CONSTITUTION

OF THE

THE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

PREAMBLE

Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs Student Association (hereafter “SIPASA”), in order to improve the overall student experience and support the management and development of the School of International and Public Affairs (hereafter “SIPA”), hereby ordains and establishes this Constitution of the School of International and Public Affairs Student Association (hereafter, this “Constitution”).

ARTICLE I.

NAME, OFFICE, DURATION

Section 1.1 SIPASA is the representative body of all enrolled students at SIPA. SIPASA is fully committed to upholding and exercising the principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, and responsibility, to ensure that its mission and objectives align with and reflect the evolving demands of the SIPA student body. SIPASA shall practice prudence in reporting financial and non-financial information about its activities, and shall be fully transparent in its manner of properly conducting its duties to the student body, faculty, staff, alumni, and all other stakeholders as directed by the rules set forth in this Constitution.

Section 1.2 Principal Office. The principal office of SIPASA shall be located at Columbia University’s International Affairs Building, in the City of New York or such other address where SIPA may from time to time be relocated.

Section 1.3 Duration. SIPASA has been established as a permanent organization, without an ending term.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTIVES

Section 2.1 The purpose and objectives of SIPASA shall be to address the interests and concerns of SIPA students by direct student representation in the creation of policy and programming to further those interests and execute such operations, as enumerated under this Constitution. SIPASA shall strive to improve the overall student experience and partner with the administration to support the management and development of the School by:

a) Representing the student body to the SIPA administration, SIPA faculty,
SIPA alumni, Columbia-wide community and other stakeholders as necessary;
b) Promoting student opinion and interests in the formulation of SIPA’s strategy and goals;
c) Formulating SIPASA’s objectives in the areas of academic affairs, communication and external relations, career and alumni affairs, social affairs and student life; and
d) Achieving the aforesaid objectives through programming, advocacy, and policy support.

ARTICLE III.

COMPOSITION

Section 3.1 General Board. The SIPASA General Board (hereafter “General Board”) shall be comprised of the “Executive Board,” the “Functional Chairs,” and the “Special Program Representatives,” hereafter referred to together as the “SIPASA Officers” and as further described in Sections 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 hereof respectively. Each SIPASA Officer shall have one vote equally distributed in decisions and resolutions of SIPASA.

Section 3.2 Executive Board. The Executive Board has the purpose of managing and administering the core functions and activities of SIPASA’s operations as enumerated in this Constitution. The Executive Board shall be accountable for the performance of SIPASA and shall be the primary interface with SIPA administration. The Executive Board shall be comprised of the President, the Vice President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer and the University Senator. Each year, for one semester, the University Senator-elect shall also be a non-voting member of the Executive Board. The activities of the Executive Board shall include, but not be limited to:

a) Setting and executing the overall strategy for SIPASA;
b) Receiving and evaluating proposals brought to SIPASA by members of the General Board and committees;
c) Providing instruction and implementation guidelines on the direction of such aforesaid proposals; and
d) Setting SIPASA’s agenda for the General Board and determining the scope of debate and discussion in relations thereto.

Section 3.3 Functional Chairs. The objective and purpose of the Functional Chairs is to develop, oversee, and execute SIPASA’s programmatic functions within their respective scope of authority and implement such strategies as may be set by the Executive Board from time to time. The Functional Chairs shall be comprised of two Academic Chairs, two Career & Alumni Affairs Chairs, two Social Chairs, two Student Life Chairs, and two Communications & External Relations Chairs.

Section 3.4 Special Program Representatives. The mandates for Special Program Representatives shall be derived from their respective programs. On the SIPASA Board, the objective and purpose of the Special Program Representatives is to represent their respective programs. The Special Program Representatives shall be comprised of an MPA in Development Practice representative (hereafter the “MPA-DP Representative”), a Program in Economic Policy Management representative (hereafter the “PEPM
Representative”), an MPA in Environmental Science and Policy representative (hereafter the “ESP Representative”), an Executive MPA representative (hereafter the “EMPA Representative”), a representative on behalf of all the dual degrees offered at SIPA (hereafter the “Dual Degree Representative”), and a PhD in Sustainable Development representative (hereafter the “PhD Representative”).

