CONSTITUTION OF
THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

ARTICLE I.
NAME & MISSION

§ 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the Graduate and Professional Student Federation (GPSF).

§ 2. Mission. The GPSF seeks to represent the interests of graduate and professional students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to the Student Body President, the Administration, Faculty and Staff of the University, as well as to the local community governances and the state legislature.

ARTICLE II.
MEMBERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

§ 1. Membership. Every duly enrolled graduate and professional student is a member of the GPSF and a member of a representative unit. Representative units are recognized under the following subsections:

(a) **College of Arts and Sciences.** Anthropology, Art, Biology, Chemistry, City and Regional Planning, Classics, Communication Studies, Computer Science, Dramatic Art, Ecology, Economics, English and Comparative Literature, Exercise and Sports Science, Folklore, Geography, Geological Sciences, Germanic Languages, History, Linguistics, Marine Sciences, Materials Sciences, Mathematics, Music, Philosophy, Physics and Astronomy, Political Science, Psychology, Public Policy, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Religious Studies, Romance Languages, Russian and East European Studies, Slavic Languages and Literature, Sociology, Statistics and Operations Research.

(b) **School of Medicine.** Medicine (MD), Occupational Sciences, Physical Therapy, Speech and Hearing, Cell and Dev. Biology, Cell and Mol. Physiology, Genetics, Microbiology and Immunology, Neurobiology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Toxicology, Human Movement Sciences, Rehab Counseling and Psychology, Biochemistry and Biophysics, Biomedical Engineering.

(c) **School of Dentistry.** Dentistry (DDS), Advanced Dental Education.

(d) **School of Pharmacy.** Pharm. D., Pharmaceutical Sciences.

(e) **School of Government.** Public Administration.

(f) **School of Public Health.** Biostatistics, Environmental Science and Engineering, Epidemiology, Health Behavior and Health Education, Health Policy.
Administration, Maternal Child Health, Nutrition, Public Health Leadership.

(g) **School of Education.** Education

(h) **Kenan-Flagler Business School.** Accounting, Business Administration (MBA), Business Administration (PhD).

(i) **School of Nursing.** Nursing.

(j) **School of Law.** Law.

(k) **School of Journalism and Mass Communication.** Journalism and Mass Communication.

(l) **School of Information and Library Sciences.** Information and Library Sciences.

(m) **School of Social Work.** Social Work.

§ 2. **Petition.** A formal petition may be submitted to the GPSF Senate to add additional GPSF Representing Units. Petitions are approved by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Senators present at the meeting at which the petition is submitted.

§ 3. **Duties of a Representative Unit.** The representative unit shall:

   (a) Provide a Senator to represent the interests of its members in the GPSF Senate and to the University as a whole.

   (b) Provide a forum for discussion within this group, of matters of concern to GPSF.

   (c) Conduct and supervise elections and referenda as provided for in this Constitution.

   (d) Appropriate and account for funds appropriated by the Senate to the group in accordance with the purpose of the appropriation and the Treasury Laws.

   (e) Encourage members of their district to run as candidates in the Student Congress elections.

§ 4. **Dues.** No duly enrolled graduate or professional student governed by a representative unit shall be required to pay dues or register membership in that unit as a prerequisite for voting on GPSF business or representation.

**ARTICLE III. GENERAL POWERS**

§ 1. **General Powers.** The GPSF shall have all powers necessary and proper for the performance of its duties under this Constitution.
§ 2. Operational Structure. The formal operational structure of the GPSF shall be comprised of three bodies that have distinct duties and responsibilities. These bodies shall be called the Executive Committee, the Senate, and the Graduate Honor System.

§ 3. Referendum. Referenda shall be held under the auspices of the GPSF to initiate any act or resolution within the Code of Student Government.

§ 4. Ratification. This Constitution shall be effective upon ratification by 3/4 of the total membership of the Senate.

§ 5. Amendment. This Constitution may be amended upon approval by a 2/3 vote of members present with quorum.

