

GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF GHANA (GRASAG)

CONSTITUTION

2017

PREAMBLE

IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD;

WE, the members of the Graduate Students' Association of Ghana,

REALIZING the need to organize ourselves in the spirit of oneness to pursue common goals, equality and fraternity;

DETERMNIED to promote the general welfare and ensure continuity in postgraduate work including academic, social and other pursuits;

AND IN SOLEMN declaration and affirmation of our commitment to freedom, justice, probity, equity, rule of law and accountability;

DO HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES, THIS CONSTITUTION AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

TABLE OF CONTENT

PREAMBLE	2
CHAPTER ONE	8
THE CONSTITUTION	8
SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION	9
Article 1	9
ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION	9
Article 2	9
DEFENCE OF THE CONSTITUTION	9
Article 3	9
CHAPTER TWO	
THE ASSOCIATION AND MEMBERSHIP	10
NAME AND LEGAL STATUS	11
Article 4	11
MEMBERSHIP	11
Article 5	11
DUTIES OF MEMBER	11
Article 6	11
PROTECTION OF MEMBERS	12
Article 7	12
MOTTO OF THE ASSOCIATION	12
Article 8	12
SLOGAN	12
Article 9	12
ELDER STATESMEN	12
Article 10	12
PATRONS OF GRASAG	13
Article 11	13
CHAPTER THREE	
THE AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICY ASPIRATIONS OF GRASAG	14

GLOBAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	14
Article 12	14
POLICY DIRECTION OF GRASAG	14
Article 13	14
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES	15
Article 14	15
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL OBJECTIVES	15
Article 15	15
 CHAPTER FOUR	
REPRESENTATION OF GRASAG MEMBERS	16
RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION	16
Article 16	16
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION	16
Article 17	16
QUALIFICATION AND PROVISIONS FOR VACANCY	16
Article 18	16
THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION	17
Article 19	17
FUNCTIONS OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION	17
Article 20	17
THE VETTING COMMITTEE	17
Article 21	17
POWERS AND FUNCTION OF THE VETTING COMMITTEE	18
Article 22	18
REGULATIONS GUIDING GENERAL ELECTIONS	18
Article 23	18
FILING OF NOMINATIONS	20
Article 24	20
QUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION	20
Article 25	20
DISQUALIFICATION	20
Article 26	20
BYE-ELECTIONS	21
Article 27	21
CHALLENGING OF ELECTION RESULTS	21

Article 28	21
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CHAPTER FIVE

THE CONGRESS	23
COMPOSITION OF CONGRESS	23
Article 29	23
POWERS OF CONGRESS	23
Article 30	23
MEETINGS OF CONGRESS	24
Article 31	24
EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETINGS OF CONGRESS	24
Article 32	24
REPRESENTATION TO CONGRESS	25
Article 33	25
PROCEDURE AT CONGRESS	25
Article 34	25

CHAPTER SIX

THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT	27
COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT	27
Article 35	27
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF NEC	27
Article 36	27
NEC MEETINGS AND QUORUM	28
Article 37	28

CHAPTER SEVEN

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

	29
CONFERMENT OF POWERS	29
Article 38	29
THE PRESIDENT	29
Article 39	29
THE VICE-PRESIDENT	30
Article 40	30
THE SECRETARY	31

Article 41	31
THE FINANCIAL CONTROLLER	31
Article 42	31
THE ORGANISING COORDINATOR	32
Article 43	32
THE GENDER COMMISSIONER	32
Article 44	32

CHAPTER EIGHT

COMMISSIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER AND THEIR FUNCTIONS	33
Article 45	33
THE GENDER COMMISSION	33
Article 46	33
FUNCTIONS OF THE GENDER COMMISSION	33
Article 47	33
THE LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION	34
Article 48	34
THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	34
Article 49	34
ELECTORAL COMMISSION	35
Article 50	35

CHAPTER NINE

THE SENATE	36
COMPOSITION OF SENATE	36
Article 51	36
SESSIONS OF SENATE	36
Article 52	36
THE SPEAKER OF SENATE	37
Article 53	37
FUNCTIONS OF THE SPEAKER	37
Article 54	37
THE DEPUTY SPEAKER	37
Article 55	37
THE CLERK	38
Article 56	38

POWERS AND PROCEDURE OF SENATE	38
Article 57	38
EXTRA-ORDINARY SENATE SESSIONS	39
Article 58	39

CHAPTER TEN

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL	41
EXERCISE OF JUDICIAL POWER	41
Article 59	41
COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT	41
Article 60	41
JURISDICTION AND POWERS	42
Article 61	42
THE JUDICIAL RECORDER AND CLERK	43
ARTICLE 62	43

CHAPTER ELEVEN

RESIGNATION, IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL AND SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE	44
ARTICLE 63	44
IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS	45
Article 64	45
VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE	45
Article 65	45

CHAPTER TWELVE

FINANCES	47
INCOME	47
Article 66	47
EXPENDITURE	47
Article 67	47

MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS OF GRASAG	48
Article 68	48
BUDGET OF GRASAG	48
Article 69	48
 CHAPTER THIRTEEN	
APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES OF GRASAG	50
STANDING COMMITTEES	50
Article 70	50
THE AUDIT COMMITTEE	50
Article 71	50
THE FINANCE COMMITTEE	51
Article 72	51
RESEARCH COMMITTEE	51
Article 73	51
PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES COMMITTEE	52
Article 74	52
AD HOC COMMITTEES	52
Article 75	52
APPOINTMENTS	52
Article 76	52
 CHAPTER FOURTEEN	
MISCELLANEOUS	54
AMENDMENTS	54
Article 77	54
HANDING OVER	54
Article 78	54
INTERPRETATION	55
Article 79	55

FIRST SCHEDULE	56
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS TO USHER IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION	56
 SECOND SCHEDULE	 57
FORMS OF OATH	57
The Presidential Oath (Oath of Secrecy)	57
Oath for Members of the NEC	57
The General Oath of Office	57
The Judicial Oath	58
Oath for Members of SENATE	58
Oath for Members of SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER OF SENATE	58

CHAPTER ONE

THE CONSTITUTION

SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article 1

1. The Sovereignty of Graduate Students' Association of Ghana (GRASAG) resides in the members of GRASAG in whose name and for whose welfare the powers of the organs of the Association shall be exercised in the manner and within the limits laid down in this Constitution.
2. Subject to the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and all laws of the Republic, this Constitution shall be the supreme law of the Graduate Students' Association of Ghana and any law or laws of Member Institutions which are found to be inconsistent with any provisions of this Constitution shall, to the extent of the inconsistency be null and void.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article 2

1. A person who alleges that –
 - a. an enactment or anything contained in or done under the authority of that authority or any other enactment; or
 - b. any act or omission of any person;

Is inconsistent with, or is in contravention of a provision of this Constitution, may bring an action in the Judicial Council for a declaration to that effect.

2. The Judicial Council shall, for the purposes of a declaration under clause (1) of this article, make such orders and give such directions as it may consider appropriate for giving effect, or enabling effect to be given, to the declaration so made.
3. Any person or group of persons of whom an order or direction is addressed under clause (2) of this article by the Judicial Council, shall duly obey and carry out the terms of the order or direction.
4. Failure to obey or carry out the terms of an order

5. Or direction made or given under clause (2) of this article shall in the case of a National Executive Committee (NEC) member constitute a ground for removal from office under this Constitution and in case of any member constitute a grounds of suspension.

DEFENCE OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article 3

1. All members of the Association shall have the right and duty at all times to defend this constitution and resist any action of a person or group of persons to undermine this Constitution.
2. Any person or group of persons who resist the undermining of this constitution commit no offense and as such any damage incurred by such persons shall be paid for by the Association.
3. Notwithstanding clause (2) of this article, a person or group of persons defending the constitution shall employ reasonable cause and where necessary with the approval of the National Executive Committee (NEC)

CHAPTER TWO

THE ASSOCIATION AND MEMBERSHIP

NAME AND LEGAL STATUS

Article 4

The Association is registered under the Company's Act 1963 (Act 179) as a Voluntary Association and shall be known and called Graduate Students' Association of Ghana, herein after referred to as GRASAG.

MEMBERSHIP

Article 5

1. A person admitted into a postgraduate programme in a recognized institution in Ghana who has paid his/her dues, shall be a member of GRASAG.
2. Graduate students who have completed their studies with any of the Member Institutions shall have the right as full member of the Association for a period of one year and shall enjoy full benefits and obligations.
3. Any Ghanaian national who is pursuing a postgraduate program abroad qualifies to be an affiliate member and may register with GRASAG.
4. Where pursuant to clause (3) groups of Ghanaian students form a union of graduate students abroad, they may apply to become a branch of the Association and shall enjoy the full status of a member.
5. Without prejudice to clause (2) under this article, a person who has completed his postgraduate studies may be accorded Honorary Membership upon submission of a written application to GRASAG.
6. Subject to the approval of Congress and the provisions of this Constitution, such a person referred to in clause (3) shall have a voting right as regular members.

