

University of Delaware Graduate Student Government Bylaws

(Updated: 5 February 2025)

Article I. Membership

Section 1. *Members of GSG*

- (a) Membership in the GSG must be all students actively enrolled in a graduate-level Academic Plan, including those in a 4+1 program in their “+1” year, at any campus or satellite campus of the University.

Section 2. *Members-at-Large*

- (a) The members-at-large of the GSG are those graduate students wishing to participate fully in the activities of the GSG.
- (b) Unlike Senators, members-at-large are unable to vote, except when serving as a proxy.
- (c) Members-at-large are eligible to serve as committee chairs.
- (d) Graduate College Council Representatives are considered honorary members-at-large.

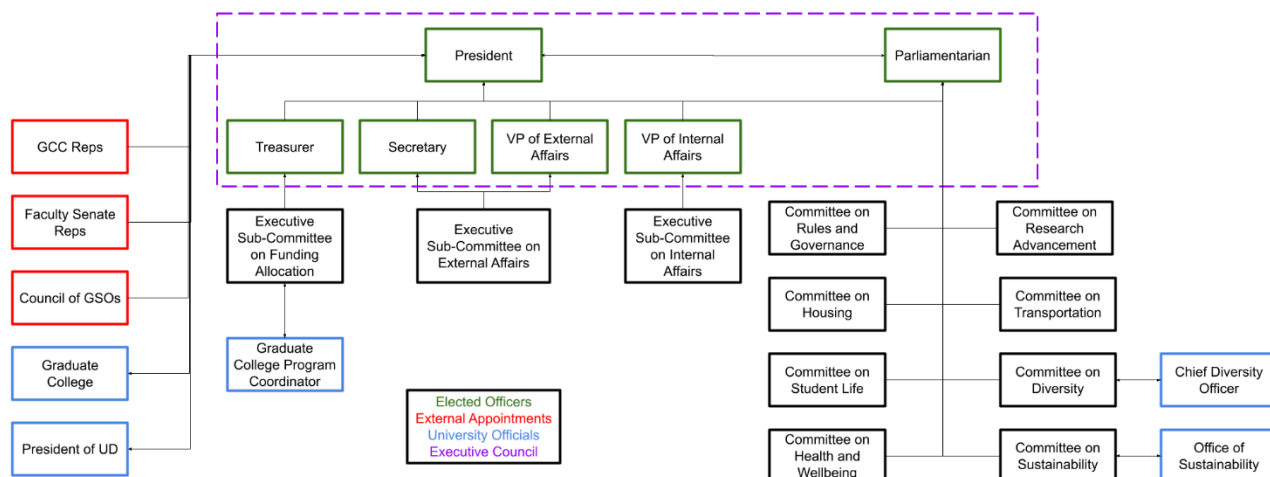
Section 3. *Organizational Delegates*

- (a) Organizational delegate status must be extended to representatives of university-recognized graduate student organizations.
- (b) Organizational delegates must be graduate students.
- (c) A delegate cannot represent multiple organizations or both an Academic Plan and an organization simultaneously.
- (d) Organizational delegates may not vote.

Section 4. *Senators*

- (a) All graduate students in good standing are eligible to represent their program as a Senator.
- (b) Senators are required to attend Meetings of the Senate. Senators are encouraged to attend in person, but may attend virtually by notifying the Parliamentarian.
- (c) If a Senator cannot attend a Meeting of the Senate, they must send a proxy, who is another graduate student, to attend in their place. The proxy shall have the same rights that the Senator has during this meeting. The Senator must alert the Parliamentarian if a proxy will be attending.
- (d) A Senator may request an excused absence from the Parliamentarian.
- (e) A Senator that has two unexcused absences, including public Senate meetings and committee meetings, shall receive a warning from the parliamentarian and may not have more than three in a year.
- (f) A Senator must give regular updates to their department. They must, at least, update their department after each Meeting of the Senate.
- (g) A Senator must serve on at least one Committee of the Senate or as a representative to an external committee. They must attend the meetings of their committee.
- (h) A Senator that violates any of these bylaws may be removed from their role and their position shall be declared vacant.

