PREAMBLE

The graduate and professional students at the University of Idaho (UI) establish the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) in order to: represent their interests and concerns to the University administration and faculty; provide financial support and curricular programming for them; facilitate their service to the University and Moscow community; and strengthen the student community through providing social events.

ARTICLE I: NAME

1. The organization is named “The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) of the University of Idaho (UI).”

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership includes all students enrolled in graduate or professional courses at the UI, with the exception of those offered by the College of Law.
2. No GPSA member will be denied any rights enumerated in this constitution.

ARTICLE III: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

1. The GPSA Senate exercises legislative power, and is composed of:
   a. graduate and professional student representatives from each department or interdisciplinary program offering a graduate or professional degree; and
   b. eight Senators at Large elected yearly by GPSA members.
2. The GPSA Bylaws provide qualifications, terms of office, and selection processes for members of the GPSA Senate.
3. The GPSA Senate has the power and duty to:
   a. adopt and amend the GPSA budget;
   b. enter into contractual and financial relationships on behalf of GPSA;
   c. establish GPSA positions on matters concerning graduate and professional students;
   d. ensure the sustainability and authority of the GPSA through the creation, passage, and subsequent revision of the GPSA Bylaws;
e. override a presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of the Senate;

f. create committees for the proper functioning of the GPSA Senate;

g. establish regulations regarding the distribution of GPSA monetary awards;

h. approve all presidential appointments to positions with salaries;

i. remove GPSA officers for cause.

4. The GPSA Senate will meet:

a. biweekly during the fall and spring academic terms;

b. in special meetings called by the President, by motion of one-third (1/3) of the quorum of the GPSA Senate, or by petition of ten percent (10%) of the GPSA membership;

5. The GPSA Vice President acts as the Chair of the GPSA Senate. The Chair votes only when necessary to break a tie. In the absence of the Chair, the GPSA Senate may elect a member to serve as temporary Chair until the Vice President can resume their duties.

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

1. The Executive Branch of the GPSA is comprised of:

a. the President and Vice President, as elected by GPSA members;

b. the Treasurer, appointed by the President and approved by the Senate;

c. the Secretary, appointed by the President and approved by the Senate.

2. The GPSA Bylaws provide qualifications, terms of office, and selection processes for Executive positions.

3. The GPSA President is the chief executive officer of GPSA and all other members of the Executive Branch are accountable to the President. The President has the power and duty to:

a. preside over all meetings of the general membership of GPSA;

b. appoint the Treasurer and Secretary, Judicial Board members, and GPSA Committee chairs subject to approval by the GPSA Senate;

c. veto acts of the GPSA Senate except resolutions and referenda;
d. act as official spokesperson of the GPSA, and as the liaison to the UI administration, the Board of Regents, and other local, state, and national agencies;

e. post and maintain regular office hours throughout a term of office;

f. create Boards and Committees for the proper functioning of the GPSA, as specified by the GPSA Bylaws.

4. The GPSA Vice President has the power and duty to:

   a. chair GPSA Senate meetings;

   b. call on Committee chairs to report on progress and activities during Senate meetings;

   c. submit bills and resolutions before the GPSA Senate for consideration;

   d. ensure all bills and resolutions are properly written;

   e. submit all bills to the GPSA President for signature or veto within one day of passage by the GPSA Senate;

   f. assume and execute all powers and duties of the President if the President is absent or unable to perform their obligations;

   g. post and maintain regular office hours throughout a term of office.

5. The interests and affairs of GPSA are managed by the President and Vice President during the summer and winter terms, consistent with GPSA Senate directives.

6. In case of executive offices being vacated:

   a. the Vice President will fill a presidential vacancy;

   b. the Speaker of the Senate will fill a presidential vacancy in the event that both presidential and vice-presidential offices are vacated simultaneously;

   c. the President will appoint an officer in case of vice-presidential or executive vacancy for the remainder of the term, subject to approval by the GPSA Senate;

   d. the above process applies to vacancies in the President-elect and Vice President-elect offices as well.

ARTICLE V. JUDICIAL BRANCH

1. The GPSA Judicial Board is comprised of:
a. the Chief Justice, appointed by the President and subject to the consent of the Senate;

b. four associate justices, who are members of the GPSA.

2. The GPSA Bylaws provide qualifications, terms of office, and selection processes for the Chief Justice and members of the Judicial Board.

