

Constitution of the Student Body of Gonzaga University

Mission Statement

The Gonzaga Student Body Association promises to support and advocate for our fellow students, while providing the opportunity for experiences which inspire Zags to live extraordinary lives as men and women for others. (Adopted April 2012)

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Gonzaga University, participants in an institution based on humanistic, Catholic and Jesuit values, form an association to further the purposes and objectives contained in this document. We uphold the values established in the University's Mission Statement and therefore do establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The name of the association established under this constitution shall be the Gonzaga Student Body Association, hereafter referred to as GSBA.

Section 2: All matriculated students from the undergraduate, international, and Gonzaga sponsored study abroad academic programs of Gonzaga University shall be members of the Gonzaga student body, without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, creed, disability, sexual orientation, age, or faith tradition.

Section 3: The GSBA shall be a multimember, collaborative, and multilateral student government. GSBA shall maintain its discretion to express the views of student constituencies, establish governing documents, and authorize payment of funds in accord with Article VIII. The voice of the student body shall rest in the GSBA, and shall be exercised through the Senate and Executive Branch.

Section 4: In addition to these councils, the GSBA may grant charters to those student clubs and organizations that support the mission of Gonzaga University in concert with the mission of GSBA. These clubs and organizations shall become members, with all inherent rights and responsibilities, upon a majority vote in favor of recognition of the club charter by the Executive Council. Student clubs and organizations shall be eligible to receive individual budgets through the process determined in Article VIII of this Constitution, the GSBA By-laws, and those standards adopted by the Committee on Finance.

ARTICLE II: RIGHTS

Section 1: All members of the Gonzaga Student Body (GSBA members) have the right to vote in all the GSBA elections, establish and participate in GSBA organizations, attend meetings of the student government, attend activities sponsored by student government, and be eligible to hold student government positions.

Section 2: All GSBA members have the right to be considered for student government offices. Student government positions shall be elected or appointed in the means described within this Constitution. All appointments shall be made through a competitive application,

interview, and hiring process which is publicly announced to the student body. GSBA shall provide an equal opportunity for all members to participate in student government.

Section 3: All GSBA members have the right to petition student government for redress of grievances.

Section 4: All GSBA members shall have reasonable access to all records concerning student government except those records which are deemed to be injurious to a student's reasonable right to privacy in a personnel or disciplinary matter.

Section 5: All GSBA members have the right to be present at all hearings directly involving him or herself.

Section 6: All GSBA members have the right to a just and fair hearing following the established procedures including the opportunity to present information supporting him or herself.

Section 7: All GSBA members have the right to all public information in a hearing, the right to refuse to provide self-incriminating testimony, and the right to have an advisor or counselor present at all hearings.

Section 8: All GSBA members have the right to be free from irrelevant and speculative information in addition to that information presented with a lack of personal knowledge in a hearing. Testimony as to a person's character is prohibited.

Section 9: All GSBA members have the right to respectfully express him or herself in student programs and activities, in academic courses, and in hearings.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1: The GSBA is established to assist members in appreciating and understanding democratic values and processes through participation in student government.

Section 2: The GSBA is established to offer members an environment conducive to their right of expressing ideas on issues and policies.

Section 3: The GSBA is established to provide a means for members to develop adult social responsibility, leadership, and self-direction.

Section 4: The GSBA is established to present the members' attitudes and opinions to Faculty and University Administration.

Section 5: The GSBA is established to encourage academic, social, spiritual, and cultural development of all members and GSBA organizations.

Section 6: The GSBA is established to provide the students of Gonzaga a unified voice in all matters pertaining to the general interest of the student body.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNANCE OF GSBA

Section 1: The members of the student body shall govern GSBA and make up the branches of student government including the Executive Branch the Senate.

Section 2: No person may serve concurrently in more than one of the two enumerated branches, except as stated in this constitution.

Section 3: Compensation for members of the Executive Branch, Senate, shall not be increased during a member's term of service.

Section 4: The GSBA advisors are employees of the Student Development Department and are appointed by the Vice President or his or her designee.

Section 5: Members of the Executive Branch, Senate, must maintain a 2.3 cumulative grade point average and be in good academic standing at the time of election and at all times in service to the student body.

Section 6: Members of the Executive Branch, Senate, must be in good disciplinary standing with the University as determined by the Dean of Student Services office at the time of election and at all times in service to the student body.