Section 5. *Overview of the Reporting Structure of GSG*



Article II. Legislative Branch and Committees of the Senate

Section 1. *Public Meeting of the Senate*

- The GSG Senate meetings must be held once a month beginning in August and ending in May and must be open to the public, except for the August meeting which will be an orientation. A public meeting may be held in January at the discretion of the President or Parliamentarian.
- The meeting will be called to order by the Parliamentarian, at which point, the Secretary must begin taking minutes.
- The meeting shall start with roll call by the Parliamentarian. Next, the Parliamentarian will hear updates from Officers and Committee Chairs. After each update, the floor is open for comments and questions from any member and the public.
- After updates, the Senate floor may be opened with a motion by a Senator and a sufficient Second, and business may be considered.
- In the September meeting of the Senate, the President shall begin the meeting by reading the Living Land Acknowledgement.
- Emergency meetings of the Senate may be called by the Executive Council. At least 48 hours' notice must be given to Senators.

Section 2. *Senate Committee Chair*

- Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution outlines the Senate Committees. Each committee shall be led by a Chair, as stated in Article III, Section 2.
- The position of Chair shall be open to any Senator or Legislator who may nominate themselves to the Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian shall bring the vote to the Senate who will elect a Chair by a simple majority. A committee may be run by two co-Chairs if agreed upon by the two Senators and the Parliamentarian.
- The Chair shall be the leader of the committee. They shall be responsible for convening the committee, setting the agenda, calling votes, and steering the committee.
- The Chair shall give regular updates on the progress of the committee to the Parliamentarian.
- The Chair shall report the standing of Committee members to the Parliamentarian and the Vice President of Internal Affairs.
- The Chair shall attend a monthly meeting with the Parliamentarian and the rest of the Committee Chairs.

- (g) The Chair, whether a Senator or Legislator shall have a voting role.

Section 3. *Committee Membership*

- (a) All Senators are required to serve on at least one committee. Members-at-large may serve on a committee in a non-voting role, named Legislator.
- (b) The Parliamentarian shall appoint Senators and Legislators to a committee, taking into account a Senator's or Legislator's committee preference.

Section 4. *The Committee on Rules and Governance*

- (a) The Parliamentarian shall form a Committee called The Committee on Rules and Governance.
- (b) This Committee shall be **charged** with creating amendments to the Constitution and the Bylaws, in conjunction with the Parliamentarian. They are also charged with curating the Legislation archive and maintaining familiarity with legislation passed by GSG. The Committee on Rules and Governance shall be the deliberative body to interpret the Bylaws and Constitution. The committee shall record any interpretation of the Bylaws and inform the Executive Council and the Senate of the interpretation. An interpretation is valid if it has a majority of the votes of the Committee.
- (c) The Chair of this Committee shall become familiar with legislation passed by GSG so they may advise the Parliamentarian and the President and make available previous legislation.
- (d) The Committee shall meet at-least once per month.

Section 5. *The Committee on Housing*

- (a) The Parliamentarian shall form a Committee called The Committee on Housing.
- (b) This Committee shall be **charged** with maintaining the GSG housing document (Article III, Section 5, Subsection c of the Bylaws) and developing solutions, through resolutions, related to affordable housing availability. The committee is charged with holding a monthly open session to hear testimony from graduate students on a list of apartment and housing complexes, determined by the committee. The committee is then charged with updating the housing document from the testimony. At least once per year, the updated housing document must be released to the entire graduate student body.
- (c) **Housing Document of the Committee on Housing:** The Committee on Housing must maintain a document of graduate student vetted housing which contains an updated list of available apartment and housing complexes. The housing document must contain, at a minimum, an overall ranking out of ten for a complex, sub-rankings on maintenance and management communication, a list of reviews/testimonials from graduate students that are anonymous, proximity to campus, and proximity to transportation stops. The ranking is determined by a formula created by the committee. The committee can add any other ranking and criteria as they see fit. This document shall serve to aid graduate students in finding viable housing and this document shall be made available on the GSG website.
- (d) The Committee shall meet at-least once per month in open session to hear testimony from Graduate Students and then meet in closed session to update the Housing Document.