3. The Judicial Board will review and act on cases arising from interpretation of the GPSA Constitution, Code of Ethics, or the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS
1. Academic Departments and Programs nominate department representatives (Senators), who are seated by the GPSA Senate.

2. A general election is held in the Spring semester of each academic term in order to:

   a. elect the President, Vice President, and Senators at Large for the next academic year;

   b. vote on Referenda, GPSA Initiatives, and amendments to the GPSA Constitution.

3. The election is conducted by the GPSA Election Committee and described in detail in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: REPEAL, RECALL, AND IMPEACHMENT
1. The process by which the GPSA membership may repeal an official GPSA act is as follows:

   a. a petition bearing signatures of ten percent of the GPSA membership and describing the act to be repealed will be presented to the GPSA President;

   b. the GPSA President will call a special election within two weeks of receiving the petition;

   c. a simple majority in the special election will repeal the act, provided that at least fifteen percent of the GPSA membership votes.

   d. Acts which establish regular contracts in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws are not subject to repeal.

2. The process by which the GPSA membership may recall any GPSA officer is as follows:

   a. a petition bearing signatures of ten percent of the GPSA membership and describing the reasons for recall will be presented to the GPSA President;
b. the GPSA President will call a special election within two weeks of receiving the petition;

c. an officer named on the petition will be removed from office with a two-thirds majority of votes cast in the special election, provided that at least fifteen percent of the GPSA membership votes.

3. Any GPSA officer may be impeached for misconduct after a proper hearing is conducted before the GPSA Senate. Charges may be brought by any member of the GPSA Senate. The officer named in the article of impeachment may have legal counsel, witnesses, or documents present during all proceedings, as deemed necessary for the protection of their legal rights and defense. The officer named in an article of impeachment may continue with the duties of their office while the articles are being deliberated by the Senate. Specific procedures concerning impeachment proceedings are outlined in the Bylaws. The process by which the GPSA Senate may impeach an officer is as follows:

   a. an article of impeachment, which names the GPSA officer to be impeached and rationale for impeachment, is submitted to the GPSA President;

   b. the GPSA President (or other appropriate officer in case of conflict of interest) will hold an impeachment hearing before the GPSA Senate within two weeks of receiving an article of impeachment;

   c. the officer named in the article of impeachment may make a closing argument before the vote is taken;

   d. a two-thirds affirmative vote of the GPSA Senate quorum will be sufficient to impeach an officer.

ARTICLE VII: FINANCE

1. The Senate has the power to draft and adopt a budget for the following academic year pursuant to the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX: REFERENDA

1. A referendum is an act brought by the GPSA membership, rather than originating in the Senate. The process for holding a referendum is as follows:

   a. a referendum may be initiated by a petition outlining the issue to be voted on, containing signatures of ten percent of the GPSA membership, and presented to the GPSA President;

   b. a referendum will appear on the next GPSA general election ballot or in a special election called by the GPSA President;

   c. a referendum is approved by a simple majority vote in which at least ten percent of the GPSA membership votes.
ARTICLE X: AUTHORITY
1. This constitution is the governing authority of the GPSA.
2. GPSA Bylaws, bills, resolutions, and referenda passed by the GPSA that are inconsistent or in conflict with this constitution are null and void, in perpetuity.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS
1. Proposed amendments to this constitution are brought by a two-thirds vote of the GPSA Senate or by petition bearing the signatures of at least ten percent of the GPSA membership.
2. An amendment will appear on the next GPSA general election ballot or in a special election called by the GPSA President.
3. Amendments are passed by two-thirds majority of those voting on the proposal in a GPSA general election or special election called for that purpose.
4. Amendments which are adopted go into effect immediately, unless they contain a specific enactment clause.

ARTICLE XII: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE
1. Robert’s Rules of Order are to be used as a guide for Senate parliamentary procedure.

ARTICLE XIII: BYLAWS
1. Bylaws will be adopted by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the GPSA Senate.

ARTICLE XIV: RATIFICATION
1. This constitution will appear on the next GPSA general election ballot or in a special election called by the GPSA President.
2. The Constitution is passed by two-thirds majority of those voting on the proposal in a GPSA general election or special election called for that purpose.
3. Upon ratification of this constitution all preceding constitutions become null and void.

ARTICLE XV: RIGHTS OF GPSA MEMBERSHIP
1. Every GPSA member has the right of appeal, whereby they may bring a concern to the GPSA Senate for discussion and consideration.
2. It is the policy of GPSA that equal opportunity be afforded to qualified persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, or status as a veteran.

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