

# *A Resolution To Establish a Major GPSC Reform Process*

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1. Whereas the current structure of the GPSC has made possible a great number of successful student initiatives dating back to the early 1980s;
2. Whereas the fundamental structure of a Council/Assembly and an Executive which works closely with the assembly and is elected by the assembly has gone unchanged since the organization's founding in the early 1980s;
3. Whereas the GA and Executive Committee have conducted many efforts to improve the structure and function of the GPSC;
4. Whereas many efforts to improve the GPSC have been limited by structural constraints of the organization itself;
5. Whereas the GA and Executive Committee have identified numerous significant areas for structural change that would improve the GPSC;
6. Whereas effective structural change can only be made with a wide remit and in consultation with a broad base of stakeholders
7. Whereas a comprehensive plan including revised governing documents, developed by the Executive and appointed GA members, should be presented to the General Assembly for unrestricted debate; now, therefore be it

## ***Resolved*** that the General Assembly

1. Authorizes the GPSC Executive Committee elected in March and appointed members of the General Assembly to develop a proposal for a new formulation of Graduate and Professional Student Government at Duke;

2. Specifies that this proposed Graduate and Professional Student Government structure shall
  1. Be composed of a Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, and Judicial Branch;
  2. Continue to allow for Graduate and Professional programs to select representatives to the Legislative branch in a manner of their own choosing
  3. Develop a Judiciary branch to be independent from both the Executive and Legislative branches
3. Establishes the following GPSC re-structuring working groups with duties as specified and as further elaborated in subsequent sections:
  1. Young Trustee Working Group. This working group shall build off the recommendations of the 2019-2020 Young Trustee Screening Committee task force to develop a long-term system for Graduate and Professional Young Trustee selection.
  2. Student Organizations Working Group. This working group shall develop a system for recognizing and overseeing Graduate and Professional Student organizations.
  3. Budget and Finance Working Group. This working group shall develop a system for setting, managing, and disbursing the budget of the GPSC.
  4. Student Advocacy Working Group. This working group shall provide recommendations as to structural reforms that can better enable student advocacy.
  5. Diversity Working Group. This working group shall provide recommendations as to structural reforms with particular concern to enabling effective representation for the entire breath of diversity of the Duke Graduate and Professional student body.
  6. Undergraduate/DSG Relations Working Group. This working group shall provide recommendations as to structural reforms that can better enable coordination and collaboration with undergraduate advocacy efforts and the Duke undergraduate Student Government (DSG).
  7. Graduate and Professional Interdisciplinary Engagement Working Group. This working group shall provide recommendations as to structural reforms with particular concern to enabling and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration across the Graduate and Professional student body.
  8. Legislature Structure Working Group. This working group shall develop a recommended structure for the Legislative arm of the Government.

9. Executive Structure Working Group. This working group shall develop a recommended structure for the Executive arm of the Government.
10. Judicial Structure Working Group. This working group shall develop a recommended structure for the Judicial arm of the Government.
4. Directs the Student Organizations Working Group to:
  1. Liaise with the UCAE to determine logistical constraints on Student Organizations
  2. Re-evaluate current standards for recognizing Student Organizations and justify or modify them as required
  3. Evaluate current logistical requirements for Student Organization recognition and streamline requirements as appropriate
5. Directs the Budget and Finance Working Group to:
  1. Conduct a detailed quantitative and qualitative analysis of the GPSC budget for the past 4 academic years, identifying any discrepancies, inefficiencies, or financial misconduct and performing root-cause analysis to develop systems and safeguards to ensure the highest standards of financial accountability.
  2. Requires the Budget and Finance Working Group to purchase the services of a Certified Public Accountant in reviewing the past 4 years of the GPSC budget, with requisite funds obtained from the GPSC 2019-2020 surplus.
6. Directs the Student Advocacy Working Group to:
  1. Provide open opportunities for grassroots student advocacy organizations at Duke to provide comment that will inform the structure of a reformed Student Government.
  2. Actively seek out feedback from student identity and affiliation-based groups to inform effective systems for promoting student advocacy.
7. Directs the Diversity Working Group to:
  1. Actively seek out feedback from student identity and affiliation-based groups to inform effective systems which respect the diversity of the Duke Student Body.
8. Directs the Undergraduate/DSG Relations Working Group to:
  1. Meet with DSG leadership to identify areas for improvement in current cooperative efforts between DSG and the GPSC.
9. Directs the Graduate and Professional Interdisciplinary Engagement Working Group to:
  1. Actively seek out feedback from students across multiple graduate and professional schools in order to inform the creation of effective systems to promote interdisciplinary engagement at Duke.

10. Directs the Legislative Structure Working Group to:
  1. Consider a broad range of possible Legislative working mechanisms, with special attention paid to the results of the 2019-2020 mid-year GA survey.
  2. Prioritize developing a structure that will allow legislative efficacy and independence that provides a meaningful check and guiding force on the Executive.
  3. Pay particular attention to the matter of method of selection of a Presiding Officer for the Legislature.
11. Directs the Executive Structure Working Group to:
  1. Consider a broad range of possible Executive Committee structures, in consultation with prior GPSC Executive Committee members.
  2. Determine the process for selecting Executive Committee members
  3. Pay particular attention to the issue of succession and replacement of members who resign, are removed from office, or are unable to fulfill their duties
  4. Furthermore pay particular attention to the issue of how to best represent the perspective of the General Assembly and Graduate and Professional Student body as a whole to the Duke administration.
12. Directs the Judicial Structure Working Group to:
  1. Develop a Judicial branch of the GPSC designed to effectively achieve the following objectives:
    1. To provide a meaningful check upon both the Legislature and Executive Branches of the Government
    2. To resolve disputes between branches of the Government
    3. To resolve disputes between members of the Graduate and Professional student body and the Government
    4. To act as an independent observer in scrutinizing the financial affairs of the Government
13. Allocates the entirety of the formal GA meeting agenda for Fall 2020 to deliberating on and voting on the aforementioned proposal, reserving time for the topics listed below, until all deliberation and voting has been concluded to the satisfaction of a majority of the General Assembly. This provision is subject to exemption by a majority of the General Assembly at any time. Topics for which time is especially set aside are listed as follows:
  1. Election of the Young Trustee Screening Committee and Chair
  2. Discussion and approval of the Student Fee recommendation for 2020-2021
  3. Necessary training for new GA representatives

4. Approval of student group funding
5. Seating of task forces as requested by the Executive Committee
6. Standard procedures such as approval of minutes, reports of officers, etc. as necessary
7. Each meeting shall have 30 minutes set aside to allow for GA reps to advocate for the interests of their constituents on matters of their choosing or barring specific requests from GA reps, on the suggestion of the executive committee.