Section 6. *The Committee on Research Advancement*

- (a) The Parliamentarian shall form a Committee called the Committee on Research Advancement.
- (b) This Committee shall be **charged** with developing solutions, through resolutions, to

problems related to research for Graduate Students. This involves identifying areas that are hampering Graduate Students' ability to perform research.

- (c) This Committee shall meet at-least once per month.

Section 7. The Committee on Transportation

- (a) The Parliamentarian shall form a Committee called The Committee on Transportation.
- (b) This Committee shall be **charged** with developing solutions, through resolutions, to problems related to transportation for Graduate Students. This may involve making recommendations on changes to bus routes, infrastructure, and public transport partnerships.
- (c) The Committee shall meet at-least once per month.

Section 8. The Committee on Student Life

- (a) The Parliamentarian shall form a Committee called The Committee on Student Life.
- (b) This Committee shall be **charged** with developing solutions, through resolutions, to problems that impact graduate student life and have not already been answered by another committee. This includes but is not limited to, advisor-student relations, graduate pay, graduate benefits, and graduate rights.
- (c) The Committee shall meet at-least once per month.

Section 9. The Committee on Diversity

- (a) The Parliamentarian shall form a Committee called The Committee on Diversity.
- (b) This Committee shall be **charged** with promoting the shared values of graduate students related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in GSG and the University. This includes, but is not limited to, a yearly diversity check-in survey, in conjunction with UD, and hearing from the graduate body on the state of diversity.
- (c) The Committee shall meet at-least once per month.

Section 10. The Committee on Health and Wellbeing

- (a) The Parliamentarian shall form a Committee called The Committee on Health and Wellbeing.
- (b) This Committee shall be **charged** with gathering data on the state of Graduate Student's health and wellbeing and making recommendations, through resolutions, on how to improve graduate student access to health care and mental health resources.
- (c) The Committee shall meet at-least once per month.

Section 11. The Committee on Sustainability

- (a) The Parliamentarian shall form a Committee called The Committee on Sustainability.
- (b) This Committee shall be **charged** with developing solutions, through resolutions, to improve sustainability on campus and working with the UD Office of Sustainability to implement these changes.
- (c) The Committee shall meet at-least once per month.

Section 12. Ad Hoc Committees

- (a) The Parliamentarian may create provisional Committees called Ad Hoc Committees. They shall serve to manage temporary functions or address topics of interest for the GSG that do not fall under the purview of the existing Committees of the Senate.

- (b) Ad Hoc Committees shall be governed in the same way Committees of the Senate are governed, described in Article III, Section 1 and 2 of the Bylaws.
- (c) Upon creation of the Committee, the charge, deliverables, and time frame must be declared to the Senate, after which the Senate may authorize the Committee by a simple majority.
- (d) Ad hoc committees are automatically dissolved at the end of each academic year.
- (e) The Senate may dissolve an ad hoc committee before the end of the time frame stated during its creation by a two-thirds majority vote.
- (f) The Senate may extend the time frame of a committee by a simple majority. They may extend it past the academic year by a two-thirds majority.

Section 13. Parliamentarian

- (a) The Parliamentarian shall run the Meetings of the Senate. If they are unavailable, the Vice President of Internal Affairs shall run the meeting. If neither are available, the duty of running the meeting falls on the next in line of the Executive Branch.
- (b) They shall be responsible for coordinating the efforts of Senators to meet the needs of graduate students. They shall convene the Senate at least once a month where they shall serve as the chair of the meeting. They shall be responsible for creating the agenda for the meeting and adding legislation to that agenda.
- (c) In conjunction with the Vice President of Internal Affairs, they shall maintain a list of Senators and their committee appointments. They shall maintain a document of Senators' attendance.
- (d) The Parliamentarian shall vet all legislation to ensure it follows proper formatting and has sufficient clauses.
- (e) The Parliamentarian shall ensure the Senate adheres to Parliamentary procedure using Robert's Rules.

