

Student Constitution

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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PREAMBLE

With strong purpose to resolve the doubts and limitations we have inherited from over two hundred years of growth, with resolute determination to preserve the best in our tradition of responsible student self-governance, we assert our goals to preserve order, make personal freedom secure, establish justice, and win a lasting opportunity for responsible individual and collective action; and to these ends we ordain and establish this Constitution for the Student Body of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

All governing bodies described in this Constitution shall adhere to the University Non-Discrimination Policy, and shall not discriminate in matters of policy or financial allocation on the basis of age, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, political ideology, political affiliation, political party, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information.

CHAPTER ONE.
LAWS AFFECTING ALL STUDENTS

ARTICLE I. GOVERNING BODIES

Section 1. Student Body President (SBP)

The Student Body President shall represent all students as a voting member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Section 2. Joint Governance Council (JGC)

The Joint Governance Council shall possess the authority to approve legislation that concerns both undergraduate and graduate and professional students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and serve as an advisory body to both the USG and the GPSG.

Section 3. Student Supreme Court (SSC)

The Student Supreme Court shall possess original jurisdiction in controversies concerning executive and legislative action raising questions of law arising under this Constitution and laws enacted under its authority.

Section 4. Undergraduate Student Government (USG)

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) shall be the governing body for the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The USG shall be composed of Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches.

Section 5. Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG)

The Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) shall be the governing body for the Graduate and Professional Student Body of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The GPSG shall be composed of a Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches.

ARTICLE II. STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT (SBP)

Section 1. Student Body President

The Student Body President shall represent all students as a voting member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The SBP shall also appoint a chairperson to preside over the Joint Governance Council (JGC) as a non-voting member.

Section 2. Terms and Qualifications

1. The Student Body President shall be enrolled as a fee-paying student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and
2. The Student Body President shall be elected in the spring by the student body for a one-year term beginning with inauguration on the first Tuesday of April and ending with the inauguration of the succeeding Student Body President.

Section 3. Duties of the Student Body President

The duties of the Student Body President shall be to

1. Serve as a voting member of the Board of Trustees;
2. In conjunction with the USG/GPSG President, appoint a chairperson to preside over the JGC as a non-voting member;
3. Attend Full Senate meetings of both the Undergraduate Senate and the GPSF Senate and retain speaking, but not voting privileges;
4. Attend Cabinet meetings of the Undergraduate Executive Branch and the GPSG Executive Branch and retain speaking, but not voting privileges; and,
5. Publish monthly reports on updates of recent actions and issues facing undergraduate and graduate and professional students and distributed to members of the Joint Governance Council.

Section 4. Student Body President Board of Trustee Address Requirements

The Student Body President shall be required to receive approval of prepared remarks at full Board of Trustees meetings by a majority vote of the Joint Governance Council and dedicate at least one third of the update to issues affecting graduate and professional students.

Section 5. Attendance

The Student Body President shall be excused from attending meetings by a signed note from the primary leader of the respective governing group. The Student Body President may also acquire up to three (3) unexcused absences per governing group in the course of their term.

Section 6. Joint Governance Council Membership

In conjunction with the USG/GPSG President, the Student Body President shall appoint a non-voting chair of the Joint Governance Council. Additionally, the Student Body President must attend all Joint Governance Council meetings as the representative of their constituency.

Section 7. Impeachment

Legislation calling for the impeachment of a Student Body President can originate in either Senate. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of either Senate shall prompt impeachment consideration by the Joint Governance Council. A simple majority vote of the Joint Governance Council's legislative members would confirm the impeachment of the Student Body President. Nonfeasance of duties or gross malfeasance could result in impeachment.

Section 8. Succession

Following the impeachment of the Student Body President who is dually serving as either the Undergraduate Student Government President or GPSG President, the President of the other constituency shall become Student Body President.

Section 9. Recall

A petition containing the signatures of ten-percent (10%) of the Student Body shall initiate a recall. A recall petition shall initiate a special election to elect a Student Body President to serve the remainder of the term. The recalled Student Body President shall be eligible to run in the special election to retain their seat.

Section 10. Student Body President Stipend

The Student Body President will be paid a stipend by their constituent government and may not receive an additional stipend from the other government. The Student Body President shall not be paid less than the other president.

Section 11. Student Body President Staff

The staff of the Student Body President shall consist of no more than four (4) Executive Advisors and an Executive Secretary who shall assist the Student Body President with matters relating to the Board of Trustees and the Joint Governance Council, issuing public statements, and administrative duties. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional students may all apply to serve on the staff of the Student Body President.

Section 12. Dual Service

The Student Body President must serve concurrently as the USG President or the GPSG President.

ARTICLE III. JOINT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Section 1. Joint Governance Council (JGC)

The Joint Governance Council shall serve as an advisory body to both the USG and the GPSG. The Joint Governance Council shall exist to identify and discuss issues that affect both sets of constituencies or parties therein.

Section 2. Legislative Jurisdiction of the Joint Council

The Joint Governance Council shall possess the authority to approve legislation that concerns both undergraduate and graduate and professional students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Only legislative members of the Joint Governance Council shall vote on issues of joint legislation.

