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GPSA Council Meeting, 2/7/2011

Graduate and Professional Student Association

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GPSA Constitutional Committee, February 7

Article VI-IX Elections, Amendments, Referenda, Definitions

- committee agrees that definitions should be organized alphabetically and all definitions should apply to the entire document, not to single articles
- Definitions will be pulled out and generated throughout the process
- Elections
 - o The elections section is very brief, as most of it will appear as procedural and bylaws
 - o The goal here was to identify what needed to be protected Constitutionally
- Amendments
 - o Language was added to clarify that any GPSA member can initiate amendments
- Referenda
 - o This would be a new addition to the Constitution. Currently, any GPSA member could petition to put a referenda item on the election ballot. However, that right or process was not clear or explicit. This addition affirms the right of GPSA membership to initiate a ballot item without support from GPSA leadership.
 - o Committee discussed how this would actually work and asked questions about how that would impact the special elections process
 - Committee agreed that more research and more detailed wording would be necessary

Articles VI – IX: DRAFT February 7, 2011

Article VI: Elections

The Elections Committee shall administer annual GPSA elections and must provide proper notice of elections, as defined in the GPSA Bylaws.

Added “preamble” to assert role of elections committee and importance of proper notice of elections.

Section 1 - General Election

- A general election of the President shall occur in the Spring semester of each academic year.
- The ballot may include amendments, referenda, and other items approved by Council.
- A plurality of votes shall decide all elections presented on the ballot.
- Ballots shall include the opportunity to vote for GPSA President, and any other appropriate issues placed on the ballot by Council.

- All members of the GPSA are permitted to vote in general elections.

Clarify and reorganize the protected processes of GPSA elections.

Section 2 - Council Chair Election

- Administered by the Elections Committee at the April Council meeting.

Added to clarify that Elections Committee administers CC election.

Section 3 - Special Elections

- Special elections may be held as deemed necessary by Council or Elections Committee/President. (?)

Added that Elections Committee can call for Special Elections (?).

Section 4 – Referenda

- *Referenda may be initiated by a GPSA official, or with a petition by any GPSA member, as defined in GPSA Bylaws. – RESEARCH AND EDIT*

Section 4 – Election Code

- Election code shall be defined by the GPSA Bylaws and subject to the approval of Council.

Clarify that Election Code elaborates on process.

Notes: add language re: election of dept reps?, referenda language and process, special elections – can president call for?

Article VII: Amendments

Proceedings to introduce a Constitutional amendment may be initiated by any GPSA member.

A. Amendments

- a. Requires a two-thirds approval by Council Representatives present at a regular Council meeting, majority approval by GPSA members voting in the General Election, and approval by the Board of Regents.

B. Regent Control

- a. This Constitution, including all Constitutional amendments, shall be subject to modification by and under the control of the Board of Regents.

Protected and clarified that any GPSA member can initiate a Constitutional amendment, moved remaining guidelines to GPSA Bylaws. Switch from Spring election to General election.

(Deal with ratification)

Article IX: Definitions

Academic year

Graduate student
Professional student
Regular Council Meeting
Staff, Executive Branch
Referenda
Special Election
Plurality
Votes
Board of Regents
Ratification (?)

Where?

Ratification

- a. This Constitution shall be ratified upon receiving a two-thirds approval by Council Representatives present at a regular Council meeting, majority approval by GPSA members voting in the Spring Elections, and approval by the University of New Mexico Board of Regents.

Removed ratification (?)