ARTICLE IV. STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Section 4.1 Composition. Annually, the student body shall elect each Officer of the Executive Board and each Functional Chair to the General Board. Special Program Representatives shall be elected, selected or nominated internally through each of the programs, in accordance with the stipulations of their respective programs.

a) Executive Board (5 Officers):
   i. The President
   ii. The Vice President
   iii. The General Secretary
   iv. The Treasurer
   v. The University Senator

b) Functional Chairs (10 Officers):
   i. Two Academic Chairs
   ii. Two Career & Alumni Affairs Chairs
   iii. Two Social Chairs
   iv. Two Student Life Chairs
   v. Two Communications & External Relations Chairs

c) Special Program Representatives (6 Officers):
   i. The MPA-DP Representative
   ii. The PEPM Representative
   iii. The ESP Representative
   iv. The EMPA Representative
   v. The Dual Degree Representative
   vi. The PhD Representative

Section 4.2 Terms of Office. Each SIPASA Officer shall hold office for a one-year term, starting on the first day of the spring semester, unless otherwise specified in this Section 4.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the University Senator shall hold office from May 1 for a one-year period. Special Program Representatives shall hold office for such duration as may be stipulated by their respective programs from time to time.

Section 4.3 Mandates. Each elected representative shall have the following mandate:

Executive Board

a) The President shall:
   i. Serve as the principal executive of SIPASA, shall supervise,
manage, and coordinate all of its internal activities and external affairs while remaining accountable to the Executive Board and the General Board;

ii. Serve as SIPASA’s representative to the SIPA administration, except when designees are appointed in accordance with the terms of this Constitution;

iii. Preside over meetings of the Executive Board and the General Board;

iv. Serve as chief arbiter, in consultation with the General Secretary, or any other appropriate representative of the Board, in the administration and negotiation of any deeds, formal agreements, contracts, or other instruments which the Board has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the General Board or by this Constitution to some other representative or agent of the organization, or shall be required by applicable law to be otherwise signed or executed;

v. Convene and preside over all open student meetings;

vi. Lead engagement with the SIPA Advisory Board, with the support of the Dean, to provide a student perspective on issues central to the School’s mission, strategy, and programs;

vii. Have the final authority in deciding matters that are not resolved by other means or mechanisms;

viii. Be an ex officio member of the Senior Leadership Committee, which body is further described in Section 6.2 hereof;

ix. Co-chair and participate in the deliberations of the Budget Committee, which body is further described in Section 6.2 hereof; and

x. Be ultimately responsible, in general, for all functions and duties in relation to SIPASA.

b) The Vice President shall:

i. Be responsible for assisting the President in discharging his/her aforementioned duties as well as collaborating with the President in order to implement their respective mandates in accordance with this Constitution;

ii. Represent the entire SIPA student body and act as the President’s deputy, including as the bona fide acting head of the Executive Board and the General Board in the absence of the President;

iii. Organize, facilitate and monitor all SIPASA’s elections in collaboration with the Student Life Chairs;

iv. Apprise the President, the Executive Board and the General Board of his/her work periodically and upon request;

v. Be an ex officio member of the Senior Leadership Committee, which body is further described in Section 6.2 hereof; and

vi. Participate and/or assist in the due discharge of all functions and duties of SIPASA, as necessary.

c) The General Secretary shall:

i. Be the chief information officer for internal SIPASA business;

ii. Be responsible for ensuring that SIPASA rules are enforced and ensure that due process is maintained in the transaction of all SIPASA business;

iii. Determine the scope and terms, in consultation with the Executive Board, of discussion, debate, and resolution in
relations to the transaction of all SIPASA business;
iv. Uphold and maintain the integrity of this Constitution and be the manager and custodian of SIPASA’s official record;
v. Take all reasonable steps to make SIPASA business more transparent and accountable;
vi. Be responsible for knowledge management and recording institutional memory, acting as notary for SIPASA, as well as keeping all SIPASA documents updated and electronically available to students. SIPASA documents include, but are not limited to the SIPASA Manual, meeting attendances, agendas, and minutes, financial reports, procedure documents and any resolutions passed by the Executive Board and the General Board;
vii. Be responsible for providing access to resolutions, debates, financial decisions, and any other information deemed reasonably important to the student body;
viii. Apprise the President, the Executive Board and the General Board of his/her work periodically and upon request;
ix. Participate in the deliberations of the Budget Committee, which body is further described in Section 6.2 hereof; and
x. Participate and/or assist in the due discharge of all functions and duties of SIPASA, as necessary.

