CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

Section 1: The Graduate Student Council, henceforth referred to as "the GSC," shall constitute the official governing body of the graduate students of Brown University and the official liaison between the graduate student community and the University and the greater Providence community.

Section 2: The GSC shall be responsible for the distribution of annual student activities fees that are charged to graduate students. These funds shall be distributed as the GSC sees fit, in accordance with this Constitution, the By Laws, and the mission of the GSC to support the graduate student community.

Section 3: The GSC shall be responsible for informing the graduate student community of activities and events that directly impact them.

Section 4: The GSC shall be responsible for recognizing official graduate student groups within the graduate student community.

Section 5: The GSC shall be responsible for ensuring a graduate student voice within the University by appointing graduate student representatives to University governance boards and committees.

Section 6: The GSC shall be responsible for advocating graduate student interests to the University and the greater Providence community.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

Section 1: Membership in the GSC shall include all students enrolled in Ph.D. or Masters programs at Brown University, who will be hereafter referred to as "graduate students."

Section 2: Graduate students within each department shall select representative(s) according to their own procedure. Departments shall be entitled to select one representative for every forty graduate students enrolled in that department, such that departments with 1-40 graduate students shall select one representative, departments with 41-80 graduate students shall select two representatives, and so forth.

Section 3: Each departmental representative shall serve as a voting member of the GSC. Each voting member shall have one vote.

Section 4: If a department fails to select a representative, the GSC shall have the power to recognize a representative from that department.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS
Section 1: The GSC shall elect as its officers a President, a Vice President of Representation and Advocacy, two Vice Presidents of Social Events, a Vice-President Treasurer, a Secretary, a Technology Officer, a Vice Treasurer (Social), and a Master’s Student Advocate.

Section 2: These officers shall constitute the GSC Board.

Section 3: Officers shall preside for the term of one year, except the Master’s Student Advocate. The Master’s Student Advocate shall preside for the term of one semester. Elections for this office will be held at the beginning of each semester.

Section 4: All officers, except the President, shall have the power to initiate motions at GSC meetings. Officers shall not vote on any motion put before the GSC, unless they have a vote as a departmental representative.

Section 5: The President shall serve as Chair of the GSC and preside at all general meetings and GSC Board meetings of the GSC. He or she shall serve as the official representative of the GSC to the University and greater Providence community. The President shall be responsible for maintaining the common vision and goals of GSC, promoting its growth and sustainability, and upholding its Constitution and By Laws.

Section 6: The Vice President of Representation and Advocacy shall fulfill all the duties of the President and act on his or her behalf in the absence of the President. He or she shall be responsible for overseeing graduate student representation on University Committees. The Vice President of Representation and Advocacy shall be in charge of selection processes for GSC awards and honors.

Section 7: The Vice President of Social Events shall coordinate and supervise all social and community service events of the GSC.

Section 8: The Vice-President Treasurer shall prepare the annual budget of the GSC and manage the GSC's University accounts and assets. The Vice Treasurer (Social) shall assist the Vice President of Social Events and the Vice President Treasurer in the financial and logistical administration of Social Events and Graduate Student Life Initiatives.

Section 9: The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of each meeting of the GSC and make those minutes available to the graduate student community.

Section 10: The Technology Officer shall be responsible for maintaining the GSC webpage and overseeing all issues dealing with technology.

Section 11: Acting as a liaison between the GSC and the master's programs, the Master’s Student Advocate shall reach out to the community of master’s students and offer the perspective of master’s students to the GSC board.

Section 12: Any officer may be removed from their position by a vote of a 2/3 majority of the representatives present at a GSC meeting.

ARTICLE IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Section 1: Any graduate student shall be eligible for nomination to any office of the GSC.

Section 2: Elections shall be held once per year, at the November GSC General Meeting.

Section 3: Nominations shall be opened during the meeting prior to election of officers.

Section 4: For each office, the candidate securing a plurality of votes of the representatives present shall be elected to that office.

Section 5: All officers shall assume the duties of their office during the month of January following their election at the preceding November meeting, and shall assume their duties no later than one week prior to the February General Meeting of the GSC.

Section 6: If for any reason the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President of Representation and Advocacy shall assume the position and duties of President, and the office of Vice President of Representation and Advocacy shall be vacant.

Section 7: If for any reason an office besides that of the President becomes vacant, an election shall take place at the first subsequent meeting of the GSC. An interim officer may be appointed to that position in the meantime.

Section 8: In the period following the election of new officers and prior to their taking office, the outgoing executive team should work closely with the newly-elected officers to ensure a smooth and effective transition; not limited to:

(a) ensuring that all necessary information and access rights (including documents, email accounts, website and social media channels) are transferred to the new team in a timely manner

(b) the Secretary and President shall ensure that the names of the incoming officers are made available to the Graduate School and other relevant offices of the University

(c) during the transition period, any meetings of the Executive Board should include, by invitation, the incoming Officers-elect as observers.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1: The GSC shall meet once per month during the academic year.

Section 2: Meetings shall be open and accessible to all graduate students.

Section 3: Meetings may be scheduled, rescheduled, or cancelled by a majority vote of the GSC or at the discretion of the President.

Section 4: Representation from 1/2 of the filled GSC representative slots shall constitute a quorum.
Section 5: The GSC shall consider all motions brought before it by individual members. Motions, except those otherwise specified in this Constitution or the By Laws, may be passed by approval of the majority of voting members present.