Section 7: Discipline and grade standing will be checked and verified by the GSBA Advisor: once prior to election, once at the beginning of the academic year, and a final time when session resumes after the semester break.

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BODY

Section 1: The Executive branch of the GSBA shall consist of the elected Executive Officers, a Cabinet of Directors (Cabinet), Executive Staff, the Gonzaga Activities Board, and the Election Commission. The role and responsibilities of all Executive Branch members shall be determined in the GSBA By-laws. Staff positions and their associated responsibilities shall also be determined in the GSBA By-laws.

- A. The Cabinet shall be responsible for the regular administration of the student government at the direction of the President and Executive Officers. The Cabinet and Executive Officers shall meet together regularly to advise the President in order to ensure the strong administration and supervision of the Executive Branch. Senate confirmation is required to add new positions to the Cabinet. The President shall serve as chairperson of the Cabinet.

Section 2: The elected Student Body Executive Officers shall be a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, and a Speaker of the Senate. In addition to these Student Body Executive Officers, there shall be a President and Vice President elected by each undergraduate class whom shall serve on the Gonzaga Activities Board The Student Body President and Vice President shall be elected together on a joint ticket, and shall be listed together on the ballot.

Section 3: Election of the Executive Officers shall be by majority vote of eligible GSBA members.

Section 4: Student Body Executive Officers shall serve from their inauguration (at the end of the spring semester prior to taking office) until the inauguration of their successors.

Section 5: The Cabinet, Executive Staff, and Elections Commissioners shall be nominated by the President upon the advice of the Executive Officers, and shall come before the Senate for ratification following the election of the Executive Officers. The Attorney General shall be nominated by the Judicial Board and shall come before the Senate for ratification following the election of the Executive Officers and finally shall come before the President for his or her approval. The Cabinet and Executive Staff shall serve a term until the end of the next academic year. The Elections Commissioners shall serve staggered terms, which will terminate at the end of their respective designated semesters.

Section 6: Vacancies in the Executive branch shall be filled as follows:

- A. In the event of vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President shall succeed to the office of the President for the remainder of the academic year. In the event of vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate an eligible member of GSBA to serve as Vice President for the remainder of the academic year, subject to ratification of the Senate. In the event of vacancy in the office of the Treasurer or Speaker of the Senate, the members of the Student Senate shall draft a resolution requiring the Elections Commission to call a special election to fill the vacancy within twenty-five (25) academic days.
- B. If a vacancy in the office of the Speaker of the Senate or the office of the Treasurer occurs within sixty (60) academic days of the regular elections for Executive Officers Council, the office of the Treasurer shall be filled by a Senator serving on the Finance Committee by nomination of the President and ratification of the Senate, and the office of the Speaker of the Senate shall be filled by the Senate ~~President~~ Pro-Tempore.
- C. The order of succession to the President shall be the Vice President, followed by the Speaker of the Senate, followed by the Treasurer.
- D. If members of the Cabinet or Executive Staff resign, are removed from office by the President or President's designee, or are impeached, the Executive Branch shall nominate (as they see necessary) someone to fill the vacant position within two (2) weeks of vacancy, subject to the ratification of the Senate.
- E. If a Class Officer resigns or is removed from office, the remaining Class Officers shall appoint someone to fill the vacant position. The new appointment shall be ratified by the Senate.

Section 7: The Executive Powers of the GSBA shall be vested in the Student Body President.

- A. Candidates for the office of President must have GSBA experience prior to filing for elections. Experience will be determined in the GSBA By-Laws.
- B. The President shall serve as the chief liaison between the students of Gonzaga University and the Faculty and Administration of the University.
- C. The President shall lead and oversee the operation of the Executive Branch.
- D. The President shall be responsible for the approval or veto of all bills and joint resolutions passed by the Student Senate. All bills, joint resolutions, budgets, and appropriations shall be considered by the President within ten academic days of passage. The President shall communicate his or her action on all legislation to the Senate within the ten academic days allotted for approval or rejection. Failure of the President to take action within ten academic days, will bring the bill, joint resolution, budget, or appropriation into force without his or her consent.
- E. The President shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the Constitution and By-laws of the Student Body.
- F. The President shall nominate student body representatives to University Committees with the ratification of the Senate.

Section 9: The Election Commission shall serve as an independent commission to ensure the integrity of the elections process. The Election Commissioners shall be nominated by the President, or the President's designee, and ratified by the Senate. The Election Commission shall report to the GSBA Advisor.