ARTICLE IV.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

§ 1. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the daily operations of the GPSF and the preparation of the annual budget. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following persons:

(a) President: Elected by the graduate and professional student body in annual elections conducted by Student Government.

(b) Vice President of Internal Affairs: Appointed by the President and approved by the Senate by a 2/3 vote of members present. Membership in the Senate shall not be required for consideration of an executive position. The Vice President of Internal Affairs shall be confirmed prior to the end of the academic year or within four weeks of the inauguration of the President, whichever comes first.

(c) Vice President of External Affairs: Appointed by the President and approved by the Senate by a 2/3 vote of the members present. Membership in the Senate shall not be required for consideration of an executive position. The Vice President of External Affairs shall be confirmed prior to the end of the academic year or within four weeks of the inauguration of the President, whichever comes first.

(d) Treasurer: Appointed by the President and approved by the Senate by a 2/3 vote of the members present. Membership in the Senate shall not be required for consideration of an executive position. The Treasurer shall be confirmed prior to the end of the academic year or within four weeks of the inauguration of the President, whichever comes first.

(e) Secretary: Appointed by the President and approved by the Senate by a 2/3 vote of the members present. Membership in the Senate shall not be required for consideration of an executive position. The Secretary shall be confirmed prior to the end of the academic year or within four weeks of the inauguration of the President, whichever comes first.
(f) Chief of Staff: Appointed by the president and approved by the Senate by a 2/3 vote of the members present. Membership in the Senate shall not be required for consideration of an executive position. The Chief of Staff shall be confirmed prior to the end of the academic year or within four weeks of the inauguration of the President, whichever comes first.

§ 2. Powers and Duties of the President: The President shall be empowered to call and conduct Senate meetings, to appoint committees, to organize a GPSF Cabinet and designate positions therein, to represent the GPSF at all University functions, to speak on behalf of the graduate and professional students, and to initiate and oversee any projects, business or programs necessary to fulfill the purposes of this organization, so long as not inconsistent with this Constitution.

§ 3. Powers and Duties of the Vice President of Internal Affairs: The Vice President of Internal Affairs shall have the power to perform the duties of the President in his or her absence with specific directive to do so. He or she shall serve as President of the Senate. The powers of the Vice President of Internal Affairs shall not be limited to those presented here as the President of the GPSF may encourage him or her to take on additional duties or responsibilities.

§ 4. Powers and Duties of the Vice President of External Affairs: The Vice President of External Affairs shall be concerned with business outside the realm of the Senate, serving as a liaison between the GPSF, University administration and the community. He or she shall be responsible for compiling regular reports on the activities of University Standing Committees, Advisory Committees and Boards and all other duly established committees external to the GPSF, except those on which the President retains an appointment, and reporting those activities to the Executive Committee. During the first meeting of the GPSF Senate each academic year, the Vice President of External Affairs shall present an ‘External Appointments Charter’ outlining the current positions, appointees, and the responsibilities of appointees. This charter shall be approved by the Senate by a majority affirmative vote of the members present and voting. The powers of the Vice President of External Affairs shall not be limited to those presented here as the President of the GPSF may encourage him or her to take on additional duties or responsibilities.

§ 5. Powers of the Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be empowered to oversee the annual budget, to requisition funds, to keep all financial records, to keep a physical properties list consistent with expenditure of GPSF allocated funds and to conduct all other financial affairs pertaining to the GPSF as necessary.

§ 6. Powers of the Secretary: The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of meetings of the Senate, the Executive Committee, and the GPSF Cabinet, as well as for maintaining attendance records of GPSF Senators. The Secretary shall maintain all records and files of the GPSF, as well as maintain a current copy of the GPSF Constitution, and shall arrange for permanent preservation these documents. The Secretary shall publish a list of all representative units, their Senators, and contact information. At the President’s request, the Secretary may request written reports from executive officers, GPSF Cabinet members, external committee appointees, and other Presidential appointees on their fulfillment of the duties of their
office. The powers of the Secretary shall not be limited to those presented here as the President of the GPSF may encourage him or her to take on additional duties or responsibilities.