Article III. Executive Branch and Executive Committees

Section 1. Meetings of the Executive Council

- (a) The Executive Council shall meet at least twice a month in closed session.
- (b) The agenda of these meetings shall be created by the President.
- (c) Special meetings of the Executive Council may be called by any officer.

Section 2. Executive Sub-committee on External Affairs

- (a) Shall be formed by the Vice President of External Affairs and serve as a body to aid the Vice President in their activities. The Vice President of External Affairs shall be the Chair and the Secretary will be the Vice-Chair.
- (b) The Executive Sub-Committee on External Affairs must meet at least once a month.
- (c) The Executive Sub-Committee on External Affairs is **charged** with aiding the Vice President of External Affairs and the Secretary in maintaining the contact list of departments, GSOs, and University officials, updating the website, maintaining GSG's social media sites, and GSG's archive (currently the Google Drive). They are also charged with helping plan social and external events GSG is a part or in charge of. These events include, but are not limited to New Graduate Student Orientation and Grad Night.
- (d) The Committee shall consist of 2 Senators appointed by the Parliamentarian and Legislators appointed at the discretion of the Vice President of External Affairs.

Section 3. Executive Sub-committee on Internal Affairs

- (a) Shall be formed by the Vice President of Internal Affairs and serve as a body to aid

the Vice President of Internal Affairs in their activities. The Vice President of Internal Affairs shall be the Chair.

- (b) The Executive Sub-Committee on Internal Affairs must meet at least once per month.
- (c) The Executive Sub-Committee on Internal Affairs is **charged** with aiding the Vice President of Internal Affairs in maintaining the list of Senators (in conjunction with the Parliamentarian), maintaining the list of external appointments (see external appointments), communicating election policy changes to departments and programs, and setting rules for running Senate, Officer, and Emergency elections. The Senate must approve any changes to rules for elections through an amendment to the By-Laws.
- (d) The Committee shall consist of 2 Senators appointed by the Parliamentarian and Legislators appointed at the discretion of the Vice President of External Affairs.

Section 4. Executive Sub-committee on Funding Allocation

- (a) Shall be formed by the Treasurer and serve as a body to approve funding from the Graduate College, in conjunction with the Graduate College Program Coordinator, to Graduate Student Organizations. The Treasurer shall be the Chair.
- (b) The Executive Sub-committee on Funding Allocation must meet in September and January to approve semester budget requests and as needed to approve emergency budget requests.
- (c) The Executive Sub-committee on Funding Allocation is **charged** with aiding the Treasurer in allocating funding to Graduate Student Organizations in a fair, equitable, and unbiased fashion and in line with policies of the Graduate College.
- (d) The Committee shall consist of 2 Senators appointed by the Parliamentarian and Legislators appointed at the discretion of the Treasurer.

Section 5. President

- (a) The President shall give updates during the monthly Senate about meetings with the Board of Trustees, the President of UD, the Vice Presidents of UD, and the Deans of UD, developments that affect graduate students and other news they see fit.
- (b) The President, in the role as chief external communication, shall meet monthly with the UD Dean of the Graduate College and the UD Vice President of Student Life. They shall serve on the UD President's Student Advisory Council, which will meet once a month to advise the UD president on the state of the campus. They shall serve as members of the Graduate College Council and its Executive Committee.
- (c) The President shall appoint graduate students to the Graduate College Council to maintain eight graduate students, one from each college. These positions have a two year term and are made in March to the Chair of the Graduate College Council. The President shall appoint three Senators to the Faculty Senate in agreement with the Parliamentarian. The President Shall appoint graduate students to university staff search committees when requested by the university.
- (d) The President shall attend all major GSG events and meetings and all University meetings that affect graduate students, such as Board of Trustee meetings.
- (e) The President shall work to implement policies and initiatives passed by the Senate.