Section 10: The Executive Officers shall demonstrate an understanding of student government prior to election, in accord with the GSBA By-laws.

ARTICLE VI: SENATE

Section 1: All legislative power of the GSBA government shall be vested in the Senate, except for such powers specifically vested in other Branches within this Constitution.

Section 2: GSBA Senate Guidelines:

- A. The GSBA Senate shall be a continuous body during the term for which the Members are elected.
- B. The Senate shall meet in regular weekly sessions.
- C. The time and place of sessions of the Senate shall be published.
- D. All Senate sessions shall be open to all GSBA members.
- E. All Senate sessions shall provide an open forum for all GSBA members to address issues and concerns.

- F. Special sessions of the Senate may be called by the GSBA President or the Speaker of the Senate, or by a majority vote of all members of the Senate.

Section 3: Composition of the Senate shall be as follows:

- A. Voting members, referred to as Senators:
 - i. Four (4) Senators from each undergraduate class (Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior) equaling sixteen (16) Senators.
 - ii. One (1) International Student Senator
 - iii. One (1) Non-traditional Student Senator
 - iv. Three (3) On-Campus Senators
 - v. Three (3) Off-Campus Senators
 - vi. Six (6) Senators from the respective Gonzaga Colleges (two (2) from College of Arts and Sciences, one (1) from the School of Business Administration, one (1) from the School of Education, one (1) from the School of Engineering & Applied Science, and one (1) from the School of Nursing & Human Physiology)

- B. Non-voting members:
 - i. GSBA Presidential appointees to University Committees
 - ii. Student Regents
 - iii. GSBA Executive and Cabinet Officers
 - iv. A Secretary of the Senate who shall record all meeting minutes, organize all resolution submissions, and publish the weekly Senate agendas. One of the Senators shall be assigned as the Secretary of the Senate.
 - v. The Attorney General acting as Parliamentarian shall interpret Robert's Rules of Order during Senate sessions.

Section 4: The GSBA Speaker of the Senate shall preside over the Senate meetings.

Section 5: The Senate shall elect a President Pro Tempore from amongst the Senators (voting members) who shall conduct the meetings in the absence of the Speaker of the Senate.

Section 6: Election of the Senate

- A. The four (4) Senators from each class shall be elected by a plurality vote of the GSBA members in their respective classes.

- B. The one (1) International Student Senator shall be elected by a plurality vote of the GSBA members.

- C. The one (1) Non-traditional Student Senator shall be elected by a plurality vote of the GSBA members.

- D. The three (3) On-Campus Senators shall be elected by a plurality vote of the GSBA members residing in University residence halls.

E. The three (3) Off-Campus Senators shall be elected by a plurality vote of the GSBA members residing outside of University residence halls.

F. The six (6) Senators from each respective Gonzaga College elected by a plurality vote of the GSBA members.

Section 7: Vacancies in the Senate shall be filled through applications and interviews conducted by the Chief of Staff and Speaker of Senate and ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the assembled Student Senate.

Section 8: Members shall be elected for a term of one (1) academic year and shall serve from the first meeting of the Student Senate in the fall semester until the last meeting of the Student Senate in the spring semester.

Section 9: Each member shall have one (1) vote and cannot vote by proxy except by two-thirds affirmative vote of the Senate. Only in case of a tie shall the Speaker of the Senate cast a vote.

Section 10: The Student Senate shall have the authority to establish and dissolve any Student Senate Committees within the By-Laws.

Section 11: The Student Senate shall have the authority to establish and dissolve any Ad Hoc Committees

Section 12: Legislation

A. Any GSBA organization or member may submit legislation to a Senator.

- i. The Senator may introduce this legislation as a bill, appropriation, or resolution to the Senate for consideration.
- ii. The legislation shall be referred to the appropriate University representative or Senate committee for investigation, research, and recommendation to the full body.
- iii. The councils of GSBA shall take action after consulting appropriate sources and advisors, obtaining the foreseen outcomes, and taking appropriate action in accord with the governing documents of the council. The council or committee may then forward legislation to the Senate for consideration as deemed necessary by the body and in accord with this Constitution.

