

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION

Amended September 14th, 2026

Ratified _____

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UNIVERSITY OF DENVER GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the Graduate Students of the University of Denver, in order to actualize a unified Graduate Student community, advocate for the holistic needs and interests of students across the University of Denver, promote equity, equality, and justice do establish this Constitution and the Graduate Student Government at the University of Denver.

It is the policy of the Graduate Student Government not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation or disability status; and to take appropriate affirmative action in connection therewith.

ARTICLE I – NAME, MEMBERSHIP, AND DEFINITIONS

Section 1. Name

A. The name of the organization shall be the Graduate Student Government, hereinafter referred to as the "GSG."

Section 2. Membership

A. All enrolled Masters and Doctoral students and candidates at the University of Denver shall comprise the constituency and membership of the GSG, and will hereinafter be referred to as the "Membership."

Section 3. Definitions

A. The "E-Board" refers to the GSG Executive Board.
B. The Graduate Student Senate shall refer to the primary decision-making body of the Graduate Student Government and may also be referred to as the "Senate."
C. The term "GSA" refers to the eligible graduate student associations, as defined by this Constitution and its by-laws.
D. "Delegate" refers to membership positions with no voting privileges granted to members of organizations outside the GSG.

ARTICLE II – MISSION AND PURPOSE

A. The mission and purpose of the GSG shall be to:
    a. Solicit the views and interests of graduate students;
    b. Represent graduate student interests to the DU administration, faculty, and community;
    c. Represent graduate students in University-wide committees and Board of Trustees meetings; and

d. Support graduate student quality of life by pursuing and providing opportunities for graduate student professional development, social events, and other means that the organization deems appropriate.

ARTICLE III – REPRESENTATION

Section 1. Executive Board

A. The GSGs primary executive body shall be the Executive Board.
B. The Executive Board shall be comprised of the following members:
    a. President
    b. Vice President
    c. Parliamentarian
    d. Clerk and Recorder
    e. Chief of Staff
    f. Director of Academic Affairs
    g. Director of Communication
    h. Director of Community Engagement
    i. Director of Finance
    j. Director of Global Affairs
    k. Director of Professional Development
    l. Director of Social Media and Marketing
    m. Director of Student Groups
C. All GSG officer positions shall be open to all University of Denver graduate students represented by the Senate.

Section 2. Graduate Student Senate

A. The Graduate Student Government's primary legislative body shall be the Senate. The Senate shall be composed of the following Senators:
    a. Graduate Student Association Presidents, *Ex Officio;*
    b. Graduate Student Association Senator-Appointees; and
    c. Graduate Student Association Membership At-Large Senators.
    d. Four (4) First-Year Masters At-Large Senators
    e. Four (4) Second-Year Masters At-Large Senators
    f. Four (4) Doctoral At-Large Senators
B. For every GSA, there may be up to one of each of the GSA-Specific Senators, exceeding no more than three total Senators per GSA.
C. Each member of the Graduate Student Senate shall have one vote.
D. The Senate may establish, amend, and dissolve 'delegate' memberships on the Senate.
E. Each year, in the last meeting of the spring quarter and subsequently as shall be needed, the Senate shall elect a new Executive Board, excluding the President and Vice President.

Section 3. Graduate Student Congress

A. The convening of both the Executive Board and the Senate shall be called the Congress. The President shall preside over all Congress meetings.

B. Congress Responsibilities:
    a. Approve an annual budget and policy agenda for the Executive Board's oversight.
    b. Draft and enact all legislation related to the furtherance of the GSG's purpose or its Membership in accordance with this Constitution.
    c. Establish and amend by-laws to this Constitution.

ARTICLE IV – POWERS

Section 1. General Powers

A. Agenda
    a. The President shall have the power to create and post the GSG agenda.
B. By-Laws, Regulations, and Policies
    a. The Executive Board shall have the power to draft and propose by-laws, not inconsistent with this Constitution,
    b. The Congress shall have the power to enact and amend the by-laws as they may deem necessary or proper for carrying out the mission of the GSG.
    c. The GSG may exercise additional powers not inconsistent with this Constitution, or barred by explicit school policy, nor barred by federal, state, or local law.
C. Veto
    a. The President shall have the power to veto any act by the Congress.
D. Veto Override
    a. The Congress shall have the power to override a Presidential veto with a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote within ten (10) business days of the veto.
E. Deputies
    a. Each Executive Board Officer may appoint one (1) student enrolled as a graduate student to serve as a Deputy, with the advice and consent of the Senate by a simple majority (½) vote.
        i. No Deputy shall have a vote in the Congress, but may be appointed to serve as a voting member of any GSG committee(s). Each deputy may be assigned responsibilities through this Constitution's by-laws.

