

GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF GHANA -USA CHAPTER (GRASAG-USA)



GRASAG USA CONSTITUTION, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE	1
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS.....	1
CHAPTER TWO	2
MEMBERSHIP.....	2
CHAPTER THREE.....	6
STRUCTURE OF GRASAG-USA.....	6
CHAPTER FOUR	7
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.....	7
CHAPTER FIVE	16
PARLIAMENT	16
CHAPTER SIX.....	23
THE JUDICIAL BOARD	23
CHAPTER SEVEN	32
THE GOVERNING BOARD	32
CHAPTER EIGHT.....	34
OTHER OFFICERS OF GRASAG USA	34
CHAPTER NINE.....	35
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	35
FIRST SCHEDULE.....	40
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.....	40
SECOND SCHEDULE.....	42
FORMS OF OATH.....	42

PREAMBLE**CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF GHANA, USA
CHAPTER (GRASAG-USA)****IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2013 CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF GHANA (GRASAG CONSTITUTION), CHAPTER
1(5)(3)**

We, the Ghanaian graduate students in the United States of America, realizing the need to organize ourselves in the spirit of oneness to pursue common goals, equality, and fraternity; determined to promote the general welfare and ensure continuity in postgraduate work, including academic, social, and other pursuits; declaring and affirming our commitment to freedom, justice, probity, rule of law, and accountability, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution.

CHAPTER ONE

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

1. THE SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

- (1) The supreme power of the Graduate Students' Association of Ghana-United States of America resides in its Members in whose name and for whose welfare, the Officers of the Association shall act.
- (2) Subject to the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and all laws of the Union, this Constitution shall be the Supreme Law of Members of the Graduate Students Association of Ghana - United States of America.

2. NAME

The association shall be known and called the Graduate Students' Association of Ghana-USA, herein referred to as GRASAG-USA.

3. VISION

To be a formidable voice to champion the interests of Ghanaian graduate students in the USA.

4. MISSION

To build a resourceful community of Ghanaian graduate students in the USA.

5. OBJECTIVES

- (1) To seek the academic and general welfare of members
- (2) To build a culture of excellence that will unleash the maximum potential of our members
- (3) To foster research collaboration with graduate students back in Ghana
- (4) To provide valuable information to prospective Ghanaians seeking to pursue graduate programs in the USA
- (5) To actively undertake voluntary community service and educational programs in the USA and Ghana.
- (6) To train and develop the professional capabilities of members.
- (7) To provide a collaborative forum for members to discuss issues of mutual interest and benefit.
- (8) To promote the colorful Ghanaian culture through our activities.

6. MOTTO

The motto of the Association shall be:

GRASAG-USA: Connecting graduate students in the US for Ghana's development and growth.

CHAPTER TWO

MEMBERSHIP

7. ELIGIBILITY

- (1) Membership in GRASAG-USA shall be open to any individual who:
 - (a) Is enrolled in a graduate-level program at an accredited institution in the United States; and
 - (b) Identifies as Ghanaian by nationality, heritage, cultural affiliation, or selfidentification.
- (2) Membership shall not be restricted on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.
- (3) No hazing, intimidation, or discrimination shall be used as a condition of membership.
- (4) Membership becomes effective upon completion of the official GRASAG-USA registration process through the GRASAG-USA website or any platform designated by the Executive Board.
- (5) A person shall be a member of GRASAG-USA if they have
 - (a) been admitted into a graduate program at a recognized institution in the United States of America,
 - (b) completed registration through the Association's official platform,
 - (c) and have paid the prescribed membership dues shall be eligible for General Active Membership of GRASAG-USA, subject to the provisions governing dues as stated in this Constitution.
- (6) Graduate students who have completed their studies in the United States of America shall retain General Active Membership status for a period of one (1) year following completion of their program and shall enjoy all rights and privileges accorded to such members during that period.
- (7) Ghanaian undergraduate students enrolled in institutions in the United States of America who apply through the Association's official platform shall be granted Affiliate (Junior) Membership of GRASAG-USA.
- (8) Notwithstanding the provisions of clause (7) of this article, Affiliate (Junior) Members shall not be eligible to vote or to hold elected or appointed office within the Association.