§ 7. **Powers of the Chief of Staff:** The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for selecting, advising, and supporting the GPSF Cabinet, which shall include members and positions as designated by the President. During the first meeting of the GPSF Senate each academic year, the Chief of Staff shall present a ‘GPSF Cabinet Charter’ outlining the current positions, appointees, and the responsibilities of appointees. This charter shall be approved by the Senate by a majority vote of the members present and voting. The powers of the Chief of Staff shall not be limited to those presented here as the President of the GPSF may encourage him or her to take on additional duties or responsibilities.

§ 8. **Compensation of Executive Officers:** The Executive Committee shall be eligible to be compensated with a modest stipend in consideration for performance of duties over the summer and during the academic year as prescribed by the Student Government Code, Title V, Part 2, Article VI, Section 607, C.

   (a) This consideration is intended to preclude the possibility that any interested individual would neglect to involve themselves as an executive officer in the GPSF due to financial constraints.

   (b) Misfeasance, malfeasance and nonfeasance of duties are grounds for recall of a compensated executive officer of the GPSF.

   (c) Any compensated executive officer recalled for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance of duties shall be subject to recovery of compensation by the GPSF through whatever means are necessary.

§ 10. **Recall**

   (a) **President:** Recall of the President and removal from office shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the Student Government General Election Laws set forth in Title I, Article V, Section 2 of the Student Government Code.

   (b) **Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and Chief of Staff:** Recall shall be initiated by 15% of the Senate membership by petition to the President. A 2/3 vote of members present with quorum is required for removal.

§ 11. **Succession:** If the GPSF President is recalled or otherwise leaves the office, the succeeding officer shall become Interim President and shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the Office of President until such time as a special election can be held.

   (a) The order of succession to the Presidency shall be Vice President of Internal Affairs, Vice President of External Affairs, Chief of Staff, Treasurer, and Secretary of the GPSF.
(b) In the event of succession, an Executive Committee shall subsequently be re-elected by the Senate as prescribed in Article III, Section 2 of the GPSF Constitution.

§ 12. **Summer Government:** The Senate shall be empowered to establish a Summer Government to appropriate funds and make appointments. The government shall consist of current Executive Board members and shall expire at the beginning of the first GPSF Senate meeting of the Fall Term.

§ 13. **Approval of Presidential Appointments:** The Senate shall be empowered to review and approve all Presidential appointments that carry a stipend.

(a) The appointment shall be submitted to the Vice President of Internal Affairs in the form of a Resolution.

(b) The nominee shall be required to present him or herself before the Senate to respond to questions during consideration of the appointment.

(c) The Resolution shall be duly considered by the Senate and approved upon majority vote.

§ 14. **Reporting Duties of the Executive Officers:** According to Title IV, Part I, Article II, Section 105, subsection E of the Student Code, “The Graduate and Professional Student Federation shall give a State of the Graduate and Professional Students Address to the student body from time to time or at the request of Student Congress.” To enable the President to fulfill this duty, all executive officers will submit a written report of their activities on behalf of the GPSF at the President’s request.

**ARTICLE V.**

**THE GPSF SENATE**

§ 1. **Membership.** Each representative unit shall appoint or elect one Senator and one Senate Alternate to the GPSF Senate.

§ 2. **Election or Appointment of Senators.** The students of each representative unit shall select their own method of electing or appointing a Senator and an Alternate to the Senate. Each member of the Senate shall serve and vote at the pleasure of his/her representative unit.

§ 3. **Eligibility.** Any currently enrolled graduate or professional student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, upon proper election or appointment by their representative unit shall be eligible to serve as a GPSF Senator or Senate Alternate. Members of the current GPSF Executive Committee and Cabinet are excluded.

