Constitution
Graduate and Professional Student Council
The University of Arizona
Amended February 2, 2016

Preamble
Statement of Non-Discrimination
Article I – Name
Article II – Membership
Article III – GPSC Officers and their Election
Article IV – GPSC Impeachment and Recall
Article V – GPSC Directors and Staff
Article VI – GPSC Advisory Board and Staff Advisor(s)
Article VII – Filling of GPSC Vacancies and Definitions of Alternates
Article VIII – Meetings of the GPSC
Article IX – Ratification and Amendment

Preamble
In order to act as the primary representative organization for the graduate and professional student body at the University of Arizona, the Graduate and Professional Student Council is hereby established as a department of the University of Arizona. Its purpose is to promote the academic, economic, and social aims of the graduate and professional students of the University of Arizona, to establish effective communication among graduate students and professional students, and to facilitate communication within the University and with other organizations.

Statement of Non-Discrimination
This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in any of its policies, procedures, and practices. This policy will include, but is not limited to recruiting, membership, organization activities, or opportunity to hold office.

Article I - Name
This organization shall be known as The University of Arizona Graduate and Professional Student Council, and the name may be abbreviated as “UA GPSC,” or simply “GPSC.”

Article II - Membership
Section 1 - Representation
The UA GPSC shall represent all graduate and professional students registered at the University of Arizona.

Section 2 - Constituent Units and Representation
A. The voting membership of the GPSC shall include the duly elected Representatives from each of the following constituent units: The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture, the Eller College of Management (MBA), the Eller College of Management (non-MBA), the College of Education, the College of Engineering, the College of Fine Arts, the College of Humanities, Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs, the College of Law, the College of Medicine (MD), the College of Medicine (non-MD), the College of Nursing, the College of Optical Sciences, the College of Pharmacy (MS, PhD), the College of Pharmacy (PharmD), the College of Public Health, the College of Science, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, UA South, Online/Outreach College students and non-degree seeking students.

B. The voting membership of the GPSC shall include three (3) duly elected At-Large Representatives

C. The voting membership of the GPSC shall include all externally elected GPSC Officers.

Section 3 - Proportionality of Representation
Each constituent unit shall have one (1) Representative for each 400 full-time equivalent graduate or professional students, or each fraction of 400, registered within the unit. The formula for full-time equivalency is the sum of the number of full-time students and one-half (1/2) of the number of part-time students as defined by the Graduate College.

Section 4 - Election of Representatives
The At-Large Representatives and the Representatives from each constituent unit shall be elected annually as set forth in the GPSC Elections Code.

Section 5 - Terms of Office
- All terms of elected representatives shall be for one (1) year.
- If an office becomes vacant during the year, the individual assuming that office shall finish the current term of office.

Section 6 - Responsibilities
Responsibilities of Representatives shall be detailed in the GPSC Bylaws.

Section 7 - Ineligibility
Any GPSC Representative removed from office by impeachment shall be ineligible to become a GPSC Representative or Officer in the future. Removal by recall vote, failure to maintain registration, or voting irregularities outside the Representative’s control will NOT affect future eligibility.

Section 8 - Change of Constituency
Representatives elected to represent a constituency who then change enrollment to a different constituency may continue to represent the constituency they were originally elected to represent for the remainder of their term.

Article III - Elected Officers
Section 1 - GPSC Officers
There shall be a President, an Executive Vice President, an Administrative Vice President, an Assembly Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and any additional officers the group deems necessary at the meeting required to carry out the required activities.

Section 2 - Election of Officers
The GPSC Officers will be elected in accordance with the GPSC Elections Code.

Section 3 - Terms of Office
- All terms of elective office shall be for one (1) year.
- If an office becomes vacant during the year, the individual assuming that office shall finish the current term of office.

Section 4 - Eligibility
One person shall not hold more than one officer position at a time.

Section 5 - GPSC Executive Board
The GPSC Executive Board consists of voting and non-voting members. Voting members are the elected GPSC Officers. Non-voting members may include the GPSC Program Coordinator and may include any GPSC committee chairs, directors, or administrators deemed necessary by the GPSC Officers.

