

**ASSOCIATION OF BLACK GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Whereas, this organization is known by its members and all other entities with whom it deals as the **ASSOCIATION OF BLACK GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS (ABGPS)**, and

Whereas, the former name of this organization is the Black Graduate and Professional Students Association (BGPSA) which appears on formal documents including the organization's constitution, and

Whereas, the organization seeks consistency and uniformity in its name and purposes,

Be It Resolved, that the name of this organization is officially changed to the **ASSOCIATION OF BLACK GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS (ABGPS)**, and

Be It Resolved, that this organization continue to be known by its members and all other entities with whom it deals as the **ASSOCIATION OF BLACK GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS (ABGPS)**, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the name, **ASSOCIATION OF BLACK GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS** or, in appropriate circumstances, the acronym **(ABGPS)** appear on all formal documents including the organization's constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 2: **PURPOSES:** The purpose of ABGPS shall be:

- (a) To initiate programs and projects designed to facilitate its members transition to the study of graduate and professional degrees and the accompanying academic challenges;
- (b) To encourage its members to participate fully in activities sponsored and co-sponsored by ABGPS;
- (c) To provide social and recreational outlets whereby its members may enjoy the companionship of other graduate and professional students;
- (d) To develop a political and social agenda whereby ABGPS will be able to address administrative decisions which affect minority graduate and professional students;
- (e) To encourage political and social activism in order to assist in disadvantaged members of the Columbia community,

- (f) To do all things necessary and appropriate to accomplish these purposes.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1: **ELIGIBILITY:** Any graduate or professional student who has been admitted and is currently enrolled at the University of Missouri- Columbia shall be eligible for membership to the organization. No student shall be denied membership into ABGPS for reasons of his/ her race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, disability, Vietnam Veteran Era Status or sexual orientation.
- Section 2: **ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:** Those members who have paid dues are considered active members. Active members shall be entitled to have their vote count as one unit. A proxy vote is permissible. A motion is passed by a simple majority of all active members present.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

- Section 1: **OFFICERS.** ABGPS elected officers shall include: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Graduate Professional Council Representative, and other such officers as listed in the By-Laws of the Constitution.

PRESIDENT: The President shall preside over the general meetings and any Advisory Council meetings; Appoint Chairs to the Standing Committees and Special Committees; Serve as the official liaison between ABGPS, the University Community and other entities with whom the organization interacts; Implement policy and perform other duties generally associated with the office. The President shall also be responsible, with confirmation by the Advisory Council, for any temporary replacement of a vacated office other than the Presidency.

VICE PRESIDENT: The Vice-President shall be responsible for the general supervision of ABGPS activities; Chair the Programming Committee; Perform the duties of the President in the absence of or at the request of the President.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall have the general responsibility of ABGPS communications, and receive and distribute correspondence to members and other organizations; Maintain a record of all proceedings of the general membership and the Advisory Council; Maintain an official roster of ABGPS members, their addresses and telephone numbers, and other important files, documents, etc.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall maintain an official record of the fiscal affairs of ABGPS; Assess and collect dues; Maintain an official roster of active members; Prepare periodic treasurer's reports and, in conjunction with the President, prepare and submit a proposed annual budget; Oversee funds and other accounts of ABGPS; Serve as a member of the Fundraising Committee and perform other duties as they become necessary for the financial well-being of the organization.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: The Parliamentarian shall enforce the ABGPS constitution; Distribute this document to the members; Address any procedural questions as they relate to the constitution; Maintain the order of the general meetings and those of the Advisory Council as outlined in the most current edition of the Robert's Rules of Order.

AMENDMENT: During the 2005-2006 academic year, ABGPS will have an **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** to facilitate activities of the organization rather than having OFFICERS.

The **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** shall be comprised of the ABGPS members and shall have the general supervision of ABGPS affairs. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and members present.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 2: **DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS:**

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: The Graduate and Professional Council Representative shall serve as the official liaison between ABGPS and the Graduate Professional Council (GPC); attend all GPC meetings representing ABGPS; report to members all adopted policy of GPC.

