WHEREAS, the hierarchy of the university system produces power inequities that can be exploited by members of the system,

WHEREAS, graduate and professional students’ position in this system leaves them particularly vulnerable to the abuses of these power inequities due to their dependence on those in power for advancement in their own fields,

WHEREAS, few systems currently exist at the University to protect the graduate and professional students from abuses of these power inequities or even recognize such abuses of the system as problematic,

WHEREAS, even where such protections exist, the existing power inequities can lead to a situation of underreporting of abuses of the system,

WHEREAS, the GPSF continues to have multiple complaints per year about such abuses,

WHEREAS, the lack of a document defining graduate and professional student rights may prevent some students from recognizing such abuses when they happen, and

WHEREAS, the production of a Graduate and Professional Student Bill of Rights will serve the interests of graduate and professional students, enabling them to navigate graduate school better by offering protections and guidance,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION that a Select Committee on Graduate and Professional Student Rights be formed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee composition shall be as follows:

1. Five (5) current GPSF Senators and/or Alternates, nominated and selected by majority vote from the Senate,
2. The GPSF President, Vice-President Internal Affairs, TA/RA Advocate, and Academic Policy Chair, as ex-officio members, voting members, and
3. Two (2) faculty members selected by the GPSF Executive Committee;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee Chair shall be a Senator or Alternate selected by the Committee from its membership;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee is charged with researching and formulating a “Graduate and Professional Student Bill of Rights” to address graduate and professional student expectations of rights, protections, and professionalism as students, teachers, researchers, and employees at the University;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall complete a draft and present it to the Graduate School Administration for review and comment by November 30;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall hold a period of public comment from January 23–31;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall present a final draft of the Bill of Rights to the GPSF Senate on February 7, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon approval of the Bill of Rights by the GPSF Senate, the final version will be sent to the Faculty Council and Board of Trustees prior to the end of the academic year.

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

Brian A. Coussens  
Vice President of Internal Affairs

G. Dylan Russell  
President