Section 2. Powers Vested

A. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the Senate, which shall be the representative body and governing organization of the GSG.
B. All executive powers herein granted shall be vested in the President and the Executive Board, which shall be the administrative branch of the GSG.
C. All judicial powers shall be vested in the Judiciary Committee, which shall serve as the decision-making body as to all questions of vagueness as to this Constitution.

Section 3. Subsidiaries and Student Organizations

A. The Congress shall have the power to recognize Graduate Student Associations, hereinafter referred to as "GSAs," as provided in the by-laws of this Constitution.
B. The Congress shall have the power to recognize all Graduate Student clubs and organizations.

Section 4. Voting

A. All Officers and Senators, excluding the Chief of Staff, appointed deputies, and the President's cabinet, shall have the power to vote in Senate meetings.
B. The Chair shall only vote in the event of a tie.
C. Other than an emergency situation, all voting members shall be present at each meeting. If unable to attend, all voting members must provide an announcement of a proxy in advance during the scheduled meeting time in writing to the Clerk and Recorder.
    a. The proxy must be in attendance during the planned meeting. The Clerk and Recorder will report all known proxies to the entire Board at the beginning of each meeting.
    b. The proxy shall have all of the voting rights and powers of the member they are representing.
    c. Elected members of the GSG shall only request four (4) proxies per academic year and no further.
        i. In case of serious illness or unexpected circumstances, a member of the Senate may appoint an additional proxy with approval from the President of the Senate.
        ii. In the event of extreme circumstances, GSA Presidents may appoint a proxy to serve for the entirety of their term, upon receipt to and approval from Congress.
    d. Proxies are not required for emergency or otherwise unscheduled meetings.

Section 5. Officers

A. President
    a. Shall chair the Executive Board and Congress, and shall be an Ex-Officio member of all committees.
    b. Shall be the official spokesperson for the GSG.
    c. May establish a Cabinet and may appoint Cabinet members, subject to limitations of this Constitution and its By-laws.
    d. Shall have a tie-breaking vote on the Executive Board and Congress.
B. Vice President
    a. Shall Chair the Senate
    b. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall conduct the Senate meetings and act as the Chair.
    c. Shall be responsible for supporting the President in the organization and placement of members on committees and support the President in managing the needs of committee chairs and members.
    d. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress, and tie-breaking vote on the Senate.
C. Parliamentarian
    a. Shall be responsible for maintaining the general order of official GSG Executive Board and Senate meetings, upholding and enforcing board procedure and the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.
    b. Shall count all votes during elections and official meetings.
    c. Shall chair the Judiciary Committee
    d. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress.
D. Clerk and Recorder
    a. Shall be responsible for taking official meeting minutes during all Executive Board and Senate meetings;

b. Shall keep an updated record of all GSG votes;
c. Shall collect all official meeting minutes from all GSG affiliated student organizations.
d. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress.

E. Chief of Staff
   a. Shall be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate.
   b. Shall be responsible for supporting the President in the organization and placement of members on committees and support the President in managing the needs of committee chairs and members.
   c. Shall support the President in developing and furthering the GSG agenda.
   d. Shall collaborate and work with all members of the Senate to support and assist in the completion of their approved projects.
   e. Shall have no vote on the Executive Board or Congress.

F. Director of Academic Affairs
   a. Shall chair the Academic Affairs Committee.
   b. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress.

G. Director of Communication
   a. Shall chair the Public Relations Committee.
   b. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress.

H. Director of Community Engagement
   a. Shall work to connect students to volunteer opportunities, and develop volunteer opportunities for GSG members and the Student Body generally.
   b. Shall serve as the public relations officer for the GSG, responsible for reporting the actions and activities of the Executive Board and Senate where applicable.
   c. Shall be the chair of the Community Outreach committee.
   d. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress.

I. Director of Finance
   a. Shall prepare a proposed yearly budget, along with monthly financial reports indicating the current status and balance of the GSG accounts.
   b. Shall be responsible for the presentation of a quarterly Treasurer's Report to the Executive Board and Senate.
   c. Shall be the Chair of the Finance Committee.
   d. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress.

J. Director of Global Affairs
   a. Shall be the chair of the Inclusive Excellence Committee.
   b. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress.

K. Director of Professional Development
   a. Shall collaborate and meet regularly with the Burwell Center and the Office of Career and Professional Development.
   b. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress.

L. Director of Social Media and Marketing
   a. Shall be the chair of the Marketing and Fundraising Committee.
   b. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress.

M. Director of Student Groups
   a. Shall meet regularly with the student leadership of those student organizations recognized by the GSG.
   b. Shall have one (1) vote on the Executive Board and Congress.