Section 6. Vice President of External Affairs

- (a) The Vice President of External Affairs shall be responsible for maintaining GSG's communication documents, including updating the GSO contact document each year. They shall also, in conjunction with the Secretary, maintain the website and social media accounts.
- (b) They shall be the second line to the President.

Section 7. Vice President of Internal Affairs

- (a) The Vice President of Internal Affairs shall aid the President in updating GSG's list of external appointments and aid the Parliamentarian in updating GSG's list of Senators and committee appointments. They shall update GSG's Google Groups.
- (b) They shall maintain a list of the election procedure of each department or program for their Senator.
- (c) They shall alert the election body of a department or program if their Senate seat is vacant.
- (d) They shall be the third in line to the President.

Section 8. Treasurer

- (a) The Treasurer shall maintain communication with the Graduate College to allocate funds to GSOs.
- (b) They shall be fourth in line to the President.

Section 9. Secretary

- (a) The Secretary shall assist the Vice President of External Affairs in maintaining the website and social media sites. They shall help maintain GSG's archive.
- (b) They shall be fifth in line to the President.

Section 10. Graduate College Council Appointees

- (a) The Graduate College Council has eight graduate students, representing each college. They shall be known as the Graduate College Caucus.
- (b) The Graduate College Council serves to steer the Graduate College and policy for graduate students.
- (c) They shall be appointed by the President in March.
- (d) They shall adhere to all Graduate College Bylaws.

Section 11. Faculty Senate

- (a) The President shall appoint three Senators to the Faculty Senate in September.
- (b) These Senators shall join a Committee in the Faculty Senate. This shall satisfy the requirement for a Senator to serve on a Committee of the Senate.
- (c) These Senators shall form a Caucus which shall report to the Senate during open session on the updates of the Faculty Senate.
- (d) The Faculty Senate Caucus shall alert the President and Parliamentarian immediately on important developments in the faculty senate.

Section 12. Other External Committees

- (a) When the GSG is alerted to an opening in an external position in UD, the President shall nominate a graduate student. If there is only one, the President shall bring this to the Executive Council for approval by a simple majority of the Council. If they call for nominations, they must bring all nominations to the Executive Council. Then, the Executive Council shall vote on the graduate student to fill the role, with the President getting a vote.
- (b) If no position is filled, the President must make a call to the general body, of which the position would serve, and convene the Executive Council within a week.

Article IV. Elections and Appointments

Section 1. Election Rules and Eligibility

- (a) Changes to Election Rules may be done as a Bylaw amendment and proposed through the Committee on Rules and Governance to be voted on by the Senate.
- (b) All elections must be done through ranked choice.
- (c) No graduate student may serve in both the role of Senator and Officer.

Section 2. Officer Elections

- (a) Any graduate student is eligible to run for any officer position in which they have not already served two terms.
- (b) All Officers shall serve a term of one year with a maximum of two terms.
- (c) Officers shall be elected during the April meeting of the Senate. During this meeting, the Vice President of Internal Affairs shall introduce the candidates to the Senate and allow the candidates to speak. The Senate will then vote, through secret ballot, on each Officer position.
- (d) The Vice President of Internal Affairs shall call for nominations amongst the Graduate Body for the Officer Positions.
- (e) In the event of a vacancy among the Officer positions, the Vice President of Internal Affairs shall call for an emergency election and take nominations for the position.
- (f) Emergency Elections may be held asynchronously
- (g) If a newly elected officer is currently serving as Senator, they may continue to serve as a proxy for that department for up to two meetings. After which, if no new Senator is found, the program shall be declared unrepresented. If they leave their officer position, they may not return as Senator for that department without an Election.