Section 3. Joint Governance Council Composition

The Joint Governance Council shall consist of thirteen (13) members as follows:

1. Appointed Chair (non-voting, chair);
2. Undergraduate Student Government President;
3. Undergraduate Student Government Vice-President;
4. Undergraduate Student Government Treasurer;
5. Undergraduate Senate Speaker;
6. Undergraduate Senate Speaker Pro-Tempore;
7. Elected Undergraduate Senate Senator;
8. Graduate and Professional Student Government President;
9. Graduate and Professional Student Government Senior Vice President;
10. Graduate and Professional Student Government Vice President for Finance; and
11. Three (3) Members of the Graduate and Professional Student (GPS) Senate.

Section 4. Definition of Joint Legislation

The term “joint” shall refer to any piece of legislation that concerns both undergraduate and graduate and professional students.

Section 5. Legislative Power

The Joint Governance Council legislative members shall provide the final approval of legislation passed by either Senate if the legislation is joint. The council shall not have the

ability to introduce legislation itself. The council shall not act upon any legislation passed by either Senate if that legislation only concerns that Senate's respective constituency.

Section 6. Introduction of Legislation

The Speaker of the USG Senate and a representative of the GPS Senate shall present the legislation passed at the prior meetings of their respective Senates at the beginning of each Joint Council Meeting. The only exception shall be legislation that appropriates funding to an entity belonging to just one constituency.

Section 7. Determining if Legislation is Joint

Legislation shall be determined to be joint, and thus to require the approval of the Joint Council, through one of the following means:

1. The legislation is designated as joint by the Senate that passed the legislation; or,
2. Upon introduction of the legislation in the Joint Council meeting by the leader of the Senate that produced the legislation, any member of the council shall be allowed to call for a vote on whether the legislation is joint. If a simple majority of present and voting members vote in the affirmative, then the legislation shall be treated as joint.

Section 8. Editing Legislation

The Joint Governance Council shall have the ability to make germane amendments to joint legislation received from either Senate with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the present legislative members of the council.

Section 9. Approval of Joint Legislation

In order for joint legislation to pass into law, two-thirds (2/3) of the present legislative members of the Joint Governance Council must vote in favor of the legislation. If the two-thirds (2/3) threshold is not met, the legislation shall not pass into law.

Section 10. Meeting Schedule

The Joint Governance Council shall meet at least once every two weeks during the regular academic year.

Section 11. Other Powers and Responsibilities of the Joint Governance Council

The Joint Governance Council shall be expected to:

1. Approve the Chair appointed by the Student Body President to chair the Joint Governance Council;
2. Approve or reject joint legislation passed by either Senate body;

3. Discuss and collaborate on issues which effect both constituencies of students;
4. Identify and resolves sources of conflict between the two constituencies of students wherever possible;
5. Require reports from branches of either Student Government as necessary;
6. Require reports from other governing bodies or independent agencies as necessary; and,
7. Approve or reject changes to the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance.

Article IV and Article V have been moved to their respective student governments.

ARTICLE IV. THE STUDENT SUPREME COURT AND JUDICIAL POWER

Section 1. Student Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of every student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey the Honor Code, the Student Constitution, and the Student Code.

Section 2. Judicial Power

The judicial power of the Student Body shall be vested in the process provided by the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance* for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The *Instrument*, accepted by the Chancellor, approved by the entire Student Body, and approved by the Faculty Council, shall be set forth in a separate document and provide its own procedures for amendment. The *Instrument* shall provide a Code of Conduct for the Student Body and establish officers, structures, and procedures by which the Code is implemented and offenses adjudicated. Provisions of the *Instrument* in relation to these matters shall be exclusive.

1. To be approved by the entire Student Body, the *Instrument* and its amendments hereafter shall be approved by both Senates and the Joint Governance Council.
2. The Undergraduate Honor System and Graduate and Professional Honor System shall be maintained as separate entities that operate in accordance to *The Instrument*.

Section 3. Savings Clause

When provisions of this Constitution or *The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance* are changed, cases and controversies that are pending at the time the change becomes effective shall be tried under the later provisions except when such a change has the effect of creating new penalties or new violations of law.

Section 5. Student Supreme Court of the Student Body

Original jurisdiction in controversies concerning executive and legislative action raising questions of law arising under this Constitution and laws enacted under its authority shall reside with the Student Supreme Court of the Student Body.

Section 6. Composition of the Student Supreme Court

The Student Supreme Court shall be composed of three (3) undergraduate students and two (2) graduate or professional students. Undergraduate student members shall be appointed by the USG President, and graduate and professional student members shall be appointed by the GPSG President. Once all members of the Supreme Court have been approved, they shall elect amongst themselves a Chief Justice. The remaining four (4) members shall be referred to as Associate Justices. Each justice shall hold their position until they graduate, resign, or cannot physically be at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus for longer than a semester (excluding Summer Semesters), or is otherwise removed from office. Upon the vacancy of the Chief Justice seat, an election for the new Chief Justice

shall not be held until all five (5) seats of the Supreme Court have been filled. Other aspects of the composition, policies, and procedures of the Student Supreme Court not enumerated in this Constitution shall be set in the manner prescribed by law in the Student Supreme Court Bylaws.