Section 6 - Officers as Representatives
Newly elected GPSC executive board officers have the option to resign from their representative offices if the executive board officer will be unable to fulfill the duties of both positions. The executive board member shall notify the elections director and the General Council within fourteen (14) days of being elected to the executive board; if there is no alternate, the vacancy shall be filled by special election.

Section 7 - Succession of the Presidency
If at any time there is no President, the Executive and Administrative Vice Presidents will jointly assume the role of President. If no Vice President is available, then the position will fall in succession to the following people until an eligible person is found: Assembly Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Social Chair. The successor cannot be sworn in until the successor resigns their previous position.

Article IV - Impeachment and Recall

Section 1 - Removal of a Representative or Officer by Impeachment
A. Violations of the UA GPSC Constitution or Bylaws, University Policies, the Student Code of Conduct, malfeasance, or nonfeasance may constitute grounds for impeachment.

B. Any GPSC Representative or Officer may initiate impeachment of a GPSC Representative or Officer by presenting the GPSC with a petition to impeach the Representative or Officer signed by one-third (1/3) of the voting membership of the GPSC.

Upon presentation of the petition, the Following shall occur:
1. The Assembly Chairperson shall be responsible for conducting an impeachment vote at the next regular GPSC meeting.
2. The Assembly Chairperson must inform all GPSC members, including the Representative or Officer subject to impeachment, in writing, of the vote seven (7) working days prior to the meeting.
3. A quorum must be present at the meeting at which the impeachment vote is held.
4. The Representative who is the subject of the vote may speak in response to all allegations contained in the petition; valid causes for impeachment are contained in Article II, Section 6.
5. Impeachment requires an affirmative vote of three-fourths of GPSC members present at the meeting described in this Section; the Representative or Officer subject to impeachment shall be removed from office upon validation of the vote by the Assembly Chairperson.
6. If the Assembly Chairperson is the subject of the impeachment petition, the President shall assume the responsibilities for organizing and conducting the impeachment process in accordance with the procedures outlined in this Section.
7. Upon removal of a Representative or Officer, the procedures described in Article VII of this Constitution shall be instituted to determine a replacement.

Section 2 Removal of a Representative or Officer by Recall

A. Upon petition of the greater number of twenty (20) signatures or twenty percent (20%) of the total votes cast in that Representative’s constituent unit, GPSC shall hold a recall vote within the constituent unit within four weeks.

B. A recall requires a simple majority of affirmative votes, provided that the total ballots cast in the recall election amount to two-thirds (2/3) of the total votes cast at the election in which the Representative or Officer was originally elected.

C. If a Representative who is also a GPSC officer is recalled by that Representative’s constituency, that Representative is immediately removed from his/her position as GPSC officer.

Section 3 Recall of the President and Vice-President

A. Upon petition of twenty percent (20%) of the number of graduate and professional students that voted in the election to which the officer was elected, the GPSC shall hold, within four weeks, a referendum among the graduate and professional student body on the question to remove a designated GPSC President or Vice President.

B. A recall requires a simple majority of affirmative votes; upon such a vote the officer is removed from officer.

Article V - Directors and Staff

GPSC may appoint directors and staff as needed based on its workload and budgetary necessities. Provisions regarding the composition, hiring, dismissal, and supervision of directors and staff are described in Article III of the GPSC Bylaws.

Article VI - GPSC Advisory Board and Staff Advisors

A. The President may appoint Advisory Board members to serve the President, Executive Board, and General Council.

B. The GPSC President may nominate or remove a member of the GPSC Advisory Board confirmed by majority vote of the General Council.

C. The department head is the person agreed upon by the GPSC President and the University Vice President for Student Affairs and or his/her designee.
D. The staff advisor(s) for GPSC shall be the individual(s) appointed by the GPSC department head and the GPSC President.

Article VII - Filling of GPSC Vacancies and Definitions of Alternates
Vacancies and Alternates shall be filled in accordance with the GPSC Elections Code.

