



GRADUATE POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

As Amended: August 2017

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Preamble

We, the members of the Graduate Political Science Association, do hereby establish this constitution to realize our common goals.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization will be the Graduate Political Science Association, hereafter referred to as the GPSA.

Article II: Purpose

PARA 1. The GPSA is established for two primary purposes: (1) to provide a forum for graduate students to build academic community among those interested in the discipline of political science at Georgetown University; and (2) to promote activities that enhance the reputational status of Georgetown's political science programs in the wider academic and policy worlds.

PARA 2. The GPSA will organize professional and social activities that will enhance students' professional and academic development and help build inter-disciplinary synergies across the various political science-related programs at Georgetown University.

PARA 3. The GPSA will serve as a focal point for the synthesis of views on the university's graduate programs related to political science.

PARA 4. The GPSA will provide a social environment to reinforce the collective sense of academic community at Georgetown, as well as serve as a liaison to the faculty and administration of the Georgetown Department of Government on student concerns, thereby facilitating a mutually supportive relationship.

PARA 5. In pursuing all of its goals, the GPSA will in every circumstance abide by Georgetown University's policies regarding student organizations and student-faculty collaboration.

Article III: Membership

PARA 1. All full- and part-time students registered at Georgetown University for the current semester pursuing a Masters or Ph.D. are eligible for membership and need only communicate with the President to become members of GPSA.

PARA 2. The GPSA will not discriminate in any way on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation.

Article IV: Officers

PARA 1. Officers of the GPSA must be full- or part-time graduate students enrolled at Georgetown University for the duration of their service.

PARA 2. The group of GPSA Officers will consist of:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Treasurer

4. American Government Sub-Field Representative
5. Comparative Government Sub-Field Representative
6. International Relations Sub-Field Representative
7. Political Theory Sub-Field Representative
8. Women's Representative
9. Military Students Representative
10. Graduate Working Group Chairperson
11. Ad hoc substantive officers as needed

PARA 3. The "GPSA Cabinet" will consist of all the Officers indicated in Article IV, Paragraph 2 above. The responsibilities of the GPSA Cabinet are to:

1. Organize regular meetings to discuss GPSA activities.
2. Collectively organize social and academic programs or events over the course of the academic year.
3. Maintain and develop the permanent GPSA files.

PARA 4. The specific responsibilities of the officers are:

1. President:
 - a. Appoint all other Officers or members of the GPSA Cabinet.
 - b. Serve as chair of the GPSA Cabinet.
 - c. Establish the agenda for the GPSA Cabinet.
 - d. Be a contact person for the Government Department administration when they have special requests of Department affiliated students.
 - e. Support all GPSA-sponsored events and programs.
2. Vice President:
 - a. Assist the President in establishing an agenda for the GPSA Cabinet.
 - b. Assist with the organization of any GPSA events on campus and the implementation of GPSA initiatives as needed and in coordination with the President.
3. Sub-Field Representatives:
 - a. Serve as points of contact for students affiliated with their respective sub-fields who can relay sub-field concerns to the GPSA Cabinet.
 - b. Liaise with faculty affiliated with their respective sub-field to discuss events and opportunities being organized by the Sub-Field Representative.
 - c. Meet with student members affiliated with their respective sub-field if necessary to address their questions or concerns.
 - d. Communicate to members of their respective sub-field information about events and decisions.
4. Treasurer
 - a. Represent the interest of the GPSA before the Graduate Student Organization (GSO), and the graduate community as a whole.
 - b. Attend meetings of the GSO and distribute necessary information to the Cabinet.