1. The USG appointees to the Supreme Court shall be subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of present and voting members of the USG Senate at a regular meeting of the Senate and a majority vote of the Joint Governance Council. The USG appointees to the Supreme Court shall not hold any other office within the USG.
2. The GPSG appointees to the Supreme Court shall be subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of present and voting members of the GPS Senate at a regular meeting of the Senate and a majority vote of the Joint Governance Council. The GPSG appointees to the Supreme Court shall not hold any other office within the GPSG.

Section 7. Student Solicitor Generals

1. The Undergraduate Student Solicitor General shall serve as the counsel for USG branches and agencies in Student Supreme Court cases. The Undergraduate Student Solicitor General shall be appointed in the spring by the USG President subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of present and voting members of the USG Senate at a regular meeting of the Senate, and shall serve until a successor is confirmed. The Undergraduate Student Solicitor General shall not hold any other office within the USG.
2. The Graduate and Professional Student Solicitor General shall serve as the counsel for GPSG branches and agencies in Student Supreme Court cases. The Graduate and Professional Student Solicitor General shall be appointed in the spring by the GPSG President subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of present and voting members of the GPS Senate at a regular meeting of the Senate, and shall serve until a successor is confirmed. The Graduate and Professional Student Solicitor General shall not hold any other office within the GPSG.
3. Independent Agencies shall be able to receive counsel from either the Undergraduate Student Solicitor General or the Graduate and Professional Student Solicitor General in Student Supreme Court cases, provided they are not serving as counsel for one of their respective branches in the same Student Supreme Court case.

Section 8. Recall of Justices and Solicitor Generals

Recall shall only be on the basis of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance.

ARTICLE V. INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Section 1. Established Bodies

Additional Governing Bodies and Advocacy Bodies that receive and/or distribute funds generated from Student Fees, and student advisory committees to University administration shall exist to represent and serve specific interests of the entire Student Body. These groups shall contain a number of undergraduate and graduate/professional student representatives in proportion to the number of undergraduate and graduate/professional students in the Student Body, unless otherwise noted or are noted as an undergraduate- or graduate and professional-only governing or advocacy body, to be appointed in the manner prescribed by law in the Student Code as determined by the respective Senates. These groups include but are not limited to:

- “Be A Maker” (BEAM) Makerspace Advisory Board
- Campus Recreation Board
- Carolina Athletics Association
- Carolina Union Board of Directors
- Chancellor’s Child Care Advisory Committee
- Committee on Student Conduct
- Hardship Parking Committee
- Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee
- Residence Hall Association
- Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor
- Student Fee Audit Committee
- Student Grievance Committee
- Student Leadership Advisory Committee to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
- Student Legal Services Board of Directors
- Student Library Advisory Board
- Student Safety and Security Committee
- Student Television Board of Directors
- WXYC Board of Directors

Section 2. Revisions to Bylaws of Established Bodies

Revisions to the bylaws of the Established Bodies enumerated in this Constitution may be introduced in either Senate and approved by the Joint Council.

Section 3. Campus Recreation Board

The Campus Recreation Board shall be the governing body of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Campus Recreation.

Section 4. Carolina Athletics Association

There shall be a Carolina Athletic Association whose duty it shall be to represent the athletic concerns of the Student Body.

Section 5. Carolina Union Board of Directors

The Carolina Union Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Carolina Student Union.

Section 6. Chancellor's Child Care Advisory Committee

The Chancellor's Child Care Advisory Committee shall study and evaluate alternatives for improving and strengthening child/family services for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill faculty, staff, and students, make recommendations to the Chancellor for future goals for programs and services, and assist the Office of Human Resources, Benefits Services Department, in implementing new programs and services.

Section 7. Committee on Student Conduct

The Committee on Student Conduct shall oversee the operation of the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance* and the Honor System and shall perform the duties described within the *Instrument*.

Section 8. Hardship Parking Committee

The Hardship Parking Committee shall recommend a plan for distributing student parking permits, evaluate Hardship Parking Permit applications, and recommend a plan for allocating Hardship Parking Permits.

Section 9. Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee

The Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee shall try to increase the use of renewable energy and sustainable practices through funding of renewable energy, energy efficiency, maintenance, and energy education projects on campus.

Section 10. Residence Hall Association

There shall be a Residence Hall Association whose duty it shall be to handle all matters concerning student life in University-owned and approved housing and residence halls. The composition of this association is determined by the Residence Hall Association itself.

Section 11. Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor

The Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor shall provide a means for a wide range of student constituencies to speak directly with the Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor, the Provost, and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs in order to peacefully and professionally advance the interests of the students and the University. The composition of this committee is determined by the Chancellor.

Section 12. Student Fee Audit Committee

The Student Fee Audit Committee shall oversee the levying and expenditure of all student fee dollars and shall be the Board of Directors of the Student Activities Fund Office. The committee shall have the power to inspect the financial record of any student organization receiving Student Activity Fee money.