Section 3: **ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF OFFICERS:**

Each officer shall submit an annual report of activities to the general membership before leaving office. All such reports shall be delivered to the Secretary and made available within a reasonable time for the perusal by any ABGPS member.

Section 4: **TENURE:**

Officers will take office in April of the academic year in which they are elected. They must be enrolled and physically on campus of the

University of Missouri- Columbia for the subsequent academic school year.

Section 5: **OFFICE VACANCIES:**

If any office except that of the President becomes vacant, the President will appoint a replacement. In the event that the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall assume the responsibilities of the office. If the Vice-President cannot assume office, the following order of succession shall apply: Treasurer, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.

ARTICLE IV: ADVISORY COUNCIL

Section 2: **NUMBER:** The Advisory Council shall have no less than ten (10) representatives during any term. Five (5) representatives shall be from the executive committee and the remaining five (5) representatives shall be from the active membership. The ten (10) representatives comprising the Advisory Council shall be equally representative of the graduate, non-professional schools, and the professional schools, ie. the schools of law, medicine, and veterinary sciences.

Section 4 (c): **AUTHORITY:** The Advisory Council shall have the responsibilities as outlined in this constitution and assist and advise the Executive Committee which has the authority and power, necessary or incidental, for the control and administration of ABGPS affairs and business.

Section 4 (d): **DELETED.**

ARTICLE V: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 2: **BALLOTING:** ABGPS active members shall elect the ABGPS Officers by printed ballot. The election for officers shall be held in April. In the case of a tie, balloting for that office shall be repeated. In case of a second tie, the outgoing President shall appoint one of the candidates to the office.

Section 3: **ELECTION SUPERVISION:** The President shall appoint an Election Committee which shall have the responsibility of supervising the elections and promulgating the specific procedures to insure and fair and honest election.

ARTICLE VI: IMPEACHMENT PROCEDURES

Section 2: **DELETED**

Section 3: **PRESENTATION OF PETITION:**

- (a) To remove any Officer from office, a petition stating the reason for the removal shall be signed by at least one third of the active membership. The petition must be presented to the ABGPS Advisor. The Advisor will present allegations to the accused officer. A special meeting shall be called by the Election Committee at which time both sides may freely and openly, to the entire membership, present claims and defenses. Upon closing of the special meeting, the full membership minus the accused officer shall vote, by secret ballot, for the retention or removal of said officer. A two-thirds majority of the members present is required to remove an ABGPS Officer.
- (b) In cases of alleged embezzlement, the Executive Committee will investigate and institute further proceedings if the allegations are found to be true. However, if the allegations are found to be false, no proceedings will follow.

Section 4: **DELETED**

ARTICLE VII: ABGPS COMMITTEES

Section 1: **STANDING COMMITTEES:** Created for the accomplishment of ABGPS purposes and objectives. They may include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** Propose and implement ideas and activities to insure funding for ABGPS.
- (b) **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** Propose and develop programs to increase and enhance the academic and professional life of ABGPS members.
- (c) **SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE:** Propose and organize social activities to assist in networking among ABGPS members and the University Community.
- (d) **COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE:** Propose and organize projects that will engage ABGPS members in activities that are invaluable to citizens of Columbia.

Section 2: **SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** Shall be convened at the discretion of the President and may include but not limited to the following:

- (a) **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:** Handle all disputes, revisions, and questions regarding ABGPS Constitution and By-Laws.

- (b) **AWARDS GALA COMMITTEE:** Plan and develop all activities regarding the recognition reception.

ARTICLE VIII: ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

- Section 2: **AMENDMENT:** A petition for a proposed amendment must be presented type-written to the secretary. The secretary shall be responsible for making the proposed amendment(s) reasonably available to all members fourteen (14) days prior to voting on the amendment. In addition, any changes to the ABGPS constitution shall be approved by the Committee On Students Organizations, Governments and Activities (SOGA) before becoming effective.
- Section 3: **AMENDMENT PASSAGE:** Amendments to the Constitution shall be effective only after two-thirds of the active members present have voted for its passage which will be effective immediately.