Resolution 16: Conducting Open Elections for Voting Members for 2021-22 Term

Abstract: While the GPSA Charter §4.05.A requires that voting members are elected in the second-to-last meeting of the semester, the pandemic has severely restricted the ability of the graduate and professional community to participate in elections. Therefore, the GPSA agrees to hold elections of voting members according to an alternative procedure than that which is outlined in the charter, as it is unable to fulfill these instructions as provided.

Sponsored by: Kavya Krishnan, Vice President of Communications

Reviewed by: Communications Committee, 4/9/2021

Whereas, the GPSA Charter §4.05.A.i states that “The 14 Voting members who represent the divisions of the Graduate School will be elected at the second to last GPSA meeting of the current GPSA term.”; and

Whereas, the GPSA Charter §4.05.A.ii states that “At this meeting, field representatives and Voting members shall form caucuses by Division to elect new Voting members from constituent fields.”; and

Whereas, the restrictions of the pandemic have made it unfeasible for candidates to effectively caucus in the manner prescribed in the GPSA Charter; and

Whereas, the GPSA is committed to the adherence of prior convention, such that the entire graduate and professional student community may have the opportunity to elect their voting members.

Be it therefore resolved that the GPSA declares that it is unable to fulfill the entire election procedure as outlined in the Charter §4.05.A and is therefore inapplicable during this academic term; and

Be it further resolved that the GPSA agrees to pursue an alternative election procedure outlined below:

1. An email to all graduate and professional students describing open positions and calling for nominations will be sent on April 13th, 2021. Nomination period remains open through 20th.
2. An email to all graduate and professional students inviting them to vote for their division voting members will follow. Voting period will be open 4/27-4/29.
3. New voting members will begin their term by the final GPSA meeting (5/3).
Respectfully Submitted,

Kavya Krishnan

Vice President of Communications