

Constitution

**Duke Graduate and Professional Student
Government**

Spring 2022

Preamble:

The Government 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 Government places a responsibility on graduate and professional students to participate in the development of Duke University.

The purpose of the Government 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 Government (GPSG) of Duke University.

Section 2. Governance

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

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Graduate and Professional Student Government

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

B. All graduate and professional students at Duke have the right to attend, speak at, and vote in all meetings of and to view open records of the Government.

Section 2. Assembly

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

B. All graduate and professional students at Duke have the right to attend, speak at, and vote in all meetings of and to view open records of the Government.

C. 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 Government to their constituencies. Although Representatives of the 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.

D. Departments will also be asked to name Departmental Representatives. Departmental Representatives will serve as the de facto representative from the Government to their specific department. They will also carry the first responsibility of ensuring a quorum at all meetings of the Government. A majority of Departmental Representatives may veto any decision of the Assembly, through a requested veto vote, and subsequent majority vote in favor of the veto.

E. No graduate or professional student at Duke may be denied the right to attend, speak at, and vote in the Assembly under any circumstances, except for cases of gross misconduct.

F. Departments may be asked to name a different Departmental Representative in cases of gross misconduct and/or extended absence. Departmental Representatives may not be deprived of their vote under any circumstance other than the naming of a new Departmental Representative.

Section 3. Executive Committee

A. The Executive Committee coordinates the day-to-day operations of the Government 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 for Advocacy
- iii. Vice President for Student Affairs
- iv. Vice President for Communications
- v. Director of Durham and Global Community Relations
- vi. Director of Finance
- vii. Director of Academic Affairs
- viii. Director of Logistics and Operations

- ix. Director of Student Organizations
- x. Director of Events Programming
- xi. Director of External Advocacy
- xii. Director of Diversity and Inclusion
- xiii. Director of Environment and Sustainability

ARTICLE III: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Section 1. Overview

A. The Government shall seek to represent and advocate the concerns of graduate and professional students at Duke University. The Government 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 Government 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 Government 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 Government will disaffiliate with any group that discriminates against or impinges upon the rights of students.

Section 4. Productive discussion

A. The Government 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 Assembly at least one Assembly meeting prior to the vote and submitted to the Speaker and Clerk for review.

B. All graduate and professional students at Duke may propose amendments.

Section 2. Proposing Amendments

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