1. The Student Fee Audit Committee shall be co-chaired by the USG Treasurer and the GPSF Treasurer.

Section 13. Student Grievance Committee

The Student Grievance Committee shall hear student grievances and appeals in cases arising under the Non-Discrimination and Prohibited Harassment and Discrimination laws and policies of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Section 14. Student Leadership Advisory Committee to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

The Student Leadership Advisory Committee to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs shall gather feedback from students on various matters and communicate that feedback to University administrators. The composition of this committee is determined by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Section 15. Student Legal Services Board of Directors

The Student Legal Services Board of Directors shall supervise the business of Student Legal Services.

Section 16. Student Library Advisory Board

The Student Library Advisory Board shall direct the expenditures of the Student Endowed Library Fund.

Section 17. Student Safety and Security Committee

The Student Safety and Security Committee shall maintain and appropriate the Student Safety and Security Fee to campus organizations and university departments to promote student safety at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Section 18. Student Television Board of Directors

The Student Television Board of Directors shall oversee the operations of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Student Television.

Section 19. WXYC Board of Directors

The WXYC Board of Directors shall oversee the operations of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill radio station, 89.3 WXYC.

Section 20. Bylaws

Further descriptions and operating procedures of the additional governing bodies and advocacy agencies shall be prescribed in the Student Code and should be considered a joint legislative issue.

Section 21. Association of Student Governments (ASG)

The Association of Student Governments is a monthly meeting of Student Government leaders from each of the University of North Carolina System Schools. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill may send up to six delegates, four of them will be considered voting members. Those voting members shall be:

1. Student Body President,
2. The USG or GPSF President, whoever is not already serving as SBP,
3. The Association of Student Government's Campus Liaison
4. If the ASG Campus Liaison is an undergraduate student, The Graduate and Professional Student Federation Chief of External Relations and Advocacy. If the ASG Campus Liaison is a graduate or professional student, the Speaker of the Undergraduate Senate

The other, non-voting, delegates shall be:

1. The Graduate and Professional Federation Chief of External Relations and Advocacy or Speaker of the Undergraduate Senate, and
2. The Undergraduate Director of State and External Affairs

Together, these members will make up the UNC-Chapel Hill delegation to the Association of Student Governments. All delegate appointments shall be confirmed by the Joint Council with a majority vote.

Should any member of the delegation be unable to attend a general body meeting of the Association of Student Governments, one of the non-voting members of the same respective constituency will fulfill their voting responsibilities. In addition, the absent member will be able to appoint a proxy to stand for them during the assembly.

Section 22. “Be A Maker” (BeAM) Makerspace Advisory Board

The BeAM Advisory Board shall be the governing body of the BeAM Program and shall, in cooperation with the Department of Applied Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, provide oversight and strategic guidance for the curricular and co-curricular programming as well as the capital investment decisions of all makerspace facilities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Board of Elections

Elections for elected offices established under this Constitution shall be carried out in the manner prescribed by law by the respective legislative bodies in the Student Code, and organized by the Board of Elections.

Section 2. Composition of the Board of Elections

The Board of Elections shall be composed of three (3) undergraduate students and three (3) graduate or professional students. Undergraduate student members shall be appointed by the USG President, and graduate and professional student members shall be appointed by the GPSG President. Once all members of the Board of Elections have been approved, they shall elect amongst themselves a Chairperson. Each member shall hold their position until they graduate, resign, or cannot physically be at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus for longer than a semester (excluding Summer Semesters), or is otherwise removed from office. Upon the vacancy of the Chairperson of the Board of Elections seat, an election for the new Chairperson shall not be held until all six (6) seats of the Board of Elections have been filled. Other aspects of the composition, policies, and procedures of the Board of Elections not enumerated in this Constitution shall be set in the manner prescribed by law in the Board of Elections Bylaws.

1. The USG appointees to the Board of Elections shall be subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of present and voting members of the USG Senate at a regular meeting of the Senate and a majority vote of the Joint Governance Council.
2. The GPSG appointees to the Board of Elections shall be subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of present and voting members of the GPS Senate at a regular meeting of the Senate and a majority vote of the Joint Governance Council.

Section 3. Dual Service Stipulations

A candidate for Student Body President shall also stand as a candidate for Undergraduate Student Government President or Graduate and Professional Student Government President.

1. Petition Signatures collected for one candidacy can be counted towards the other candidacy, as long as the signatures are from members of the correct population;
2. The Board of Elections shall consider a candidate for both positions as participating in only one campaign when applying penalties and spending limits.

Section 4. Student Body President Signature Requirement

To be placed on the ballot for Student Body President, a candidate must collect 1,000 unique signatures according to the rules described in the Joint Code, wherein...

1. Of the 1000, 250 signatures must be from the opposite constituency, and

2. “Unique” signatures is a mandate for a candidate to obtain signatures from 1000 unique individuals but does not apply to the repetition of signatures between candidates.

Section 5. Dual Use of Signatures

Signatures attained for either the USG or GPSG President positions may also be applied to the signatures required to run for Student Body President.

