



Constitution

Duke Graduate and Professional Student Council

Fall 2019

Preamble:

The Council will provide a voice for graduate and professional student opinion and a means through which graduate and professional students shall participate in the affairs of Duke University. The existence of the Council places a responsibility on graduate and professional students to participate in the development of Duke University.

The purpose of the Council is:

to represent and advocate on behalf of graduate and professional students at Duke University;

to serve as a liaison between the student governments of the graduate and professional schools of the University;

to serve as a liaison between graduate and professional students and the University Administration;

to nominate graduate and professional student representatives to University committees;

to develop initiatives and program events to benefit the graduate and professional student community;

to conduct its business in a respectful and professional manner;

and to financially support the programming of graduate and professional student groups.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND GOVERNANCE**Section 1. Name**

A. The name of this organization is the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) of Duke University.

Section 2. Governance

A. The GPSC shall be governed by the principles contained in the GPSC constitution, the GPSC Special Rules of Order, and the provisions set forth in these bylaws.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**Section 1. Graduate and Professional Student Council**

A. All actively registered graduate and professional students at Duke are considered members of the Council.

B. All graduate and professional students at Duke have the right to attend open meetings of and to view open records of the Council.

Section 2. General Assembly

A. The General Assembly, herein referred to as the Assembly, is the legislative body of the Council.

B. Representatives of the Assembly shall represent the concerns of their constituencies before the Assembly and communicate the proceedings of the Assembly and activities of the Council to their constituencies. Although Representatives of the General Assembly bear particular responsibilities to the students of their division, they shall also bear the interest of all students in the graduate and professional schools.

Section 3. Executive Committee

A. The Executive Committee coordinates the day-to-day operations of the Council and executes the directions of the Assembly.

B. The Executive Committee consists of the following officers, elected by the Assembly:

- i. President
- ii. Vice President
- iii. Attorney General
- iv. Executive Secretary
- v. Director of Operations
- vi. Director of Finance
- vii. Director of University Affairs
- viii. Director of Advocacy
- ix. Two Directors of Student Life
- x. Director of Community Outreach
- xi. Director of Academic Programming
- xii. Director of Communications

ARTICLE III. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Section 1. Overview

A. The Council shall seek to represent and advocate the concerns of graduate and professional students at Duke University. The Council shall advocate on behalf of students who are citizens of many countries, of diverse ethnic backgrounds, disability status, cultural affiliations, creeds, genders, sexual orientations and political beliefs.

Section 2. Non-Discrimination

A. The Council shall not implement any policies that discriminate against or prevent the free rights of any student group.

Section 3. Student group affiliation

A. In accordance with this constitution, the Council will not deny group affiliation on the basis of any graduate and professional student group's political ideology, religious affiliation, cultural background, race, color, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender, or age of said group's membership or leadership.

B. In accordance with the University policies and these Bylaws, the Council will disaffiliate with any group that discriminates against or impinges upon the rights of students.

Section 4. Productive discussion

A. The Council encourages all interested parties to form affiliated student groups and discuss sensitive topics in a constructive and academic manner.

ARTICLE IV: PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENT

Section 1. Proposing Amendments

A. Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be announced to the General Assembly at least one General Assembly meeting prior to the vote and submitted to the Attorney General and Judicial Committee for review.

Section 2. Approval of Amendments

A. Amendments to this Constitution shall be made by a 2/3 vote of the Assembly, and advanced notice.

Last Revised: 8 September 2019