Graduate Professional Council Constitution
As Amended Through 04/23/2018

The following Constitution shall govern the operations of the Graduate Professional Council (hereafter GPC) at the University of Virginia.

Article I: General

Section 1: Name
The name of this organization shall be the Graduate Professional Council of the University of Virginia.

Section 2: Purpose
The purpose of this organization is to serve the needs and represent the interests of the graduate and professional students at the University of Virginia, including but not limited to, research and professional development; finances; internal and external representation; and social activities.

Section 3: Authority
The authority of the Graduate Professional Council is derived from the graduate and professional students of the University of Virginia and collectively recognized by the University President and other University Administrators.

Section 4: Non-Discrimination
The Graduate Professional Council of the University of Virginia will not restrict membership and/or activity by reason of age, citizenship, color, disability, gender, race, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as a disabled veteran, or veteran of the Vietnam eras. Notwithstanding these requirements, the Graduate Professional Council may restrict membership based on an ability to perform the activities related to its purpose.

Article II: Council Powers and Procedures

Section 1: Structure
The Council shall be made up of one representative from each school, either elected or appointed by that school’s respective council(s) or organization(s).

Section 2: Council
The Council shall have the power to act legislatively for the following purposes:
   A. Be an advisory board to the University and other organizations regarding the graduate and professional student life on grounds.
   B. To create and modify Bylaws governing the Council’s structure and procedures, though such Bylaws may not require the use of Council funds for specific purposes.

Section 3: Council Membership
Each school’s student government president will be the designated member to the GPC. In the event the president is unable to attend a meeting, a representative denoted by that president may attend on behalf of their school.

Section 5: Unanimity Requirement
After a voting matter is announced to the GPC, it will be tabled for one month before the final vote. This is to allow schools the opportunity to discuss the matter(s) before the representative comes with the final vote.

Section 6: Council Meetings
The Council shall meet once a month at the discretion of the chair.

Section 7: Committees
The Council shall have the authority to charter Committees for any purpose. The Council shall follow the procedure set out in the Bylaws in order to charter a Committee.

**Article III: Officers**

Section 1: Officers
As discussed below in Article V, at the beginning of the term two officers shall be elected among the representatives to the Council: the Chair and the Vice Chair.

Section 2: The Chair
The Chair shall be responsible for representing the views and concerns of the Graduate and Professional Student Body to the University administration and the community, and for leading efforts to improve student life and resolve student grievances. The Chair shall lead meetings of the Council and shall serve as Chair for the Executive Committee consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Section 3: The Vice Chair
The Vice Chair shall be responsible for managing the internal representation of graduate and professional students at the University, as well as the internal services and initiatives conducted by the Council. The Vice Chair shall also lead meetings of the Council in the absence of the Chair and shall serve as Acting Chair in the event of the removal, resignation, or incapacitation of the Chair until a new Chair is selected.

Section 4: Removal
The Chair and Vice Chair shall serve for an entire year term unless any one is removed by the Council. A removal motion must be made at any Council meeting and the vote for removal shall occur at the subsequent meeting. An officer may be removed only if a majority of schools or programs and three-fourths of the bloc votes vote for removal.

Section 5: Vacancy
Should any vacancy arise due to removal, resignation, or incapacitation, every effort shall be taken to fill the vacancy by the following scheduled meeting. This shall follow standard election procedures specified in Article IV.

Article IV: Elections

Section 1: Elections to the Council
The president of each school or program’s student governmental body shall be the representative to the Council. Each president, coordinating with their student governmental body, may elect, select, or appoint an alternative representative to the Council by any method of its choosing. Likewise, representatives to the Council are recallable at will by their respective school or program.

Section 2: Elections of Officers
The new term shall commence with the election of officers, at which time the tenure of the previous officers terminates. Officers will be elected at the first meeting of the Council occurring after Spring Break during the April meeting. All members shall be eligible to be nominated for either the Chair or Vice Chair position.

Section 3: Election Procedure
Elections shall follow procedures set out in Bylaws.

Section 4: One Position
No Chair or Vice Chair may simultaneously hold a separate Chair or Vice Chair position.

Article V: Amendment and Ratification

Section 1: Amendment of the Constitution
A. Procedure for Proposing an Amendment: Any proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the Chair at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting at which the proponent wishes the amendment to be voted upon.
B. Amendment Comment Period: The Chair shall circulate the proposed amendment to all representatives in a timely manner to allow all representatives to fully review the proposed amendment. At the relevant meeting the floor shall be opened to all representatives to give comments on the proposed amendment.
C. Amendment Voting Requirement: After the comment period, all amendments will be tabled for one month. At the next month’s meeting, the amendment(s) shall be brought forth for a vote. An amendment shall be ratified upon a vote in favor which constitutes a majority of schools or programs and a three-fourths bloc vote. Votes may be submitted by proxy submitted to the Chair.

Section 2: Ratification of Constitution
This constitution shall be ratified by a vote in favor which constitutes a majority of schools or programs and a three-fourths bloc vote.
Section 3: Ratification of Bylaws
Ratification of this constitution shall ratify by reference the Bylaws of the Graduate Professional Council.

Section 4. Ratification Date
This constitution was ratified 04/23/2018 according to Article V Section 2.