- (9) A person who has completed graduate studies and has rendered distinguished service or made significant contributions to the Association or its objectives may, upon approval by the appropriate governing body of GRASAG-USA, be conferred Honorary Membership.

8. CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

- (1) GRASAG-USA shall recognize three categories of membership, namely General Active Members, Affiliate Members, and Honorary Members.
- (2) A General Active Member shall –
- (a) be a registered Ghanaian graduate student who has completed the membership sign-up process and whose enrollment has been verified in accordance with Article 7 of this constitution.
 - (b) have met all organizational requirements, which may include payment of dues
 - (c) Subject to other provisions under this constitution, be eligible to vote, hold office, and participate in decision-making.
- (3) An Affiliate Member shall refer to an individual or group who –
- (a) are formally connected to the Association but do not meet full membership criteria
 - (b) cannot participate in governance.
- (4) An Honorary Member shall refer to an individual or community partner who –
- (a) contributes to GRASAG-USA's mission
 - (b) shall be granted honorary membership by the Executive Board.
 - (c) shall not have voting rights or hold office.

9. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

- (1) All General Active Members shall have rights to participate fully in the activities of GRASAG-USA
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, all General Active Members shall have the right to:
- (a) Participate in GRASAG-USA activities and programs
 - (b) Access support services, resources, and communications
 - (c) Attend meetings except where otherwise restricted.
 - (d) Vote in national elections and organizational referenda
 - (e) Hold elected or appointed office
 - (f) Serve on committees and represent the organization as required.

10. OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

- (1) All members of GRASAG-USA shall be subject to obligations towards the association
- (2) In accordance with clause (1) of this Article, all members shall:
 - (a) Uphold the Constitution, Bylaws, and policies of GRASAG-USA.
 - (b) Maintain updated personal and institutional information within the membership system.
 - (c) Conduct themselves ethically and in a manner consistent with the mission and values of the organization.
 - (d) Fulfill financial obligations, including dues or assessments if applicable to their membership category.

11. RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

- (1) Recruitment of new members shall be open year-round.
- (2) Any national or chapter officer designated by the Executive Board may conduct recruitment activities.
- (3) Recruitment shall be conducted without coercion, discrimination, or misrepresentation.

12. REVOCATION, SUSPENSION, OR DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Revocation of membership refers to the permanent termination of an individual's membership in the Association, resulting in the loss of all rights, privileges, titles, and authority associated with membership.
- (2) Suspension of membership refers to the temporary withdrawal of a member's rights and privileges for a specified period or until stated conditions are met, after which membership may be restored.
- (3) Discipline of membership refers to corrective actions imposed on a member for violations of the Association's constitution, bylaws, or policies, which may include warnings, reprimands, suspension, removal from office, or revocation of membership.
- (4) Membership may be suspended or revoked for:
 - (a) Misconduct detrimental to the organization
 - (b) Violation of any provision of this Constitution or organizational policy
 - (c) Falsification of information
 - (d) Financial improprieties
 - (e) Actions that significantly damage the reputation or functioning of GRASAG-USA.

- (5) A Membership Review Committee shall conduct an investigation, notify the member in writing (email), and provide at least 72 hours' notice prior to a hearing.
- (6) The member shall have the right to:
 - (a) Respond to the allegations
 - (b) Present evidence or witnesses
 - (c) Be accompanied by an adviser of their choice (non-legal counsel).
- (7) A recommendation for suspension or revocation shall be forwarded to Parliament for a vote.
- (8) Membership may only be revoked by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Parliament.
- (9) A member whose membership has been revoked shall have the right to appeal once within 30 days to the GRASAG-USA Judicial Board or any designated appeals body.
- (10) A former member whose membership was revoked may apply for reinstatement after demonstrating compliance, correction of violation, or rehabilitation, subject to approval by a simple majority vote of Parliament.

