



**Graduate and Professional
Student Government**

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

CHARTER

Last Amended April 2025

Contents	
Preamble	2
Article I – Name.....	2
Article II –Object	3
Article III – Vision	3
Article IV – Rights and Powers	3
Article V – Members	4
Section 1. Constituency	4
Section 2. Member Governments	5
Section 3. New Member Governments	5
Article VI: Amendments to the Charter.....	5
Section 1. Procedure for Amendments	5
Section 2. Superseding Previous Versions.....	5
Section 3. Automatic Amendments	5

Preamble

As graduate and professional students form a distinct and important segment of the University of Iowa population, it is necessary that the graduate and professional students are brought together to exchange ideas and resources and promote matters of interest to the entire graduate and professional student body. In recognizing this need, the graduate and professional students at the University of Iowa, in 2006, organized the Graduate and Professional Student Government, as the official student government of the graduate and professional student body.

This student government serves as a conduit of information and advocacy concerning matters relevant to graduate and professional education and shall be recognized as the official shared governance organization representing the voice of graduate and professional students at the University of Iowa.

Article I – Name

The name of this student government shall be the Graduate and Professional Student Government [hereinafter “GPSG”]. The term “GPSG” within this document and all referencing documents refers to the entire body of GPSG, consisting of delegates, president, vice president, officers, chairs, and liaisons, unless otherwise specified.

Article II –Object

The object of this student Government shall be to unite Graduate and Professional students; to identify common causes; to facilitate collaboration amongst its constituents; and to advocate as the representative voice for Graduate and Professional students.

Article III – Vision

The vision of the GPSG is to be an efficient, collaborative government of graduate and professional students. We seek to utilize the strengths of existing graduate and professional program student governments through collaborative decision-making in questions of relevance to graduate and professional students. Our vision is for a government that unites the voices of the different member government and increases participation and engagement amongst graduate and professional students.

Article IV – Rights and Powers

The Rights and Powers of GPSG shall be described below.

1. GPSG may not in any manner deny or abridge the rights enjoyed by members under the constitutions and laws of the United States, the State of Iowa, or under the University Policies and Regulations Affecting Students.
2. The delegates and officers of GPSG, acting collectively, are the final arbiters of any actions done in their name.
3. GPSG delegates and officers may debate and take a position on any subject of concern to graduate and professional students.
4. GPSG delegates and officers may formulate and recommend policies to officials, including the University of Iowa Administration, on any subject of concern to graduate and professional students, after careful discussion among the delegate body members.
5. GPSG may use any legal means necessary, within the bounds of University codes and regulations, to promote the welfare of Students in regards to any subject of concern to Students, except as limited by Art. IV Number 6., below.
6. Negotiations in regards to issues that are the subject of collective bargaining for graduate assistants shall be carried out by the collective bargaining agent selected by graduate assistants. GPSG shall not be directly involved in such negotiations, though members may independently be involved on an individual basis.
 - a. This restriction shall in no way limit the right of the GPSG to take a position in regards to any issue, including those subject to collective bargaining, as the taking of such position imposes no obligation on either the University of Iowa administration or the collective bargaining agent, and therefore does not infringe upon the rights of either party.
 - b. This restriction shall in no way limit the right of GPSG to act in any other way to promote the interests of graduate and professional students, including in regards to those issues that are the subject of collective bargaining.

7. GPSG President, in collaboration with GPSG officers, recommend to the University Administration and other University Officials the names of graduate and professional students to serve on those committees of all-student importance as deemed appropriate by GPSG, including graduate and professional student representation on search committees for key personnel at the University.
8. Upon approving bylaws regarding yearly budget and appropriations to constituent organizations:
 - a. GPSG budget shall be subject to the applicable University fiscal procedures. Unused annual allocations, beginning in FY19, to member governments shall revert back to GPSG contingency fund to be reallocated by GPSG the following year.
 - b. GPSG shall be the sole executor of all monies raised solely by GPSG.
 - c. GPAC bylaws shall govern the criteria for distribution of GPSG funds to student organizations. The GPAC bylaws shall be binding on GPSG and may be amended by a majority vote of the GPAC committee.
9. The existence of GPSG shall not preclude other means of communication between the graduate and professional students, their respective member governments, and the University Administration or Faculty.
10. GPSG shall exercise authority in collaboration with the individual graduate and professional member governments
11. Any right, power, or authority previously held by the Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students (ECGPS) under the UISG Constitution, GPSG under the Partnership of the Student Governments of Iowa (PSGI) Constitution, or other documents that is not explicitly stated in this charter, is justly and implicitly transferred to GPSG as it is recognized by all graduate and professional students as its official form of representation.
12. Human Rights Clause: In no aspect of its programs shall there be any difference in the treatment of persons on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification which would deprive the person of consideration as an individual. The organization will guarantee that equal opportunity and equal access to membership, programming, facilities, and benefits shall be open to all persons. One hundred percent (100%) of this organization's membership must be composed of UI students.

Article V – Members

Section 1. Constituency

The constituency of GPSG is all persons registered (part-time and full-time) as either a graduate student or a professional student at the University of Iowa. More specific information on GPSG's constituency can be found in the GPSG Constitution and Bylaws Art. 1 Section 1.

The classification of graduate and professional students into their respective colleges shall be as determined by the University Registrar. Hereafter in this Charter as well as the GPSG Constitution and Bylaws, the term "students" shall refer to the collective constituents of GPSG.

Section 2. Member Governments

GPSG is comprised of “member governments” which includes the colleges and their respective student governments. The member governments and delegates to GPSG shall be outlined in the GPSG Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3. New Member Governments

A respective college’s student government whose college is not already represented may petition for membership only under the condition that the member government:

1. Is recognized as a registered student organization (RSO) by the Student Organization Review Committee (SORC) and The Office of Leadership, Service, and Civic Engagement
2. Has representation from representative departments in their respective college
3. Abides by all bylaws and tenets applicable to current membership before recognition by GPSG
4. Is voted in by a simple majority of delegates

Article VI: Amendments to the Charter

Section 1. Procedure for Amendments

This charter may be amended at any general meeting of GPSG by a 3/4 (three-quarter) vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous general meeting, or a special meeting is called for the purpose of discussing them.

The CoBRA Committee will be responsible for reviewing this document at a minimum of every two years and will present recommended changes as legislation.

Section 2. Superseding Previous Versions

Updates to this charter shall supersede all previous versions and automatically become the charter of the Graduate and Professional Student Government of the University of Iowa upon an affirmative 3/4 (three-quarters) vote of the GPSG delegates.

Section 3. Automatic Amendments

Any name changes or re-organization for the University of Iowa or any administrative units within shall be automatically amended within the charter and shall not require a formal amendment of delegates unless the replacement name or administrative unit is unclear.