Section 6. Other Signature Requirements

Signature levels needed to be placed on a ballot for all other positions shall be specified in the respective constituencies section of the Student Constitution or Code.

Section 7. Recall

Any constituency shall have the power to recall any officer elected by that constituency under this Constitution. A petition signed by the qualified voters of the constituency in question shall be filed with the Chairperson of the Board of Elections. If the Chairperson deems the petition to have the requisite number of signatures, the Board of Elections shall conduct a Special Election for the office in question, in which the officer in question shall have the right to be a candidate. The officer in question shall continue in office until the election returns are officially announced. The required number of signatures to recall an officer shall be no less than:

1. Fifteen (15) percent or five (5) persons, whichever is greater, of the constituency to recall members of the USG Senate or the GPS Senate.
2. Fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of the total number of individuals who voted in the USG Presidential election to recall the USG President (e.g. if 2000 undergraduate students voted in the USG Presidential election, a recall petition for the USG President must have 1001 undergraduate student signatures in order to recall the officer).
3. Fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of the total number of individuals who voted in the GPSG Presidential election to recall the GPSG President (e.g. if 2000 graduate/professional students voted in the GPSG Presidential election, a recall petition for the GPSG President must have 1001 graduate/professional student signatures in order to recall the officer).

There shall not be any recall election until after an elected official takes the oath of office. Any recall election must occur in the manner prescribed by law in the Student Code.

Section 8. Initiative

Both constituencies, Undergraduate and Graduate/Professional Student Bodies, shall have the power to initiate any act affecting only their constituency, within the power of their respective legislative branches, provided that at least ten (10) percent of the constituency

shall sign a petition calling for an election on a bill that shall be submitted in writing with the petition to the Chairperson of the Board of Elections. Initiatives affecting the entire Student Body must reach the ten (10) percent threshold of the entirety of the Student Body. If the Chairperson deems the petition to have the requisite number of signatures, the Board of Elections shall conduct an election to vote on the bill in the manner prescribed by law in the Undergraduate Student Government Bylaws or the Graduate and Professional Student Government Bylaws. A favorable majority (fifty percent plus one (50% + 1)) of votes cast in an election in which at least two-and-a-half (2.5) percent of the constituency votes on the bill shall be sufficient to pass the bill.

Section 9. Review

Both constituencies, Undergraduate and Graduate/Professional Student Bodies, shall have the power to call for a vote on any act passed by their respective legislative branches, provided that at least ten (10) percent of the constituency shall sign a petition calling for a vote and specifying the act in question to the Chairperson of the Board of Elections. Reviews affecting the entire Student Body must reach the ten (10) percent threshold of the entirety of the Student Body if the Chairperson deems the petition to have the requisite number of signatures, the Board of Elections shall conduct an election on the act in question in the manner prescribed by law in the Undergraduate Student Government Bylaws or the Graduate and Professional Student Government Bylaws. A favorable majority (fifty percent plus one (50% + 1)) of votes cast in an election in which at least two-and-a-half (2.5) percent of the constituency votes on the bill shall be sufficient to review the act in question.

Section 10. Issues Concerning the Entire Student Body

When an issue, including Initiatives or Reviews, concerns the entire student body, at least two-and-a-half (2.5) percent of the entire student body shall be sufficient turnout for the vote to be binding in accordance with the above sections.

Section 11. Coercion of Voters Prohibited

No group or organization on the campus of the University shall coerce any student or attempt to unduly influence their vote in any manner. Violations of these provisions shall be tried by the Supreme Court.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Section 1. Undergraduate Student Government Funds

The Undergraduate Student Government shall be funded by undergraduate student fees, and therefore shall be used to fund undergraduate student organizations. The use of USG funds must not violate any larger University policies regarding the use or expenditure of student fees. Law for the distribution of undergraduate student fees shall be prescribed in the USG Code, as defined by the USG Senate.

Section 2. Graduate and Professional Student Government Funds

The Graduate and Professional Student Government shall be funded by graduate and professional student fees. The use of GPSG funds must not violate any larger University policies regarding the use or expenditure of student fees. Law for the distribution of graduate and professional student fees shall be prescribed in the Graduate and GPSG Code, as defined by the GPS Senate.

Section 3. Student Organizations Fee

The Student Organizations Fee shall be distributed as follows:

1. \$13.00 per student per year to the Carolina Union Activities Board;
2. \$1.56 per student per year to WXYC;
3. \$1.95 per student per year to Student Television;
4. \$5.00 per student per year to the Student Activities Fund Office;
5. Twenty (20) percent of the respective Student Organizations Fee collected during the summer sessions is appropriated to the Carolina Union Activities Board for the purpose of summer programming;
6. The remainder of the Student Organizations Fee paid by undergraduate students shall go to the Undergraduate Senate;
7. The remainder of the Student Organizations Fee paid by graduate and professional students shall go to the Graduate and Professional Student Senate; and,
8. All unspent funds undergraduate funds shall revert to the Undergraduate Senate General Reserve and all unspent graduate and professional funds shall revert to the Graduate and Professional Student Senate General Reserve except those of the Carolina Union Activities Board, WXYC, Student Television, and the Student Activities Fund Office.