CHAPTER THREE
STRUCTURE OF GRASAG-USA

13. COMPOSITION

- (1) There shall be leadership of GRASAG-USA, and the head shall be the President.
- (2) GRASAG-USA shall comprise:
 - (a) the Executive Board,
 - (b) Parliament
 - (c) the Judicial Board.
 - (d) Governing Board

14. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

GRASAG-USA shall be generally responsible for:

- (1) Seeking the welfare and interest of Ghanaian graduate students in the United States
- (2) Serving as a mouthpiece for Ghanaian graduate students in the United States
- (3) Serving as a link between graduate students in the United States and other graduate unions across the world, including but not limited to the Graduate Students Association of Ghana, national
- (4) Providing a means of communication between Ghanaian graduate students in the United States and the Embassy and Consulate General(s) of Ghana in the United States
- (5) Maintaining unity and cohesion among Ghanaian student unions in the United States
- (6) Promoting cordial relations between Ghanaian graduate students in the United States and alumni
- (7) Taking charge of the management of assets belonging to GRASAG-USA and ensuring probity, accountability, and transparency
- (8) Constituting standing and ad-hoc committees under this constitution to promote or manage the affairs of GRASAG-USA
- (9) Any other duties as may be assigned by the Embassy and Consulate General(s) of Ghana in the United States

CHAPTER FOUR
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

15. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

- (1) There shall be an Executive Board that shall comprise:
 - (a) President
 - (b) Vice President
 - (c) General Secretary
 - (d) Director For Finance
 - (e) Director for Communication
 - (f) Director for Programs
 - (g) Director for Research & Scholarship
 - (h) Director for Graduate Transition & Alumni Relations
 - (i) Director for Information Technology
 - (j) Regional Coordinators and
 - (k) State Representatives
- (2) The Executive Board shall formulate, initiate, and implement policies for GRASAG-USA
- (3) A quorum of the Executive Board meeting shall comprise two-thirds (2/3) of the members, including the President or the Vice President
- (4) The Executive Board shall have standing orders to regulate its meetings

16. THE PRESIDENT OF GRASAG-USA

- (1) There shall be a President who shall be the leader and chief spokesperson of GRASAG-USA
- (2) The President shall take precedence over all other persons in GRASAG-USA; and in descending order, the Vice-President, the Speaker of Parliament, and the Chief Justice
- (3) Before assuming office, the President shall take and subscribe before Parliament the oath of allegiance and the presidential oath set out in the Second Schedule to this Constitution and administered by the outgoing Chief Justice, before Parliament at a handing over ceremony
- (4) The President shall not be liable to proceedings before the Judicial Board for any act or omission or commission in the performance of official functions.

- (5) Notwithstanding clause (3) of this Article, the President shall be personally liable to proceedings before the Judicial Board if impeached, removed from office, or resigns.
- (6) The President shall be the official Spokesperson of GRASAG-USA.
- (7) The President shall preside over all official meetings, activities, and functions of the Association except Parliament.

17. FUNCTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT

The President shall:

- (1) Ensure adherence to the objectives of GRASAG-USA.
- (2) be the principal signatory to the GRASAG-USA account.
- (3) be a member of the Senate of the GRASAG national in Ghana.
- (4) Within thirty (30) days after assumption of office, present to Parliament the proposed programs, projects, or activities to be undertaken by the Executive Board during its tenure of office
- (5) Have a casting vote at Executive Board meetings
- (6) Give a state of the GRASAG-USA address at least once a year at a sitting of Parliament
- (7) In consultation with the Executive Board, appoint Heads of Committees.
- (8) Communicate in writing to the Speaker and Chief Justice of an intention to travel outside the country for more than five days.
- (9) The tenure of the President shall be for one (1) academic year, subject to extension via an annual election in which members vote for a person for the President's Office.
- (10) For the purposes of being part of any students' delegation, be the leader of the delegation; and
- (11) Perform any such functions or duties that may be assigned by the constitution.

18. THE VICE PRESIDENT

- (1) There shall be a Vice President of GRASAG-USA.
- (2) A candidate for the office of the Vice President shall be the running mate to the candidate for the office of the President.

- (3) Before assuming office, the Vice President shall subscribe to the Oath of the Vice President as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution and administered by the outgoing Chief Justice, before Parliament at a handing over ceremony.
- (4) Notwithstanding any provisions in this Constitution, in the event of death, resignation, or removal from office of the President, the Vice President shall, after subscribing to the Oath of the President in the manner provided for under this Constitution, assume office as President for the unexpired term of office.
- (5) The Vice President shall, upon assuming office as President under clause (4) of this Article, nominate a person to the office of Vice President in consultation with the Executive Board, subject to the approval of Parliament.
- (6) The new Vice President shall subscribe to the Oath of the Vice President as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution and administered by the Chief Justice, before the Executive Board.
- (7) The tenure of the Vice President shall be for one (1) academic year, subject to extension via an annual election in which members vote for a person for the Vice President's Office