DUTIES OF MEMBER

Article 6

The aspiration to promote and safeguard the rights and liberties of members of GRASAG is inseparable from the performance of duties and obligations required

of a reasonable member and shall accordingly be the duty of every member to, *inter alia*-

1. be a law abiding citizen of Ghana
2. uphold and defend the Constitution of GRASAG
3. promote the good name and respect for the authority of GRASAG
4. protect and preserve the property of GRASAG
5. contest and expose the misuse and waste of GRASAG funds and property
6. promptly and honestly pay all dues and levy obligations for the smooth running of the Association.
7. ensure the well-being of other members of GRASAG

PROTECTION OF MEMBERS

Article 7

1. GRASAG shall protect the welfare and right of the members in line with this Constitution and Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
2. For the avoidance of any doubts, the National Executive Committee (NEC) shall have the basic responsibility of providing the welfare and protecting the rights of members.

MOTTO OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 8

The motto of the Association shall be GRASAG: Partners in National development through research and practice.

SLOGAN

Article 9

The slogan of the Association shall be Graduate Students, the panacea to development.

ELDER STATESMEN

Article 10

For the purpose of this article, an Elder Statesman shall be defined to include;

1. Any past Local executive and past National Senator, who has completed his Graduate Studies and has paid his GRASAG dues, shall

- be an Elder Statesman of GRASAG until such a person, in a written statement to the Secretary of GRASAG, express otherwise.
2. Notwithstanding clause (1) of this Article, an elder statesman who has not relinquished or terminated his status in a written statement to Secretary shall be required to pay dues which shall be determined by congress annually to keep up his status as an elder statesman
 3. Any person or persons who fails to comply with Clause (2) of this Article shall lose his or her status as an elder statesman
 4. The National Executive Committee may assign duties to an Elder Statesman, which shall not be inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Constitution.

PATRONS OF GRASAG

Article 11

1. The National Executive Committee shall appoint not more than three (3) Patrons, subject to the approval by Senate.
2. A Patron shall hold the appointment for two (2) academic years subject to extension by Senate.
3. A Patron shall not be a GRASAG member of any of the Member Institutions.

CHAPTER THREE

THE AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICY ASPIRATIONS OF GRASAG

GLOBAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Article 12

1. The aim of GRASAG shall be to seek the academic, social and general welfare of its members.
2. The objectives of GRASAG shall be to provide a forum for members to discuss issues of mutual interest and benefit.
3. To keep and utilize all relevant records of members.
4. To champion the course of members in fighting for their rights and privileges as the laws of Ghana and or the statutes of the Member Institutions may dictate.
5. To collaborate with other students' associations, professional bodies and any other groups on issues of mutual academic interest.
6. Any other relevant matters as may be determined by Congress in the interest and members.

POLICY DIRECTION OF GRASAG

Article 13

1. The provisions on policy direction contained in this Constitution shall guide members, Congress, Senate, NEC, Committees and any other body in applying or interpreting this Constitution and or in taking and implementing policy decisions, for the advancement of members' welfare and rights
2. For the purpose of fostering a coherent direction and focused development of the Association, the National Executive Committee, acting through the President shall, at the first Senate upon assuming office, present to the Association a coordinated plan of action taking due cognisance of the aims and objectives of stated in this Constitution.
3. The National Executive Committee, acting through the President or his authorized assign shall coordinate the preparation of a perspective plan for GRASAG within three months after coming into force of this Constitution.
4. The NEC shall have the power to implement the strategic plan provided for in clause (3) and the President shall take steps to report to Senate at least

two times before the dissolution of Senate for a given year, the progress of implementation of the Strategic plan.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Article 14

1. The Association shall safeguard all the educational objectives that accrue or may accrue to members under Article 38 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. Where fully convinced of a course of action, the Association shall take legal steps under the laws of Ghana to enforce such rights of members that must be safeguarded, promoted and enhanced for a full realization of members' educational objectives.
2. In pursuance of members' educational aspirations, the Association shall employ all technologically compatible means to further entrepreneurship, leadership development and skill training where necessary.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL OBJECTIVES

Article 15

1. The political character of GRASAG shall be democratic and aspire to entrench the dictates of rule of law, freedom, respect for dignity, prohibition of discrimination and prejudices on any grounds whatsoever and shall accord just and equitable access to all members in the allocation of resources for their advancement.
2. For the purpose of the organic growth of this Constitution, the aspirations listed in clause (1) are not exhaustive and may include all aspirations as are consistent with the domestic and international practices that ensure progressive enjoyment of rights and freedoms of the individual.

CHAPTER FOUR

REPRESENTATION OF GRASAG MEMBERS

RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION

Article 16

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, eligibility to vote and be voted for shall be restricted to only members of GRASAG.

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Article 17

1. There shall be established under this Constitution an Electoral Commission which shall consist of -
 - a. The Electoral Commissioner, who shall be the Chairperson of the Commission and shall be appointed by the President in consultation with NEC and with the approval of Senate,
 - b. Two Deputies who shall be appointed by Senate,
 - c. Two other members who shall be appointed by the President in consultation with NEC and with the approval of Senate.

QUALIFICATION AND PROVISIONS FOR VACANCY

Article 18

1. A person is not be qualified to be appointed as a member of the Electoral Commission unless he is a student of a member institution and is of good standing.
2. The Chairman and the two deputy Chairpersons of the Commission shall not, while they hold office as Commissioners, be eligible for appointment to any other office in GRASAG.
3. If a member of the Commission dies or is otherwise unable to perform his functions by reason of infirmity of body or mind, the Commission shall continue its work unless;
 - a. in the case of the Chairman, the President, acting in consultation with NEC, appoints a qualified person to fill the vacancy and,
 - b. In the case of the two deputies, Senate in consultation with NEC appoints a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Article 19

Except as provided in this Constitution or in any other law not inconsistent with this Constitution, in the performance of its functions, the Electoral Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.

FUNCTIONS OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Article 20

The Electoral Commission shall have the following functions –

1. Conduct and supervise all elections and referenda of GRASAG.
2. Consult the National Executive Committee to compile the register of voters and revise it at such periods as may be determined by law;
3. Educate members on the electoral process and its purpose;
4. The Electoral Commission shall, by constitutional instrument, which shall be laid, discussed and passed by Senate at its second session before Congress, make regulations for the effective performance of its functions under this Constitution or any other law, and in particular, the conduct of general elections and referenda.
5. There shall be in every institution a representative of the Electoral Commission who shall be the Electoral commissioner of that institution who shall perform such functions as shall be assigned to him by the Commission.
6. The Electoral Commission shall be responsible for the provision of an equal platform for all members to interact with candidates in GRASAG elections
7. Subject to clause four (4) of this article, the Commission shall publish any additional rules guiding any elections or referenda at least one month before the elections.
8. The Commission shall consult candidates for any election to promote free and fair elections.
9. The Commission shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed by law.

THE VETTING COMMITTEE

Article 21

1. There shall be a Vetting Committee, which shall be constituted by the Electoral Commission and with the approval of Senate at the last senate session before Congress.
2. The Vetting Committee shall consist of five (5) members including two (2) Elder Statesmen and three (3) GRASAG members who shall be not be from one member institution.
3. The members of the Vetting Committee shall appoint its Chairperson at the first meeting.
4. A member of the Vetting Committee shall cease to be a member through resignation, proven infirmity of mind or body, death or when a prima facie case has been established against him/her by the Judicial Council upon written complaint.
5. Where there is a vacancy created subject to clause 4, such vacancy shall be filled by the Electoral Commission.

POWERS AND FUNCTION OF THE VETTING COMMITTEE

Article 22

1. The Vetting Committee in consultation with the Electoral commission shall be responsible for ensuring that candidates for NEC elections under this constitution satisfy the requirements provided for in this Constitution or regulations as shall be published by the Electoral Commission in accordance with clauses four (4) and seven (7) of Article 21 of this Constitution.
2. The Electoral Commission shall publish the list of aspirant for NEC positions at least (2) weeks to the vetting through Member Institutions and on the GRASAG website and any other acceptable medium.
3. The Vetting Committee shall have the power to recommend or disqualify a person's candidature after vetting, based on constitutionally justifiable grounds in accordance with provisions of this Constitution.
4. Vetting results shall be declared within twenty-four (24) hours after vetting has taken place and shall be accordingly published by the Electoral Commission.