B. Legislative Process:

- i. Upon majority vote to pass a bill or appropriation, the Speaker of the Senate, on behalf of the Senate, shall submit the legislation to the GSBA President.
- ii. The GSBA President shall consider the legislation and shall either:

- a. Sign the Legislation, thus enacting the bill or appropriation, or:
 - b. Veto the legislation, thus returning the bill or appropriation to the Senate, or:
 - c. Neither sign nor veto the legislation for a period of ten (10) academic days, thus enacting the bill or appropriation.
- C. If the GSBA President vetoes and returns a bill or appropriation to the Senate, the Senate may either:
- i. Over-ride the President's veto by approval of the two-thirds (2/3) majority of the assembled Senate, thus enacting the bill or appropriation, or:
 - ii. Reconsider and then resubmit the legislation in its original or revised form to the President for reconsideration by majority vote.
- D. Concurrent Resolutions are the sole opinion and expression of the Senate and do not require Presidential approval.
- E. Joint Resolutions are the opinions and expressions of the entire student body through both the Legislative and Executive branches and shall be subject to the same process as bills or allocations.
- F. All bills, appropriations, and resolutions shall pass with a simple majority vote in Senate session in which at least a quorum of Senators are present.
- G. All nominations shall be proposed by the President, except for the position of Attorney General. Ratification of nominations shall take place upon a two-thirds majority vote in a Senate session in which at least a quorum of Senators are present.

Section 13: Powers of the Legislative Branch

- A. The Senate shall have the power to make all laws and orders necessary and proper for carrying into expressions the responsibilities and duties specified by this constitution and as prescribed by law in governing this Association.

Section 14: The Senate may discipline its membership for violations of the Constitution, By-Laws, or Election Code as per the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII: GONZAGA ACTIVITIES BOARD (GAB)

Section 1: Activity planning from GSBA and the Student Activities Office shall be coordinated through the Gonzaga Activities Board (GAB), to be composed of members of the student body.

Section 2: Coordinators will direct the work of the Board under the direction of the GAB Director. The GAB Committee Coordinators shall be nominated by the President, or the President's designee, and subject to ratification of the Senate. The GAB Director shall serve as the chair of the Gonzaga Activities Board.

Section 3: The GAB Director shall supervise the operation of the Gonzaga Activities Board including finances and personnel, serve as a member of the Cabinet of Directors, and serve as the liaison to the University Programming Board.

Section 4: The professional advisor for the GAB shall be the appointed by the Vice President for Student Development.

ARTICLE VIII: FINANCE

Section 1: Student government shall operate on the income from the biannual student life collection for undergraduate and non-law graduate students as allocated by the University, and such other funds as may become available to GSBA.

Section 2: The Student Body Treasurer shall be ultimately responsible for all finances, income, expenditures, appropriations, debits, credits, balance transfers, and monies deposited in the accounts of GSBA.

Section 3: The Treasurer, Director of Finance, the President, or the President's designee, shall authorize the origination of all payments, checks, purchase orders, and balance transfers, in accord with this Constitution, By-laws and applicable University policies.

Section 4: GSBA shall reserve funds for appropriation to student organizations. Funds reserved for appropriation to student organizations shall be administered by the Director of Finance.

Section 5: The Director of Finance shall serve on the Senate Committee on Finance as a non-voting member; the President may appoint other Cabinet and GSBA members to the Committee as non-voting members. The Committee on Finance shall be made up of voting Senators. The Director of Finance shall prepare reports for the Committee on Finance related to the requested appropriation of funds to Clubs and Organizations.

Section 6: The Treasurer will prepare the annual student government budget at the direction of the President and propose this preliminary budget to the Senate Committee on Finance at least three weeks before the end of the spring semester. The Committee on Finance and the full Senate shall approve, reject, or amend the preliminary annual student government budget by majority vote prior to the end of the spring academic semester. This includes such financing as is necessary to provide for the operation of student government through the interim break of the summer with the consent of the President. When the new Senate is seated with full membership in the fall semester, the Senate shall approve, reject, or amend the finalized annual student government budget by majority vote and forward the budget to the President for approval or veto.

Section 7: All allocations and appropriations to student clubs and organizations shall first be considered by the Committee on Finance. Individual appropriations bills shall be reported on favorably or negatively by the Committee on Finance to the full Senate. In the event that individual appropriations bills total less than one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the gross annual budget for GSBA, the Committee on Finance may, at their discretion, approve an appropriation

bill without the action of the full Senate. All appropriations bills one-half of one percent or greater (0.5%) shall be passed using standard Senate procedure.