d) The Treasurer shall:
i. Be the chief financial officer of and financial advisor to SIPASA;
ii. Present the state of SIPASA’s budget to the Executive Board and General Board periodically;
iii. Apprise the President, the Executive Board and the General Board of his/her work periodically and upon request;
iv. Coordinate with the SIPA Business Office as necessary;
v. Co-chair and participate in the deliberations of the Budget Committee, which body is further described in Section 6.2 hereof; and
vi. Participate and/or assist in the due discharge of all functions and duties of SIPASA, as necessary.

e) The University Senator shall:
i. As the representative of the SIPA student body to the Columbia University Senate, and being empowered and governed by the By-Laws, Statutes, and Rules of the Columbia University Senate, directly represent and be primarily and directly accountable to the SIPA student body in all matters affecting SIPA that are before or fall within the purview of the Columbia University Senate;
ii. Act as the primary representative of the SIPA student body to the rest of the Columbia University community;
iii. Be responsible for communicating all relevant information from the Senate to SIPASA;
iv. Apprise the President, the Executive Board and the General Board of his/her work periodically and upon request; and
v. Participate and/or assist in the due discharge of all functions and duties of SIPASA, as necessary.

Functional Chairs
f) The Academic Chairs shall:
   i. Be responsible for developing and carrying out SIPASA’s academic objectives;
   ii. Serve as the point Officers for academic, curricular and orientation matters on SIPASA;
   iii. Coordinate with Concentration and Specialization Program Assistants, Teaching Assistants, Departmental Research Assistants, and Advisors as necessary;
   iv. Coordinate with the Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Student Affairs, as necessary;
   v. Be an ex officio member and participate in the deliberations of the Committee of Instruction, led by the Office of Academic Affairs;
   vi. Be an ex officio member and participate in the deliberations of the Orientation Advisory Committee, led by the Office of Student Affairs;
   vii. Support the Office of Student Affairs in implementing the new student orientation each year in such manner as may be determined by the Office of Student Affairs from time to time;
   viii. Assist the Office of Student Affairs in implementing the SIPA Peer Advisors program in such manner as may be determined by the Office of Student Affairs from time to time;
   ix. Coordinate the Student Academic Advisory Task Force, which body is further described in Section 6.2 hereof;
   x. Apprise the President, the Executive Board and the General Board of their work periodically and upon request; and
   xi. Participate and/or assist in the due discharge of all functions and duties of SIPASA, as necessary.

g) The Career & Alumni Affairs Chairs shall:
   i. Be responsible for developing and carrying out SIPASA’s career and alumni affairs objectives;
   ii. Serve as the point Officers for career, alumni, and development matters on SIPASA;
   iii. Collaborate with the Office of Career Services (hereafter “OCS”) to support OCS’s mission;
   iv. Provide strategic input towards the development of OCS’s strategy and goals to help OCS cultivate its employer outreach and recruitment programs, facilitate professional networking opportunities and career events, develop new career services initiatives, and implement career services programming;
   v. Provide strategic input to the Office of Alumni Affairs and Office of Development on matters that entail a student perspective;
   vi. Lead engagement with the SIPA Alumni Council, with the support of the Director of Alumni Affairs;
   vii. Lead engagement with the SIPA Campaign Advisory Council, with the support of the Director of Development;
   viii. Coordinate the Student Career Services Committee, which body is further described in Section 6.2 hereof;
   ix. Coordinate the Student Alumni and Development Committee, which body is further described in Section 6.2 hereof;
   x. Apprise the President, the Executive Board and the General Board of their work periodically and upon request; and
   xi. Participate and/or assist in the due discharge of all functions and
duties of SIPASA, as necessary.

h) **The Social Chairs shall:**
   
i. Be responsible for developing the carrying out SIPASA’s social objectives;
   
ii. Serve as the point Officers for social programming matters on SIPASA;
   
iii. Oversee the planning and execution of all SIPASA’s social programming, in accordance with student needs, priorities, and preferences; and
   
iv. Consult the **Budget Committee** on pricing and revenue strategies and decisions.
   