5. The Committee shall within three (3) days after the vetting process, submit a confidential report on the performance of its duties to the Electoral Commission.
6. In case of disqualification of all aspirants for a particular position, the Electoral Commission shall open nominations for other members either than those disqualified to contest.
7. Any aspirant dissatisfied with the Vetting Committee's results of his candidature shall have forty-eight (48) hours within which to appeal to the Judicial Council.
8. The Judicial Council shall determine the matter brought before it in clause seven (7), within seventy-two (72) hours.

REGULATIONS GUIDING GENERAL ELECTIONS

Article 23

1. Every member of GRASAG shall, subject to the provisions of this constitution, have the right to vote in all GRASAG elections and referenda.
2. At any election or referendum, voting shall be by secret ballot.
3. Immediately after the close of the poll, the Electoral Commissioner shall, in the presence of such candidates or their representatives and their polling agents as are present, proceed to count at that polling station the ballot papers, record and declare the votes cast in favour of each candidate.
4. Notwithstanding clause three (3) of this article, nothing shall stop the Electoral Commission from adopting electronic voting in keeping with modern technological advancement.
5. Where the Commission adopts the process of electronic voting described in clause five (5) supra, it shall by Constitutional Instrument lay down the modalities for its use and make adequate provision for voter education.
6. The Electoral Commissioner, the candidates or their representatives and, in the case of a referendum, the parties contesting or their agents and the polling agents if any, shall then sign a declaration stating the number of votes cast in favour of each candidate.
7. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, an issue for determination by referendum shall be by simple majority.

8. Congress shall elect all officers from both national and foreign members of the Association who shall be students of any of the Member Institution or a person stated under this Constitution.
9. The Electoral Commission shall subject to this constitution have the power to make additional rules and regulations for the effective performance of its functions under this Constitution or any other law, and in particular, the conduct of elections of the NEC and any referenda and shall be published at least one month before such elections.
10. No member shall be nominated to contest for any of the NEC position in absentia.
11. The eligibility of a member of GRASAG to contest for election may be challenged by any member of GRASAG who may present a written petition to that effect to the Electoral Committee within seventy-two (72) hours of the person being advertised as an aspirant for elections.
12. The results of the elections shall be presented to Congress after the declaration of results.
13. In the case of a tie for any position, there shall be run-off to decide on the winner for such position; unless there is a withdrawal such that only one candidate remains and shall be declared winner.
14. Notwithstanding clause (13) only the candidate with the highest equal votes tied up shall be considered for a run-off and the rest withdrawn.
15. Voting shall be by secret ballot and the winner shall be declared based on simple majority.
16. In the event where there is only one candidate for a particular position such a person shall be required to obtain at least fifty percent plus one votes (50% + 1) of the valid vote cast.
17. The Electoral Commissioner shall re-open nomination in the event that an unopposed candidate is unable to fulfil clause (16) supra.
18. An unopposed candidate who is not able to fulfil clause (16) supra shall not be eligible to contest for the same position when nominations are re-opened.
19. In the event of disputes of the electoral results, the aggrieved contestant(s) may challenge the declaration with a written notice to the Judicial Council within forty-eight hours after the results have been declared.

20. Candidates for Presidency shall run for elections with their proposed Vice Presidents who shall contest for the position.
21. There shall be no right to proxy voting in the case of accredited candidate being indisposed.
22. Notwithstanding any provision in this constitution, the position of the Gender Commissioner shall be reserved for female members of the Association.
23. Voting at Congress shall be subject to Article 34 clause (e) of this Constitution.

FILING OF NOMINATIONS

Article 24

1. Any member of GRASAG shall be eligible to contest election only when such a person has been nominated by five (5) local GRASAG executives of which one (1) shall be from each member Institution.
2. A member wishing to contest shall fill and submit a nomination form with all attached documents as determined by the Electoral commission and submitted within the stipulated period.

QUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION

Article 25

1. Aspirants contesting for any position of NEC shall be student of a member institution and in good standing
2. Notwithstanding clause (1) supra, PhD student shall be eligible for re-election for a second term but not more.

DISQUALIFICATION

Article 26

Notwithstanding Article 25 supra, a person shall not qualify to contest for any position under this constitution if:

- a. He has ever been removed or voted out of any office for stated misconduct.
- b. Any adverse findings against him by any committee of inquiry.

- c. He has misappropriated funds or misconducted him/herself in any other manner as to have caused loss of money or property entrusted him.
- d. Is of an unsound mind and of low moral integrity.

BYE-ELECTIONS

Article 27

1. Relevant Bye-elections shall be held to fill vacancies created by virtue of any provision of this constitution.
2. Bye-election in clause (1) of this article shall be held within three weeks after the creation of a vacancy.
3. No elected officer shall be eligible to contest any bye-election unless he resigns from the position that he occupies.

CHALLENGING OF ELECTION RESULTS

Article 28

1. The validity of the election of any member elected to the National Executive Committee may be challenged by any member of GRASAG who may present a petition for that purpose to the Judicial Council within forty-eight (48) hours after the declaration of the results of the position in respect of which the petition is presented.
2. Subject to the Judicial Council Procedure rules, a petition filed pursuant to clause (1) shall state the following:
 - a. The full name and address of the petitioner and respondent,
 - b. The grounds for challenging the validity of the election
 - c. A statement of facts relied on to be verified
 - d. Reliefs sought before the Council
 - e. Other matters the Judicial Council may determine
3. Any respondent or respondents upon whom a petition is served may file with the Judicial Council within forty-eight (48) hours of service, a response to the petition.
4. The Judicial Council shall without prejudice to any provision in this constitution and the Judicial Council Procedure rules, decide on the

validity of any election within six (6) days after the petition has been received by the Chairperson of the Judicial Council .

5. A finding by the Judicial Council that the election of an officer is not valid shall be without prejudice to anything done by the officer or authority before such declaration if the officer or authority has already been sworn into office.

CHAPTER FIVE THE CONGRESS

COMPOSITION OF CONGRESS

Article 29

The shall be established under this Constitution Congress which be the highest decision making body of GRASAG chaired by the President of GRASAG and composed of the following:

- a. Thirty (30) delegates from each member institution
- b. Additional 5 observers from each member institution
- c. NEC Members
- d. Judicial Council
- e. Members of standing committees
- f. Electoral Commission
- g. Immediate past NEC members
- h. Ten (10) other observers appointed by NEC.

POWERS OF CONGRESS

Article 30

Congress shall, as duly constituted under Article 29, exercise the following functions and powers within the limits provided for within this Constitution.

- a. Congress shall be the highest decision body of GRASAG.
- b. Congress shall have the right to form committees and Advisory Bodies to aid the work of the Association.
- c. Decisions taken by Congress shall be regarded as the decision of GRASAG.
- d. Senate, NEC, committees and any group of persons who derives its power from this Constitution shall be responsible to Congress.
- e. Congress shall concern itself with:
 - i. General policy of GRASAG,
 - ii. Any issue referred to it by Member Institutions, the NEC, and or any other Organ of GRASAG, and
 - iii. National Executives Elections

- f. A communiqué shall be issued at the end of every Congress.

MEETINGS OF CONGRESS

Article 31

- a. There shall be an annual delegate Congress to elect the National Executives of GRASAG.
- b. Congress shall be held at least once a year, and NEC shall in consultation with Senate decide the date and venue of the Congress.
- c. Quorum shall be at least two-thirds (2/3) of registered delegates to congress, in addition to the National President and the National Secretary or their representatives.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, observers are not to be counted when quorum is being constituted
- e. Where the NEC is proposing an issue for discussion at the Congress, NEC shall ensure that all Member Institutions are served with such notice at least four (4) weeks before Congress.

EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETINGS OF CONGRESS

Article 32

- a. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 31 of this constitution, Congress may be convened at any time to discuss an extra-ordinary issue.
- b. The NEC or any Member Institution may convene an extra-ordinary Congress, which shall discuss issues which may have necessitated the calling of the Congress only.
- c. Any issue to be discussed at the extra-ordinary Congress, which is not being initiated by the NEC, shall first be communicated to the NEC, who shall then, ensure that all Member Institutions are served with copies of such notice at least two (2) weeks before the Congress.
- d. Two weeks after the notice has been confirmed and NEC defaults to convene the extraordinary Congress, the initiating Member Institution shall within eight days convene such extraordinary Congress and the reasonable expenses incurred there from shall be surcharged on NEC.
- e. Where the NEC is proposing an issue(s) for discussion at an extraordinary Congress, NEC shall ensure that all Member Institutions are served with such notice at least two (2) weeks before the Congress.

- f. The convener, not being the NEC, as in clause (c) of this article shall bear two thirds (2/3) of the cost of organisation, while NEC bears the rest.