Section 4. Student Activities Fund Office (SAFO)

The USG Senate and the GPSG Senate shall proportionally share the cost to Student Government of SAFO operations, as determined by the Student Fee Audit Committee. The

USG Senate shall contribute two-thirds (2/3) of the cost and the GPSG Senate shall contribute one-third (1/3) of the cost.

Section 5. Oversight of Student Government Funds

All Student Government Funds must be held within the Student Activities Fund Office (SAFO) until expended in accordance with the financial regulations described in the Student Code.

Section 6. Limitations

No expenditure may be made using any Student Government funds for the following purposes:

1. Payment to Ex-Employee. Payments of salaries to people no longer employed by an organization, except in settlement of salary due at the time of termination of employment.
2. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illegal Substances. No exceptions may be granted.
3. Weaponry. Exceptions are official training equipment for a Registered Student Organization, rented or leased firearms, or ammunition for events.
4. Investments or grants to a private business or enterprise. Exceptions are Fundraising Loans.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments Proposed in the Legislative Branch

The USG Senate and the GPS Senate shall have the power to propose amendments to Chapter One (1) of the Student Constitution, subject to a two-thirds (2/3) approval by the Joint Governance Council followed by a simple majority (fifty percent plus one (50% + 1)) vote of the Student Body, provided that at least two-and-a-half (2.5) percent of the entire Student Body votes on the amendment. Each Senate shall have the ability to propose amendments affecting only their constituency, as confirmed by the Joint Governance Council. The amendment shall be subject to a simple majority (fifty percent plus one (50% + 1)) vote of those voting, provided that at least two-and-a-half (2.5) percent of the respective constituency votes on the amendment.

Section 2. Amendments Proposed by Petition

Any member of the entire Student Body shall have the power to propose amendments to this Constitution by submitting a petition in writing to the Chairperson of the Board of Elections. If the Chairperson of the Board of Elections deems the petition to be signed by at least ten (10) percent of the entire Student Body, the Board of Elections shall conduct an election in which a favorable vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those voting shall be required to ratify the proposed amendment, provided that at least two-and-a-half (2.5) percent of the entire Student Body votes on the amendment. If the proposed amendment concerns only that student's population (undergraduate or graduate & professional), as confirmed by the Joint Governance Council, then the Board of Elections may limit voting to either undergraduate or graduate and professional students and adjust the above thresholds accordingly.

ARTICLE IX. STUDENT SUPREME LAW

Section 1. Constitution and Laws Supreme

This Constitution and all laws enacted pursuant thereto shall be Supreme Student Law. Supreme power shall be vested in this UNC Student Government Constitution.

Section 2. Present Laws and Rules to Continue in Effect

All laws enacted by the USG Senate or the GPS Senate shall continue in full force and effect until repealed or changed, provided they are in accordance with this Constitution.

Section 3. Superseding of Laws

Any laws passed by one constituency that are in conflict with laws found in Chapter 1 of the Student Constitution shall be superseded by Chapter 1 of the Student Constitution.

Section 4. Limits of Legislative Powers

The powers of the respective governments and legislative branches shall be limited to those issues affecting their own constituents, excepting under the Joint Governance powers of Chapter 1 of the Student Constitution or with a resolution of support for the other constituents' positions or actions.

Section 5. Issues Not Enumerated in This Constitution

Issues affecting the entire Student Body, not enumerated in this Constitution, shall be addressed through legislation written by either Senate and approved by the Joint Governance Council to become law in the Student Code.

**CHAPTER TWO.
LAWS AFFECTING UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS**

ARTICLE I. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE

Section 1. Membership of the Undergraduate Senate

The elected membership of the Undergraduate Senate shall consist of a number of undergraduate students that is no less than one-tenth (1/10) of one (1) percent of the undergraduate population.

Section 2. Undergraduate Senate Districts

The apportionment of Senators to the Undergraduate Senate shall be determined by residence, year, personal identity, or some combination of the aforementioned as determined in the Student Code.

Section 3. Officers of the Undergraduate Student Government Senate

The Senate shall elect from its membership a Speaker, Speaker Pro-Tempore, and other officers, as it shall determine.

Section 4. Senate Elections

Senators shall be elected in a Spring General Election. The date shall be set in the manner prescribed by law in the Student Code. Empty seats may be filled in the following Fall General Election or through a special election requested by the respective Senate and approved by the respective President.

Section 5. Qualifications for Senators

Each Representative, as of the first day of classes of the fall semester following the Spring General Election, shall be enrolled as a fee-paying student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and belong the district they were elected to represent.

Section 6. Term of Office

Senators elected in the Spring General Election shall serve for one-year terms beginning on the first Tuesday in April upon inauguration and ending the first Tuesday in April of the following spring semester. Senators elected in any special election shall serve from their inauguration until the subsequent first Tuesday in April.

Section 7. Vacancies

Every vacancy occurring in the membership of the either Senate shall be filled in the manner prescribed by law in the Student Code.

ARTICLE II. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1. Undergraduate Student Government President

The executive power of the Undergraduate Student Body shall be vested in the President of the USG.

