Constitution of the Graduate and Professional Student Government
of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Revised December 2, 2009
Passed April 1, 2010

Section 1. Authority. The Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) shall have the authority in accordance with other University policies and procedures to provide a comprehensive representative voice on behalf of the graduate students and graduate post-baccalaureate students (hereinafter graduate students) at UNC Charlotte. The GPSG exists to be the primary organization responsible for addressing the concerns, issues, and needs of the graduate student body ensuring that both the individual and collective interests of graduate students will be heard and responded to by the faculty and administrative units of the University.

Mission. In order to provide a unified voice for the graduate student body of UNC Charlotte, the GPSG shall strive to preserve and enhance a sense of community for all graduate students. The GPSG will endeavor to provide meaningful activities for its members in both the social and academic realms and will strive to make meaningful contributions to the greater community of UNC Charlotte students, to academic departments and disciplines, the university as a whole, and the surrounding community.

Section 2. Composition. The Graduate and Professional Student Government shall be composed of:

a. The Senate: One voting representative (Senator) from each recognized representative unit (as defined in the GPSG by-laws). The Senator shall be responsible to represent the interests of his or her unit to the GPSG and to the University as a whole; provide a forum for discussion within this group, of matters of concern to GPSG; and conduct business on behalf of graduate students as authorized by the GPSG Constitution.

b. The Executive Board: The Executive Board shall include, at a minimum, the following officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional officer positions may be created and imbued as needed in the GPSG By-Laws.

c. Students: Every duly enrolled graduate and graduate post-baccalaureate student is a member of GPSG and a representative unit. All duly enrolled graduate students are represented by the Senator for their representative unit. Graduate post-baccalaureate students shall be represented by the representative unit closest to their course of enrollment.

d. Advisor: The role of the Advisor shall be filled by the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School or such other administrator in the graduate school of equal or lesser rank as shall be chosen by the Dean of the Graduate School. The Advisor shall serve as a liaison between the GPSG and the University and Graduate School, acting in the best interest of graduate students. The Advisor will be an advocate for graduate students, and will serve to consult with the President and/or the Executive Board to provide guidance and information about University protocol, contacts, and planning and implementation of GPSG programming and events. The Advisor shall meet at least twice a month with the President and attend at least one Senate or Executive Board meeting per month.

e. Additional Components: As needed, the GPSG may make additions to the above composition to meet the needs of the graduate student body as described in Section 1 and to exercise the powers granted in Section 4. Such additions must be detailed in the GPSG by-laws.

Section 3. Elections.

a. Election or Appointment of Senators - Each representative unit shall select its own method of electing or appointing its Senator to the Senate. Each member of the Senate shall serve and vote at the pleasure of his/her representative unit.

b. Election of the Executive Board - The officers of the GPSG Executive Board shall be elected in accordance with the GPSG by-laws.

Section 4. Powers of the Graduate and Professional Student Government. The GPSG shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

a. to enact laws and conduct business necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the graduate student population.

b. to facilitate the election of the executive board in accordance to the GPSG by-laws.

c. to review and approve the Constitutions and/or By-laws of all graduate student organizations and upon approval to issue these organizations a charter.

d. to allocate student activity fees among chartered graduate student organizations requesting funds for purposes that the GPSG shall deem compatible with the general welfare of the graduate student population.

e. to appropriate money for its own constitutional purposes.

f. to develop guidelines for the expenditure of and accountability for the student activity fees with which it is entrusted.

g. to establish its own meeting times, establish a Summer Government to appropriate funds and conduct GPSG business and hold emergency sessions of the Senate.

h. to establish and dissolve sub-committees for the purpose of ad-hoc tasks.

i. to have all powers necessary and proper for the performance of its duties under this Constitution and the GPSG Constitution.

j. Any suggested amendments to this Constitution shall be presented and acted upon in accordance with the procedures set forth in the GPSG By-Laws.