§ 3. **Responsibilities of the Senator.** The Senator shall be responsible for attending or providing for attendance at all duly called meetings of the Senate. The Senator shall make every effort to provide notification to the representative unit of the activities and events of the GPSF.
§ 4. **Proxy or Alternate Representation.** In the event that the elected or appointed Senator is unable to attend a GPSF Senate meeting or other committee appointment, upon notification, the Senate Alternate becomes responsible for representation of the unit at this function.

§ 5. **Quorum.** Senators or Senate Alternates from fifty percent plus one Senator of all representative units in good standing at a duly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.

§ 6. **Voting.** Each representative unit of the Senate in good standing with the GPSF shall cast one and only one vote in proceedings of the Senate.

§ 7. **Emergency Sessions.** Emergency sessions of the Senate shall be held upon the request of the GPSF President or 15% of the Senate membership. The meeting shall not be held sooner than three days after the call for the meeting.

§ 8. **Committees.** The standing committees of the Senate shall be Finance, Appropriations, Travel Awards, Resolution Development, and University Research Day Planning. The Senate shall be empowered to establish other committees to study, plan, or otherwise conduct business of the Senate.

(a) **Finance Committee.**

1. The Finance Committee shall consist of five (5) nominated members of the GPSF Senate. The Committee shall elect its Chair.

2. Members may self-nominate and may speak on their qualifications for a time not to exceed two (2) minutes.

3. The committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Senate.

4. The Chair casts a vote only to break a tie.

5. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Finance Committee.

6. The Finance Committee shall have the power to set rules and guidelines regarding the GPSF budget and the distribution of GPSF funds. These rules and guidelines must be approved and/or amended by a majority affirmative vote of those present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Senate.

7. The Finance Committee shall have meetings called by the Chair to discuss budgetary matters of the GPSF. Committee meetings shall be held at least 72 hours prior to the next regular meeting of the Senate.

8. The Finance Committee shall hear all matters concerning reallocation of budgetary categories as well as hear appeals for department allocations that have been
suspended under this Constitution. Recommendations of the committee shall be forwarded to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the next Senate meeting agenda.

9. The Finance Committee shall consider no budgetary request that is in violation of the GPSF Constitution or any University policy.

(b) Appropriations Committee.

1. The Appropriations Committee shall consist of five (5) nominated members of the GPSF Senate. The Committee shall elect its own Chair.

2. Members may self-nominate and may speak on their qualifications for a time not to exceed two (2) minutes.

3. The committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Senate.

4. The Chair casts a vote only to break a tie.

5. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Appropriations Committee.

6. The Appropriations committee shall question, debate and amend requests. Recommended requests will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the next Senate meeting agenda. The GPSF Executive Committee will contact the Sponsor or Organization on the status of their request and inform them of their rights based on the GPSF Constitution.

7. The Appropriations Committee shall make no recommendation on requests against the GPSF Constitution as stated.

8. Any Senator that is a member (non-dues or dues paying) of an organization requesting funds must abstain from voting in committee or full Senate on matters concerning that funding request, unless the requests for the appropriate cycle are considered by the Senate as a group.

(c) Travel Awards Committee.

1. The Travel Awards Committee consists of five (5) nominated members of the GPSF Senate. The Committee shall elect its own Chair.

2. Members may self-nominate and may speak on their qualifications for a time not to exceed two (2) minutes.

3. The committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Senate.
4. The Chair casts a vote only to break a tie.

5. The Travel Awards Committee shall have the power to set rules and guidelines regarding the application, selection, and distribution process for travel awards. These rules and guidelines must be approved and/or amended by a majority affirmative vote of those present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Senate.

6. The Travel Awards Committee shall review all properly completed applications submitted by the applicable deadline. Recommended requests will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the next Senate meeting agenda. The Travel Awards Committee Chair will contact individuals on the status of their application.