19. FUNCTIONS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall:

- (1) The Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of his/her duties
- (2) The Vice President shall act in the absence of the President.
- (3) The Vice-President shall be the principal officer in charge of membership of the association.
- (4) The Vice President shall be responsible for the overall welfare needs of members.
- (5) The Vice President shall have the oversight responsibility of the Regional Coordinating Secretaries.
- (6) The Vice President shall have oversight responsibility of all ad hoc committees unless otherwise stated.
- (7) The Vice President shall be a member of the Senate of GRASAG National

20. THE GENERAL SECRETARY

- (1) There shall be a General Secretary who shall be elected under this Constitution

- (2) Before assuming office, the General Secretary shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution and administered by the outgoing Chief Justice, before Parliament at a handing over ceremony.

21. FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

- (1) The General Secretary shall take, keep, and maintain true and accurate minutes at Executive Board meetings and make them available to members.
- (2) The General Secretary shall be responsible for all the correspondence for and on behalf of GRASAG-USA.
- (3) The General Secretary shall take custody of all documents and records of GRASAG-USA
- (4) The General Secretary shall perform any additional duties as may be assigned by the President.
- (5) The General Secretary shall maintain accurate membership records.
- (6) The General Secretary shall be a member of the Senate of GRASAG National
- (7) The tenure of the General Secretary shall be for one (1) academic year, subject to extension via an annual election in which members vote for a person for the Secretary's Office.

22. THE DIRECTOR FOR FINANCE

- (1) There shall be a Director for Finance who shall be elected under this Constitution
- (2) Before assuming office, the Director for Finance shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution and administered by the outgoing Chief Justice, before Parliament at a handing over ceremony.

23. FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR FOR FINANCE

- (1) The Director for Finance shall be responsible for all financial matters of GRASAG-USA, including the collection of dues, financial contributions of any form, and disbursement of all monies.
- (2) The Director for Finance shall keep all financial documents and proper records of financial transactions of GRASAG-USA.
- (3) The Director for Finance shall perform any additional duties assigned to him/her by the Executive Board.

- (4) The Director for Finance shall lead the fundraising and resource mobilization initiatives of the association.
- (5) The Director for Finance shall be a signatory to the GRASAG-USA account.
- (6) The tenure of the Director for Finance shall be for one (1) academic year, subject to extension via an annual election in which members vote for a person for the Director for Finance's Office.

24. DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATION

- (1) There shall be a Director for Communication who shall be elected under this Constitution
- (2) Before assuming office, the Director for Communication shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution

25. FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

The Director of Communication shall:

- (1) providing Strategic Leadership & Advisory by:
 - (a) developing and implementing a comprehensive communications and branding strategy aligned with the Association's mission.
 - (b) advising the President, Executive Board, and Governing Council on all communications, media, and branding matters.
 - (c) leading crisis communication efforts to safeguard the Association's reputation.
- (2) provide brand & identity management by:
 - (a) serving as custodian of the Association's brand, ensuring all assets (logos, platforms, digital accounts) are verified, secured, and consistently represented
 - (b) Overseeing creative outputs to maintain a professional and cohesive identity across all media.
- (3) Serve as media and public relations liaison by:
 - (a) acting as the main point of contact for media and external communication partners.
 - (b) drafting and releasing official statements, press releases, and speeches.
 - (c) building strong relationships with journalists, influencers, and stakeholders to strengthen visibility.
- (4) oversee digital and social media communications by:
 - (a) managing the Association's digital presence, including social media strategy, content creation, and online engagement.

- (b) monitoring analytics and trends to improve communication effectiveness.
- (c) ensuring IT and digital communication platforms are secure and up to date.
- (5) Implement team development & collaboration efforts by:
 - (a) selecting and supervising up to two assistants to support communications delivery in consultation with the Executive Board
 - (b) managing a cross-functional communications team (press, design, social media specialists).
 - (c) providing guidance and clear direction to ensure efficient and timely execution of communication activities.
 - (d) collaborating with internal departments to align communications with programmatic priorities.

