/or powers normally belonging to a particular officer of the GSA executive committee when an impeachment request is made;
f) Appoint an election commission member to Student Government Election Commission;
g) Install an Election commission and approve/remove its members for GSA whenever needed;
h) Request a temporary stay order to any policy that are to be enacted which does not represent the best interest of the graduate student body and request a special committee to revise the policy;
i) Overrule the appointment of any member to GSA president’s cabinet;
j) Vote to enter into any Memorandum of Understanding/binding arbitration between any student organizations;
k) Vote, in coordination with Student Government to override or amend the Wright State University policy that does not reflect the best interest of the Student body. Initiate or support Student Government, any resolution informing the status of Wright State student community to the Government of Ohio and its officials on any national or state bills;
l) GSA shall make all acts necessary and proper to enable the execution of powers vested in itself; and
m) GSA shall enact, adopt, amend or repel its by-laws for its internal functioning.

ARTICLE V GSA
LEGISLATURE

The Assembly or the legislature shall be the legislative body of the Graduate Student Assembly. Assembly members acting as an assembled body in session shall constitute the final authority of the Graduate Student Assembly to represent graduate students of Wright State University. The Assembly may conduct polls, initiate petitions, and/or establish forums for debate or discussion under the provisions of the Bylaws and Rules of Order established in this constitution.

Section 1: Eligibility Criteria

To serve as an officer in GSA the individual has to meet the following criteria. Upon the recommendation of the President and or Executive Vice-President the below stated criteria except those standards stated in Article V Section I (A), can be waived by 2/3rd of the vote of the present GSA Executive board.

A. General Criteria:

a) The candidate should be a full-time graduate student as defined in Article I (A), from one or more of the college listed in Article II (E) and as stated in Graduate Policies and Procedures Manual 3.50.

b) The candidate should be in good academic and judicial standing prior to applying, during the selection process and during the service term.

i. Academic Standard is established by the School of Graduate Studies as listed in Graduate Policies and Procedures Manual 7.31. A higher standard may be set by the GSA upon the recommendation of GSA executive board followed by the approval of GSA Senate.
ii. A good Judicial Standing can be verified from the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.
iii. At any point of time, if a candidate or an officer fails to meet this requirement then he or she shall be terminated from the process or office immediately.

B. Executive Officers:
   a) President and Executive Vice-President:
      i. Meet all the requirements as stated in Article V Section I (A).
      ii. The Candidate should have been a member of GSA for at least one year and should have attended more than 50% of the GSA general meetings.
      iii. The Candidate should have prior experience from any of the governance body inside or outside Wright State University.
      iv. Candidate shall not be an elected representative of any other governance body inside Wright State University.
   b) Other Executive Officers:
      i. Meet all the requirements as stated in Article V Section I (A).
      ii. The Candidate should have been a member of GSA for at least semester prior to applying.

C. Graduate Senator:
   i. Elected by Student Government Association of Wright State University

D. Representatives of each College as listed in Article II (E)
   i. Meet all the requirements as stated in Article V Section I (A).
   ii. Has to be a member of Dean’s Student Advisory Council/Board in one of the colleges listed in Article II (E).

Section 2(a): Executive Board

A. Officers

The executive power of the Graduate Student Assembly shall be vested in the President of the Graduate Student Assembly, Executive Vice President, and the Vice President for Finance, the Vice President for Campus Affairs, the Vice President for Internal Affairs, the Vice President for International Affairs, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice President for Marketing, Vice President for External Affairs and the Chief Justice.

a) Elected Officers: President and Executive Vice President shall be elected by the general members of GSA. The election shall be held in pursuant to Article VI of GSA Constitution.

b) Appointed Officers: All other executive officers of the Graduate Student Assembly shall be appointed upon recommendation of the President-elect and approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the GSA Cabinet. All appointed officer candidates shall be entitled to address the Assembly directly regarding their qualifications for the position.

c) Duties of Officers: The main authority of the President and Vice-President shall be specified in the Constitution. Other duties of the President and Executive Vice-President
along with the duties of all other officers of the Graduate Student Assembly shall be specified in the Bylaws.

i. President of the Graduate Student Assembly: The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Graduate Student Assembly. The President shall be the representative of graduate students to the administration of Wright State University, to the Board of Trustees of Wright State University, to the City of Dayton, and to the Ohio Legislature.

ii. Executive Vice-President: The Executive Vice-President shall monitor the internal and external operations of the Graduate Student Assembly as defined by the President.