Section 2. Terms and Qualifications

The USG President shall be enrolled as a fee-paying undergraduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and shall be elected in the Spring General Election by the Undergraduate Student Body for a one-year term beginning the first Tuesday of April upon inauguration and ending the first Tuesday of April of the following spring semester.

Section 3. Duties of the USG President

1. Perform the duties assigned in Chapter I;
2. Call and preside at meetings of the Undergraduate Student Body;
3. Serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of all standing committees and boards of their Legislative and Executive branches;
4. Require reports of the standing committees;
5. Represent the undergraduate student body in relation to other schools, the faculty, the administration, the Board of Trustees, and Board of Governors;
6. Establish such subsidiary bodies deemed necessary and proper to aid the performance of the duty of the President;
7. Appoint the Chairpersons of all Executive Branch Committees; and,
8. Nominate Executive Branch officers and other codified Executive Branch positions.

Section 4. Other Undergraduate Student Government Executive Officers

The USG President shall have the assistance of a USG Vice President, a USG Treasurer and a Director of State & External Affairs, who shall be appointed by the USG President from a pool of nominees recommended by the Selection Committee and with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of present and voting members of the USG Senate at a regular meeting of the Senate. Selection Committee structure, policy, and procedures shall be prescribed by law in the Student Code.

1. The USG President shall have the ability to create other positions within the USG Executive Branch to assist them.
2. Vacancies. Vacancies in any of the USG executive offices shall be filled in the

manner prescribed by law in the Student Code.

Section 5. Duties of Executive Officers

The respective duties of the constitutionally mandated executive positions shall be prescribed by law in the USG Code.

CHAPTER THREE.
LAWS AFFECTING ALL GRADUATE AND
PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

ARTICLE I. GOVERNING BODIES

Section 1. Executive Branch of the Graduate and Professional Student Body

1. Executive Power of the Graduate and Professional Student Body

The executive power of the Graduate and Professional Student Body shall be vested in the President of the GPSG. The powers of the GPSG President shall be set in the manner prescribed by law in the GPSG Code.

2. Election, Term, and Qualifications

The GPSG President shall be enrolled as a fee-paying graduate or professional student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and shall be elected in the spring by the graduate and professional student body for a one-year term beginning with inauguration on the first Tuesday of April and ending with the inauguration of the succeeding Student Body President.

3. Executive Officers and Directors

Other officers of the executive branch shall be approved in a manner prescribed by law in the GPSG Code and shall have the powers and duties outlined therein. These executive positions will include a Senior Vice President and a Vice President for Finance who shall also serve as members of the Joint Governance Council.

Section 2. Legislative Branch of the Graduate and Professional Student Body

1. The Legislative Power of the GPSG

The legislative power of the graduate and professional student body shall be vested in the Graduate and Professional Student (GPS) Senate, which shall be a unicameral body.

2. Legislative Jurisdiction of the GPS Senate

A. Graduate and Professional Student Issues

The GPS Senate shall have sole legislative jurisdiction on issues related exclusively to the Graduate and Professional Student Body.

B. Student Body Issues

Legislation affecting the entire student body may be passed by the GPS Senate and referred to the Joint Governance Council for consideration.

C. Limitations

The GPS Senate shall not legislate upon issues that solely concern Undergraduate students unless asked to issue a resolution of support on an issue by the Undergraduate Senate.

3. Powers of the GPSG Senate

The GPSG Senate shall have the power to:

- A. With the approval of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors, and with approval of the student body obtained by means of a student body

referendum, determine the level of the following fees to be paid by the respective student body:

1. Childcare Services Fee;
 2. Sonja Stone Scholarship Fee;
 3. Student Endowed Library Fund Fee;
 4. Student Legal Services Fee;
 5. Student Organizations Fee; and
 6. Student Safety and Security Fee;
- B. Establish an annual budget for the GPSG;
- C. Establish procedures annually for the execution of its business;
- D. Establish laws governing elections;
- E. Approve or reject all codified appointments made by the GPSG President;
- F. By a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present and voting, override a veto of the GPSG President if the legislation was not a joint issue as determined by the Joint Governance Council;
- G. Impeach, initiate trials, and remove from office any codified student government official representing the graduate and professional student constituency, save for the heads of independent agencies directly elected by their full constituency;
- H. Require reports from all committees and from all organizations receiving funds from the GPS Senate or committees or groups managing funds levied by a Student Fee when the head of such a committee or group is not directly elected by the fee-paying students;
- I. Establish remuneration that it deems appropriate for all Student Government officials, provided any changes shall not affect the officers currently holding the positions in question;
- J. Review and approve or reject the constitutions, charters, and bylaws of all student organizations receiving funding from graduate and professional student fees;
- K. Initiate Constitutional Referenda;
- L. Initiate Student Fee Referenda on the creation, increase, decrease, or change in justification of a student-originated fee;
- M. Approve changes to *The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*;

- N. Determine the composition and approve any changes to the bylaws of the Carolina Union Board of Directors, the Student Fee Audit Committee, the Student Legal Services Board of Directors, the Campus Recreation Board, the Student Library Advisory Board, and the Board of Elections, provided that the Chancellor shall appoint any faculty representatives on these boards;
- O. Determine the powers, composition, and functions of their respective Summer School Student Governments;
- P. Make all laws necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the student body;
- Q. Pass joint legislation in accordance with any of the purposes outlined in this section, subject to the approval of the Joint Governance Council; and
- R. Perform any additional action necessary and proper for the governance of the graduate and professional student body, provided that such action is not prohibited by the jurisdiction of the legislative branch.