- c. Distribute guidelines for obtaining funds and other GSO services for individuals and groups.
 - d. Apply for funding for all GPSA events and coordinate the reimbursements of individuals who incurred costs at GPSA's expense.
 - e. Assist all GPSA Cabinet members with event or initiative financing.
5. Women's Representative:
- a. Serve as a point person for and liaison between all female students pursuing graduate degrees in the Government Department.
 - b. Manage the organization of events or the implementation of initiatives that can improve the experience of women affiliated with the Government Department, or raise awareness regarding issues facing women in the field of political science.
 - c. Serve as the liaison between female students and faculty, so that both groups can support each other as they advance through their studies and careers.
 - d. Raise awareness of issues pertaining to equal opportunity for women pursuing graduate degrees in the Government Department as well as the broader Georgetown University community.
6. Military Students Representative:
- a. Serve as a point person for and liaison between all students affiliated with the US Armed Forces, the Government Department, and Georgetown University.
 - b. Manage the organization of events or the implementation of initiatives that can improve the experience of military affiliated students pursuing graduate degrees in the Government Department.
 - c. Manage the organization of events or initiatives that will raise student knowledge of the structure and operations of the US Armed Forces.
 - d. Serve as a liaison between military affiliated students and the Government Department faculty and administration whenever necessary.
7. Graduate Working Group (GWG) Chairperson:
- a. Manage the organization of the GWG seminar workshop series throughout the academic year, including but not limited to soliciting student papers for presentation, formulating the schedule of workshops on a semester basis, and arranging for refreshments to be served at each workshop.
 - b. Serve as the point of contact for all individuals interested in workshopping their papers for publication or conference presentation.

Article V: Operations

PARA 1: Selection of GPSA Officers:

- 1. Eligibility: Any full- or part-time graduate student at Georgetown University is eligible to serve as a GPSA Officer.
- 2. Selection of the GPSA President:
 - a. The GPSA President is elected by majority vote of eligible GPSA members. Should there be no outright majority winner after one round of voting, the top two

- candidates will enter a run-off to be decided by majority vote of those voting in the GPSA elections.
- b. Candidates for GPSA President will nominate themselves or may be nominated by another full- or part-time student member of the GPSA.
 - c. The election of the GPSA President will occur annually after the final meeting of the incumbent GPSA Cabinet in the spring semester.
 - d. The outgoing GPSA President shall appoint an elections committee of at least one GPSA member who will therefore be disqualified from running for President. The elections committee will certify the tally and inform the outgoing GPSA President of the results, at which point the new President thereby elected will be considered as having entered into office.
3. Selection of the GPSA Vice President, all Sub-Field Representatives, Women's Representative, Military Students Representative, and Working Group Chairperson:
 - a. The newly elected GPSA President will recruit and appoint all other GPSA Officers.
 - b. The GPSA President will make appointments after having consulted with and obtained input from the outgoing Officers.
 - c. The newly elected GPSA President will not discriminate in his selection of GPSA Officers on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation.
 - d. The Sub-Field Representatives should be individuals affiliated with their respective sub-fields.
 - e. The appointed Officers must fulfill the eligibility requirements identified in section 1 above.
 4. Duration of Service and Removal from Office:
 - a. Full terms of office are for the full academic year.
 - b. Any officer who wishes to resign may do so by submitting a written resignation to the GPSA Cabinet.
 - c. Any two members may suggest that an Officer be removed from their position by writing a letter to the GPSA Cabinet. Officers will be removed from office if there is a two-thirds vote of the full GPSA Cabinet.
 - d. In the event of a vacancy for any GPSA Cabinet position the GPSA President will recruit and appoint a new Officer within one month.

Article VI: Finances

PARA 1: GPSA will finance the activities it engages in by the following means:

1. The GPSA will submit a budget at the beginning of each semester to the Graduate Student Government organization, or an alternative institution as appropriate, and request funding appropriate for the effective operation of the organization and its events and initiatives for the respective semester.
2. All expenditures will be consistent with the approved budget.
3. The GPSA will conduct all financial activities in accordance with Georgetown University policy and place all funds in its University account.
4. The GPSA will not run a budget deficit.

Article VII: Amendments/Revisions

PARA 1. Amendments or revisions to the Constitution may be proposed in writing by any member of the GPSA and submitted to the GPSA Cabinet for consideration and approval.

PARA 2. Amendments must be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next regular GPSA Cabinet meeting after being submitted to the GPSA Cabinet for consideration.

PARA 3. An amendment will become effective following approval by a two-thirds vote of the GPSA Cabinet, so long as at least 50% of the GPSA Cabinet is present at the vote.