B. Executive Succession.

a) Vacancy of the Presidency: In the event that the President of the Graduate Student Assembly is unable to serve, the Executive Vice-President shall assume that office.

b) Vacancy of the Executive Vice-Presidency: In the event that the Executive Vice-President is unable to serve, the President shall nominate a successor to the Executive Vice-Presidency. This successor must be confirmed by an absolute two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the GSA Cabinet.

c) Interim President: In the event that the President and Executive Vice-President are simultaneously rendered unable to serve, the Vice President of Internal Affairs shall immediately become interim President of the Graduate Student Assembly. The interim President shall be charged to conduct a special student election to elect a new President and Executive Vice-President in the timeliest manner possible. The interim President retains his or her membership in the Graduate Student Assembly, and is eligible to be elected President of the Graduate Student Assembly.

d) Vacancy of Appointed Officers. In the event that an appointed officer is rendered unable to serve, the President shall appoint a replacement upon two thirds (2/3) approval of the GSA Cabinet.

C. Executive Committee: All members of the cabinet as defined in Article V (A) of the Graduate Student Assembly shall serve on the Executive Committee. In addition, the President may invite other members, participants and graduate students to participate in the Executive Committee meetings.

a) Purpose: The Executive Committee shall be responsible for coordinating the executive functions of the Graduate Student Assembly. The Executive Committee shall meet in advance of the regular meetings of the Assembly to set the agenda.

b) Authority: The Executive Committee shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Assembly when the Assembly is not in session. Actions of the Executive Committee or its members shall be reviewed and ratified by the Assembly at the next regular meeting. Other duties of the Executive Committee shall be specified in the Bylaws.

c) Chair: The President of the Graduate Student Assembly shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee. The President and the Executive Vice-President each have the authority to convene the Executive Committee.
d) Resignation: Any member of the GSA Executive Committee may resign from their office by submitting notice of that resignation, via e-mail to the remaining members of the GSA Executive Committee.

Section 2(b): Cabinet

A. Elected Officer:

a) Graduate Senator is elected by the Graduate Student body of Wright State University in pursuant with the Student Government Association election policy.

B. Appointed Officers:

b) Each college listed in Article II (E) of this constitution shall have one representative as stated in Article V Section 1 (A) (c).

Section 3(a): Duties and Powers of GSA Executive Board

A. Duties:

a) Coordinate efforts to ensure that the purpose of GSA is being fulfilled and that the duties of GSA outlined in this constitution are being met;
b) Meet at least once each month;
c) Facilitate GSA’s communication strategy, including but not limited to maintenance of the GSA website;
d) Maintain regular contact with the GSA Cabinet and Student Government;
e) Serve as the Graduate School Dean’s Advisory Board.
f) Notify GSA Cabinet regarding the removal or resignation of an elected officer, along with details regarding the method for filling that vacancy, within three (3) days of the relevant removal or resignation;
g) Maintain the official list of GSA constituencies, provided as an appendix to this document, and notify GSA regarding any changes to this document. This communication must take place no later than the first regular meeting of GSA following the change, and must include information regarding GSA’s right to override the change;
h) Notify constituencies, via e-mail, at least once per semester regarding any vacant seats associated with their constituency. This notification must include information with respect to how to fill the vacancy, the responsibilities associated with the office, the benefits associated with GSA involvement, and their rights and responsibilities with respect to GSA involvement regardless of whether they fill the seat or not;
i) Notify constituencies, when one (1) or more of their GSA Cabinet member is removed from office. This communication must take place within two (2) weeks of the removal and must include reasons for the removal, instructions for filling the vacancy, the responsibilities associated with the office, and the benefits associated with GSA involvement;
j) Nominate an individual to oversee the portion of an election of GSA officers during which the GSA Chief Justice is a candidate;
k) Validate and respond to petitions presented by members of the graduate student body, as outlined in this document.