REPRESENTATION TO CONGRESS

Article 33

- a. Each member institution shall sponsor a maximum of thirty (30) delegates including Local Executive members to Congress.
- b. Notwithstanding clause (1) of this article, a member institution with campuses shall be entitled to a maximum of thirty (30) delegates.
- c. A member institution may sponsor not more than 10 additional observers, who shall have no voting rights, to Congress.
- d. Notwithstanding clause (a)(vi) supra, the members from the diaspora shall have 35 votes
- e. The selection of delegates to the Congress shall be the sole prerogative of the member institution in accordance with the provisions of their local institutions and may consist of representation from all sections of their faculty-divide.
- f. Member Institutions shall ensure that Congress fees for all delegates and observers payable to the NEC are paid at least two (2) weeks before Congress.

PROCEDURE AT CONGRESS

Article 34

The procedure of Congress shall be the following:

- a. The National President shall be the Chairperson of Congress and shall preside over all sittings and in his or her absence; the National Vice President shall preside.
- b. All new members of Congress shall be ratified before they can vote at meeting and as such all Member Institutions must conduct election and hand-over at least 21 days prior to Congress.
- c. Subject to paragraph (b) of this clause such members shall take and subscribe before the Congress, the Oath of Office of a member of Congress which shall be administered by the Judicial Council Chairperson or his appointed representative.

- d. Notwithstanding clause (c) of this article, any member institution with issues on the conduct of election may be allowed to vote at congress upon showing cause before congress, reasons and justifications for such electoral issues.
- e. Subject to clause (b) of this Article, the delegation shall be led by a person with prior approval by the institution's authorities (preferably, Dean of Graduate studies) by a letter of reference signed and stamped stating the names, student numbers and Programmes of study of the leader of delegation and the other members; as well as an attachment of photocopies of Students ID cards.
- f. Deliberations at Congress shall adhere to the standing orders, interventions and conventions of the Association.
- g. All resolutions taken at Congress must be fully and completely implemented by Senate, NEC and all Member Institutions.
- h. The Chairperson of Congress shall appoint a chief whip at Congress to maintain order.

CHAPTER SIX

THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Article 35

1. There shall be established under this Constitution a National Secretariat located at the national capital which shall be made up of members of the National Executive Committee (NEC) who shall be elected at Congress.
2. The NEC shall consist of the following officers:
 - a. The President,
 - b. The Vice-President
 - c. The Secretary,
 - d. The Organising Coordinator
 - e. The Financial Controller, and
 - f. The Gender Commissioner
3. Subject to this Constitution, Members of the NEC shall hold office for one academic year only.
4. Notwithstanding clause (3) supra, PhD student shall be eligible for reelection for a second term but not more.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 36

- a. The National Executive Committee (NEC) in consultation with Senate shall have the power to formulate and implement policies which shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.
- b. Notwithstanding any provision in this Constitution, the NEC shall in times of emergency assume emergency powers appropriate to contain the emergency situation, and shall immediately communicate to the Speaker of Senate who shall convene an extraordinary Senate meeting within twenty-one (21) days after exercising such emergency powers, to justify to Senate the use of such emergency powers.
- c. NEC shall see to the effective and efficient operation of the National Secretariat.

- d. The NEC shall be responsible for the organization of all official meetings, activities and functions for the promotion of the aim and objectives of GRASAG.
- e. NEC shall see to the implementation of Senate and Congress resolutions.
- f. NEC shall be accountable to Senate and Congress.
- g. NEC shall maintain proper financial and administrative records of activities.
- h. NEC shall submit a detailed and comprehensive financial report to the Audit Committee not less than 21 days to Congress for auditing.
- i. NEC shall carry out its responsibilities without prejudice to any provisions and in the spirit of Article 7 of this Constitution.
- j. NEC shall ensure GRASAG releases at least three publications in a year.

NEC MEETINGS AND QUORUM

Article 37

- a. There shall be at least three (3) NEC meetings in a year.
- b. All new NEC members must be ratified by the National President at their first meeting before they can vote at NEC meetings.
- c. For the avoidance of doubt, the Chairperson of the Judicial Council or his representative shall be called to administer the oath of office for any new NEC member
- d. Quorum shall be four (4) members including the National President and/or the National Vice President and the decision taken will bind on all.

CHAPTER SEVEN

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CONFERMENT OF POWERS

Article 38

In furtherance of and in giving effect to the provisions of Chapter six of this Constitution, the Officers of NEC duly elected shall exercise powers and functions within the limits of procedures and substantive provisions in this Constitution.

THE PRESIDENT

Article 39

- a. There shall be a President who shall be elected by Congress who shall be responsible for the general running of GRASAG in all matters coming under his jurisdiction.
- b. Before assuming office, the President shall take and subscribe before Senate the oath of allegiance and the presidential oath set out in the Second Schedule to this Constitution.
- c. He shall be the chief spokesperson of GRASAG and shall in consultation with the Public Relations Officer (PRO) be responsible for all correspondence, press release, press conferences and all communiques of GRASAG
- d. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the functions conferred on the President by clause (a) of this article may be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinates to him.
- e. He shall represent the Graduate students on any mandatory board according to the terms of such board and or he shall in consultation with the other members of the NEC ensure that GRASAG is represented on the requisite boards or committees or commissions in the country.
- f. The President shall preside over Congress, and NEC meetings and any other official meetings, activities and functions of GRASAG and shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie at Congress, and NEC meetings.
- g. The President shall be the principal signatory to the GRASAG account and he shall approve all expenditure of NEC and various committees.

- h. The President in the performance of his functions shall ensure the achievement of the aim and objectives of GRASAG as stated in the Constitution.
- i. The President shall in consultation with NEC shall present and deliver at every senate meeting and at the annual delegate congress the state of GRASAG address
- j. The President shall not leave Ghana without prior notification in writing, signed by him and addressed to the Speaker of Senate and NEC
- k. He shall perform other duties conferred on him by this Constitution or any other law not inconsistent with this Constitution

THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Article 40

- a. There shall be a Vice president who shall be deemed to have been duly elected by congress together with the President in accordance with this Constitution who shall assist the President in the performance of his duties.
- b. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President under this Constitution in his absence with all the powers of the President except the powers of principal signatory.
- c. Notwithstanding clause (b) of this Article, He shall perform all the duties of the National President with all the powers conferred on the National President under this Constitution including being the principal signatory in the event of the death, resignation or removal from office of the National President, or any other cause of inability by the National President to perform his responsibilities, until such time that a bye-election is conducted to fill the vacancy.
- d. Before assuming office, the Vice President shall take and subscribe before Senate the oath of allegiance and the Vice presidential oath set out in the Second Schedule to this Constitution.
- e. He shall be responsible for all welfare matters of GRASAG and shall serve on any welfare Board in the Country
- f. He shall perform any additional duties not inconsistent with any provision of this constitution as may be assigned to him by Congress, Senate, the Directive Principle of GRASAG Policy, the NEC, and/or the President

- g. Notwithstanding clause (c) of this article, the Vice President shall act as National President for the rest of his tenure if the National President has served half or more of his term before his death, resignation or removal from office.
- h. He shall have oversight responsibility over all ad hoc committees unless otherwise stated by this constitution or any law under GRASAG.
- i. The Vice President shall not leave Ghana without prior notification in writing, signed by him and addressed to the President, Speaker of Senate and NEC.

THE SECRETARY

Article 41

- a. There shall be a Secretary who shall be elected by Congress.
- b. Before assuming office, the Secretary shall take and subscribe before Senate the oath of allegiance and the Executive oath set out in the Second Schedule to this Constitution.
- c. The National Secretary shall take, keep, and maintain true and accurate minutes at Congress, the NEC and all other official meetings, activities or functions of GRASAG and make it available to Member Institutions at least two (2) weeks after the next meeting(s).
- d. The secretary shall, acting in consultation with the PRO publish reports/minutes and the state of GRASAG address on the GRASAG website
- e. He shall take custody of all documents and records of GRASAG and shall be copied all correspondents received by other members of NEC and shall properly index them for transfer to the incoming NEC.
- f. He shall in consultation with the President and PRO be responsible for all the correspondence for and on behalf of GRASAG.
- g. The Secretary shall perform any additional duties as may be assigned to him by Congress, Senate, the NEC, and/or the National President, provided it is consistent with the provisions of this Constitution.
- h. The Secretary shall not leave Ghana without prior notification in writing, signed by him and addressed to the President, Speaker of Senate and NEC.

THE FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Article 42

- a. The Financial Controller shall be responsible for all financial matters of GRASAG, including the collection of dues, financial contributions of any form and disbursement of all monies.
- b. Without prejudice to article 39(g) he shall keep all financial documents and proper records of financial transactions of GRASAG
- c. He shall present a budget proposal to the first Senate meeting and a financial statement to all Senate meetings and Congress.
- d. He shall keep a reasonable impress, which shall be determined by Senate.
- e. He shall perform any additional duties assigned to him by Congress, Senate, the NEC, and/or the National President, provided it is consistent with the provisions of this Constitution.
- f. He shall be a signatory to the GRASAG account.

