SENATE BILL F05-01
September 26, 2005

TITLE: Revising the GPSS Constitution

WHEREAS: Many changes to the duties and responsibilities of Executive Council positions have been made in previous years, and

WHEREAS: The Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) Constitution contains inconsistencies with respect to the changes made to the Executive Council, and

WHEREAS: Other changes will clarify the definition, duties, and responsibilities of senators and meet the Student Organization Constitution requirements, be it therefore

ENACTED: That the GPSS Constitution be amended as outlined in the Appendix.

SPONSORS: Bohan, Hines, Kaeb, Kuehn, Meyer

APPENDIX: Amended GPSS Constitution

Michelle Bohan, President
Kristen Meyer, Chair of the Senate
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE
CONSTITUTION

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate of Iowa State University is an elected body through which graduate and professional students express their concern for the welfare of graduate and professional students at the University, develop and disseminate ideas for the improvement of graduate and professional education, and contribute to the formation of relevant University policy.

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) is the representative, deliberative, and administrative organization of the graduate and professional student body of Iowa State University, and is a duly constituted independent collegiate organization within the University.

ARTICLE I. THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

1. Representation. Each graduate department, interdepartmental, and professional program may elect one Senator for each fraction of fifty graduate or professional students enrolled, to a maximum of five Senators from each department or program. Interdepartmental majors will be counted as members of their major rather than their home departments. Additionally, the special status of Senator-at-large shall be granted to the President and Vice-President of the GPSS and the Government of the Student Body (GSB) Senators representing the Graduate College.

2. Definition of constituency and voting rights.
   i. Senators. A Senator is an elected departmental representative registered in good standing with the Graduate College or any of the professional colleges. Each Senator will have one vote in the Senate.
   ii. Senators-at-large. The following positions carry the status of Senator-at-large. Status as a Senator-at-large shall not count against a departmental quota (ARTICLE I, section 1, representation), and is not subject to departmental election procedures as otherwise defined in the By-laws or the Standing Rules.
      a. President. The President shall represent the Senate as a whole and shall not carry a vote.
      b. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall represent the Senate as a whole. The Vice-President shall only vote to decide a tie.
      c. Graduate GSB Senators. They shall be granted voting rights in GPSS as Senators-at-large and shall represent the graduate student body as a whole. They shall also act as a liaison between GSB and GPSS to facilitate efficient and productive legislation by the two bodies and to strengthen representation of student concerns to administration. GSB Senators-at-large shall carry one vote. GSB Senators who represent the Graduate College shall be elected to GSB by the graduate student body or, in the case of a vacancy or special circumstances, appointed to GSB by GPSS as defined in the GSB Constitution and By-laws.

3. Terms. Members of the Senate are elected by the graduate or professional students, as the case may be, in their departments for one-year terms that begin in April and may be re-elected for as long as they continue to be in good standing with the Graduate College or College of Veterinary Medicine. Newly elected Senators will attend the regular March meeting to become familiar with the operations of the Senate and will assume office in the regular April meeting.

4. Officers. The officers of the Senate are the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Henceforth, this order shall be known as the order of seniority. The duties and responsibilities of the officers shall be defined and be limited to:
   i. President:
      a. Preside over meetings of the GPSS Executive Council.
b. Preside over any general meetings of the graduate and/or professional student body.

c. Supervise normal internal operations of the Senate.

d. Coordinate and direct the activities of the operating committees.

e. Such other responsibilities as authorized by the Senate. Authorization may be reviewed by the Senate as necessary.

ii. Vice-President:

a. Assume the responsibility of the President in the case of the President's absence.

b. Preside over general meetings of the Senate or designate the chair with the approval of the Senate.

c. Conduct the Senate meetings according to the rules of procedure set by the Rules Committee.

d. Determine whether or not a quorum is present.

e. Chair the Rules Committee.

iii. Secretary:

a. Record and file records of activities of the Senate and its agencies.

b. Keep a record of attendance at Senate meetings.

c. Handle and maintain a record of all Senate correspondence.

d. Conduct roll call votes.

e. Chair the Elections Committee.

iv. Treasurer:

a. Collect, keep a record of, and arrange for the safekeeping of such monies as the Senate may obtain.

b. Disburse, at the direction of the GPSS Executive Council, with the approval of the Senate, such monies as are required to meet the obligations of the Senate.

c. Report to the Senate for approval at all regular meetings, all income and expenses and maintain records of all transactions.

d. Maintain financial records for inspection at any time by members of the Senate.

e. Chair the Finance Committee.

5. Meetings.

i. The Graduate and Professional Student Senate meets in regular session once per month except in the month of December. One of the regular summer meetings (May, June, or July) may be cancelled at the discretion of the Executive Council.

ii. The Vice-President shall call additional meetings as directed by the Senate or a written petition of 30% of the Senate.

iii. Session is defined as the meeting of the Senate.

