WHEREAS, the GPSF Constitution, Article V, Section 9, provides the creation of the Senate Committees and discusses their powers, membership, and organization,

WHEREAS, several changes are necessary to ensure Senate oversight of the committees, to maintain an appropriate separation of powers, to clarify the powers of some committees, and to rename and redefine the purpose of the University Research Day Committee,

WHEREAS, the GPSF Constitution, Article 2, Section 5, empowers the GPSF Senate to amend the Constitution,

THEREFORE, BE ENACTED BY THE SENATE OF THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION that the GPSF Constitution, Article V, Section 9 be amended as follows:

§ 9. Committees. The standing committees of the Senate Shall be Finance, Appropriations, Travel Awards, Resolution Development, and Special Projects. The Senate shall be empowered to establish other committees to study, plan, or otherwise conduct business.

(a) Standing Committee Membership and Selection

1. The Standing Committees of the Senate shall consist of five (5) nominated members of the GPSF Senate, four voting members and a chair, and one (1) ex-officio, non-voting member from the Executive Branch.

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

3. Committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Senate.
4. The **ex-officio, non-voting membership** of the standing committees shall be as follows:
   a. The GPSF Treasurer shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Finance Committee and the Appropriations Committee.
   b. The GPSF Vice-President of Internal Affairs shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Resolution Developments Committee and Travel Awards Committee.
   c. The GPSF Special Projects Coordinator, an appointed member of the GPSF Cabinet, shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Special Projects Committee.

(b) Committee Chairs
1. **Each** committee shall elect its chair from its membership by majority vote, excepting the Travel Awards Committee.
   a. For Travel Awards, each year, the Chair for the following year will be nominated by the Committee in the final Committee meeting, presented as their recommendation in a formal resolution to the Senate in the final Senate meeting of the year, and approved by the Senate by majority vote. The Chair will serve for one calendar year and, at the end of their term, assist the newly elected Chair in learning and administering the duties of that office until April 30.
   b. If the Travel Awards Chair elected in the spring is unable to serve the entire following year because of unforeseen circumstances, the Senate will nominate a fifth person to the Committee, and the Committee will choose the Chair from among its members.

2. Chairs shall only cast a vote to break a tie.

(c) The Powers of the Standing Committees
1. Finance Committee
   a. 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.
   b. 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.
   c. 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 GPSF Treasury Law. Recommendations of the Committee shall be forwarded in a formal resolution or bill to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the next Senate meeting agenda.
   d. The Finance Committee shall consider no budgetary request that is in violation of the GPSF Constitution or any University policy.

2. Appropriations Committee.
   a. The Appropriations committee shall question, debate, and amend appropriations requests. Recommended appropriations requests will be forwarded to the Executive Committee in a formal bill for inclusion on the next Senate meeting agenda.
b. 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 and GPSF Treasury Law.

c. The Appropriations shall make no recommendation on requests against the GPSF Constitution and GPSF Treasury Law.

3. Travel Awards Committee
   a. 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.
   b. The Travel Awards Committee shall review all properly completed applications submitted by the applicable deadline. Recommended requests will be forwarded in a formal bill to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the next Senate meeting agenda.
   c. The Travel Awards Committee Chair will contact individuals on the status of their application.
   d. The Travel Awards Committee shall make no recommendation on requests against the GPSF Constitution and GPSF Travel Awards Law.

4. Resolutions Development Committee
   a. 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.
   b. All issues pertaining to changes in the constitution, administrative recommendations, and any other legislation, excepting that over which the Appropriations, Finance, or Travel Awards committees have administration, must pass through the Resolutions Development Committee.

5. Special Projects Committee
   a. The Special Projects Committee shall have meetings called by the Chair as necessary to ensure the proper organization and execution of certain annual events, including the UNC Academic Research Conference and Second Semester Check-in.

(d) Duties of the Committees

1. Each Senate committee shall produce a public agenda and minutes for each meeting.
2. The Chair of each standing senate committee must produce a midterm and end-of-the-year report to be submitted to the Executive Committee.
3. Committee chairs shall provide the Senate with an update at the duly called meetings of the Senate.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the GPSF Constitution, Article V, Section 7, be amended as follows:

   (a) Each representative unit of the Senate shall cast one and only one vote in proceedings of the Senate
   (b) Any Senator that is a member (non-dues or dues paying) of an organization requesting appropriations 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) Any Senator requesting Travel Awards 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.

Done this day, the fourth of October two thousand and sixteen.

Brian A. Coussens  
Vice President of Internal Affairs

G. Dylan Russell  
President