26. DIRECTOR FOR PROGRAMS

- (1) There shall be a Director for Programs who shall be elected under this Constitution
- (2) Before assuming office, the Director for Programs shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution.

27. FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR FOR PROGRAMS

The Director for Programs shall:

- (1) lead the drafting, planning, and execution of GRASAG events.
- (2) maintain communication with resource persons/speakers for all programs and ensure they have all the necessary information to adequately deliver during events.
- (3) lead the publicity efforts of all GRASAG programs in partnership with the Directors of Communications.
- (4) liaise with the Director for Information Technology to design promotional materials for all programs.
- (5) create registration forms and links for virtual events.
- (6) liaise with executives to execute and evaluate GRASAG events.
- (7) present program updates at all executive meetings and maintain the current schedule of all programs.

28. DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

- (1) There shall be a Director for Research & Scholarship who shall be elected under this Constitution

- (2) Before assuming office, the Director for Research & Scholarship shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution.

29. FUNCTIONS FOR THE DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

The Director for Research and Scholarship shall be responsible for:

- (1) developing and implementing strategic plans to enhance research activities and productivity among graduate students.
- (2) facilitating access to scholarship and grant opportunities for graduate and prospective graduate students.
- (3) designing and overseeing career development programs that support graduate students in their transition to professional roles.
- (4) fostering partnerships and collaborations with industry, academia, and other organizations to enhance research opportunities for graduate students.
- (5) advocating for policies and resources that support research, scholarship, and graduate education at the institutional and broader levels, promoting their impact to internal and external stakeholders.
- (6) conducting curriculum vitae (CV) reviews and providing guidance to enhance both prospective graduate students and graduate students' academic and professional profiles.
- (7) collating information about available conferences that members can attend and add them to the monthly newsletter

30. DIRECTOR FOR GRADUATE TRANSITION & ALUMNI RELATIONS

- (1) There shall be a Director for Graduate Transition & Alumni Relations who shall be elected under this Constitution
- (2) Before assuming office, the Director for Graduate Transition & Alumni Relations shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution.

31. FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR FOR GRADUATE TRANSITION & ALUMNI RELATIONS

The Director for Graduate Transition & Alumni Relations shall:

- (1) be the office holder serving as the primary liaison for GRASAG-USA Alumni
- (2) develop strategies for recruiting, engaging, and retaining alumni
- (3) identify creative ways of soliciting both financial and non-financial support from alumni

- (4) develop strategies for transitioning graduating students into the Alumni fold
- (5) organize networking events (virtual and in-person) to connect alumni with current graduate students
- (6) foster mentorship opportunities between alumni and graduate students on career guidance and cultural adaptation
- (7) highlight alumni achievements through social media and association platforms
- (8) provide resources and guidance for students transitioning from graduate school to the job market
- (9) offer orientation support for international students preparing for Optional Practical Training (OPT), Curricular Practical Training (CPT), or other career opportunities.
- (10) advise the President and Executive Board on matters related to Alumni engagement, including providing periodic reports on alumni engagement.

32. DIRECTOR FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- (1) There shall be a Director for Information Technology who shall be elected under this Constitution
- (2) Before assuming office, the Director for Information Technology shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution

33. FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Director for Information Technology shall be responsible for:

- (1) developing and executing creative design strategies that align with the organization's branding and communication objectives.
- (2) managing and maintaining IT systems, networks, and security protocols to ensure efficiency and data integrity.
- (3) collaborating with other offices to understand their technology and design needs and implementing solutions that enhance operational effectiveness.
- (4) staying updated on industry trends and technological advancements, and recommending innovations that could benefit the organization.

34. REGIONAL COORDINATORS

- (1) There shall be five Regional Coordinators who shall be appointed by the President under this Constitution

- (2) The Regional Coordinators shall represent the five administrative regions of the United States, namely: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, and West.
- (3) Before assuming office, each Regional Coordinator shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution

35. FUNCTIONS OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATORS

The Regional Coordinators shall:

- (1) oversee the activities of state representatives
- (2) assist the Director for Programs in organizing activities of GRASAG-USA, particularly the organization of the annual conference of GRASAG-USA.

