

1 **Charter**
2 **Cornell University**
3 **Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**
4 *As amended on February 21, 2023*

5 **PREAMBLE**

6 To effect more extensive involvement in campus government, this charter establishes within the campus
7 governance structure the requirements for a Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, elected by
8 graduate and professional school students and concerned with those matters directly affecting graduate
9 and professional students of Cornell University. Furthermore, this body may interact with and discuss
10 issues of common interest with the Student, Employee and University Assemblies, and the Faculty Senate.

11 The purpose of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is to ensure a direct focus for the
12 continued involvement of graduate and professional school students in the governance of non-academic
13 affairs and in the life of the University, as well as to foster an increased sense of community among all
14 constituencies through shared responsibilities.

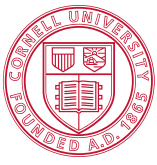
15 The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly will actively seek to involve Cornell's diverse graduate
16 and professional student population in the Assembly's decision-making activities. Particular effort will be
17 made to ensure that underrepresented groups have access to Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
18 positions.

19 **ARTICLE I: ESTABLISHMENT**

20 Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Board of Trustees, the President of the University hereby
21 establishes the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly. Articles I through X of this document
22 constitute the Charter of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly.

23 **ARTICLE II: AUTHORITY**

24 **Section 2.01: Scope of Authority**



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- 25 A. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (hereinafter referred to as the GPSA) shall have a
26 voice in those activities, program areas, and non-academic policies that affect graduate and
27 professional students.
- 28 B. The GPSA shall serve as a body for the exchange of views between the graduate and professional
29 student population and the administration.
- 30 C. The GPSA shall explore opportunities to enhance the role and function of graduate and professional
31 students, and their contribution to the well-being of the University.

32 **Section 2.02: Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee**

- 33 A. The GPSA, during the fall semester of odd-numbered years, through the authority delegated by the
34 President of the University and the Board of Trustees, shall be charged with recommending the
35 amount and the allocation of the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee, subject to the
36 approval of the President of the University.
- 37 B. Neither an opt-out option nor an option to pay extra will be allowed to exempt a student from
38 paying the Student Activity Fee.
- 39 i. Exceptions may be considered if recommended and approved by the GPSA, and approved
40 by the President of the University.
- 41 C. These procedures shall be reviewed by the Student Assembly, the GPSA, and a representative of the
42 President of the University, at least every four years in a non-fee-setting year.

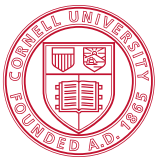
43 **Section 2.03: Legislative Authority Over Policies**

- 44 A. The GPSA shall have the authority to examine the University policies that impact graduate and
45 professional school students.
- 46 B. The GPSA shall have the authority to make recommendations to the appropriate bodies and
47 University administrators concerning these matters.
- 48 C. The GPSA shall be consulted with respect to the modification and development of non-academic
49 policies, which directly affect graduate and professional school students.

50 **Section 2.04: University Calendar**

- 51 A. The Provost is requested to consult with the GPSA in the formulation of the University calendar.
- 52 B. The GPSA may review and ask for reconsideration of the calendar before it becomes final.
- 53 C. The GPSA may propose changes in the calendar to the Provost.

54 **Section 2.05: Requests for Information from the President of the University**



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- 55 A. The GPSA may obtain specific information from the President regarding any subject which it
56 requests to fulfill its responsibilities.
57 B. If the information requested is not provided, the President will report to the GPSA the reasons why
58 the information cannot be furnished.

59 **Section 2.06: Public hearings, forums, and referendums**

- 60 A. The GPSA may conduct public hearings, forums, and referendums concerning topics of current
61 graduate and professional student interest, and determine other appropriate ways to assess student
62 needs and opinions.

63 **Section 2.07: Committees**

- 64 A. The GPSA may appoint graduate and professional students to serve on committees of the GPSA and
65 other Assemblies that have designated seats for graduate and professional student representatives.
66 B. The GPSA may nominate graduate and professional students to serve on other University
67 committees.