Article VIII - Meetings of the GPSC

Section 1 Frequency

A. The GPSC shall hold meetings at least once per month throughout the calendar year and at least twice per month during the academic year.

B. GPSC meetings during December, January and May may occur only once per month at the discretion of the General Council.

Section 2 Parliamentary Procedures

A. Except as otherwise provided in the GPSC Constitution, General Council meetings shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order. The Assembly Chair shall rule on all questions subject to a vote of the General Council.

B. As described in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, a quorum for the purpose of meetings of the GPSC shall be defined as a majority (more than 50%) of the active voting membership of the General Council.

C. Each active Representative and Officer of the GPSC shall have one (1) vote. Representatives who also serve as Offices shall have exactly one (1) vote.

D. GPSC Representatives and Officers who cannot attend a meeting may cast an absentee ballot on an issue that is slated to come up for a vote. Absentee ballots shall be given to the GPSC Assembly Chairperson. An absentee ballot takes precedence over a proxy or an alternate.

E. When a GPSC Representative cannot attend a meeting, and has not designated a proxy, that Representative’s alternate may vote in his or her place. Proxies shall be given to the GPSC Assembly Chairperson at or before the GPSC meeting, and the Secretary shall include a list of approved proxy voters in the minutes of the meeting.

F. GPSC Representatives serving as proxy voters for other GPSC Representatives cannot cast votes for more than two (2) additional GPSC Representatives.

G. GPSC officers serving as proxy voters for other GPSC Representatives cannot collectively cast votes for more than six (6) additional GPSC Representatives.

H. Representatives or Officers may attend a meeting by teleconference or similar means. This provision can only be utilized once per Fall and Spring semester by any given Representative except for Representatives for UA Online, UA South, or any representative residing more than 10 miles from the UA GPSC meeting location.
Article IX - Ratification and Amendment

Section 1 Adoption of the GPSC Constitution

A. Ratification: This Constitution shall be adopted upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of GPSC Representatives. A copy of the GPSC Constitution shall be given to all GPSC Representatives at least three (3) days prior to the ratification vote. Revisions of the proposed GPSC Constitution shall not be permitted within three (3) days prior to the ratification vote.

B. Precedence of the GPSC Constitution: This Constitution shall supersede all previous Constitutions or Bylaws of the GPSC Retention of GPSC Representatives and Officers: GPSC Representatives and Officers elected prior to or concurrently with the ratification of this Constitution shall continue to hold or assume their offices, but their respective powers and authorities shall be governed by this Constitution.

C. The GPSC Constitution will govern all disputes if a conflict arises between the GPSC Constitution, and either the GPSC Election Code or the GPSC Bylaws.

Section 2 Amending the GPSC Constitution

A. Proposal and Initiation: Any voting member of the GPSC may propose to hold a vote on a proposed amendment to the GPSC Constitution subject to the notification requirements given in subsection B below.

B. Notification of the Vote: All voting members of the GPSC shall be notified in writing of an impending vote on an amendment to the GPSC Constitution at least one (1) week prior to the vote. The notification must include the text of the proposed amendment.

C. Vote Required: The Amendment shall be adopted upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Council.

Section 3 Bylaws

The GPSC Bylaws shall serve as rules for conducting the daily business of the General Council. Bylaws may be adopted, rescinded, or amended by a majority vote at any meeting. GPSC Bylaws shall include, but shall not be limited to, rules establishing GPSC Standing Committees, amounts of GPSC stipends, expectations of GPSC Officers or Representatives, and the process by which the General Council considers issues.

A. Proposal and Initiation: Any GPSC Representative or Officer may propose to hold a vote on a proposed amendment to the GPSC Bylaws subject to the notification requirements given in subsection B below.

B. Notification of the Vote: All voting members of the GPSC shall be notified in writing of an impending vote on an amendment to the GPSC Bylaws at least two (2) days prior to the vote. The notification must include the text of the proposed amendment.

C. Vote Required: The Amendment shall be adopted upon a majority vote of the General Council.