v. Apprise the President, the Executive Board and the General Board of their work periodically and upon request; and
   
vi. Participate and/or assist in the due discharge of all functions and duties of SIPASA, as necessary.

i) **The Student Life Chairs shall:**
   
i. Be responsible for developing and carrying out SIPASA’s student life objectives;
   
ii. Serve as the point Officers for student life matters on SIPASA;
   
iii. Coordinate with the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Admissions & Financial Aid, as necessary;
   
iv. Administer SIPASA’s locker rental program and merchandise sales program;
   
v. Be responsible for managing and monitoring the relationship between SIPASA and all SIPA Student Groups;
   
vi. Provide support, including on space and funding issues, for all SIPA Student Groups;
   
vii. Assist the Office of Admissions to execute the **Ambassadors** program in such manner as may be determined by the Office of Admissions from time to time;
   
viii. Organize and execute all SIPASA’s elections, in collaboration with the Vice President;
   
ix. Consult the **Budget Committee** on pricing and revenue strategies and decisions.
   
x. Apprise the President, the Executive Board and the General Board of their work periodically and upon request; and
   
xi. Participate and/or assist in the due discharge of all functions and duties of SIPASA, as necessary.

j) **The Communications & External Relations Chairs shall:**
   
i. Be responsible for developing and carrying out SIPASA’s communications and external relations objectives;
   
ii. Serve as the point Officers for communications, external relations, branding, and marketing matters on SIPASA;
   
iii. Be responsible for all communications to the student body, including e-mail, social media networks and other forms of electronic communication, as well as event publicity;
   
iv. Be responsible for the maintenance of SIPASA’s online presence;
   
v. Provide strategic input to the Associate Dean for Communications and External Relations on SIPA's communications and marketing strategy and initiatives;
vi. Coordinate the **Student Advisory Board of External Relations**, which body is further described in Section 6.2 hereof;

vii. Apprise the President, the Executive Board and the General Board of their work periodically and upon request; and

viii. Participate and/or assist in the due discharge of all functions and duties of SIPASA, as necessary.

**Special Program Representatives**

k) **The MPA in Development Practice Representative shall:**
   i. Keep his or her constituency informed of SIPASA affairs;
   ii. Integrate MPA-DP students into the SIPA community; and
   iii. Bring any appropriate MPA-DP matters to SIPASA’s attention.

l) **The Program in Economic Policy Management Representative shall:**
   i. Keep his or her constituency informed of SIPASA affairs;
   ii. Integrate PEPM students into the SIPA community; and
   iii. Bring any appropriate PEPM matters to SIPASA’s attention.

m) **The MPA in Environmental Science and Policy Representative shall:**
   i. Keep his or her constituency informed of SIPASA affairs;
   ii. Integrate ESP students into the SIPA community; and
   iii. Bring any appropriate ESP matters to SIPASA’s attention.

n) **The Executive MPA Representative shall:**
   i. Keep his or her constituency informed of SIPASA affairs;
   ii. Integrate EMPA students into the SIPA community; and
   iii. Bring any appropriate EMPA matters to SIPASA’s attention.

o) **The Dual Degree representative shall:**
   i. Keep his or her constituency informed of SIPASA affairs;
   ii. Integrate Dual Degree students into the SIPA community; and
   iii. Bring any appropriate dual degree matters to SIPASA’s attention.

p) **The PhD programs representative shall:**
   i. Keep his or her constituency informed of SIPASA affairs;
   ii. Integrate PhD students into the SIPA community; and
   iii. Bring any appropriate PhD matters to SIPASA’s attention.
one member to the Board of Alumni Advisors.

The Alumni Board shall consist of two members at all times, except during its first year, during which time it shall consist of only one member. Each member of the Alumni Board shall serve a two-year term coinciding with the SIPASA cycle from January of the appointment year to January of the following year.

At the beginning of each SIPASA cycle, the Vice President and Student Life Chairs shall facilitate a process for the General Board to nominate one member to the Alumni Board. Nominees must be past SIPASA Presidents or Vice Presidents.

The Alumni Board shall:

a) Serve as a resource for the General Board;
b) Leverage its institutional knowledge to provide guidance and advice towards furthering SIPASA’s strategic objectives;
c) Leverage its knowledge and networks to facilitate SIPASA’s external engagement; and
d) Communicate with the General Board periodically, in person or remotely.