68 **Section 2.08: Representatives to the Student and Employee Assemblies and**
69 **Faculty Senate**

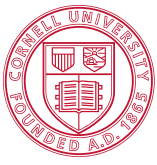
- 70 A. The GPSA will interface with the Student and Employee Assemblies and Faculty Senate by sending
71 one representative to each group as an ex-officio, non-voting delegate.

72 **Section 2.09: GPSA Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

- 73 A. The GPSA will have authority over matters concerning the internal operation and maintenance of
74 the GPSA, including the proposal of amendments to the GPSA Charter pursuant to Article X and
75 creation of bylaws and procedures consistent with the obligations of the GPSA, as set forth in this
76 charter for the GPSA.
77 B. The GPSA will have authority over matters concerning its standing and ad hoc committees and may
78 establish standing and ad hoc committees, as are appropriate to the performance of its functions.

79 **ARTICLE III: RESPONSIBILITY**

80 **Section 3.01: Reporting of Actions**



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- 81 A. Actions of the GPSA will be reported to the President of the University in writing by the President
82 of the GPSA.
- 83 B. The GPSA will respond to the President of the University's requests for information regarding
84 GPSA actions.
- 85 C. The President of the University shall respond in writing to the GPSA recommendations pursuant to
86 Section 2.03.A above.
- 87 D. The GPSA will report its actions in writing to the Employee, Student and University Assemblies and
88 the Faculty Senate, in conjunction with reporting of the actions to the President of the University.

89 **Section 3.02: Semi-Annual Report**

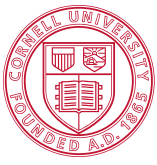
- 90 A. The GPSA will present a semi-annual, written report at the end of each academic term to the
91 President of the University and the graduate and professional student population.
- 92 B. The report will include:
- 93 i. a summary of the GPSA's work during the preceding term,
94 ii. a description of any unresolved issues,
95 iii. an exploration of issues that are expected to arise in the future.
- 96 C. The GPSA of the following year is required to respond formally to the unfinished business
97 presented in the semi-annual report.
- 98 D. All members of the Cornell community will have access to this report.

99 **Section 3.03: Agendas and pending resolutions**

- 100 A. Agendas and pending resolutions will be distributed to the leadership of the other Assemblies at
101 least 24 hours prior to the GPSA meeting at which they are to be presented.
- 102 B. Agenda and pending resolutions will be distributed to the GPSA at least 24 hours prior to the GPSA
103 meeting at which they are to be presented.

104 **Section 3.04: Objection to Actions**

- 105 A. Objections
- 106 i. Upon receipt of the semi-annual report of the GPSA, other constituent bodies may object, by
107 a two-thirds vote at its next regularly scheduled meeting, to an action taken by the GPSA.
- 108 ii. The objecting bodies will report back to the GPSA within five working days of the vote to
109 object.



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- 110 iii. At its next regularly scheduled meeting, the GPSA will review the objection and either
111 modify the original position to account for the objections of the other constituencies or will
112 reaffirm the original action.
113 iv. The GPSA shall report to the objecting bodies within five working days of reviewing the
114 objection(s).
115 B. Reconciliation of the differences
116 i. If the GPSA determines by a two-thirds vote that the action of another constituency body
117 impacts its constituency, comparable procedures for the reconciliation of the differences will
118 be pursued.

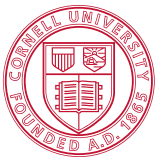
119 **ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP**

120 **Section 4.01: Graduate and Professional Student Rights**

- 121 A. All graduate and professional students shall have the following rights to:
122 i. Contribute to a rich academic and social community that benefits all graduate and
123 professional students;
124 ii. Regularly attend GPSA meetings and remain informed about issues brought before the
125 GPSA;
126 iii. Apply to and, if selected, serve on committees staffed by the GPSA,
127 iv. Engage in discussion and, where appropriate, bring before the GPSA issues or concerns
128 affecting graduate or professional students at the University;
129 v. Bring before the GPSA resolutions concerning issues affecting graduate and professional
130 students at the University.
131 B. Graduate and professional students shall have additional rights, should they become members of
132 the GPSA.