Section 8: Any spending totaling more than seven percent (7%) of the total GSBA budget shall require approval from the Committee on Finance and the full Senate while Senate is in session.

Section 9: In the event that the Spring Elections do not produce a quorum for Senate, a special committee composed of the Treasurer, Director of Finance, Speaker of the Senate, and the Student Body President shall have the authority to appropriate funds to Clubs and Organizations until such a time that Senate has reached quorum.

ARTICLE IX: CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Section 1: In the event members with a GSBA sanctioned club are involved with a behavioral incident the following process would be utilized:

- A. For GSBA sanctioned clubs and organizations the incident would be reported to the Director for Clubs and Organizations and the Attorney General.
- B. The Attorney General would then be responsible for investigating the incident and providing the Director of Clubs and Organizations and GSBA Advisor with the facts of the case.
- C. A letter would be sent to the club or organization, the Attorney General, the Director of Clubs and Organizations, and the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership outlining the decision.
- D. In the event that a club or organization disagreed with the decision they could appeal the decision to the Senate Governance Committee.

Section 2: In the event members with a University-sanctioned club are involved with a behavioral incident the following process would be utilized:

- A. For University (NON-GSBA) sanctioned clubs and organizations the incident would be reported to the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership.
- B. The Office of Student Involvement and Leadership would be responsible for investigating the incident and in conjunction with the Vice President for Student Development make a decision and determine the appropriate response or sanction.
- C. A letter would be sent to the club or organization in question outlining the decision.
- D. In the event that the club or organization disagreed with the decision they could appeal the decision to the Senate Governance Committee.

ARTICLE X: IMPEACHMENT

Section 1: Any GSBA government official may be impeached for failure to perform the duties of the office as defined in the GSBA Constitution and By-Laws. Any GSBA government official may be removed from office after impeachment, trial, and conviction.

Section 2: Referral of impeachment shall be initiated by either of the following procedures:

- A. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate moves for impeachment. If the accused is a Member he or she may not vote. A quorum of three-fourths (3/4) of the Senate is required for referral of impeachment.
- B. A member of the GSBA who presents a formal petition requesting impeachment containing the valid signatures of twenty-five percent (25%) of the GSBA members. Validity of signatures shall be determined through the Registrar's office of the University.

Section 3: Should a request for impeachment of a GSBA government official arise, a trial by the (Senate Governance Committee) shall begin within ten (10) calendar days of the impeachment request.

Section 4: Any GSBA government official shall be guaranteed the following rights in impeachment proceedings:

- A. The right to notification of impeachment action against them.
- B. The right of a hearing.
- C. The right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation.
- D. The right to be confronted with witnesses against them.
- E. The right to obtain witnesses in their favor in all impeachment and trial proceedings.

Section 5: In the case of a trial, any GSBA government official is entitled to have the assistance of an advisor for their defense and an advisor to represent them-at every stage of the proceedings unless they elect to proceed without an advisor.

Section 6: In order to convict an impeached government official, the Senate Governance Committee shall be responsible for determining beyond a reasonable doubt that the government official is guilty of actions in violation of GSBA constitution and By-Laws.

Section 7: Conviction of an impeached GSBA government official shall be determined by at least four (4) senators from the Committee on Governance agreeing for conviction.

ARTICLE XI: PETITIONS

Section 1: If a GSBA member wishes action taken on any matter, members shall make the request to either the Senate or the Executive branch. If satisfaction is not achieved, the member may petition the members of the GSBA and present a formal petition to the Senate.

Section 2: Any GSBA member may present a formal petition to the Senate and to the GSBA President, provide that it contains the valid signatures of ten percent (10%) of the members of the GSBA. Validity of signatures shall be determined through the Registrar's Office of the University.

Section 3: The GSBA President and Senate shall consider all petitions. If both approve the requests, the petition shall be enacted. If both bodies disapprove of the petition, the petitioner may circulate another petition. If this petition receives the valid signatures of twenty five percent (25%) of the members of GSBA, the petition shall be presented to the GSBA members in a general election.

Section 4: If the President approves the petition and the Senate disapproves, or if the Student Forum approves the petition and the President disapproves, the petition shall be presented to the GSBA members in a general election.

Section 5: Ratification of any petition shall occur upon two-thirds (2/3) majority vote in a general election in which at least twenty-five (25%) of the GSBA members cast ballots.