Section 4.5

Dismissals. Any SIPASA Officer can initiate dismissal proceedings against any other SIPASA Officer for failing to uphold the mandate, principles, and/or integrity of this Constitution. The initiating SIPASA Officer can in the first instance unilaterally initiate a case for dismissal with the SIPASA General Board or request the Executive Board to initiate proceedings to bring a dismissal case to the General Board.

Any SIPASA Officer subjected to dismissal proceedings shall be given reasonable notice as well as an opportunity for defense, and shall be granted due process under the highest voting standard, as further described in Section 7.4 hereof.

Section 4.6

Resignations. In the event that a SIPASA Officer is unable or unwilling to serve the duration of his/her term in office, he/she may resign by submitting a written resignation letter to the General Board.

In the event that a SIPASA Officer is not enrolled at SIPA for the duration of his/her term in office, he/she shall be required to resign forthwith from that position.

ARTICLE V.

ELECTIONS

Section 5.1

Eligibility. All students that expect to be enrolled at SIPA for the duration of their relevant SIPASA term are eligible to run for office in the SIPASA General Election. All students that meet this requirement are eligible to run for any Executive Board or Functional Chair position on the General Board. Special Program Representatives shall be elected, selected or nominated internally through their programs, in accordance with the stipulations of their
Section 5.2

Suffrage. All enrolled SIPA students, including those in special programs, are eligible to vote in the SIPASA General Election.

Section 5.3

Election of Officers. The SIPASA Officers shall be elected by the vote of eligible students. All enrolled SIPA students, including domestic dual degree students residing at other Columbia University schools during the election period, shall be eligible to vote. Those persons who receive the highest number of votes for each of the contested positions shall be deemed to have been elected to such position. No candidate shall run for more than one position on the General Board concurrently.

The SIPASA General Election shall have a single ballot that includes all Executive Board and Functional Chair positions, along with the names of the respective candidates. For single-Officer positions, those candidates who receive the highest number of votes for such position shall be deemed to have been elected. For dual-Officer positions, those candidates who receive the two highest number of votes for such position shall be deemed to have been elected. If there are no candidates contesting specific positions, such positions may be filled by nomination, in accordance with the rules determined by the Vice President and Student Life Chairs. In the event of a tie for any of the positions, the outgoing Executive Board shall vote to resolve the tie.

Section 5.4

Timing. The SIPASA General Election shall be held each year before the end of the fall semester. The SIPASA General Election must be accessible to all eligible students and shall be tailored to ensure that no segment of the eligible student body is disenfranchised.

Section 5.5

Election Process. The Vice President and Student Life Chairs shall manage the SIPASA General Election. They shall determine candidacy and campaign rules, in accordance with the principles delineated in this Constitution. They shall coordinate support for election day procedures and activities.

Section 5.6

Election Results. Once a final count of votes has been achieved, the Vice President shall announce the SIPASA General Election results publicly. The Vice President shall release voting records upon request by any candidates.

Section 5.7

Replacements. In the event that the President is unable to serve the duration of his/her term due to resignation or dismissal, the Vice President shall assume the position and serve as President for the remainder of the term. In the event that a SIPASA Officer is unable to serve the duration of his/her term due to resignation or dismissal, the General Board shall vote to decide whether to fill the position with a replacement or not.

In the event that the General Board decides to replace a vacant position, it shall determine and establish the procedure for filling such vacancy. The Vice President and the Student Life Chairs, in consultation with the Executive Board, shall determine and establish special eligibility, candidacy and voting rules for such replacements.

ARTICLE VI.

COMMITTEES
Section 6.1  
Temporary Committees. In order to carry out its mandate the General Board may from time to time resolve to establish temporary committees.

Section 6.2  
Permanent Committees. SIPASA shall comprise of the following permanent committees.

a) Budget Committee

The Budget Committee shall be co-chaired by the President and the Treasurer. It shall comprise of the President, the Treasurer, the General Secretary, and two additional members jointly nominated from among the General Board by the President and Treasurer to serve for the year.

