



Graduate and Professional Student Government Association Constitution
Office of Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
Azusa Pacific University

Founded - Fall 2016

Constitution Created - November 2016,
Edited April 2017 (Final Draft Proposal)

Constitution of the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association
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Article I - Names, Colors, Mascot

Section I.

The name of this organization shall be the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association, hereafter referred to as GPSGA.

Section II.

The colors of Azusa Pacific University shall be brick and black, and the school mascot shall be the cougar.

Article I - Members

Section I.

Every graduate and professional at the university, composed of different campuses, regional campuses, and online professional or graduate programs, shall be a member of the Student Body and shall choose, from amongst themselves, the officers of the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association in accordance with the standards and procedures set forth in the GPSGA By-Laws.

Article III - Executive Branch and House of Representatives

Section I.

The Executive Branch shall consist of:

- A. Elected members - President, Vice-President, Controller, Secretary, Director of Communications and Programming, and Speaker of the House
- B. Appointed members - only in the event that a position is vacant in accordance with the standards and procedures set forth in the GPSGA By-Laws Article 6 Section 1.

Section II.

The House of Representatives shall consist of:

- A. Elected members which include a representative for each department (school) and a representative(s) for the regional campuses and/or an online representative, and representatives for specific subpopulations based on student need. The structure of the House of Representatives shall be defined in Article IV Section 1 of the By-Laws. Additional representative positions may be added at the end of the academic year prior to the election period, if budget permits, by making an amendment to the GPSGA By-Laws with a majority vote of the Executive Branch.

- B. Executive Branch and House of Representatives meetings shall be held separately. Entire governing board meetings will occur as needed.
- C. The House of Representatives are welcomed to attend/call Executive Branch meetings in with no voting rights.

Section III.

Qualifications and duties for members shall be defined in the By-Laws in Article 3 Section 3.

Section IV.

The Director of Graduate and Professional Student Affairs shall serve as the Staff Advisor for the GPSGA.

Section V.

The Director of Graduate and Professional Student Affairs shall designate the Faculty Advisor for the GPSGA with the approval of the Executive Branch by a majority vote.

Section VI.

The Executive Branch and House of Representatives shall meet at the call of the chairperson. The President shall be the chairperson for Executive Branch meetings and the Speaker of the House shall be the chairperson for the House of Representative meetings. If entire GPSGA meetings occur, the President shall be the chairperson.

- A. Three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the Executive Branch and/or the House of Representatives shall constitute a quorum necessary for the transaction of business. The structure of the House of Representatives meetings shall be defined by Article 4 Section 5 of the By-Laws.
- B. Majority Vote: any legitimate motion requires for its adoption a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) affirmative vote of the full membership of the Executive Board. Two-thirds vote shall hereafter be referred to as a majority vote.
- C. Any member of the Student Body may attend House of Representative Meetings chaired by the Speaker of the House. The structure of the House of Representative meetings shall be defined in Article 4 Section 5 of the By-Laws, except those closed by a majority vote of the full House of Representatives as defined by the By-Laws. The floor may be obtained in the traditional parliamentary manner.
- D. Specific processes will be implemented to best accommodate the Student Body attending as explained in the By-laws in Article 4 Section 5.

Section VII.

Robert's Rules of Order shall be a guideline at all meetings of the Executive Branch and House of Representatives and shall be adhered to on all issues not contradictory to the Constitution and By Laws.

Article IV - Dismissal, Recall, Discipline, Resignation

Section I.

Any member of the Executive Branch and/or House of Representatives may be dismissed by a majority vote of the Executive Branch and/or House of Representatives.

Section II.

Replacement procedures for dismissed members are as outlined in Article 4 Sections 3 and 4 of the By-Laws.

Section III.

In the event a petition requesting the recall of any Executive Branch or House of Representative member is signed by 75% of the total number of original voters from the GPSGA election, a recall election shall be held a minimum of five, but not more than fifteen days after the petition has been presented to the Executive Branch and/or House of Representatives.

- A. Such a recall vote for elected members shall involve a yes/no vote.
- B. Elected members of the Executive Branch shall be replaced by another appointment.

Article V - Initiative and Referendum

Section I.

Any action of the Executive Branch and House of Representatives, upon petition of **75%** of the Student Body members, must be submitted to referendum vote of the Student Body. The results of such a vote shall be binding upon the Executive Branch and House of Representatives.

Section II.

Any action being considered by the Executive Branch and the House of Representatives may, by a majority vote, be referred to the members of the Student Body, for their approval.

Section III.

The Student Body may initiate any action not covered in the Constitution upon petition signed by **15%** of the Student Body members.

Section IV.

Initiatives and referendums shall be voted upon in not less than five school days, but not more than fifteen school days after they have been presented to the Executive Branch and House of Representatives.

Section V.

An initiative and/or referendum shall be declared valid upon a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the votes cast, provided at least **40%** of the Student Body cast a ballot.

Article VI - By-Laws

Section I.

Standard rules and regulations for the GPSGA shall be referred to as By-Laws.

Section II.

The By-Laws may be changed and/or amended by a majority vote of the Executive Branch.

Article VII - Constitutional Amendments

Section I.

The Student Body may originate an amendment by presenting a petition to the Executive Branch signed by not less than **15%** of the entire Student Body.

Section II.

The Executive Branch may originate an amendment by a majority vote.

Section III.

An amendment, however originated, must be posted within one week of its presentation. It must be voted upon by the Student Body not less than a minimum of **five** school days nor more than a maximum of **fifteen** school days after posting.

Section IV.

The amendment shall be declared valid upon two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the votes cast, provided at least **40%** of the Student Body cast a ballot.

Article VIII - Ratification

Section I.

A three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) majority of the votes cast by the Student Body (provided at least **75%** of the entire Student Body) cast a ballot) shall be sufficient to ratify this constitution.