133 **Section 4.02: Overview of GPSA Membership**

- 134 A. Membership in the GPSA shall be made available to all matriculated graduate and professional
135 students of the University.
136 B. Members from demographic backgrounds reflecting the diverse nature of the University are
137 especially encouraged to participate.
138 C. Membership shall consist of:
139 i. Representatives selected from each graduate field and professional school (hereafter referred
140 to as Field representatives);
141 ii. Voting members.

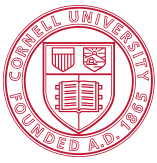


142 **Section 4.03: GPSA Field Representatives**

- 143 A. Field representatives shall have the following responsibilities:
- 144 i. Provide updates to constituents regarding GPSA events and initiatives, and solicit feedback
145 where appropriate;
- 146 1. Such communication will include information forwarded over the GPSA electronic
147 mailing list, as well as any other information deemed appropriate by the
148 representatives for dissemination to constituents.
- 149 2. Members are encouraged to use existing communications channels within their fields
150 or professional school or (if none exist) create a dedicated electronic mailing list.
- 151 ii. Elect and empower the GPSA Voting members as described in Section 4.05;
- 152 iii. Elect GPSA Officers and standing committee chairs;
- 153 B. The composition of Field representatives shall be:
- 154 i. One representative elected in the fall from each graduate field (two from fields with over 100
155 students);
- 156 ii. Three representatives elected by each professional school;
- 157 iii. One elected representative from the Cornell NYC Tech campus in New York, NY and one
158 elected representative from the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva,
159 NY (regardless of whether their field or professional school is already represented by a field
160 representative);
- 161 iv. The students in each individual field/professional school may prescribe their own election
162 procedures. If not filled through election, a representative may be appointed by the field's
163 Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or Dean of a professional school, subject to the approval
164 of the students.
- 165 C. Field representatives may be removed by obtaining signatures from 51% of the matriculated
166 students in the field/professional school.
- 167 D. Vacant seats remain open until a Field representative is selected by election or appointment.
- 168 E. Field representative seats are not transferable.
- 169 F. Field representatives may serve as many one-year terms as they like, but they must be elected or
170 appointed annually.

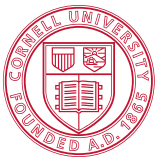
171 **Section 4.04: GPSA Voting Members**

- 172 A. Voting members shall have the following responsibilities:
- 173 i. Remain sufficiently informed about issues brought before the GPSA to cast informed votes
174 on resolutions, formation of committees, and other matters;
- 175 ii. Elect GPSA Voting members;