The Budget Committee shall:
   i. Set spending priorities for SIPASA, in consultation with the Executive Board;
   ii. Be responsible for allocating student group funding in the spring and fall semesters;
   iii. Receive spending and revenue proposals from Functional Chairs and be responsible for approving them in accordance with SIPASA’s established spending priorities for the year; and
   iv. Periodically make presentations of the SIPASA budget as well as the aforementioned spending priorities to the General Board and solicit views to shape future priorities.

b) Senior Leadership Committee

SIPASA shall collaborate with SIPA’s senior staff on a Senior Leadership Committee, which committee shall comprise of the Dean, the Senior Associate Dean, the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, the Assistant Dean for Student Life, the President, and the Vice President. The purpose of the Senior Leadership Committee is to institutionalize SIPASA’s role as the administration’s partner to support the management and development of SIPA.

Members of the Senior Leadership Committee may invite other administrators, faculty or students to present on or discuss matters on the agenda. At the meetings of the Senior Leadership Committee, SIPASA shall be briefed by the administration on the latest relevant updates from senior staff meetings, subject to confidentiality requirements. SIPASA shall also be consulted by the administration on relevant topics discussed in SIPA’s Executive Committee.

The Senior Leadership Committee shall function as a body that facilitates SIPASA’s partnership with the administration. SIPASA shall:
   i. Provide input on the formulation of SIPA’s strategy and goals;
   ii. Provide advice to ensure that SIPA’s faculty, staff, students and resources are engaged appropriately to achieve such goals;
   iii. Help implement actions to engage students to achieve such goals;
   iv. Discuss topics that warrant the attention of SIPA’s senior staff; and
   v. Relay high-level communication from the SIPA administration to the student body.

c) Student Academic Affairs Task Force
At the start of each academic year, the Academic Chairs shall form and coordinate a **Student Academic Advisory Task Force** (hereafter the “Task Force”) that shall aim to comprise of a cross section of the student body’s academic interests and diversity. The Task Force shall meet regularly with the Office of Academic Affairs to give voice to student concerns and provide another means of ongoing dialogue. The purpose of the Task Force is for students and SIPASA to have a chance to provide input towards the formulation and modification of policies before they reach the **Committee on Instruction**.

The terms governing the functioning, scope and membership of the **Student Academic Advisory Task Force** shall be developed and modified, as necessary, jointly by SIPASA and the Office of Academic Affairs.

d) **Student Advisory Board for External Relations**

Each year, the Communications & External Relations Chairs shall form and coordinate a **Student Advisory Board of External Relations**. The **Student Advisory Board of External Relations** shall be responsible for suggesting high-impact projects and providing feedback to the Office of Communications & External Relations on proposed initiatives, surveys and reports.

The terms governing the functioning, scope and membership of the **Student Advisory Board of External Relations** shall be developed and modified, as necessary, jointly by SIPASA and the Office of Communications & External Relations.

e) **Student Career Affairs Committee**

Each year, the Career & Alumni Affairs Chairs shall form and coordinate a **Student Career Affairs Committee** to serve as an advisory body to the Career & Alumni Affairs Chairs, provide an on-call resource for OCS programming, operate as a focus group to provide feedback to OCS, and facilitate implementation of OCS initiatives.

The terms governing the functioning, scope and membership of the **Student Career Affairs Committee** shall be developed and modified, as necessary, jointly by SIPASA and the OCS.

f) **Student Alumni and Development Committee**

Each year, the Career & Alumni Affairs Chairs shall form and coordinate a **Student Alumni and Development Committee**, which shall serve as an on-call resource for the Office of Alumni Affairs and Office of Development. The **Student Alumni and Development Committee** shall also serve an advisory function to both offices on relevant alumni affairs and development matters.

The terms governing the functioning, scope and membership of the **Student Alumni and Development Committee** shall be developed and modified as necessary jointly by SIPASA, the Office of Alumni Affairs, and the Office of Development.
ARTICLE VII.

DUE PROCESS

Section 7.1  Official Business. All official SIPASA business on the General Board shall require quorum. Quorum is defined as the participation of at least two-thirds of all SIPASA’s voting Officers.

Section 7.2  Resolutions and Decisions. The passage of all SIPASA resolutions and decisions shall require a simple majority of all SIPASA’s voting Officers, provided quorum as defined in Section 7.1 hereof has been established.