Section 3. Senator Elections

- (a) All graduate students who are enrolled with the University and are members of the program they wish to represent are eligible to run for a Senator position.
- (b) All Senator positions run for a term of one year.
- (c) All programs shall have the right to run their own election. The Vice President of Internal Affairs must document the election timeline for that department and document the winners.
- (d) If a program does not have an Election Procedure or cannot operate one, the Vice President of Internal Affairs shall work to call for nominations and run an election for each program.
- (e) Senator elections shall be held in May.
- (f) In the event of an unrepresented program, the Vice President of Internal Affairs shall alert the programs Elective Body or the leaders of the program to call for nominations.
- (g) In the event there is a single candidate, the Vice President of Internal Affairs may appoint them as acting Senator for at most three meetings prior to a special election. This acting Senator will have the ability to vote on legislation presented at any public meeting. The Senate has the ability to veto said appointment with a two-thirds majority vote on the Senate Floor. This vote must occur prior to the consideration of any other business.
- (h) When multiple candidates express interest in serving as Senator for an unrepresented program, a special election will be scheduled and administered by the Vice President of Internal Affairs or the Program's Elective Body will run an emergency election.
- (i) If the Vice President of Internal Affairs runs the special election, the process begins with the Vice President of Internal Affairs informing the unrepresented program that constituents have two weeks to submit nominations, including self-nominations, for

the vacant position. An election is held at the end of the two weeks, the results of which determine the program's next Senator.

Section 4. Committee Chair Elections

- (a) Committee Chairs shall be elected during the August Orientation Meeting of the Senate.
- (b) The Parliamentarian shall take nominations for the positions two weeks before the meeting.
- (c) If a committee is without a chair due to removal (as outlined in Article V, Section 3 of these Bylaws) or due to an unfilled chair position, the Executive Council may appoint a new committee chair by the date of the next public GSG meeting, at which an election would be held.

Section 5. External Position Appointments

- (a) Unless specified otherwise in these Bylaws, when an External Position is open, the President shall nominate a graduate student to the position.
- (b) Once nominated, the graduate student must be confirmed by the Executive Council with a simple majority.
- (c) The nominated graduate student can serve in their role for at most four weeks before being confirmed by the Executive Council.

Article V. Removal

Section 1. Officers

- (a) If an officer does not maintain active standing as outlined in these Bylaws, the Executive Council shall notify the negligent officer in writing of their negligence.
- (b) If no compromise can be reached, a formal letter signed by the remaining officers must indicate a Senate vote for removal.
- (c) Removal of an officer requires a two-thirds Senate vote.
- (d) After the formal removal of the officer in question, a special election for a new officer should be administered.

Section 2. Senators

- (a) If a Senator does not maintain active standing as outlined in these Bylaws, the Parliamentarian and Vice President of Internal Affairs must notify the Senator in writing of their negligence.
- (b) The Parliamentarian and Vice President of Internal Affairs shall work with the Senator to come to a solution for them to maintain active standing. This may include finding a permanent proxy for Senate meetings or finding a committee that is conducive to their schedule.
- (c) If no compromise can be reached, a formal letter signed by each officer indicating the removal of the Senator must be provided to the Senator.
- (d) After the formal removal of the Senator in question, the outgoing Senator's program must be contacted by the Vice President of Internal Affairs to commence the process of electing a new Senator for that program.

Section 3. Committee Chairs

- (a) If a committee chair or co-chair does not maintain active standing as outlined in these Bylaws, the Parliamentarian must notify the committee chair or co-chair in writing of their negligence.
- (b) The Parliamentarian shall work with the Committee Chair to come to a solution for

them to maintain active standing. This may include finding a way to delegate tasks or helping them come up with projects.

- (c) If no compromise can be reached, the Parliamentarian must formally inform the committee chair or co-chair about their impending removal as chair.
- (d) Removal of a committee chair requires a majority vote of the other committee members, with the Parliamentarian in attendance.
- (e) Upon removal, the Committee shall elect an interim chair until the next session of the Senate.
- (f) At the next session of the Senate, the Parliamentarian shall administer an election for a new committee chair.
- (g) After the formal removal of the committee chair or co-chair in question, the former chair or co-chair must be contacted by the Vice President of Internal Affairs to re-evaluate their active standing as Senator.