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- 176 iii. Elect GPSA Officers and standing committee chairs.
- 177 iv. Each Division shall internally appoint one (1) Diversity and International students (D&I)
- 178 Representative; this Representative shall attend all Diversity & International Student
- 179 Committee (DISC) or its successor committee's meetings within the academic year and serve
- 180 as a contact point and voice for D&I students and relevant concerns;
- 181 v. All voting members must serve as either the Chair or member of at least one GPSA internal
- 182 committee and shall attend all regularly scheduled meetings of those respective committees;
- 183 vi. In the years that the Graduate & Professional Community Initiative (GPCI) documents are to
- 184 be revised, all voting members are required to attend the GPCI revision committee meetings
- 185 and contribute to drafting the strategic plan; attending meetings of the GPCI revision
- 186 committee will fulfill the requirement to serve as a member of an Internal Committee.
- 187 B. There shall be thirty-six (36) Voting Members, composed as follows:
- 188 i. Four (4) graduate or professional students enrolled in Master's degree programs as follows:
- 189 One (1) at-large, one (1) Master or Public Administration, one(1) Master of Engineering, and
- 190 one (1) Masters of Industrial & Labor Relations.
- 191 i. Should any seat designated for a specific degree program remain empty after the
- 192 conclusion of the fall semester, that seat shall become open to any masters or
- 193 professional student pursuing a master's degree as an at-large seat.
- 194 ii. Fourteen (14) from the divisions of the Graduate School as follows: three (3) from
- 195 Humanities, three (3) from Biological Sciences, four (4) from Physical Sciences, and four (4)
- 196 from Social Sciences.
- 197 i. One seat from each of the divisions shall be preferentially reserved for a graduate or
- 198 professional student enrolled in a master's degree program. Such preference shall
- 199 result in the seating of a master's student ahead of all non-master's students. Should
- 200 any of these seats not be filled after the third meeting of the fall semester, the vacancy
- 201 shall then be open to any graduate or professional student within that division
- 202 regardless of degree program.
- 203 iii. Nine (9) professional students, four (4) from the Samuel Curtis Johnson School of Business,
- 204 three (3) from Cornell Law School, and two (2) the College of Veterinary Medicine.
- 205 iv. *Ex officio* Voting Membership shall be granted to the Chairpersons of the following GPSA
- 206 standing committees, provided that the committee chair is either an elected Officer or a
- 207 member appointed through an election by a majority of all members:
- 208 i. Executive Committee (Bylaws §3.02)
- 209 ii. Operations and Staffing Committee (Bylaws §3.03)
- 210 iii. Appropriations Committee (Bylaws §3.05)
- 211 iv. Communications Committee (Bylaws §3.06)
- 212 v. Finance Commission (Bylaws §3.07)

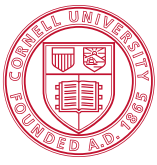


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- 213 vi. Student Advocacy Committee (Bylaws §3.08)
214 vii. Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (Bylaws §3.09)
215 viii. Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award Committee (Bylaws §3.10)
216 ix. Diversity & International Students Committee (Bylaws §3.11)
217 C. Voting members do not count as Field representatives from their respective graduate fields or
218 professional schools.
219 D. Voting members shall be limited to one vote, even if that member holds multiple *ex-officio* voting
220 member positions.

221 Section 4.05: Election of Voting Members

- 222 A. Registered students from Divisions defined by the Graduate School are eligible to run for Voting
223 member positions:
- 224 i. The 14 Voting members who represent the divisions of the Graduate School will be elected at
225 the second to last GPSA meeting of the current GPSA term.
 - 226 ii. At this meeting, field representatives and Voting members shall form caucuses by Division
227 to elect new Voting members from constituent fields.
 - 228 a. In the Physical Sciences, at least one seat shall be from an engineering field and at
229 least one seat shall be from a non-engineering field.
 - 230 b. If no person is elected pursuant to the above procedure, the seat is thrown open as
231 "at-large," and a member may be elected from among the entire GPSA membership.
232 The seat shall revert to its original Division designation at the next regular election.
- 233 B. The professional schools shall select one Voting member each by whatever means they choose.
- 234 C. Master's Degree Specific Members
- 235 i. The two (2) Voting members who represent graduate students enrolled in Master's degree
236 programs will be elected by GPSA members at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the
237 fall semester.
 - 238 ii. Candidates for these seats must be enrolled in Master's degree programs administered by
239 the Graduate School.
 - 240 iii. At least one of the Master's degree seats shall be from an engineering field.
 - 241 iv. If, by the third regularly scheduled meeting, no eligible candidate from an engineering field
242 has been nominated for the engineering seat, the seat shall be opened to any student enrolled
243 in any Master's degree program administered by the Graduate School.
 - 244 v. If filled by a non-engineering student, the engineering seat reverts to its original designation
245 at the next regular election.
 - 246 vi. If no Master's degree students are nominated, these seats may remain vacant until eligible
247 candidate(s) can be identified.