THE ORGANISING COORDINATOR

Article 43

- a. The Organising Coordinator shall be responsible for organising all official meetings, activities and functions of GRASAG.
- b. He shall be the Chairperson of the Projects and Programmes Committee and shall help the President in reporting on GRASAG activities.
- c. He shall act as secretary to NEC, and Congress in the absence of the secretary.
- d. He/she shall perform any additional duties assigned to him/her by Congress, Senate, the NEC, and/or the National President, provided it is consistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

THE GENDER COMMISSIONER

Article 44

- a. There shall a Gender Commissioner who shall be a female and responsible for all gender issues and matters relating to the integration and participation of all graduate students within GRASAG and other relevant collaborating bodies.

- b. The Gender Commissioner shall design and implement programmes aimed at developing the capacities, skills and knowledge of female graduate students.
- c. The Gender Commissioner shall strengthen communication and cooperation between both genders.
- d. She shall in consultation with NEC, organise at least two programs of whatever name to promote women's right, health, education and other programs of interest for member of GRASAG and Ghana as a whole.
- e. She shall perform any additional duties assigned to her by Congress, Senate, the NEC, and/or the National President, provided it is consistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

CHAPTER EIGHT

COMMISSIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER AND FUNCTIONS

Article 45

There shall be established under GRASAG the office of the Public relations officer and the following commissions:

- a. Gender Commission
- b. Legal Affairs Commission
- c. Electoral Commission

THE GENDER COMMISSION

Article 46

- a. There shall be established under this Constitution, the GRASAG Gender Commission which shall be responsible for the coordination of Gender issues of GRASAG.
- b. The Gender Commission shall consist of the entire Gender commissioners or women commissioners of all Institutions and two (2) other males who shall be appointed by Senate.
- c. The Gender Commissioner shall be the Chairperson of the Gender Commission and shall determine the number of members to sit on committees set up for the purpose of carrying out its functions from time to time.
- d. A member of the Gender Commission shall cease to be a member through resignation, proven infirmity of mind or body, death or when a prima facie case has been established against him/ her.
- e. No member of the Association shall be appointed as member of the Commission unless she has appreciable understanding of Gender issues capable of proof by documents or any other form.

FUNCTIONS OF THE GENDER COMMISSION

Article 47

- a. The Gender Commission shall be responsible for Gender related issues such as the integration and participation of female graduate students in GRASAG's activities.

- b. The Gender Commission shall advocate gender issues, promote higher female education at the national and international level.
- c. The Committee may liaise with the Ministry for Gender Affairs to help in addressing the challenges of female students in the country.

THE LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Article 48

- 1. There shall be established the Office of the Legal Affairs Commission which shall consist of the Legal Affairs Commissioner and two (2) Deputy commissioner preferably law students, who shall be appointed by the President in consultation with NEC.
- 2. The Legal Affairs Commissioners shall serve as an Attorney-General of GRASAG and shall be the principal legal adviser to all the organs of GRASAG.
- 3. The Legal affairs commission shall without prejudice to any Law represent GRASAG in all Legal disputes.
- 4. The Legal affairs commission shall discharge such other duties of a legal nature as may be referred or assigned to them by the President, Senate, NEC or imposed on it by this Constitution or any other law.
- 5. The Commission shall be responsible for the initiation and conduct of all prosecutions of all offenses against GRASAG on the instruction of NEC, Senate or congress or any person acting under the authority of NEC, Senate or Congress.

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Article 49

- a. The Public Relations Officer (PRO) shall be appointed by the President in consultation with NEC.
- b. The PRO shall acting with the Secretary be responsible for dissemination of information to all members of GRASAG
- c. In performance of his duties, the PRO shall work under the authority of the President and with other officers of NEC.

- d. The PRO shall be the media liaison officer for GRASAG but shall communicate for and on behalf of GRASAG only on the authority and written permission from the President who shall be the Chief spokesperson for GRASAG on all issues.
- e. The PRO shall perform any other duties determined by NEC

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Article 50

There shall be established an independent electoral commission with the functions as established under Chapter four of this constitution.

CHAPTER NINE THE SENATE

COMPOSITION OF SENATE

Article 51

There shall be a Senate which shall be composed of

- a. A Speaker, Deputy Speaker and a clerk of senate.
- b. Six (6) delegates from each Member Institutions, which shall consist of the
 - i. Local Presidents,
 - ii. Local Secretaries,
 - iii. Local Treasurers,
 - iv. Local Organisers
 - v. Local Women's Commissioners,
 - vi. A representative of the elder state men and
 - vii. One other person appointed by the Local Executives.
- c. Five (5) from the members from the diaspora
- d. Any member of NEC who wish to attend senate sitting shall do so as an observer
- e. Without prejudice to clause (d) of this Article, NEC shall be represented at all senate setting by the Vice President or any other person appointed by NEC who shall be a non-voting member
- f. All decisions by Senate shall be by simple majority unless otherwise stated by this constitution

SESSIONS OF SENATE

Article 52

- a. Senate shall sit for the purpose of carrying out its functions at least twice in the GRASAG calendar.
- b. The first Senate meeting shall be convened not later than eight weeks after assumption of office of NEC.
- c. Senate meeting shall rotate among Member Institutions.

- d. Notwithstanding clause (e) of this Article, a senate sitting may be convened at any time to discuss any extraordinary issue(s) necessitating the call.
- e. There shall be three (3) Senate meetings in a year, one of which shall be held one month before Congress.
- f. The Clerk shall convene sitting by a written notice to all members at least two weeks before sitting and the notice shall state
 - i. The Agenda
 - ii. Time and Venue for the sitting and
 - iii. Minutes of the previous meeting

THE SPEAKER OF SENATE

Article 53

- a. There shall be a Speaker of Senate who shall be appointed by the President in consultation with NEC and with the approval of Senate.
- b. The Speaker may be appointed either from among persons who are members of Senate or from among members of General Assembly who shall not be a member of the Judicial Council or a member of the Electoral Commission or a member of the Legal Affairs Commission.
- c. A person appointed to the Office of the Speaker of Senate shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe before Senate the oath of allegiance and the Oath of a Speaker of Senate set out in the second schedule of this Constitution.

FUNCTIONS OF THE SPEAKER

Article 54

- a. The Speaker shall preside over all sittings of Senate, and in his absence, the Deputy speaker shall preside.
- b. The Speaker shall have no original voting right
- c. Where the votes on any motion are equal, the motion shall be taken as lost.
- d. The Speaker shall in consultation with the Clerk be responsible for the convening of all Senate meetings.

- e. If the Office of the Speaker falls vacant at any time before the next dissolution of Senate, the deputy speaker shall act pending the nomination of another person in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Article 55

- a. At the first Senate meeting after any general election, and before it proceeds to the conduct of any other business, Senate shall elect a member of senate to be the deputy speaker.
- b. If the office of the deputy speaker of senate falls vacant at any time before the next dissolution of Senate, the house shall elect another member to that office.
- c. The Deputy shall preside in Senate at all sittings in the absence of the speaker.
- d. The deputy speaker shall perform any other duty which shall be assigned to him by the Speaker, or Senate.

THE CLERK

Article 56

- a. There shall be a Clerk of Senate who shall be appointed by the Speaker in consultation with members of Senate.
- b. The Clerk shall be appointed from among the members of the general assembly and shall not be a Senator
- c. The Clerk shall be the secretary and shall perform such other administrative functions as the Speaker may request.
- d. The Clerk shall receive all communications on behalf of Senate, motion papers for the passing of resolutions, bills and be the custodian of all senate records.
- e. The Clerk shall submit to the president for assent any resolution agreed upon by Senate and such a paper shall be known as a resolution bill.
- f. The Clerk shall preside over the first senate meeting after congress to approve of the new speaker.
- g. The Clerk shall immediately after the approved of the Speaker usher the new speaker to his position at Senate for the oath of speaker to be taken.

- h. The Clerk shall vacate his office immediately upon chairing the first senate meeting that approves of a Speaker after the dissolution of the previous Senate.

POWERS AND PROCEDURE OF SENATE

Article 57

- a. Senate shall subject to the provisions of this constitution by its standing orders regulate the conduct of its meetings
- b. All new members of Senate shall be ratified at their first senate meeting and shall before entering upon their duties, take and subscribe before Senate the oath of allegiance and the Senators Oaths set out in the second schedule of this constitution which shall be administered by the Judicial Council Chairperson or his/her representative
- c. Any senator who has not been ratified and or taken the oath of allegiance and the Senators Oaths set out in the second schedule of this constitution shall not participate in any senate meeting in such capacity nor have a voting right at meetings.
- d. Decisions taken at Senate meetings shall be communicated to all members of GRASAG through the Member Institutions within seven (7) days of such meeting.
- e. The decision of Senate unless otherwise stated shall be taken by simple majority of those Senators present and voting which decision shall be binding on all Member Institutions.
- f. Quorum shall be two-thirds of the registered delegates to Senate including the Vice President and any decision taken shall be binding on all Member Institutions.
- g. Without prejudice to the functions of Congress, Senate shall reserve the powers of approving budgets, drafting proposal for legislation, approve new legislation and debate on policies of GRASAG
- h. Senate shall have the powers to issue subpoenaing orders against the executive and any member of GRASAG to appear before it to answer questions in respect of any act or omission by that person or body.
- i. Failure to comply with any such order(s) as under clause (h) of this Article, Senate shall propose reasonable Sanction(s) for approval by the

Judicial Committee upon fair hearing of the party against whom such orders have been made.