4. Journal of the GPS Senate

The GPS Senate shall keep a journal of their proceedings, which shall be made public and preserved in the University Archives.

5. Membership of the GPS Senate

The elected membership of the GPS Senate shall consist of at least one representative from each of the Representative Units recognized within the GPSG Code.

6. Voting in the GPS Senate

Voting in the GPS Senate shall be by Representative Unit. One vote shall be cast per Unit by the Senator(s) of that Unit.

7. The Representative Units of the GPS Senate

A. Factors in Districting

The Representative Units of the GPSG shall be determined by academic and degree program as outlined in the GPSG Code.

B. Addition of Representative Units

The GPS Senate shall be empowered to add new Representative Units upon receipt of a formal petition from a program and a 2/3 affirmative vote of the present Units at a duly called meeting of the GPS Senate.

8. Officers of the GPS Senate

The GPSG Senior Vice President shall serve as the President of the Senate.

9. Elections of GPSF Senators

A. Democratic Elections

GPS Senators shall be elected democratically in elections organized by the Board of the Elections and carried out in accordance with the GPSG Code. All

members of the relevant constituency shall be afforded the opportunity to stand for the election and to vote in accordance with the principle of one person, one vote.

B. Timing of Elections

GPS Senators shall be elected according to the schedule their Representative Units established with the Board of Elections and GPSG Senior Vice President, as outlined in the GPSG Code. Any seats still open after the scheduled elections shall be filled in the manner prescribed by the GPSG Code.

10. Qualifications for GPS Senators

Senators shall be enrolled as a fee-paying student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and belong to the Representative Unit they were elected to represent.

11. Term of Office for GPS Senators

The term length for a GPS Senator shall be determined by the respective Representative Unit and registered with the Board of Elections. A term length shall not be less than one legislative session as defined by the GPSG Code.

12. Vacancies in the GPS Senate.

Every vacancy occurring in the membership of the Senate shall be filled in the manner prescribed by the GPSG Code.

Section 3. Judicial Branch of the Graduate and Professional Student Body

1. Judicial Power

The judicial power of the graduate and professional student body shall be vested in the Graduate and Professional Honor System, whose composition, policies, and procedures shall be set in the manner prescribed by law in *The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*.

2. Graduate and Professional Student Attorney General

The Graduate and Professional Student Attorney General shall perform the duties and functions for which they are made responsible under *The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*. The Graduate and Professional Student Attorney General shall be appointed in the spring by the GPSG President, subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of present and voting members of the GPS Senate at a regular meeting of the Senate, and shall serve until a successor is confirmed. The Graduate and Professional Student Attorney General shall be a fee-paying graduate or professional student.

ARTICLE II. AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 3

Section 1. Initiation of Amendment Referendum for Chapter 3

1. Initiation of an Amendment Referendum by the GPSF Senate

A referendum for amendment to Chapter 3 of the Student Body Constitution may be initiated upon a 2/3 majority vote of the present and voting members at a duly called meeting of The GPSF Senate.

2. Initiation of an Amendment Referendum by Petition

A referendum for amendment to Chapter 3 of the Student Body Constitution may be initiated by a petition collecting signatures from 10% of the Graduate and Professional Student body. Upon confirmation of the successful collection of signatures, the referendum shall appear on the ballot.

Section 2. Voting Limitations

Only graduate and professional students shall vote on referenda amending Chapter 3.

Section 3. Passage Threshold for Amendment Referendum on Chapter 3

1. The Passage Threshold for a Referendum Initiated by The GPSF Senate

The passage threshold for a referendum initiated by the GPS Senate shall be a simple majority of those graduate and professional students voting in the election, provided that 2.5% of the graduate and professional students vote.

2. The Passage Threshold for a Referendum Initiated by Petition

The passage threshold for a referendum initiated by Petition shall be a 2/3 majority of those graduate and professional students voting in the election, provided that 2.5% of the graduate and professional students vote. Once the Board of Elections have confirmed the appropriate number of signatures have been collected, a resolution to consider lowering this threshold shall be presented by the GPSG Senior Vice President to the GPS Senate and shall pass by a simple majority vote of the GPS Senate.

Record of Changes

Date	Action
October 2017	Constitution adopted by student body via referendum
2/11/2020	Chapter 1, Article V amended to add “Be-A-Maker” (BEAM) Makerspace Advisory Board to list of independent agencies. Section 22 added to outline the responsibilities of this Board. Approved by entire student body in referendum.
3/2/2021	Graduate and Professional Student Federation (GPSF) renamed “Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG)” and GPSF Senate renamed “Graduate and Professional Student (GPS) Senate.” Approved by graduate and professional student body in referendum.