248 **Section 4.06: Filling Vacant Seats**

- 249 A. If one of the seats representing a Division of the Graduate School becomes vacant during the term of
250 office, that seat is thrown open as “at-large,” and a member may be elected from among the entire
251 GPSA membership.
- 252 B. A special election shall be held at the first regularly scheduled meeting following the existence of the
253 vacancy.
- 254 C. Professional school seats vacated during the term of office shall be filled according to procedures
255 outlined by the respective professional schools.
- 256 D. Both Field representatives and Voting members shall elect at-large members.

257 **Section 4.07: Presidential Appointments**

- 258 A. The President of the University may appoint one member of the administration to serve as a
259 consultant to the GPSA at its meetings.

260 **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS OF THE GPSA**

261 **Section 5.01: Definitions**

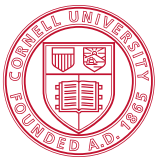
- 262 A. The officers of the GPSA shall be the President, the Executive Vice President, the Vice President for
263 Operations, the Vice President of Finance, and the Vice President for Communications,
- 264 B. The Counsel to the Assembly shall serve as an ex-officio officer of the GPSA

265 **Section 5.02: Officer Elections**

- 266 A. Officers of the GPSA will be elected at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the current GPSA
267 term.
- 268 B. All GPSA members shall be eligible to elect the officers of the GPSA.
- 269 C. The order of election shall proceed as follows: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President
270 for Operations, Vice President of Finance, Vice President for Communications, and Counsel to the
271 Assembly.
- 272 D. To be elected to office, a nominee shall be subject to a majority approval of the GPSA members.

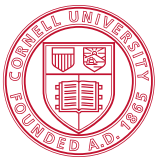
273 **Section 5.03: Officer Responsibilities**

- 274 A. President



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- 275 i. It shall be the responsibility of the President of the GPSA to:
- 276 a. Assure the smooth and effective operation and maintenance of the GPSA,
- 277 b. Delegate responsibilities as needed to accomplish the duties of the office and the
- 278 goals set forth in the this Charter and associated Bylaws,
- 279 c. Chair, or appoint a delegate chair to, all meetings of the GPSA,
- 280 d. Transmit notice of the actions and recommendations of the GPSA
- 281 e. Serve as spokesperson of the GPSA, correspond with the President of the University,
- 282 enumerate actions taken by the GPSA, and submit the semi-annual year-end report to
- 283 the University President.
- 284 B. Executive Vice President
- 285 i. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Vice President of the GPSA to:
- 286 a. Assist the President as needed;
- 287 b. Recruit graduate and professional students reflecting the diverse nature of the
- 288 University to serve on the GPSA,
- 289 c. Maintain an accurate list of members,
- 290 d. Maintain attendance records at all GPSA meetings,
- 291 e. Distribute the agenda and meeting materials for all GPSA meetings,
- 292 f. Chair the Executive Committee of the GPSA,
- 293 g. Chair meetings of the GPSA in the absence of the President.
- 294 C. Vice President for Operations
- 295 i. It shall be the responsibility of the Vice President for Operations to:
- 296 a. Chair the Operations and Staffing Committee,
- 297 b. Maintain accurate lists of committee appointees,
- 298 c. Maintain communication with committee appointees and chairs,
- 299 d. Coordinate committee reporting procedures,
- 300 e. Review and update the GPSA Charter and Bylaws,
- 301 f. Chair meetings of the GPSA in the absence of both the President and Executive Vice
- 302 President.
- 303 D. Vice President of Finance
- 304 i. It shall be the responsibility of the Vice President of Finance to:
- 305 a. Chair the Appropriations Committee.
- 306 b. Maintain all aspects of the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee, including
- 307 review of the GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures, the GPSA Eligibility Criteria and
- 308 Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations, the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines, and
- 309 the GPSA Internal Budget.
- 310 c. Chair meetings in the absence of the President, Executive Vice President, and Vice
- 311 President for Operations.