EXTRA-ORDINARY SENATE SESSIONS

Article 58

- a.** The Speaker shall at the instance of NEC or any Member Institutions convene an extra-ordinary Senate meeting, which shall discuss the issues which may have necessitated the calling of the meeting only.
- b.** Where the NEC is proposing an issue for discussion at an extra-ordinary Senate meeting, the Speaker, acting through the Clerk shall ensure that all Member Institutions are served with such notice at least two (2) weeks before the meeting.
- c.** Any issues to be discussed at the extra-ordinary Senate meeting, which is not being initiated by NEC, shall be communicated to the Speaker, who shall then ensure that all Member Institutions are served with copies of such notice at least two (2) weeks before the meeting.

Such an issue must have received the endorsement of at least seven (7) institutional Presidents.

- d.** The convener, either than NEC, shall bear two thirds (2/3) of the cost of feeding, while the NEC bears the rest.
- e.** Senate shall monitor and coordinate all policies taken at Congress for implementation by Member Institutions.
- f.** Senate shall have the right to form committees and advisory boards to aid the work of the Association.
- g.** Senate shall have the power to receive and approve budget proposal presented by NEC for every quarter of the GRASAG calendar.

CHAPTER TEN

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

EXERCISE OF JUDICIAL POWER

Article 59

1. Justice emanates from members of GRASAG and shall be manifestly administered by an independent Judicial Committee.
2. In the exercise of the judicial power of GRASAG, the Judicial Council , is subject only to this Constitution and shall not be subject to the control or direction of any person or authority. Accordingly, neither the President, Senate, NEC, Congress nor any person acting under the authority of the President or Senate or NEC or Congress or any other person whatsoever shall interfere with Judicial Council members or persons exercising judicial power.
3. In the exercise of their judicial functions, all organs and agencies of the GRASAG shall accord to the Judicial Council such assistance as they may reasonably require protecting the independence, dignity and effectiveness of the Judicial Council, subject to this Constitution.

COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT

Article 60

1. The Judicial Council of GRASAG shall comprise;
 - a. The Judicial Committee Chairperson and two (2) deputies preferably Law students, who shall be appointed by the President in consultation with NEC with prior approval by Senate.
 - b. Two (2) other members who shall be appointed by Senate, one (1) of whom shall be an Elder Statesmen.
 - c. All the members of the Judicial Council may be appointed from different Member Institutions.
 - d. All the provisions of this Constitution on the qualification of elected officers shall apply to the Chairperson, the two deputies and all other members of the Judicial Council.
 - e. Without prejudice to any provision in this Constitution, any member of the Judicial Council shall cease to be a member through

resignation, proven infirmity of mind or body, death or when a prima facie case has been established against him.

2. The Judicial Council shall be duly constituted for its work by not less than three (3) members.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause (2), the Judicial Council Chairperson may sit as a sole adjudicator and shall carry the authority of the Council to determine all cases brought before the Judicial Council in extreme circumstances as he may reasonably determine and he shall carry the evidential burden of proving the inability or unavailability of the other members.
4. The Chief Justice shall preside at sittings of the Judicial Council and shall exercise the power of appointing members to constitute a panel to determine a case before it.

JURISDICTION AND POWERS

Article 61

1. The Judicial Council shall have and exercise exclusive jurisdiction on matters provided for within this Constitution including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Interpretation and enforcement of this Constitution.
 - b. All matters of disputes including electoral disputes.
 - c. Swearing in of elected and appointed officers of GRASAG.
 - d. All matters as to whether resolutions as whether a person or group of person has/have allegedly acted ultra vires to the powers conferred on them by this Constitution.
2. The Judicial Council shall have appellate jurisdiction over all matters or dispute that arises from the Judicial Council of a member institution and in such disputes the Judicial Council shall without prejudice to any provision of this constitution be guided by, inter alia the constitution of the institution from which the appeal arose
3. The Judicial Council shall have supervisory jurisdiction over all Judicial Councils of member Institutions
4. The Judicial Council may, while treating its own previous decisions as normally binding, depart from a previous decision when it appears to it right

to do so; and all members shall be bound to follow the decisions of the Judicial Council on questions of law

5. The Judicial Council may review any decision made or given by it on a review application by a member who is not satisfied with a declaration or order by the Judicial Council on such grounds and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Judicial Council Procedure Rules.
6. The Judicial Council when reviewing its decisions under this Constitution shall be constituted by five (5) Justices of the Council.
7. The Judicial Council in the exercise of its function shall have the power to issue prerogative writ and such orders as Injunctions, Mandamus, Certiorari, Quo-waranto, declarations and any other orders as it may deem fit and appropriate
8. The Judicial Council shall by the Judicial Council Procedure Rules, regulate all cases brought before it.
9. The Judicial Council shall communicate its decision to members within two (2) days after the final determination of a petition and shall publish its written Judgement within a reasonable time after the determination.
10. Notwithstanding clause 9 of this Article, the Judicial council shall communicate its decision immediately after the determination of a petition before it in an emergency situation.

THE JUDICIAL RECORDER AND CLERK

ARTICLE 62

1. There shall be established the office of the Judicial Clerk and Recorder
2. The Judicial Clerk and Recorder shall be appointed by the Chairman of Judicial Council in consultation with the members of the Judicial Council
3. The Judicial Clerk shall be responsible for the setting up of venue for all Judicial Sittings and hearing, take, record and keep the true records of all proceedings of the Judicial Council.
4. The Clerk shall ensure order at all judicial hearings and shall upon the directive of the Chairman of the Judicial Council issue Hearing Notice for all Judicial sitting.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

RESIGNATION, IMPEACHMENT REMOVAL AND SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE

Article 63

1. Any officer of the NEC may be suspended, or removed from office on account of:
 - a. Mismanagement of funds,
 - b. Infirmary of body or mind,
 - c. Gross misconduct,
 - d. Negligence of duty,
 - e. Any act that is likely to bring GRASAG into disrepute and/or,
 - f. Adverse finding him by an appointed committee of GRASAG.
2. A member may, subject to clause (1) of this article, initiate impeachment proceedings against any officer by writing to the Judicial Council, stating very clearly the reason for the impeachment and providing all the necessary evidence for the allegation, and the Judicial Council shall take all the necessary steps to address the issue to its logical conclusion.
3. Senate may on the recommendations by the Judicial Council whilst an impeachment proceedings pending before it suspend or interdict any officer of the NEC, until investigations into an alleged conduct have been conclusively determined.
4. Where credible evidence is found against the person, he shall be punished in accordance with the orders of the Judicial Council but shall be re-instated without fail, if the investigation ends in his exoneration.
5. Where an officer is not satisfied with the verdict of Senate, he/she may appeal to the Judicial Council Chairperson for a review of the verdict and the Judicial Council shall consider the merit of the application and make a pronouncement on same.
6. An officer of the NEC other than the National President may relinquish his post voluntarily by writing to the National President at least two (2) weeks prior to the proposed date of resignation.
7. The National President may relinquish his post voluntarily by writing to the Speaker of Senate at least two (2) weeks prior to the proposed date of resignation.

8. Where there is an en bloc resignation or resignation by the National President and Secretary, they shall relinquish the post by writing to the Chairperson of Judicial Council.
9. Upon the receipt of any proposed resignation letter from any officer, the National President, National Secretary or Chairperson of Judicial Council as the case may be, shall communicate to the NEC and or Senate about such resignation within seven (7) days.
10. An officer who resigns his position or who otherwise leaves office shall hand over all properties of GRASAG in his possession to the NEC and clear himself in respect of any other obligations he may owe to GRASAG within two (2) weeks.
11. Any vacancy created by virtue of any provision in this constitution shall be filled within twenty one (21) days after such vacancy is created.