B. Powers:

a) Issue interpretations of this constitution in consultation with the Faculty Advisor, when questions as to their interpretation arise;
b) Appoint an Interim officer to fill any vacant seat on the GSA Executive Committee, notifying GSA Cabinet of any such appointment;
c) Form ad hoc committees of GSA;
d) Delegate duties or tasks of the GSA Executive Committee to an assistant (who may be paid if provision is made for this in GSA’s budget).

C. Presidential Veto

a) The President of the Graduate Student Assembly shall have the power to veto any bill or resolution passed by the Graduate Student Assembly. The President must veto a bill within seven (7) calendar days of its passage and notify the assembly within twenty-four (24) hours of said veto. A Presidential Veto nullifies the stance of the Graduate Student Assembly as a whole and no action specified in the legislation may be carried out.
b) Override of the Presidential Veto – Any bill or resolution vetoed by the President of the Graduate Student Assembly may be overridden by the Assembly with a two-thirds (2/3) absolute vote. Bills and resolutions that pass the override may not be vetoed.

Section 3(b): Duties and Powers of GSA Cabinet

A. Duties:

a) Provide the Graduate Senator and Vice President of Internal Affairs with their name and contact information, upon commencing their role as a member of GSA Cabinet;
b) Attend regular and special meetings of GSA, including joint meetings of GSA and Student Government, when scheduled;
c) Designate a proxy to attend GSA meetings when unable to attend;
   i. A proxy must be a member of the same constituency as the GSA Representative.
   ii. A proxy may not be a member of the GSA Executive Committee.
   iii. A proxy may not be another seated GSA Representative.
   iv. A proxy assumes the duties and powers of that GSA Senator for the duration of the meeting during which s/he is serving as that GSA Senator.
   v. Proxies are required to notify the Graduate Senator of their presence at a meeting, including the name of the GSA Senator for whom they are serving as a proxy.
d) Fulfill the GSA participation requirement by:
   i. serving as a member of one (1) GSA standing committee;
ii. serving as a member of one (1) university or student government committee, as deemed appropriate by the GSA Vice President of Campus Affairs;

iii. Reporting the business of the committee to Vice President of Campus Affairs via electronic mail in a timely manner.

e) Report the business of GSA to their constituents, including but not limited to the forwarding of official e-mail announcements;

f) Relay the concerns, needs and desires of their constituents to GSA and/or the appropriate member of the GSA Executive Committee;

g) Facilitate the selection of their replacement from among their constituents;

h) Notify the Vice President of Internal Affairs in the event that a proxy has been assigned to delegate his/her role.

B. Powers:

a) GSA Cabinet assume all parliamentary powers afforded them in Robert’s Rules of Order. These powers are in effect during all GSA meetings and during all meetings of GSA committees of which they are members;

b) GSA Cabinet is

   a. permitted to propose legislation to GSA;
   b. permitted to designate a proxy for their duties;
   c. permitted to request that proposed summer business be postponed until the academic year begins.

ARTICLE VI
ELECTIONS

Section 1: Election Commission

An Election Commission shall be installed by the GSA Executive Committee whenever necessary. The election shall be conducted in the Month of March/April to elect the successive officers.

A. Chair:

a) Chief Justice of GSA shall serve as the chair of the Election Commission and shall preside over the elections.

   i. In the event of Chief Justice being a candidate in the election, a member from the Executive committee shall be recommended by the President and or Executive Vice-President to chair the election commission with the approval of the GSA Cabinet by a simple majority.

   ii. In case none of the Executive Committee members are available to chair the election commission then a member at large from GSA general membership roster is recommended by the President and or Executive Vice-President to chair the election commission with the approval of the GSA Cabinet by 2/3rd of the vote.

b) The Chair of the Election Commission shall recommend up to 3 members to serve on the Election commission as stated in Article VI Section I (B).
i. The Chair shall remove any member at any time in consultation with the Faculty Advisor of GSA and the removal shall be notified immediately to the President of GSA, GSA Cabinet and to all candidates within one (1) business day.

