

# CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL (GSC) OF HJ INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR PEACE AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Ratified and approved by the Constitution Committee of the GSC: **Fall 2023**

## PREAMBLE

At HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership, we as students prepare ourselves for future roles as effective leaders in ministry, public leadership, and interfaith peacebuilding. We recognize that these roles are founded upon a living, growing relationship with God, our Creator.

HJ International recognizes its roots through the founding vision of Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon, along with the sacrifice and investment of succeeding generations. With the consent of the administration, faculty, and trustees, we, the students of HJ International, in accordance with the vision of its founders and the desire to provide a framework for a voice and participation for students, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Graduate Student Council of HJ International.

## ARTICLE 1: STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

### SECTION 1:

The student body officers, and class representatives serve as liaisons between the student body and the Faculty, Administration, and the Board of Trustees. The student body officers include the President, a Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Graduate Student Council. Together, the student officers and Council members link the Administration and the student body, coordinating activities, facilitating trust and teamwork, and seeking to promote a greater sense of community to better support the development of HJI International.

## SECTION 2:

The primary purposes of the GSC are to:

1. Provide a voice before the Administration for proposals and concerns of students enrolled at HJ International;
2. Coordinate and support student activities and events, including involvement in religious/ civic activities and in organizations and interests outside of HJI;
3. Foster a strong familial bond among students and other members of the community.

## ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND QUALIFICATIONS

### SECTION 1: GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL COMPOSITION

The Graduate Student Council shall consist of:

1. Three (3) to four (4) elected officers fulfilling the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, or Secretary and Treasurer.
2. Up to two (2) elected Student Representatives from each graduate program of study, namely Doctor of Ministry, Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Religious Studies, Master of Arts in Peace Studies
3. Elected officers will convene to discuss leadership roles in consultation with the Associate Dean of Student Life. Recommendations are subject to final approval by the Office of Student Life.

### SECTION 1A:

The Graduate Student Council aspires to be representative of the student body. In this spirit, the aspiration is that the Council be composed of students representing the Graduate School's various degree programs, place of origin, and learning modality (e.g., on campus or online). Members of GSC must be enrolled students at HJI and in good academic standing during their time of service in student government.

## SECTION 2: GSC OFFICER ROLES AND DUTIES

Student officers are expected to uphold the highest standard in spiritual, academic, and social activities. Officers are required to maintain a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0. Positions are held for one academic year; however, officers may resign, or be removed from office for academic and/or disciplinary reasons.

If a student officer resigns or is removed from office, a new appointment will be made by the President of the GSC in consultation with the Dean of Student Life. Also, student officers are replaced when taking a leave of absence from HJI. Based on criteria of their personal and spiritual maturity and their leadership potential, GSC officers are elected each year by the student body to fulfill the following positions and responsibilities:

1. Graduate Student Council President- Maintains a public attitude and serves as a standard bearer in the community by upholding the dignity and spirit of the Student Code of Conduct; Works closely with the Dean of Students as a responsible channel for fostering open communication and dialogue; Represents the student body as a spokesperson at various gatherings.
2. Graduate Student Council Vice President- The Vice President is to assist the student body President in all his/her duties. In addition, the Vice President fills the President's position in cases of his/her absence.
3. Secretary- The Secretary takes the Minutes of the Graduate Student Council meetings and establishes a permanent record of meeting deliberations and resolutions. Minutes from the previous meeting are always reviewed for any correction or amendment and for approval by vote at the start of each GSC meeting.
4. Treasurer- The Treasurer keeps track of monies raised through fundraising events, and submits all monies raised to the Finance Office to be deposited in the GCS account.

## SECTION 2A:

The Graduate Student Council has the power to establish Standing Committees and such other committees or working groups as it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities. (Permanent committees may include the Election Committee, Events Committee, Constitutional Committee.)

All members of GSC shall be required to serve on at least one committee. Additionally, Members may be asked to serve on institutional committees organized by HJI administration.

## ARTICLE III: ELECTIONS

Elections of GSC members shall be conducted amongst current enrolled students of HJI International each Fall semester. Candidates are nominated and voted upon by students.

Officer positions not filled in the Fall semester will be filled by the GSC President in consultation with the Dean of Student Life.

## ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

### SECTION 1:

All legislative powers of GSC are vested in meetings of the GSC where a quorum is present. A quorum shall consist of fifty percent of the members of student government. Each member shall have one vote. Voting is restricted to members. There will be no voting by proxy.

### SECTION 2:

GSC shall meet at least once in each calendar month of the Fall and Spring semesters. Exceptions may be made by the Officers. The GSC President, in consultation with the Dean of Student Life, may call meetings in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings of GSC if the President considers such meetings necessary. All HJI students are welcome to attend any meeting of the Graduate Student Council. Invited guests (non-HJI students) must be approved by the Officers.

## ARTICLE V: CONSTITUTION REVISION AND AMENDMENTS

### SECTION 1:

The Constitution of the HJI International Council shall be ratified by the Constitutional Committee and is subject to further review by the Graduate Student Council once it is constituted.

### SECTION 2:

A Constitution Review Committee shall be formed at least once every four years and shall consist of members of GSC, the Dean of Student Life, and approved by a quorum of GSC members and HJI Administration. This committee shall propose amendments to the constitution when necessary.