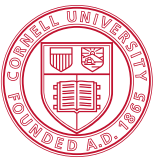


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- 312 E. Vice President for Communications
- 313 i. It shall be the responsibility of the Vice President for Communications to:
- 314 a. Chair the Communications Committee.
- 315 b. Oversee and manage the timely and accurate communication between the Executive
- 316 Committee, the GPSA, the Graduate and Professional Student Community, and
- 317 Cornell University.
- 318 c. Chair meetings in the absence of the President, Executive Vice President, Vice
- 319 President for Operations, and Vice President of Finance.
- 320 F. Counsel to the Assembly
- 321 i. It shall be the responsibility of the Counsel to the Assembly to:
- 322 1. Help maintain continuity of the GPSA agenda between administrations,
- 323 2. Keep track of GPSA history and precedents,
- 324 3. Serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Executive Committee and the
- 325 Operations and Staffing Committee, at the discretion of these committees.
- 326 ii. The Counsel to the Assembly shall not be charged with performing any tasks other than
- 327 advising the GPSA and the Executives, unless the Counsel wishes to take on a task.
- 328 iii. Eligibility
- 329 1. The Counsel to the Assembly is not required to be a current member of the GPSA.
- 330 2. The Counsel to the Assembly must be a matriculated graduate or professional
- 331 student at Cornell.
- 332 3. The position may remain vacant if a qualified candidate is not found.
- 333 4. The Counsel to the Assembly must have previously served as a GPSA President,
- 334 Executive Vice President, Vice President for Operations, Vice President of Finance, or
- 335 Vice President for Communications.

336 **Section 5.04: Replacement of Officers**

- 337 A. In the case that an officer resigns or is unable to perform the duties of the office, the following
- 338 general procedures shall be used to find a replacement:
- 339 i. Nominees to fill officer positions during the current GPSA term shall be subject to a majority
- 340 approval of the GPSA members.
- 341 ii. Elections will be held at regularly scheduled meetings.
- 342 B. The following specific procedures for the replacement of GPSA officers shall be used:
- 343 i. President
- 344 a. The Executive Vice President shall assume the position of President.
- 345 b. If the Executive Vice President declines the position, the GPSA members will elect a
- 346 new President from among the Voting members.



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- 347 ii. Executive Vice President
- 348 a. The Vice President for Operations shall assume the position of Executive Vice
- 349 President.
- 350 b. If the Vice President for Operations declines the position, the GPSA members will
- 351 elect a new Executive Vice President from among the Voting members.
- 352 iii. Vice President for Operations
- 353 a. The Vice President of Finance shall assume the position of the Vice President for
- 354 Operations.
- 355 b. If the Vice President of Finance declines the position, the GPSA members will elect a
- 356 new Vice President for Operations from among the Voting members.
- 357 iv. Vice President of Finance
- 358 a. The Vice President for Communications shall assume the position of the Vice
- 359 President of Finance.
- 360 b. If the Vice President for Communications declines the position, the GPSA members
- 361 will elect a new Vice President of Finance from among the Voting members.
- 362 v. Vice President for Communications
- 363 a. The GPSA Members will elect a new Vice President for Communications from among
- 364 the Voting members.
- 365 vi. Lack of Available Voting Members
- 366 a. Should all eligible voting members refuse to be nominated to the any of the officer
- 367 positions, the GPSA Members will elect a new officer from amongst the Field
- 368 Representatives.”;

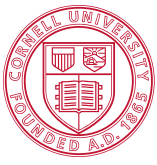
369 **ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES**

370 **Section 6.01: Establishment**

- 371 A. The GPSA shall create and staff the standing committees pursuant to Section 2.10.
- 372 B. The GPSA may establish ad hoc committees, pursuant to Section 2.10, for the proper performance of
- 373 its functions, and may prescribe their responsibilities and their membership.
- 374 C. The GPSA shall appoint representatives to University committees and assemblies.