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

Article 64

- (1) Any student shall by notice in writing addressed to the Speaker of Senate, and stating grounds for removal, commence impeachment proceedings against an Executive Officer.
- (2) Such a proceeding shall be authenticated by the signatories of fifty (5) students each from every member institution.
- (3) A copy of the proceedings shall be served on the Executive Officer whom such a proceeding has been preferred against at least three days before the hearing of such a case.
- (4) The Speaker shall within seven days on the receipt of such a notice of impeachment, set up a Special Committee of Senate to commence a hearing to ascertain the merits of such proceedings. The Committee shall then present its outcome to the Speaker who shall put the matter to Senate for a decision to be take.
- (5) An Officer shall not be impeached unless two-thirds (2/3) of all Senators in a secret ballot, vote to decide same.
- (6) The outcome shall be copied to the NEC, member institutions and to the entire student body.
- (7) An officer so impeached shall forthwith cease to hold such office
- (8) Any vacancy created by virtue of any provision in this constitution shall be filled within twenty one (21) days after such vacancy is created.

- (9) An aggrieved officer so removed may apply to the Judicial Committee way of Judicial review
- (10) An application for review in above shall be made within seventy-two hours after Senate so-decides.

VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

Article 65

- a. Any member of Congress may initiate a vote of no confidence proceedings against any executive member by a petition signed by five (5) members each from all institutions stating the grounds and evidence for the vote of no confidence proceedings addressed to, the Chairman of the Judicial Council, Congress, Senate and NEC.
- b. A vote of no confidence shall not be passed on an Executive Officer unless a prima facie case has been made against such a person by the Judicial Committee within 72hours on petition submitted through the Speaker of Senate to the Judicial Committee Chairperson.
- c. Subject to paragraph (a) of this Constitution, an Executive Officer(s) shall be removed from office on the passing of a vote of no confidence by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate, during an extraordinary emergency general sitting which shall be summoned by the Speaker of Senate.
- d. During such a meeting, the Executive Officers shall be given adequate notice of charges preferred against the Officer, an opportunity to defend himself/themselves, the right to counsel, and the process must be fair. An Executive Officer affected by the decision of Senate shall relinquish their positions immediately and handover all GRASAG documents and properties in their possession to the President. The National Executive Committee designate an elected officer to act in that capacity until the next general election.
- e. Where a removed officer is found subsequently to have misappropriated or embezzled funds of GRASAG, the Association, acting through the National Secretariat shall take lawful means to claim the full amount with interest.
- f. A vacancy created by the removal of an officer shall be filled within twenty-one days.
- g. An aggrieved officer may apply to the Judicial Council for a determination.

CHAPTER TWELVE

FINANCES

INCOME

Article 66

1. GRASAG shall have the power to raise monies through legal means and expend same in a manner as prescribed by this constitution
2. The funds of GRASAG shall include:
 - a. Annual membership dues
 - b. Fund raising
 - c. Donations and
 - d. Any other lawful source of cash contribution
3. In line with clause (1) of this article, NEC in consultation with Senate and Congress may device the other lawful ways of generating income for the association.
4. Any Committee/Commission of GRASAG shall have the power to raise funds for the effective performance of its function(s).
5. Any such Committees/Commissions shall within forty-eight (48) hours of raising or receiving the revenue on behalf of or in trust of GRASAG, channel the money through the Treasurer of GRASAG into the GRASAG Bank Account.
6. The annual dues shall be determined by Congress and shall be paid by all members through their respective Member Institutions.
7. Payment of dues shall be compulsory for all members of the Association and a default by any member /Member Institution shall constitute offence under this Constitution which shall be punishable by withdrawal of rights conferred on a member under this Constitution.
8. Any Member Institution which defaults in the payment of the dues of its members or any other monies belonging to GRASAG shall lose its voting rights at Senate meetings and Congress until such time that the debt is paid.

EXPENDITURE

Article 67

The expenditure of GRASAG shall include the following:

- a. Administrative expenses
- b. T&T, honorarium and/or per diem of officers who work for and on behalf of GRASAG
- c. Cost of Projects duly approved by Senate and/or Congress
- d. Organisation of Senate, Congress and NEC meetings.
- e. Other expenses incurred on Member(s) welfare.
- f. Any other expenditure not stated in this constitution and / approved by Senate and / Congress amounts to mismanagement and shall not be recognized by this Constitution.
- g. Any mismanagement of funds constitutes an offence and as such Chapter Eleven of this constitution shall be invoked by any member.

MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS OF GRASAG

Article 68

- a. GRASAG shall maintain a Current and Saving Accounts with a Bank (s) that is networked nationally for the purpose of the associations' financial transactions.
- b. Eighty percent (80%) and twenty percent (20%) of all monies collected on behalf of GRASAG by Member Institutions shall be paid into the Current and Savings Accounts respectively within one (1) week upon receipt of the said monies.
- c. All monies saved in the GRASAG Savings Account shall only be withdrawn with the approval of Senate.
- d. All monies received by any officer on behalf of GRASAG shall be lodged into the GRASAG Current Account before disbursement.
- e. The National President, National Secretary and Financial controller shall be signatories to the GRASAG Accounts, and the National President together with any of the two (2) officers shall sign for the purpose of withdrawals.

- f.** The National President, Financial controller and Financial Committee Chairperson shall sign all pay vouchers.
- g.** The Financial controller shall keep and maintain accurate and comprehensive financial records of all activities of GRASAG
- h.** At least ten percent (10%) of the total amount of monies collected shall be left in the GRASAG accounts for the commencement of the next administration

BUDGET OF GRASAG

Article 69

- a. NEC shall cause to be prepared and presented to the Senate at its first sitting estimates for revenue and expenditure of GRASAG for the first quarter of the GRASAG year
- b. Where in the course of the year, it is found that the amount of monies appropriated for any purpose is insufficient or that a need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose for which no sum of monies has been appropriated, a supplementary estimate showing the sum of monies required shall be presented to the senate for its approval.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES OF GRASAG

STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 70

1. There shall be established under this constitution Standing Committees that shall exercise functions conferred on them by this Constitution.
2. The standing committees are hereby established:
 - a. Audit Committee
 - b. Finance Committee
 - c. Research and
 - d. Projects and Programmes Committee

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Article 71

1. There shall be a three (3) member Audit Committee appointed by Senate at the first Senate meeting.
2. The members of the Audit Committee shall have an appreciable knowledge in auditing and accounting.
3. The Audit Committee shall audit all GRASAG accounts not less than seven (7) days prior to Congress.
4. Subject to clause (3) of this article, reports of the audited accounts shall be presented to Congress by the Audit Committee for consideration.
5. In the event of a rejection of an audit report by the Congress, such rejected report shall be referred to an external Auditor appointed by Senate.
6. The external Auditor(s) shall report to Senate, any audit findings for consideration when Congress or an extraordinary Congress cannot be easily convened.
7. The external Auditor appointed under clause (6) of this article shall not be a member(s) of GRASAG.

8. All Auditors appointed under this Constitution shall have complete access to all documents and information necessary for the execution of their duties and shall subpoena any person(s) who fail to comply including members of the NEC who fail to comply with this provision to appear before it.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Article 72

- a. There shall be a three-member Finance Committee appointed by Senate at the first Senate meeting which shall include the Financial Controller of GRASAG.
- b. The Financial Controller shall be the Chairperson of the Finance Committee
- c. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee shall be a signatory to all payment vouchers in accordance with provisions of this Constitution.
- d. A member of the Financial Committee shall cease to be a member through resignation, proven infirmity of mind or body, death or when a prima facie case has been established against him.
- e. In accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, the Finance Committee shall together with NEC and Financial controller prepares and presents a comprehensive financial statement to Congress.
- f. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for the implementation of GRASAG's financial policy.
- g. The members of the Finance Committee shall have an appreciable knowledge in financial issues.
- h. The Financial Committee shall perform any additional duties, consistent with provisions of this Constitution, assigned to it from time to time by NEC, Senate and Congress

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Article 73

1. There shall be established under this Constitution a five-member Research Committee constituted by NEC with the approval Senate.

2. The Research Committee shall be charged with managing the research fund of GRASAG.
3. The Research Committee shall prepare a working document which shall receive endorsement of NEC and approval from Senate to guide the disbursement and the research fund of GRASAG.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES COMMITTEE

Article 74

1. The Projects and Programmes Committee shall be composed of three (3) members appointed at the first Senate session and shall be chaired by the Organizing Coordinator.
2. Members of the Committee shall subscribe to an oath of office.
3. The Committee shall appoint a Deputy chairperson and secretary at its first meeting.
4. The committee shall be responsible for the all projects and programmes of GRASAG contained in the GRASAG Policy document.
5. A member of the Committee shall cease to be a member through resignation, proven infirmity of mind or body, death or when a prima facie case has been made against him.
6. The members of the Committee may perform any other function as may be assigned by NEC and Senate.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Article 75

Senate and Congress may constitute ad hoc committees and or commission as the need arises and assign them such functions as may be determined by the appointing organ.

APPOINTMENTS

Article 76

1. Apart from the standing Commissions /Committees mentioned in this constitution, Congress, Senate, or the NEC may appoint a person, committee, or commission on ad hoc basis and assign to him/her/them such functions as may be determined by the appointing Organ.