B. Election Commission Members

a) 3 student Members of Wright State University at large irrespective of their GSA membership, including Wright State Undergraduate students, shall be recommended by the Chief Justice or the chair of the election commission to serve on the GSA Election commission with the approval of the GSA Cabinet by a simple majority.
   i. If a member chooses to run for a position then he/she shall be removed immediately from the Election Commission and the GSA Cabinet should be notified.

b) The vacancy should be filled within 2 business days with the approval of the Cabinet as stated above.

Section 2: Election procedure

There are only three (3) elected positions in GSA legislature. (i) President (ii) Executive Vice-President and (iii) Graduate Senator. The election procedure for (i) and (ii) differs from (iii).

A. (i) and (ii)

a) Any member of the graduate student body may nominate a candidate to fill an office.
   i. In order to become a candidate, nominated individuals must affirm their willingness to let their name stand for election;
   ii. Self-nominations are accepted;
   iii. Nominations for a position close immediately before the election procedure for that position begins.

b) All candidates shall verify their eligibility criteria as stated in Article V Section I (B) (a) and if eligible shall submit an application addressing to the Chair-Election Commission;

c) The candidature shall be verified and approved by the Election Commission;
   i. Election Commission reserves rights to cancel the candidature with proper terms in consultation with the GSA Faculty Advisor.
   ii. Verified Candidates shall be nominated to the GSA general members by the Chair of the Election Commission.

d) Nominated candidates are permitted to address GSA general members and respond to questions.
   i. This session shall be arranged by the Election Commission
   ii. Nominated Candidates are allowed to campaign as per the election policy manual.

e) An Electronic vote be conducted and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes for the Assembly seat shall be certified in the respective position.
   i. Only general members of GSA are allowed to vote to elect their President and Executive Vice-President.
ii. There are three voting options during an election: a vote in favor of a particular candidate, an abstention, and a vote of no confidence. A vote of no confidence is a vote against all candidates who are in the running for the relevant vacant seat.

iii. The voting procedure for filling each office shall be kept separate. iv. Abstentions shall not count toward the majority.

iv. If the majority is vote of no confidence, then all candidatures shall be cancelled and let the process start again until single candidate gets a simple majority.

v. Results shall be communicated campus-wide by the GSA via e-mail by the sitting President of GSA in a timely manner.

f) Chair of the Election Commission reserves the right to overturn an election result if he/she has enough proof to believe the election was counterfeited.

i. This requires 2/3rd of the vote in the Election Commission; and

ii. Approval from the GSA Faculty Advisor

B. (iii)

i. Elected by Wright State Student Government Association

Section 3: Withdrawal of Election results

a) Chair of the Election Commission reserves the right to overturn an election result if he/she has enough proof to believe the election was counterfeited.

i. This requires 2/3rd of the vote in the Election Commission; and

ii. Approval from the GSA Faculty Advisor

Section 4: Term of Office.

a) All officers shall serve one-year terms, beginning at 12 noon on the Second Tuesday in April of each year. All departmental representatives and alternate representatives shall serve one-year terms beginning in the first day of fall semester.

Section 5: Conflicts of Interest

a) The same person shall not hold two elected offices simultaneously, nor shall two persons simultaneously hold the same elected office. No alternate representative may serve concurrently as an officer of the Graduate Student Assembly. The Graduate Student Assembly may not make any endorsements in any elections.

ARTICLE VII
Removal

Section 1: Impeachment Process
a) Members of the Executive Committee may be impeached and removed from office for failure to fulfill the duties and responsibilities mandated in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of Order of the Graduate Student Assembly.
   a. Initiation of Proceedings: A motion to impeach an elected officer of the Graduate Student Assembly must be submitted in writing and requires the written seconding of at least two voting members of the Assembly.
      i. This motion shall be submitted in writing to Chief Justice.
   b. Hearing: In the event of impeachment, hearings shall take place in the next meeting of the Assembly as the first order of business. Chief Justice of GSA shall preside at such hearings.

b) Voting members of the Assembly may be recalled and removed from office for cause as specified in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of Order of the Graduate Student Assembly.
   a. Initiation of Proceedings: A recall motion of a voting member of the Assembly requires a written petition of a majority of the graduate students from the affected field of study, verified by a member of the Executive Committee of the GSA.
   b. Hearing: In the event of recall, removal hearings shall take place in the next meeting of the Assembly as the first order of business. The Chief Justice shall preside at such hearings.