ARTICLE V – ASSOCIATION FUNDS

Section 1. Student Activity Fee

A. GSG shall have sole discretionary control and supervision of all GSG funds and the Graduate Student Activity Fee.

Section 2. Reimbursement

A. Two members of the Executive Board not including any individual being reimbursed, shall be required to sign all requests for allocations.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committee Governance

A. Committees shall work to address specific issues affecting the Graduate Student Body or enhance the University of Denver.
B. Committees may be regulated through the GSG by-laws.
C. Committees shall be led by a chair selected by this Constitution or the GSG President.
D. Positions on GSG committees shall be open to the entirety of the GSG Membership.

Section 2. Standing Committees

A. The GSG shall have the eight (8) standing committees, listed below, and may form additional ad-hoc committees.
    a. Academic Affairs
    b. Community Outreach
    c. Finance
    d. Inclusive Excellence
    e. Judiciary
    f. Marketing and Fundraising
    g. Health and Wellness
    h. Professional and Career Development

Section 3. Ad Hoc Committees

A. The President may, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, establish Ad Hoc committees to last until the end of the academic year or until its dissolution by Congress.
B. The Executive Board shall require a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote to establish any proposed ad hoc committee.

ARTICLE VII – ADVISING AND MENTORSHIP

A. The Division of Student Affairs shall offer guidance and assistance to GSG, with advice from the Office of Student Activities and Organizations. Additional mentorship and guidance shall also be provided by the office of Graduate Education.

ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

Section 1. Nomination and Elections

A. The GSG Senate shall establish the GSG Officer Nomination and Election committee. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the Senate present during the election meeting.
    a. No Senator seeking appointment to the Executive Board shall be allowed to serve on the Officer Nomination and Election Committee
B. After March 15th but before May 1st, the Officer Nomination and Election committee shall oversee the election of the GSG President, Vice President, and all At-Large Senators.
    a. The GSG shall establish and maintain election procedures and requirements in its by-laws.
C. After April 1st and before the last meeting of spring quarter, the Senate shall elect an Executive Board.
D. No Graduate Student may seek nomination or election for more than one (1) voting position on the GSG.

Section 2. Terms of Office

A. The GSG Executive Board shall hold office from the first day of summer interim following elections to the last day of the following spring quarter.
B. Senators shall hold office from the first day of the fall quarter to the last day of the following spring quarter.

Section 3. Vacancies

A. An officer position will be deemed vacant if a GSG officer resigns or is absent from two meetings per quarter without excuse. The President and Clerk and Recorder of GSG shall make the decision as to whether an absence is unexcused.
B. If the position of the President shall become vacant, the Vice President shall succeed to the office.
C. If another officer's position becomes vacant, the position shall be filled by an interim appointment by the President, confirmed by a two-thirds (⅔) vote by the GSG Executive Board until an election is held.

Section 4. Impeachment and Removal

A. Any Officer or Senator may be impeached on the grounds of malfeasance or nonfeasance.
    a. Impeachment proceedings may be initiated by any Congress member in a formal written request to an Officer.
    b. The Executive Board shall meet in a timely manner to discuss the formal written request for impeachment. The Executive Board shall then vote to impeach the member in question, which must be accomplished by a simple majority vote.
    c. Upon a majority vote of the Executive Board, not to include an Officer subject to impeachment, an impeachment hearing shall be held before Congress.
    d. At least ten (10) days prior to the hearing, the President shall notify in writing the member subject to impeachment.
    e. The member subject to impeachment shall have the right to present their case at the impeachment hearing before the Congress.
    f. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote by secret ballot of the Congress, not to include the member subject to impeachment, the impeached member shall be immediately removed from

office.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendment

A. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws shall be circulated to all members of Congress.
B. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be considered at the same meeting in which they are presented. Adoption of the amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws shall require a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote from both the GSG Senate and Executive Board.

Section 2. Ratification

A. Any approved amendment to this Constitution shall be presented to the GSG Membership at an election for ratification. Only GSG members are permitted to vote at an election for ratification. Ratification shall require participation by 5% or more of the graduate student body across all units and be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the votes cast for ratification on the proposed change.

ARTICLE X – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

A. The parliamentary authority of GSG shall be the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, revised.
B. This organization shall comply with all university, campus, and undergraduate student government policies and regulations and with local, state, and federal laws

ARTICLE XI – NON-HAZING

A. The GSG will not conspire to engage in any act, even if committed with the Effective Consent of all parties, which endangers the psychological or physical health or safety of a person, or by which a person is encouraged to engage in conduct that a reasonable person would consider to be humiliating, when the act is explicitly or implicitly a condition of admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any group. Actively or passively encouraging these acts is also prohibited.

ARTICLE XII – DISSOLUSION CLAUSE

A. In the event that the GSG dissolves, the balance of its total financial and material resources shall be placed in an independent escrow savings account compounding its interest, until such time as the GSG is re-established. No other organization shall have access to the GSG or any of its financial and material resources until such time as the GSG is re-established.