7. The Travel Awards Committee shall make no recommendation on requests against the GPSF Constitution as stated.

8. Any Senator requesting funds must abstain from voting in committee or full Senate on matters concerning that funding request, unless the requests for the appropriate cycle are considered by the Senate as a group.

(d) **Resolutions Development Committee.**

1. The Resolutions Development Committee shall consist of five (5) nominated members of the GPSF Senate.

2. The Vice-President of Internal Affairs shall be the Chair and a voting member of the Resolutions Development Committee.

3. Members may self-nominate and may speak on their qualifications for a time not to exceed two (2) minutes.

4. The committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Senate.

5. The Resolutions Development Committee shall have meetings called by the Chair to discuss legislative matters of the GPSF. Committee meetings shall be held at least 72 hours prior to the next regular meeting of the Senate.

6. All issues pertaining to changes in the constitution, administrative recommendations, and any other legislation must pass through the Resolutions Development Committee.

(e) **University Research Day Planning Committee.**

1. The University Research Day Planning Committee shall consist of three (3) nominated members of the GPSF Senate.
2. The Chief of Staff shall appoint the Chair, who is a voting member of the University Research Day Planning Committee.

3. Members may self-nominate and may speak on their qualifications for a time not to exceed two (2) minutes.

4. The committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Senate.

5. The University Research Day Planning Committee shall have meetings called by the Chair as necessary to ensure the proper organization and execution of the annual University Research Day event.

§ 9. Budget. Senate shall have the power to approve the annual budget and shall administer the budget according to the rules and guidelines set forth by the Finance Committee and approved by the Senate.

(a) The annual GPSF Budget shall be prepared by the Executive Committee consisting of the President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer and presented to the full GPSF Senate at the last meeting of the Spring Term.

(b) The Budget will be presented by the Treasurer to the Finance Committee prior to consideration by the full Senate.

(c) The Budget must be approved for the upcoming fiscal year by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Senators present at the last meeting of Spring Term.

§ 10. Executive Committee Membership: If a Senator becomes an Executive Committee member, he or she shall not remain as a GPSF Senator from their representative unit and shall not retain their vote. The Senate Alternate shall assume the duties of the Senator until or unless a new Senator is designated by the representative unit.

ARTICLE VI.
GRADUATE HONOR SYSTEM

§ 1. Statement of Purpose. The judicial power of the Graduate Student Body shall be vested in the Graduate Honor System as provided by the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance. The purpose of the Graduate Honor System is to uphold the Honor Code and carry out the functions outlined in the Instrument. The Graduate Honor System shall be responsible for charges against students enrolled in a degree program in the University’s Graduate School or any course in post baccalaureate study except Dentistry, Law, Pharmacy, Medicine, and Business, or as otherwise provided under the Instrument.

§ 2. Operational Structure. The Graduate Honor System shall be comprised of two bodies: the Office of the Graduate Attorney General, and the Graduate Honor Court. The Graduate Attorney
General shall oversee the responsibilities of his or her office. The Chair of the Graduate Honor Court shall oversee all functions and responsibilities of the court.

§ 3. Graduate Attorney General.

(a) **Nominations and Appointments.** The Graduate Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General shall be appointed by the outgoing President of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation. The application for Graduate Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General shall be made available in January; interviews shall be carried out during the first two weeks of February; and the Graduate Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General shall be appointed by the third week in February to serve until a successor is confirmed. The Graduate Attorney General shall participate in the inauguration ceremony in April, and shall assume office upon inauguration. Both the Graduate Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General shall be confirmed by the GPSF Senate in March.

(b) **Responsibilities.** The Graduate Attorney General shall perform the duties and functions for which he or she is made responsible under the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*. The Attorney General will be responsible for organizing and running the cabinet and staff of the Office of the Graduate Attorney General.