Section 4. Graduate College Council Representatives

- (a) If a Representative does not maintain active standing as outlined in the Bylaws of the Graduate College Council, the Vice President of External Affairs shall notify the Representative in writing of their negligence.
- (b) The President shall work with the Representative to come to a solution for them to maintain active standing. This may include finding a permanent proxy for GC meetings or finding a committee that is conducive to their schedule.
- (c) If no compromise can be reached, the President must formally contact the Graduate College Council about removal of the Representative.
- (d) Representatives must be removed by the procedure outlined in the Graduate College Council Bylaws.
- (e) After the removal of the Representative, the President shall find a new representative to be elected by the Executive Council.

Section 5. Appeals

- (a) Any removal may be brought to the Senate for an appeal. This appeal shall be privileged, as defined in Article VII, Section 6 of these Bylaws.

Article VI. Amendments

Section 1. Procedure

- (a) Anyone wishing to bring forth an amendment to these documents must submit the bill or resolution to the Committee on Rules and Governance three weeks before the next public meeting.
- (b) One week before the meeting, the Parliamentarian must send the document to the Senators. The document is then eligible to be voted on at the next public GSG meeting.
- (c) All amendments must be sponsored by a Senator. Amendments may also be sponsored by the Committee on Rules and Governance.

Section 2. Grammatical and Formatting Changes

- (a) Any change to the Bylaws and Constitution which is grammatical or formatting in nature may be done without an amendment.
- (b) Any of these changes must be communicated to the Senate.
- (c) Senators shall have one week from being notified to read the grammar or formatting changes to object to the changes.
- (d) If a Senator objects, the changes must be offered as an amendment to the Senate in the next session.

Article VII. Bylaws Suspension

Section 1. Voting Requirements

- (a) Any clause of these Bylaws may be suspended by a two-thirds Senate vote.

Section 2. Procedure

- (a) The motion for suspension must designate a limited time of suspension and specify the reason for the suspension.
- (b) All suspensions lapse at the end of each academic year.

Article VIII. Conduct of GSG Meetings

Section 1. Quorum

- (a) Quorum is defined to be a simple majority of active Senators.
- (b) To conduct any official GSG business, quorum must be present at the time the Senate Floor is opened.

Section 2. Voting Procedures

- (a) All votes taken must require an appropriate majority or supermajority of those Senators present, excepting abstentions, to be in favor of the motion.
- (b) Senators who are granted an excused absence may submit their votes for pending legislation to the Parliamentarian in advance of the meeting noting if their position would change if amendments to the legislation are passed during the meeting.

Section 3. Operation of the Senate Floor

- (a) The meeting shall start with a call to order by the chair followed immediately by roll-call.
- (b) The Parliamentarian shall determine if Quorum is met. Quorum being half of the total Senate body present. No vote shall be taken if Quorum is not met. If Quorum is not met, but Senators show up later such that their addition meets Quorum, the Parliamentarian shall call for a motion to check Quorum and, if motioned, may establish a Quorum is present. In this case, the Senate may immediately consider business it could not before Quorum was established.
- (c) If Quorum is met, the Parliamentarian shall request a motion to approve the previous minutes.
- (d) If there is a speaker, the President will introduce them, and the Senate will hear from the speaker followed by an open floor session.
- (e) The Senate shall then hear updates from Officers and Committee Chairs and an update from the President. After each update, the floor will be open to discuss, facilitated by the Parliamentarian. The floor is also open to the public.
- (f) After the conclusion of updates and if there is Quorum, the Parliamentarian shall request a motion to open the Senate Floor to New Business.
- (g) When the Senate Floor is open, legislation may be introduced. Each time a piece of legislation is introduced, the Parliamentarian shall read it to the floor. They may defer to another Senator to read the legislation.
- (h) After the reading of the legislation, the floor shall be open to the public for comment.
- (i) After comments from the public, the Senate shall enter structured debate.
- (j) After debate, the Parliamentarian shall make a request for a motion “to call the question” which will end the debate and bring a vote to the floor on the legislation

on the table.