ARTICLE XII: DEFINITIONS

Section 1: The following terms shall be defined in accord with the original intent of the drafters. Specifically, the following terms are defined as:

- A. Quorum: A majority (one person more than one half of the total members of the body) of Senators, Justices, council members, or committee members required to begin proceedings and consider business or evidence in a meeting or hearing.
- B. Matriculated: Admitted to the University through the normal admissions process, and subject to all applicable fees and tuition of a full time student.
- C. Majority: Unless otherwise modified, a majority is one person more than half of the total members of the body. This "simple" majority is required for election of all Executive Officers, Class Officers, and Senators. A majority is also required for a quorum. Any other type of majority will be indicated by an adjective modifying the noun (example given: two-thirds majority). A two-thirds majority is required in all ratifications and appointments, in the override of a Presidential veto, as well as in the amendment of this Constitution.
- D. Ratify or ratification: The approval of the Senate or other body that is designated to consider a petition, or a nomination of the President, the President's designee, or the Judicial Board. All references to ratification in this Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote in approval.

- E. Eligible GSBA Members: Those members of GSBA who meet the qualifications of a specific office and are similarly able to vote for those offices.
- F. Residence Halls: The University owned and operated properties that are a part of the University residence hall system and have residence hall staff.
- G. Nominate or nomination: The process of appointment by the President, or the President's designee, subject to the ratification of the Senate. Nomination shall take place in accord with Article II, Section 2. All nominations and appointments shall be made through a competitive application, interview, and hiring process which is publicly announced to the student body.

Section 2: This Constitution of the Student Body of Gonzaga University is a living and changing document. The Senate Governance Committee shall hold ultimate authority to interpret this Constitution and its associated By-Laws and Election Code. The Senate Governance Committee shall hold ultimate authority to assign meaning and define the terms of this Constitution. The Senate Governance Committee, in consultation with the Student Body President and Attorney General, shall have the authority to fix minor grammatical errors within the Constitution.

ARTICLE XIII: RATIFICATION & AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Ratification of this Constitution shall occur upon a two-thirds majority vote of the student body in a special election in which at least twenty-five percent of the GSBA members cast ballots.

Section 2: This Constitution with respect to implementation shall take effect in stages. The first stage shall be on March 1, 2004 with the implementation of the new elected Executive Branch position descriptions to allow candidates for election to run for the new positions within the structure of this document for the next academic year. The previous Constitution shall govern the seated GSBA elected Executives until the inauguration of the newly elected officers, when this Constitution with respect to officer descriptions, duties, and structures will take effect. All other personnel changes shall be enacted on April 12, 2004 to allow for the selection and training of incoming staff and executive appointments for the next academic year. Currently seated staff members and executive appointments will retain their duties and will continue to be governed by the previous Constitution until the inauguration of the newly elected Executive Officers. No pay shall be issued to the newly elected officers or appointed staff or executives until after their inauguration. All other changes enacted by this Constitution shall take effect May 7, 2004, when this Constitution takes full, binding effect and the previous Constitution expires in its entirety.

Section 3: All clubs and organizations chartered before May 7, 2004 shall retain their current standing.

Section 4: Amendments of this constitution shall be initiated upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate in the form of a joint resolution to amend the Constitution, or by a properly forwarded petition. Based on the President's approval or veto, the President shall immediately communicate his or her action to the Senate and the student body, and the President shall call a special election to consider the proposed amendments if appropriate. Ratification of

amendments shall occur upon a two-thirds majority vote of the student body in a special election in which at least twenty-five percent of the GSBA members cast ballots.

ARTICLE XIV: GRADUATE STUDENT AMENDMENT

Section 1: In the fall of 2008 the Graduate Student Association voted to remove their organization from the structure of GSBA and form their own autonomous body. This change was approved by Student Life and recognized by the GSBA as a whole.

Section 2: Since a student vote would not change the outcome of their removal, and the Constitution needed to be updated to reflect proper working order, a resolution agreed upon by all branches was put before the senate to update the Constitution to reflect the change. The resolution passed unanimously on April 21, 2009.

Section 3: The process for this amendment was utilized due to extenuating circumstances and by no means sets a precedent for future amendments.

Section 4: With the enactment of this amendment the graduate students of Gonzaga University will be removed as voting members in GSBA and will serve in a non-voting advisory capacity in the GSBA Senate.