Section 2: Removal from Office:

a) A three-fourths (3/4) majority of the total voting membership of the Graduate Student Assembly shall be necessary to remove an elected officer, appointed individual, or voting member of the Assembly.

Article VIII
Meetings

Section 1: General Meetings

a) All GSA meetings shall be open to all members of the Wright State University student body.

b) Ex-officio Members:
   a. The following members of the campus community are ex-officio members of GSA
      i. Members of the previous GSA Executive Committee;
      ii. Members of the Wright State University Student Government;
      iii. Designated representative from the Office of Student Activities;
      iv. Faculty Senate Chair;
      v. Graduate Council Chair.

   c) Ex officio members are non-voting members of GSA and possess the following rights during meetings:
      a. calling for orders of the day;
      b. raising points of order, points of personal privilege, points of information, and points of parliamentary inquiry;
      c. Speaking during meetings.
d) Regular meetings of GSA must be held at least once per month as directed in Article IV Section I (A).
   a. The GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs must notify GSA Assembly of the time and location of any regular meeting of GSA at least one (1) week prior to the meeting date.

e) Except where contradicted in the bylaws, GSA shall conduct business in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

f) Introduction of legislation:
   a. All proposed legislation shall be presented in writing and, if desired by a voting member of GSA, shall be read aloud before it is discussed. The same shall hold for all motions and amendments pertaining to that legislation.
   b. In the case of a Presidential Veto of legislation passed by GSA, the President of GSA must read the veto at the first regular GSA meeting.

g) Voting:
   a. During GSA meetings there shall be five (5) distinct voting methods available for use, arranged here in order of greatest precedence to lowest precedence: (i) Secret ballot; (ii) Roll call; (iii) Hand vote; (iv) Voice vote; (v) Acclamation (unanimous consent).
   b. The Chair of a meeting normally determines the manner of voting. However, if a GSA Senator calls for a method of voting of greater precedence for an individual question, that method must be used. If multiple requests are received, the request with the greatest precedence shall be honored.
   c. At the discretion of the GSA President, an electronic vote may be held. Electronic voting shall proceed as follows:
      i. The GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs shall notify all Senators (and proxies, when applicable), via e-mail, of the specific motion that is being made, the specific options for votes (including a voiced abstention), how to cast a vote, the specific deadline for casting a vote, and the names of two (2) voting members of GSA who co-sponsor the motion.
      ii. To ensure that GSA Senators can discuss a proposed electronic vote via e-mail, the e-mail list used to notify GSA Senators of the electronic vote must be open for use by all GSA Senators (and their proxies) without moderation.
      iii. Normally, only seated GSA Senator may vote. However, GSA Senators are permitted to designate a proxy for electronic votes by notifying the GSA President of their proxy, and the duration for which the relevant individual will serve as their proxy for electronic voting. Any such proxy must be a member of the relevant GSA Senator’s constituency.
      iv. The voting period must be at least one (1) week long and may not overlap with a regular meeting of GSA.
      v. An individual may vote multiple times, but only their last vote cast during the voting period shall be counted.
      vi. The GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs must send a reminder e-mail to GSA Senators once per day during the voting period. This e-mail must
include, in addition to the information from the original e-mail, an update regarding how many votes have been received, and how many votes are required to reach quorum for the vote.

vii. If quorum is not reached in an electronic vote, the motion neither passes nor fails. At the discretion of the GSA President, a new vote may be held after the close of the original vote provided the new vote remains in compliance with the constitution.

viii. Results of an electronic vote, including a specification of the vote cast by each representative, must be made available to GSA Senators within twenty four (24) hours of the close of the electronic voting period.

h) A GSA Senator shall decline to vote, in committee or on the floor, on any matter where s/he believes that his or her voting on such a matter would be a conflict of interest.

i) Quorum:
   a. Quorum for all GSA meetings is a simple majority of the active, seated GSA Senators.
      i. The quorum is verified by the Chief Justice of GSA.
   b. Quorum for all GSA standing committees shall be decided by the chair of the committee at the time of its formation. The President of GSA has the authority to alter the quorum of any standing committee.