375 **Section 6.02: Standing Committees**

- 376 A. The standing committees of the GPSA shall be the Executive Committee, Operations and Staffing
- 377 Committee, Elections Committee, Appropriations Committee, the Graduate and Professional



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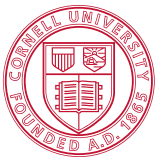
- 378 Student Assembly Finance Commission (GPSAFC), the Communications Committee and other
379 committees as described in the GPSA Bylaws.
- 380 B. The standing committees of the GPSA allow for focused, detailed work on issues of concern to the
381 graduate and professional student body.
- 382 C. The standing committees may appoint sub-committees that report only to the standing committee.
383 Membership of the sub-committee must consist of members of the respective standing committee.
- 384 D. A Voting member of the GPSA shall serve as Chair of each standing committee whenever possible,
385 but other GPSA members may serve as needed.
- 386 E. Any matriculated graduate or professional student is eligible to serve on committees.
- 387 i. At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the GPSA each term, the GPSA members shall
388 elect, by majority vote, the chairs of the standing committees, with the exception of the Chair
389 of the Appropriations Committee.
- 390 ii. The Chair of the Appropriations Committee will be elected during the last regularly
391 scheduled meeting of the fall semester. It is strongly encouraged that the Appropriations
392 Chair have served on the committee for at least one semester prior to election.
- 393 iii. If no suitable candidate can be found, a vacancy shall exist.
- 394 iv. Vacancies in standing committee chairs that occur during the current GPSA term may be
395 filled by majority vote of GPSA members at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- 396 v. The Vice President for Operations may appoint an acting chair from among the committee's
397 members or Executive Committee to serve until a new chair is elected.

398 **ARTICLE VII: ESTABLISHMENT OF BYLAWS AND PROCEDURES**

- 399 A. The GPSA may establish bylaws and other procedural rules that are necessary for the normal and
400 efficient operation of the GPSA.
- 401 B. The adoption of such bylaws and rules will be subject to a majority vote of the Voting members.

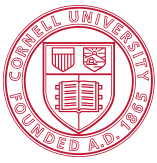
402 **ARTICLE VIII: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GRADUATE AND**
403 **PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE**

- 404 A. The GPS Activity Fee is mandatory for all graduate and professional students of the University and
405 is used to support activities and programs that benefit the Cornell Community, in particular, its
406 graduate and professional student population.
- 407 B. The President of the University delegated responsibility for setting and allocating of the GPS
408 Activity Fee to the GPSA in a letter dated March 1, 1999. A set of guidelines are attached to said



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- 409 letter. The GPSA recognizes that along with setting and distributing the GPS Activity Fee comes
410 accountability.
- 411 C. The GPS Activity Fee shall be established every two years — with the extensive participation and
412 active input from the graduate and professional student body — by the last day of classes in the fall
413 semester of the fee-setting year. In the event that the GPSA cannot meet this deadline, the GPS
414 Activity Fee shall be fixed at the amount and allocation in effect during the fee-setting year.
- 415 D. The GPSA shall establish three funding rules and procedures documents:
- 416 i. The GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures
- 417 a. For the purpose of allocating the activity fee, this document’s rules and procedures
418 hold the same weight and precedence as the GPSA Charter.
- 419 b. Any changes to this document must be presented, in writing, at least one regularly
420 scheduled meeting prior to the vote.
- 421 c. Changes to this document require a 2/3 vote of the voting GPSA members.
- 422 ii. The GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations
- 423 a. For the purpose of allocating the activity fee, this document’s rules and procedures
424 hold the same weight and precedence as the GPSA Charter.
- 425 b. Any changes to this document must be presented, in writing, at least one regularly
426 scheduled meeting prior to the vote.
- 427 c. Changes to this document require a 2/3 vote of the voting GPSA members.
- 428 iii. GPSAFC Funding Guidelines
- 429 a. The Appropriations Committee shall present any revisions to the GPSAFC Funding
430 Guidelines for majority vote of the voting members at least one meeting prior to a
431 vote.
- 432 b. The Appropriations Committee shall review the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines in
433 non-activity fee setting years.
- 434 E. Funds from the Activity Fee will be allocated:
- 435 i. To the GPSA to help fulfill its mission and role in student government and advocating on
436 behalf of graduate and professional students. Funds allocated to the GPSA are overseen by
437 the Executive Committee in collaboration with the Chair of the Appropriations Committee.
- 438 ii. To the GPSA Finance Commission, no less than 35% of the total Activity Fee, to fund student
439 organizations which contribute to the graduate and professional student experience at
440 Cornell. Organizations must be registered with the Student Activities Office; further
441 eligibility criteria and procedures are outlined in the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines, which
442 are determined by the GPSA.
- 443 iii. Direct byline funding to organizations which surpass in size and scope those typically
444 funded through the GPSAFC. Eligibility criteria, procedures and obligations for such