6. Powers and Duties.

i. The Senate may discuss and take a position on any subject of concern to the graduate and professional student body. Issues must be referred to a vote of the graduate and professional student body upon receipt of a petition of five percent (5%) of the graduate and professional student body, or may be referred by the Senate. The issue will be decided by a simple majority vote of a quorum of fifty percent (50%) of the graduate and professional student body.

ii. The Senate may call general meetings of the graduate and professional student body.

iii. The Senate is the judge of its membership.

iv. The existence of the Senate shall not preclude other means of communication between the graduate or professional student and the University.
ARTICLE II. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. Membership. The Executive Council consists of the Senate officers and the chairpersons of the University Relations and Legislative Affairs, Communications, and Professional Advancement Grant committees.

2. Terms. The term of office for Executive Council members shall be one year.

3. Eligibility. The Executive Council members are elected by and from the Senate. Senators running for a Senate officer position, as defined in Article I, section 4, must have served one term as a Senator to be eligible. All members of the current Senate who anticipate enrollment until the end of the next Senate term (through Spring Semester of the following year) will be eligible for election to other positions in the Executive Council. The Senate may recall, if necessary, the members of the Executive Council.

4. Meetings. The President shall call meetings of the Executive Council at the request of any member of the Council or as is necessary. Executive sessions, limited to persons invited by the Council, may be held by a majority vote of the Council. Otherwise, meetings will be open to all persons. Reports of all executive sessions and council meetings must be made at the next meeting of the Senate. Each member of the Executive Council shall have one vote.

5. Powers and Duties.
   i. The Executive Council represents the Senate while the Senate is not in session.
   ii. The Executive Council is responsible directly to the Senate for all its activities and decisions.
   iii. The Executive Council may only act on issues requiring action prior to the next Senate session.
   iv. The Executive Council must report all its activities, actions and decisions to the Senate at the next Senate session.

ARTICLE III. COMMITTEES

1. Permanent Standing Committees.
   i. Finance Committee. The Finance Committee prepares the budget and makes recommendations for allocations of the funds of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate. The Treasurer acts as Chair for the Finance Committee.
   ii. Rules Committee. The Rules Committee prescribes all general and special rules of procedure necessary for the orderly consideration of Senate business. All questions of a procedural or legal nature are directed to the Rules Committee. The Vice President serves as the Chair for the Rules Committee.
   iii. Elections Committee. The Elections Committee is responsible for ensuring that all Senate positions are filled. All questions regarding GPSS membership are directed to the Elections Committee. The Secretary is the Chair of the Elections Committee, which
      a. Supervises elections of Senators and Executive Council members.
      b. Supervises special elections needed to fill vacancies.
      c. Maintains a record of attendance at all Senate meetings and notifies Senators as well as their departments or professional programs of their nonattendance.
   iv. Communications Committee. The Communications Committee supervises the dissemination of information concerning graduate and professional student activities, maintains the GPSS web page and mailing lists, maintains a current record of all rules, and ensures that bills and resolutions are properly prepared.
v. Professional Advancement Grant Committee. A Professional Advancement Grant Committee works with the Graduate College and College of Veterinary Medicine to allocate funds for graduate and professional student travel to professional meetings and graduate and professional student non-thesis or non-dissertation research.

vi. University Relations and Legislative Affairs Committee. Questions regarding public and university policy on graduate and professional students shall be referred to this committee. This committee will act as the liaison with the NAGPS. The duties of this committee include
   a. Advocating graduate and professional student concerns to local, state, and federal officials.
   b. Monitoring governmental actions affecting graduate and professional students.
   c. Coordinating Senate actions to influence public policy on graduate and professional student concerns.
   d. Recruiting graduate and professional students to serve on University Committees.
   e. Serving as an investigative committee for the Senate when the occasion arises.
   f. Working closely with the Senators-at-large to GSB on issues that concern both Senates.
   g. Serving as a liaison to the GPSS regarding Board of Regents activities.

2. Other Committees. The Senate may establish such other standing or temporary committees as its business requires.

3. Committee Chairpersons. With the exception of the Finance, Rules, Elections, Professional Advancement Grant, and University Relations and Legislative Affairs Committees, the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate shall appoint all committee chairpersons.

ARTICLE IV. FINANCES
1. All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this organization at the Campus Organizations Accounting Office and/or approved institution/office (must receive authorization via Campus Organizations Accounting Office). All funds must be deposited within 24 hours after collection. The Adviser to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

ARTICLE V. BY-LAWS, AMENDMENTS, AND RATIFICATION
1. By-Laws. A set of By-Laws shall be written and maintained to specify the rules for elections and rules of procedure for the Senate and the Executive Council. The Senate must approve all By-Laws by sixty percent (60%) of a two-thirds quorum of the Senate.

2. Amendments. Amendments to the Constitution may be initiated by the Senate, or by a petition to the Senate of at least one hundred (100) combined graduate and professional students. An amendment must be approved by sixty percent (60%) of the two-thirds quorum Senate at two meetings that are at least two weeks apart.

3. Ratification. This Constitution shall be ratified upon approval of three-fourths of the Senate.