2. The functions of any such person, committee, or commission shall be deemed automatically void when the purpose for which he/she/they was/were appointed ceases.
3. In accordance with the provisions of this constitution NEC shall ensure that there is capable appointment to boards and other Institutions in the country that require the representation of GRASAG.
4. In the case of clause (3) of this article, such appointment shall be for a limited period of time not exceeding one year.
5. In the case of a vacancy in any commission/committee, the NEC shall be invested with the powers to appoint a replacement within twenty-one (21) days upon declaration of such vacancies except the Electoral Commission.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN MISCELLANEOUS

AMENDMENTS

Article 77

- a. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Congress may amend or cause to be amended, in part or in whole, any provision of this Constitution.
- b. Any member or Member Institutions may propose an amendment by writing to the National Secretary, at least one (1) month prior to Congress, stating the reasons for such proposed amendment, and the National Secretary shall take the necessary steps to inform other Member Institutions of such proposed amendment.
- c. Congress upon receipt of the proposed amendment shall debate and adopt it.
- d. The writ of amendment by any member shall not be considered unless it is endorsed by not less than one-third (1/3) of the members of Senate.
- e. Any new amendment shall come into force within twenty-one (21) days of promulgation.
- f. Where there is a complete review of this Constitution, a referendum shall be conducted after the review.

HANDING OVER

Article 78

1. The outgoing officers shall hand over to the incoming officers at the first Senate Meeting after congress.
2. Handing over shall be in accordance with the Transitional Provision Act of GRASAG
3. The incoming officers shall be sworn-in by the Chairperson of the Judicial Council or his/her rep before taking office.
4. All assets and liability of GRASAG shall be handed-over to the incoming officers and this shall include a handing-over note.
5. Outgoing executive shall comply with the handing-over provisions under this article.

6. Non-compliance with the handing-over provisions constitutes an offence and outgoing executives shall be subpoena before the Judicial Council with sanctions imposed on any such person(s) upon fair hearing.

INTERPRETATION

Article 79

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires-

"Article" means an article of this Constitution;

"commission of inquiry" includes a committee of inquiry;

"constitutional instrument" means an instrument made under a power conferred by this constitution;

"court" means a court of competent jurisdiction established by or under the authority of this Constitution and includes a tribunal;

"enactment" means an Act of Parliament, a Decree, a Law or of a constitutional or of a statutory instrument;

"functions" includes powers and duties;

"His" includes both males and females

"judgment" includes a decision, an order or decree of the court of Ghana or Judicial Council;

"meeting" includes a period during which the organs of GRASAG is meeting continually within a session; "oath" includes an affirmation;

"oath of allegiance" means the oath of allegiance specified in the Second Schedule to this Constitution;

"Judicial Council Procedure Rules" means the Rules and Regulations of the Judicial Council

"sitting" includes a period during which an organ of GRASAG is sitting continuously without adjournment

"emergency situation" ,means A sudden unforeseen crisis that requires immediate action

FIRST SCHEDULE

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS TO USHER IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION

1. The old Constitution of GRASAG is hereby repealed upon the coming into force of this Constitution on the 21st day of January, 2017.
2. The first Speaker of Senate, the Deputy Speaker and Electoral Commissioner under this constitution shall be appointed immediately after this Constitution is adopted by the President in consultation with NEC with the approval of Senate upon the approval of the Emergency Congress.
3. Appointments to new offices created under this Constitution other than that stated under Section (3) of the transitional provisions shall be made subsequently within Twenty-one days (21) days in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution
4. Nothing done or purported to have been done or purported to be done under the provisions of the old Constitution shall not be void by the reason of its repeal.
5. NEC shall Submit a supplementary Budget to the first Senate meeting to be organised within two months upon coming to force of this Constitution, to cover the budget of the new offices created under this Constitution.

SECOND SCHEDULE

FORMS OF OATH

The Presidential Oath

I.....having been elected to the high office of the President/ Vice President of GRASAG, do hereby in the name of Almighty God solemnly swear, that I shall be faithful and true to GRASAG; that I shall strive at all times to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of GRASAG. I hereby dedicate myself wholly, without fear or favour, affection or ill will to the service and welfare of GRASAG.

I further solemnly swear that I will conform to the principle of strict accountability; financially and otherwise and that should I at any time break this oath of office I shall submit myself to the dictate of the GRASAG constitution and suffer the penalty for it. **(SO HELP ME GOD)**.

To be administered by the Chairperson of the Judicial Council before Senate during the handing over ceremony.

Oath of Allegiance to be Sworn by the President and Vice President

I.....having been elected to the high office of the President/ Vice President of GRASAG, do hereby in the name of God solemnly swear or affirm that I shall bear true faith and allegiance to GRASAG. That I shall strive at all times to preserve, protect and defend the constitution of GRASAG and I hereby dedicate myself wholly, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will to the service and welfare of GRASAG.

I further solemnly swear that I shall conform to the principles of strict accountability, financially and in all conscionable respect. Should I at any time break this oath of office, I shall submit myself to the dictate of the GRASAG Constitution and suffer the penalty for it. **(SO HELP ME GOD)**.

Oath for Members of the National Executive Committee

I.....having been elected as a member of the National Executive Committee of GRASAG, do hereby in the name of God swear, that I shall at all times be faithful and loyal to GRASAG. That I shall support and uphold the principle of accountability, financially and in all conscionable respect, seek the welfare of GRASAG.

I further solemnly swear that should I at any time break this oath of office, I shall submit myself to the dictate of the GRASAG Constitution and suffer the penalty for it. **(SO HELP ME GOD)**.

To be administered by the Chairperson of the Judicial Council before Senate during the handing over ceremony.

The General Oath of Office

I.....having been elected/appointed asdo hereby in the name of God solemnly swear, that I will at all times, faithfully and truly serve GRASAG. That I will support and uphold the principle of accountability; financially and in all conscionable respect, seek the welfare of GRASAG.

I further solemnly swear that should I at any time break this oath of office, I shall submit myself to the dictate of the GRASAG Constitution and suffer the penalty for it. **(SO HELP ME GOD)**.

To be administered by the Chairperson of the Judicial Council before Senate during the handing over ceremony.

The Judicial Oath

I.....having been appointed as the Chairperson/member of the Judicial Council of GRASAG, do hereby in the name of the Almighty God swear, that I shall be faithful and true in the discharge of my duties. I do hereby declare that I shall uphold, defend, and protect the Constitution of GRASAG, and that I shall adjudicate on all matters that shall be brought before the Judicial Council impartially, without fear or favour, affection or ill will.

I further solemnly swear that I shall not be found wanting in the discharge of my responsibilities as a member of the GRASAG Judicial Council nor place myself in such a position as to frustrate the efficient administration of Justice of the Judicial Council of GRASAG.

I solemnly swear that should I at any time break this oath of office, I shall submit myself to the dictates of the GRASAG Constitution and suffer the penalty for it. **(SO HELP ME GOD).**

To be administered by the outgoing Judicial Council Chairperson before Senate during the handing over ceremony.

Oath for Members of SENATE

I.....having been elected as member of the Senate of GRASAG do hereby in the name of God solemnly swear that I will at all times, faithfully and truly serve GRASAG. That I will support and uphold the principle of accountability; financially and in all conscionable respect, seek the welfare of GRASAG.

I further solemnly swear that should I at any time break this oath of office, I shall submit myself to the dictate of the GRASAG Constitution and suffer the penalty for it. **(SO HELP ME GOD).**

To be administered by the Chairperson of the Judicial Council before Senate during their first sitting after congress.

Oath for Members of SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER OF SENATE

I.....having been Appointed as the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of Senate of GRASAG do hereby in the name of Almighty God solemnly swear that I will at all times, faithfully, truly and impartially serve GRASAG. That I will support and uphold the principle of accountability; financially and in all conscionable respect, seek the welfare of GRASAG.

I further solemnly swear that should I at any time break this oath of office, I shall submit myself to the dictate of the GRASAG Constitution and suffer the penalty for it. **(SO HELP ME GOD).**

To be administered by the Chairperson of the Judicial Council before Senate during their first sitting after congress.

PROMULGATION

Drafted by the Constitutional Review sub-committee -

**TONY NYARKO
CHAIRPERSON**

Under the auspices of Special Reforms and Constitutional Review Commission

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**Submitted by:
E.K. YEBOAH GYAN
(CHAIRPERSON)**

DATED THIS 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2016

**This Constitution was reviewed by the 2016/2017 GRASAG under
the leadership of H.E. Rashid Kwesi Etuaful, President, Graduate
Students' Association of Ghana.**

.....

**RASHID KWESI ETUAFUL
(PRESIDENT OF GRASAG)**

**PROMULGATED AT AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS OF GRASAG
ON THE 21ST DAY OF JANUARY, 2017.**