Section 4. Debate of Legislation

- (a) Up to twenty minutes are allotted for debate, with the active speaker alternating between Senators in favor and Senators not in favor. Each Senator may take up to two minutes from this allotted time. A Senator may yield their time to another Senator, even if that Senator already spoke, or a member of the public. The Parliamentarian, aided by the Secretary, shall keep track of time remaining and gavel down a speaker if they exceed their allotted time.
- (b) The Senate may extend debate by 10 minutes by a simple majority.
- (c) The Senate may table a piece of legislation, putting on the next month's agenda and ending debate, by a simple majority.
- (d) The Senate may exit debate early by a simple majority by a Senator making a motion to call the question.
- (e) During debate, a Senator may introduce an amendment to the legislation on the table. After that, the Amendment will be read by the Senator. The current debate will pause and the Senate will enter a shortened debate of 10 minutes, with the same rules as general debate. After the 10 minutes have elapsed, the Parliamentarian shall request a motion "to call the question" on the amendment. The Senate may not extend the debate time for an amendment but may still exit the debate early.

Section 5. Operating Rules of the Senate

- (a) At any time, a Senator may motion for the Senate to recess for no more than 5 minutes. The Parliamentarian shall have final say on this motion. All business in the Senate halts until the call of the chair during a recess.
- (b) All comments shall be made through the Chair. Senators shall not engage in personalities. Any disparaging comments will result in the speaker being gavelled down and a request to strike from the Minutes. If the Senator rescinds their comment, they may retain their speaking time.

Section 6. Privileged Legislation

- (a) Privileged Legislation is Legislation that may be brought up by any Senator when the floor is open and takes immediate priority.
- (b) Legislation calling for the removal of a Senator or Officer shall be privileged.
- (c) Legislation signed by at least half of the legislative body shall be privileged.

Article IX. Suggested Operating Structure of GSG

Section 1. Non Binding Clause

- (a) Article IX of these Bylaws shall not be binding. The Sections of Article IX consist of recommendations on the operation of GSG

Section 2. Operation Timeline

- (a) June: Senate is in recess. The Executive Council should meet once to begin planning for the upcoming Academic Year. In this first meeting, the President will go over the roles and responsibilities of Officers. This will be an orientation meeting for officers to give them a solid foundation for GSG.
- (b) July: Senate is in recess. The Executive Council should meet once to continue planning for the upcoming Academic Year. The Parliamentarian should send out an email getting nomination for committee chair positions and committee preferences. They should give an overview of each committee and their charge in this email.

- (c) August: Senate convenes for an in-person orientation. The parliamentarian should budget two hours for this meeting. The Parliamentarian will go over the roles and responsibilities of Senators. They will introduce Roberts rules, the operating structure of the Senate, and how legislation is created and passed. Robert's rules are not needed for this meeting. After this orientation, the Senate will vote to elect each committee chair, in the order committees are introduced in the Constitution. The Senate should not adjourn until all chairs are elected. After that, the Senate will confirm SR-YYYY-01 which is the committee placements by the Parliamentarian.
- (d) September: Senator appointments (three Senators) to the Faculty Senate are due on September 1st, which is the start of the Faculty Senate term. The treasurer must finish the GSO funding allocations by September 15th. The President reads the Living Land Acknowledgement at the start of the Senate meeting.
- (e) January: The President shall email out the State of the Graduate Student Government.
- (f) March: The President shall appoint Graduate Students to open GCC positions.
- (g) April: Two weeks before the April Senate meeting, the Vice President of Internal Affairs shall make a call for nominations for officer positions. At the April meeting, the Senate will vote on Officers.
- (h) May: The Vice President of Internal Affairs will work with departments to get names of their elected Senators and to run elections for programs that need help.