Section 6: The GSC internal committees shall meet once per month. These internal committees are: Finance, Nominations, Social, Communications

ARTICLE VI. FINANCES

Section 1: The annual revenue of the GSC shall include monies from student activities fees collected from each graduate student at the beginning of the academic year.

Section 2: A minimum reserve of monies should be maintained in the Graduate Student Council's accounts.

Section 3: At the first GSC general meeting of the semester, the Vice-President Treasurers shall present a report of the previous fiscal year's budget, revenues, and expenses.

Section 4: At the first GSC general meetings of the semester, the Vice-President Treasurers shall submit a budget of expected revenues and proposed expenses for approval by a vote of the majority of the representatives present. The proposed budget shall be made publicly available before the first meeting.

Section 5: Each department recognized as part of the Graduate School at Brown University shall be entitled to receive a departmental rebate from the GSC to help fund one or more events or activities involving the department's graduate students as requested by a majority of the graduate students in that department. The departmental rebate may be issued to each department only once per fiscal year.

Section 6: Upon majority vote of the committee representatives present at any finance internal committee meeting, the GSC shall provide funds from the revenues specified in the budget to support events or activities that are of interest to the graduate student body or graduate student groups.

Section 7: As long as a minimum reserve of monies is maintained, the GSC may provide grants from its carry-over funds to support proposals that will have a lasting impact upon the graduate student body. Such grants shall require approval by a 2/3 majority of representatives present at a GSC meeting.

Section 8: In an emergent situation, reserve monies may be spent if approval of a 2/3 majority of representatives present at the next GSC finance internal committee meeting is secured, or if approval of a 2/3 majority of the officers is secured, after disseminating the critical information to the representatives.

Section 9: Financial procedures outlined in the sections above shall be detailed in the By Laws.

ARTICLE VII. EXTERNAL COMMITTEES
Section 1: The GSC nominations internal committee shall elect graduate student representatives to University committees, referred to as "external committees."

Section 2: The candidate receiving a plurality of votes shall serve as the representative on that committee.

Section 3: If a position on an external committee must be filled before the next meeting of the GSC nominations internal committee, the GSC Board shall appoint a representative to that committee.

Section 4: Representatives to external committees are elected for 1-year terms, unless otherwise specified by the external committee’s procedures, in which case the term of office specified by the external committee shall be observed. After 1 year, or the appropriate term of office if specified by the external committee, the positions as representatives to external committees are open for general election at the next GSC nominations internal committee meeting. Veteran representatives may run for reelection.

Section 5: Representatives to external committees shall deliver a report to the GSC nominations internal committee at least once per academic year.

Section 6: A representative may be removed from service on an external committee by approval of a 2/3 majority of the voting members present at a GSC nominations internal committee meeting.

Section 7: Representatives who fail to report to the GSC nominations internal committee are considered delinquent and forfeit their positions as representatives to their respective external committees. A representative is "delinquent" if he or she does not respond to an email from the GSC Vice President regarding their respective committees within one month. Once a representative is deemed "delinquent," his or her position as representative is open for general election at the next GSC nominations internal committee meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. REFERENDA

Section 1: Upon petition of 5% of the graduate student population, who must represent at least half of the departments recognized by the graduate school, any motion or any amendment to the Constitution shall be presented by the GSC to the graduate student body for approval or rejection by the majority of those voting.

Section 2: The results of the referendum shall be binding.

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ARTICLE IX. BY LAWS
Section 1: The GSC shall adhere to a set of By Laws, which detail the operating procedures of the GSC.

Section 2: The By Laws shall be adopted by approval of a 2/3 majority of the representatives present at a meeting of the GSC.

Section 3: The By Laws may be amended by approval of a 2/3 majority of the representatives present at a meeting of the GSC.

Section 4: Proposed amendments to the By Laws shall be made available to all voting members at least one week prior to the vote.

Section 5: The By Laws and any subsequent amendments shall be binding immediately upon passage.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

Section 1: The Constitution may be amended by approval of a 2/3 majority of the representatives present at two consecutive meetings of the GSC.

Section 2: Proposed amendments shall be made available to all voting members at least one week prior to the second vote.

Section 3: Amendments to the constitution shall be binding immediately upon passage at the second consecutive meeting.

ARTICLE XI. ADOPTION

Section 1: Adoption of a new constitution shall follow the same procedure as amendments to the Constitution as stated above in Article X, Section 1.

Section 2: This Constitution shall be binding immediately upon passage at the second consecutive meeting.

Section 3: This Constitution shall supersede all previous constitutions.

ARTICLE XII. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The GSC shall support and abide by all Brown University Equal Opportunity guidelines, and shall never discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex, except where sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.

ARTICLE XIII. VETO
Section 1: If graduate students objects to a decision made by a GSC internal committees, they may ask for a review of a specific decision at the general GSC meeting.

- The support of 5 students is required to bring a motion to review an internal committee decision.
- The support of at least 25% of GSC representatives in attendance is required to bring a review of internal committee decision.

Section 2: The internal committee whose decision is being challenged shall give a brief presentation about its decisions at the same meeting.

Section 3: There shall be a discussion at the same meeting.

Section 4: The support of at least 50% of GSC representatives in attendance is required to overturn a committee decision.

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