**Article IX**

**Graduate Student Body Directives**

**Section 1: Student Body Directives**

a) The graduate student body can compel GSA to reconsider a legislative vote taken within the previous sixty (60) days, or to vote on a new piece of legislation, by submitting a petition – to the GSA Executive Committee – that details the request and contains the signatures and UIDs of at least fifty (50) members of the graduate student body;

b) The graduate student body can compel GSA to repeal any legislative vote taken within the previous sixty (60) days by submitting a petition – to the GSA Executive Committee – that details the reasons for the demand and contains the signatures and UIDs of at least ten (10) percent of the members of the graduate student body;
   a. No more than one-third (1/3) of the graduate students on the petition may come from a single constituency unless the piece of legislation is directly concentrated on a single constituency.

c) The graduate student body can compel GSA to send a piece of legislation to the graduate student body, in the form of a referendum, by submitting a petition – to the GSA Executive Committee – that details the desired referendum question and contains the signatures and UIDs of at least five (5) percent of the members of the graduate student body.
d) All petitions must be validated by the GSA Executive Committee within one (1) week of receipt.
   a. Validating a petition includes verifying that all UIDs on the petition belong to members of the graduate student body who did, in fact, sign the petition.
   e) Upon validation of a petition, GSA has four (4) weeks to respond.
      a. In the case of a request to reconsider a previous legislative vote, or to consider a new piece of legislation, GSA must respond by (re)considering that piece of legislation no later than the next regular GSA meeting following validation of the petition.
      b. In the case of a demand that a vote be repealed, GSA’s original vote is considered reversed upon validation of the petition. GSA is permitted to consider the issue a new at a future meeting, but the GSA Executive is required to notify all members of the graduate student body who signed the petition of their plans at least one (1) week before the relevant meeting.
      c. In the case of a demand for a referendum, the GSA Executive Committee is required to hold that referendum within four (4) weeks of validation of the relevant petition.
      d. In all cases, the GSA Executive Committee is required to communicate details of their response to all members of the graduate student body who signed the petition, and to all members of GSA.
   f) When a piece of legislation is put forward for a graduate student body referendum:
      a. GSA must notify all members of the graduate student body regarding the date and content of the referendum, along with the method(s) available for casting a vote, and the scheduled close of voting;
      b. The results of this referendum shall be binding if at least fifteen (15) percent of the members of the graduate student body cast a vote in the referendum.
         i. If this threshold is not reached by the close of the referendum voting, GSA must hold the referendum again, within two (2) weeks of the original referendum.

**ARTICLE X**

**Faculty Advisor**

a) The Current Dean of School of Graduate Studies or his or her designee shall be the faculty advisor for the GSA.
b) The advisor shall act as a resource person, an informal mentor to GSA, as a liaison between GSA and Faculty members of Graduate School.
c) The advisor shall approve the compensations of all officers of GSA, wherever applicable in conjunction with the President of GSA.

**ARTICLE XI**

**Amendments**

a) Constitutional Amendments shall be proposed by the Executive Committee at any time
a. The proposal can be sent as an electronic mail or in written form to the Chief Justice.
b. Amendments to the constitution may not be presented or put to a vote when classes are not in session.

b) Amendments must be passed by 3/4th of the executive officers and 2/3rd of the GSA Cabinet during a general meeting.
c) A record of all amendments to this document must be kept, by the faculty Advisor, as an appendix to the constitution.

**Article XII**
**By-Laws**

a) Bylaws to this constitution shall be submitted to executive committee at any time and shall deal with matters of policy, procedures and regulations consistent with the constitution
b) Bylaws shall require a majority of vote of the executive officers for adoption

**Article XIII**
**Standard Operating Protocol**

a) SOP – Standard Operating protocol is submitted by the executive committee at the second general meeting of every year and shall deal with the in-office matters, meeting regulations, miscellaneous rules and regulations in consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.
b) SOP shall require a majority of vote of the GSA Executive Board for adoption

**Article XIV**
**Conflict of Interest**

Any policy that conflicts with GSA constitution, where GSA constitution has less order of authority then those policies can be superseded by GSA constitution by submitting a petition to Vice President of Student Affairs that details the request and contains the signatures and UIDs of at least twenty-five (25) percent of the graduate student body.