Section 7.3  Amendments. The passage of amendments to this Constitution shall require a three-fourths majority of all SIPASA’s voting Officers, provided quorum as defined in Section 7.1 hereof has been established. Voting on constitutional amendments shall also require the participation of all Officers of the Executive Board.

Section 7.4  Dismissals. Any successful dismissals of a SIPASA Officer shall require a three-fourths majority of all SIPASA’s voting Officers, provided quorum as defined in Section 7.1 hereof has been established. Voting on dismissals of SIPASA Officers shall also require the participation of all Officers of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII.

INTEGRATION CLAUSE

Section 8.1  This Constitution supersedes all prior constitutions, by-laws, regulations, guidelines and other similar documents relating to the matters contained herein.

Ratified November 12, 2012
SIPASA 2012
First Amendment:

As of the 2014 election cycle for SIPASA, the student population that begins its studies in SIPA at the beginning of the spring semester (in January), shall have its own representative (hereafter the “J-termer Representative”).

The J-termer representative shall:

i. Keep his or her constituency informed of SIPASA affairs
ii. Integrate J-termer students into the SIPA community; and
iii. Bring any appropriate J-termer matters to SIPASA’s attention

The General board is thus comprised by 17 members in total as of the ratification of this amendment.

Ratified, November 14th, 2014

Second Amendment:

The 2015 SIPASA General Board hereby formalizes the distribution of funds for student group. Student groups shall present budget considerations to the SIPASA Budget Committee entailing the following criteria:

i. Past performance
ii. Financial responsibility
iii. Semester plans
iv. Budget breakdown

Student groups may refer to presentation templates and evaluation rubrics distributed by the SIPASA Budget Committee prior to aforementioned presentations.

The General Board is thus comprised by 16 members in total as of the ratification of this amendment.

Ratified April 6, 2015

Third Amendment:

SIPASA General Board members must be present for all General Board meetings – location and time to be collectively agreed upon prior – and may be absent for no more than two such meetings. SIPASA Executive Board members must also be present for all General Board and Executive Board meetings –location and time to be collectively agreed upon prior – and may be absent for no more than four such meetings. Any absences necessitate prior notice to the appropriate Board members.

The General Board is thus comprised by 22 members in total as of the ratification of this amendment.

Ratified November 23, 2015
Fourth Amendment:

The Vice-President of SIPASA will hereafter maintain an expanded mandate. In addition to the mandates stipulated in section 4.3, the Vice-President shall:

i. Serve as the Admissions liaison and work in conjunction with the Office of Student Affairs regarding all Admissions-related events and goings-on.

The General Board is thus comprised by 22 members in total as of the ratification of this amendment.

Ratified November 23, 2015

Fifth Amendment:

In regards to Sections 6.1 and 6.2, the General Board will hereafter maintain the right to resolve or dissolve temporary or permanent ad-hoc committees as it sees fit, in order to carry out its mandate. Such committees may be resolved and comprised as the General and Executive Board sees fit, but must include at least one (1) Executive Board member.

The General Board is thus comprised by 22 members in total as of the ratification of this amendment.

Ratified November 23, 2015

Sixth Amendment:

As of the 2015 election cycle for SIPASA, General and Executive Board members must conduct a thorough and quality-driven handover with incoming SIPASA representatives. Documentation of said handover must include at least a one (1) page transition document.

The General Board is thus comprised by 22 members in total as of the ratification of this amendment.

Ratified November 23, 2015
Seventh Amendment:
As of the 2015 election cycle for SIPASA, Executive Board members and members of the Budget Committee must avoid conflicts of interest. Said members will not be permitted to serve on the board of student groups other than that of SIPASA.

The General Board is thus comprised by 22 members in total as of the ratification of this amendment.

Ratified November 23, 2015

Eighth Amendment:
As of the 2015 election cycle for SIPASA, “J-termer” students (any student that begins his or her studies at SIPA during the spring semester, in January) and “advanced standing” students (any student that may terminate his or her studies at SIPA in less than four (4) semesters as he or she has been awarded advanced standing for the MIA or MPA degree based on a graduate degree(s) completed before enrollment at SIPA) will not be permitted to hold the position of University Senator, due to its term cycle.

The General Board is thus comprised by 22 members in total as of the ratification of this amendment.

Ratified November 23, 2015