- 445 organizations are outlined in the GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded
446 Organizations.
447 F. Guidelines and procedures regarding the GPSAF shall be reviewed by the GPSA and a
448 representative of the President of the University at least every four years in a non-fee-setting year.

449 **ARTICLE IX: PROTECTION**

450 **Section 9.01: Community Rights**

- 451 A. The GPSA and its committees shall respect and protect the rights of individual members of the
452 Cornell community.

453 **Section 9.02: Confidentiality**

- 454 A. When a subject under discussion or examination requires the use of personal confidential
455 information, all reasonable efforts shall be made to safeguard the confidentiality of this information.

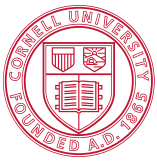
456 **ARTICLE X: CHARTER AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

457 **Section 10.01: Voting Requirements**

- 458 A. An affirmative vote of a majority of the Voting members shall be required to amend the Bylaws and
459 Procedures of the GPSA, and an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Voting members shall be
460 required to amend the GPSA Charter.

461 **Section 10.02: GPSA Charter Amendment**

- 462 A. The GPSA Charter may be amended in one of the following ways:
- 463 i. Upon signing of a petition by 100 Cornell graduate and professional students, any Graduate
464 and Professional student may present an amendment to the GPSA for consideration.
 - 465 a. Within two regularly scheduled meetings after the presentation of the petition, the
466 GPSA Voting members will discuss and vote on the proposed amendment.
 - 467 b. The form and wording of the amendment, as voted upon by the GPSA Voting
468 members, shall be identical in form and wording to that of the petition.
 - 469 ii. Any GPSA member may present an amendment to the GPSA for consideration. Within two
470 regularly scheduled meetings after such presentation, the GPSA Voting members will
471 discuss and vote on the proposed amendment(s).



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- 472 iii. Any amendment must be presented in writing to all GPSA Voting members at least one
473 regularly scheduled meeting prior to the meeting where the amendment will be considered.

474 **Section 10.03: Bylaws Amendment**

- 475 A. The Bylaws may be amended in one of the following ways:
- 476 i. Upon signing of a petition by 100 Cornell graduate and professional students, any Graduate
477 and Professional student may present an amendment to the GPSA for consideration.
- 478 a. Within two regularly scheduled meetings after the presentation of the petition, the
479 GPSA Voting members will discuss and vote on the proposed amendment.
- 480 b. The form and wording of the amendment, as voted upon by the GPSA Voting
481 members, shall be identical in form and wording to that of the petition.
- 482 ii. Any GPSA member may present an amendment to the GPSA for consideration. Within two
483 regularly scheduled meetings after such presentation, the GPSA Voting members will
484 discuss and vote on the proposed amendment(s).
- 485 iii. Bylaw amendments must be presented in writing to all GPSA Voting members at least 24
486 hours before the amendment will be considered for a vote.

487 **Section 10.04 Authority and responsibility**

- 488 A. The amendments of those Articles of the Charter which appear under the headings, Authority,
489 Responsibility, Membership, and Charter and Bylaws Amendment shall require, in addition, the
490 approval of the President of the University.