(a) **Structure.** The Office of the Graduate Attorney General shall consist of the Cabinet of the Graduate Attorney General and staff counsels as selected by the current Graduate Attorney General. The Cabinet shall be organized in a manner determined by the Graduate Attorney General, but shall consist at a minimum of the Graduate Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General to be appointed simultaneously with the Graduate Attorney General. Staff counsels shall be selected by the Graduate Attorney General.

(b) **Responsibilities.** The Graduate Attorney General, and, as he or she may determine, members of the Graduate Attorney General’s staff, shall be responsible for performing the following functions:

1. **Recruitment, appointment, training, certification, and oversight of members of the Graduate Attorney General staff.** The Graduate Attorney General and his or her designees are responsible for recruiting and maintaining the Graduate Attorney General’s staff. Recruitment shall be completed by the end of September. Training and Certification shall be completed by the end of October. The Graduate Attorney General and his or her designee shall continue oversight of staff performance and shall endeavor to provide regular feedback and additional training as needed.

2. **Review and investigation of alleged violations of the Code of Student Conduct.** The Graduate Attorney General (or his or her designee) shall receive complaints of all alleged violations by graduate students, as defined in Article VI, Section 1;
investigate such complaints to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to refer the incident to the Honor Court; formulate and bring charges; advise students to be charged concerning their rights, the availability of counsel, and procedures to be employed; bring charges to Honor Court; and respond to appeals as necessary.

3. **Investigation and Defense of violations of the University Honor Code.** The staff of the Graduate Attorney General shall be responsible for investigating all alleged violations of the Honor Code by graduate students, as provided in Article VI, Section 1, providing defense counsel as requested, and presenting matters to the Honor Court for resolution.

4. **Reporting Responsibilities.** The Office of the Graduate Attorney General will, at the request of the President, submit a report of activities, not to include confidential information.

§ 5. **Graduate Honor Court Chair.**

(a) **Nominations and Appointments.** The Honor Court Chair shall be appointed by the outgoing President of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation. The application for Honor Court Chair shall be made available in January; interviews shall be carried out during the first two weeks of February; and the Graduate Honor Court Chair shall be appointed by the third week in February to serve until a successor is confirmed. The Honor Court Chair shall participate in the inauguration ceremony in April, and shall assume office upon inauguration. The Graduate Honor Court Chair shall be confirmed by the GPSF Senate in March.

(b) **Responsibilities.** The Graduate Honor Court Chair shall perform the duties and functions for which he or she is made responsible under the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*. The Honor Court Chair will be responsible for organizing and running the Graduate Honor Court. The Chair of the Graduate Honor Court shall be responsible for the following duties:

1. **Recruitment, nomination, training, certification, and oversight of members of the Graduate Honor Court.** Members of the Honor Court may not sit on a hearing panel until they have been found to be knowledgeable concerning the regulations, provisions, procedures, sanctions, and functioning of the Honor System as delineated in the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*, and accordingly certified as “qualified” by the Chair of the Graduate Honor Court.

2. **Administration of the Honor Court.** The Chair shall assign hearing panels composed of the Chair, or his or her designee, and the requisite number of Court members to conduct hearings, and to serve on University Hearings Boards.

3. **Reporting Responsibilities.** The Honor Court Chair will, at the request of the President, submit a report of activities on behalf of the Honor Court, not to include confidential information.
§ 6. Graduate Honor Court.

(a) **Structure.** The Graduate Honor Court shall be composed of graduate students. The Graduate Honor Court Chair should endeavor to assemble a staff whose diversity reflects that of the various graduate programs as a whole. Members of the various professional school Honor Courts may also serve as member of the Graduate Honor Court, provided they have satisfied the training and certification requirements determined by the Graduate Honor Court Chair. All members must show a reasonable understanding of the Honor System and the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*.

(b) **Responsibilities.** The Chair of the Graduate Honor Court, and members of the Graduate Honor Court as he or she may determine, shall be responsible for hearing and deciding Graduate Honor Court cases as charged by the Graduate Attorney General. Hearings shall be conducted per the instructions codified in the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*. 