36. STATE REPRESENTATIVES

- (1) There shall be State Representatives who shall be appointed by the President under this Constitution
- (2) The State Representatives shall represent each state that has a significant student presence of Ghanaian graduate students in the United States
- (3) Before assuming office, each State Representative shall subscribe to the Oath of Office as set out in the Second Schedule of this Constitution

37. FUNCTIONS OF STATE REPRESENTATIVES

State Representatives shall:

- (1) represent the interests and suggestions of the members of their states in Parliament.
- (2) carry out state-level activities that aim at achieving the objectives of GRASAG-USA.
- (3) seek the academic and general welfare of GRASAG-USA members in their various states.

CHAPTER FIVE

PARLIAMENT

38. COMPOSITION OF PARLIAMENT

- (1) There shall be a Parliament of GRASAG-USA, which shall consist of no less than 15 members
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the legislative power of GRASAG-USA shall be vested in Parliament and exercised according to the provisions of this Constitution.

39. QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this constitution, a person shall not be qualified to be a member of Parliament unless:
 - (a) they are a member of the association in good standing
 - (b) Have not been disqualified by any lawful body under this constitution from standing for elections
- (2) The Electoral Commission, in consultation with the Leadership of Parliament, shall ensure the election or appointment of Parliamentarians before the first meeting of Parliament.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of clause (2) above, the Electoral Commission, in consultation with the Leadership of Parliament, shall ensure the election or appointment of Parliamentarians at any time:
 - (a) to fill a vacancy
 - (b) to increase the number of Parliamentarians in line with the Provisions under this Constitution.

40. THE SPEAKER

- (1) There shall be a Speaker of Parliament, who shall be elected by members of Parliament from among persons who are members of Parliament and qualified to be elected as members of Parliament.
- (2) The Speaker shall vacate the office if:
 - (a) they resign from office by writing a personally signed document addressed to the Clerk to Parliament
 - (b) any circumstances arise that disqualify them from office

(c) they are removed from office by a motion supported by the votes of not less than threequarters of all members of parliament

(3) A Person elected to the office of the Speaker shall take before Parliament the Speaker's Oath set out in Schedule two of this Constitution.

(4) The Speaker shall administer oaths and interpret all matters concerning the Standing Orders as set out in clause Article 54.

41. THE DEPUTY SPEAKERS

(1) There shall be two Deputy Speakers of Parliament:

- (a) who shall be elected by members of Parliament from among themselves; and
- (b) both of whom shall not be members of the same bench

(2) The deputy speakers shall preside over meetings of Parliament in the absence of the substantive Speaker of Parliament

42. THE CLERK TO THE PARLIAMENT

(1) There shall be a Clerk to Parliament who shall:

- (a) take and read minutes of proceedings at Parliament meetings.
- (b) keep all documents of Parliament meetings.
- (c) be responsible for all correspondence on behalf of Parliament.

(2) The Clerk to Parliament shall not be a member of Parliament or have a vote in Parliament

43. TENURE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

(1) The Tenure of all members of Parliament shall be one academic year, or until Parliament is dissolved, except otherwise stated in this constitution

(2) A member of Parliament shall vacate their seat:

- (a) upon the dissolution of Parliament
- (b) if they resign
- (c) if they get expelled from Parliament after having faced disciplinary action

Procedure in Parliament

44. OATH OF MEMBERS

(1) A member of Parliament shall, before taking their office in Parliament, take before the Speaker and in the presence of other members of Parliament, the oath of a member of Parliament set out in Schedule two of this Constitution.

- (2) Before taking the oaths in clause (1) above, a member of Parliament may take part in the election of the Speaker.

45. PRESIDING IN THE PARLIAMENT

The Speaker shall preside in Parliament at all sittings, and in the absence of the Speaker, a Deputy Speaker shall preside.

46. QUORUM IN PARLIAMENT

A quorum of Parliament, apart from the Presiding Officer, shall be one-third of all members of Parliament.

47. COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT

- (1) Parliament shall appoint standing committees and other committees as may be necessary for the effective implementation of its functions
- (2) The Standing Committees shall be appointed at the first meeting of Parliament after the Inauguration of the House
- (3) Committees of Parliament shall be set up with such functions, including the investigation and inquiry into the activities and administration of the various bodies under GRASAG-USA
- (4) Every member of Parliament shall be a member of at least one of the standing committees.
- (5) A committee appointed under this article shall have the powers, rights, and privileges of a Justice of the Judicial Board at trial for:
 - (a) Enforcement of the attendance of witnesses and examination of the same on oath, affirmation, or otherwise
 - (b) Compelling the production of documents

48. VOTING IN PARLIAMENT

- (1) Except otherwise provided in this constitution, matters in Parliament shall be resolved by the votes of the majority of the members of Parliament present and voting.
- (2) The Speaker shall have no vote
- (3) Where the votes on a motion are equal, it shall be taken to be lost

Mode Of Exercising Legislative Power

49. PARLIAMENT BILLS

- (1) The power of Parliament to make laws shall be exercised by bills passed by Parliament and assented to by the President
- (2) No bill, other than a bill introduced under a certificate of emergency, shall be introduced unless:
 - (a) It is accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out in detail the principles of the bill, defects in existing law, the remedies proposed to deal with those defects, and the necessity for the introduction; and
 - (b) It has been published at least 14 days before the date of its introduction in Parliament
- (3) Whenever a bill is read for the first time in Parliament, it shall be referred to the appropriate committee appointed under Article 47 of this Constitution, which shall examine the bill in detail and make all such enquiries and recommendations as it deems necessary.
- (4) When the appropriate committee has deliberated upon the bill, it shall be reported to Parliament
- (5) The report of the committee, together with the explanatory memorandum to the bill, shall form the basis for a whole debate for the passage of the bill with or without amendments, or its rejection by Parliament
- (6) Whenever a bill passed by Parliament is presented to the President for assent, the President shall respond within 7 days after presentation of the bill to the Speaker, whether the President assents to the bill or refuses to assent to the bill unless it has been referred to the Board of Patrons.
- (7) Where the President, for whatever reason, does not assent to a bill within 7 days after presentation of the bill, the President shall provide Parliament with a memorandum to the Speaker outlining any specific provisions to be reconsidered by Parliament
- (8) The Speaker shall refer such a matter to the Board of Patrons
- (9) Parliament shall reconsider a bill, taking into account the memorandum presented by the President or the Board of Patrons, as the case may be
- (10) Where the bill reconsidered under clause (9) of this Article is passed by Parliament by a resolution supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all

members of Parliament, the President shall assent to it within thirty days after the passing of the resolution

- (11) A bill introduced in Parliament by or on behalf of the President shall not be delayed for more than a month in any committee of Parliament

50. RETROACTIVE LEGISLATION

Parliament shall have no power to pass any law that retroactively imposes any limitations on any member of GRASAG-USA

51. FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT OF THE PARLIAMENT

Parliament shall have the power, through the passing of motions, to scrutinize, discuss, and approve policies, programs, financial statements, or budgets prepared by the Executive Board.

52. APPROVAL POWERS OF PARLIAMENT

Subject to the provisions of this constitution, Parliament shall have the power to approve or reject nominees from the Executive Board.

53. INQUIRY INTO ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament shall have the power to summon any Executive Board Member or Committee Head to answer questions relating to their work with at least five working days' notice period.

54. STANDING ORDERS OF PARLIAMENT

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament shall, by standing orders, regulate its own procedure
- (2) Notwithstanding a vacancy in its membership, including a vacancy not filled when Parliament first meets after the dissolution of Parliament, and the presence of the participation of a person not entitled to be present or to participate in the proceedings of Parliament, shall not invalidate those proceedings.

55. ATTENDANCE IN THE PARLIAMENT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND MINISTERS

The Vice-President, or any Member of the Executive who is not a member of Parliament, shall be entitled to participate in the proceedings of Parliament and shall be accorded all the privileges of a member of Parliament, except that they are not entitled to vote or hold office in Parliament.

56. PARLIAMENT REPRESENTATION ON OTHER GRASAG-USA BODIES

Parliament shall appoint a member to represent Parliament on executive boards, which include:

- (1) Electoral Commission.
- (2) Vetting Committees
- (3) Congress Planning Committees

Summoning, Dissolution, etc.

57. SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT

- (1) A session of Parliament shall be held at such a physical precinct or electronic platform and shall commence at such a time as the Speaker may appoint, except that the Speaker shall inform the Clerk, who shall inform the members within a reasonable time.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, fifteen percent of members may request a meeting of Parliament; and the Speaker shall, within seven days after the receipt of the request, summon Parliament.
- (3) Whenever a vacancy occurs in Parliament, the Clerk to Parliament shall notify the Electoral Commission in writing within seven days of becoming aware, and the Electoral Commission shall make provisions to fill the vacancy.

58. DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT

- (1) Parliament shall continue for one academic year beginning in the Fall semester and ending in the Summer semester.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, Parliament shall stand dissolved after the General Elections

Privileges and Immunities

59. FREEDOM OF SPEECH

All debates, proceedings, and speeches in Parliament or any Committee constituted by Parliament shall be privileged, and no court or place outside Parliament shall question or impeach such proceedings.

60. CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

Any act or omission which obstructs or impedes Parliament in the performance of its functions, or which impedes or obstructs an officer of Parliament in the performance of their tasks, or affronts the dignity of Parliament, or which tends to produce the result, is contempt of Parliament

61. PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE

- (1) There shall be a Parliamentary Service which shall be a part of the public services of GRASAG-USA

- (2) There shall be a Parliamentary Service Board which shall consist of:
- (a) The Speaker, as chairman;
 - (b) Four other members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker, acting in accordance with the advice of a committee of Parliament; and (c) The Clerk to Parliament.
- (3) The Clerk to Parliament shall be the head of Parliamentary Service
- (4) The appointment of the Clerk to Parliament and other members of Parliamentary Service shall be made by the Parliamentary Service Board.

CHAPTER SIX
THE JUDICIAL BOARD

62. ESTABLISHMENT AND STATUS

- (1) There shall be established a Judicial Board as an independent and impartial arm of GRASAG–USA, responsible for interpreting and enforcing this Constitution and for adjudicating matters of misconduct, disputes, and breaches of the Constitution, regulations, or duly adopted resolutions of the Association.
- (2) In the exercise of its functions, the Board shall be impartial and shall not be subject to the direction or control of any officer, organ, or member of the Association, except as provided in this Constitution.

63. COMPOSITION AND QUALIFICATION

- (1) The Judicial Board shall be composed of:
 - (a) The Chief Justice, who shall be the chairperson, and
 - (b) four (4) other Justices as members, drawn from the active, in good standing general membership of GRASAG–USA.
 - (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subclause (b) above, the Board may, where necessary, co-opt a non-voting technical adviser to provide specialized guidance; provided that such adviser shall not participate in deliberations on guilt or innocence or on sanctions
- (2) The Judicial Chairperson shall preferably have a legal background, including legal education, professional legal training, demonstrable experience in legal/constitutional interpretation, dispute resolution, compliance, or adjudication.
- (3) The remaining four (4) members shall include, where practicable,
 - (a) at least one member with demonstrable knowledge of constitutional governance, policy, or organizational ethics;
 - (b) at least one member with prior leadership or committee experience in GRASAG–USA or comparable leadership experience; and
 - (c) at least one member who has a minimum of one (1) year remaining in their graduate program.
- (4) No person shall be eligible for appointment to the Board if that person:

- (a) currently holds an executive office in GRASAG–USA; or
- (b) has been found liable for gross misconduct by the Association or any law enforcement authority within the past one (1) year.

64. APPOINTMENT, ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE, AND TENURE

- (1) The Executive Board shall appoint the Chairperson and the other members of the Judicial Board in accordance with this Constitution and any applicable regulations adopted under it.
- (2) The Executive Board shall ensure that appointments to the Board are made on the basis of integrity, competence, fairness, and the capacity to serve independently.
- (3) Upon appointment, every member of the Judicial Board shall take an Oath or Affirmation of Impartiality and Confidentiality, administered by the Executive Board or any officer designated for that purpose.
- (4) The appointment of members shall be communicated to the Association in writing and take effect on the date stated in the appointment notice.
- (5) Members of the Board shall serve a one (1)–year term, renewable once, unless otherwise provided by the Constitution or a duly adopted resolution of the Association.
- (6) A member shall continue to hold office until:
 - (a) the member's term expires,
 - (b) the member resigns, or
 - (c) the member is removed in accordance with this Constitution.
- (7) A member shall resign by a written notice to the Executive Board and the Chairperson of the Board.
- (8) Upon a vacancy, the Executive board shall, within thirty (30) days of the vacancy, appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.

65. VACANCIES AND REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS

- (1) A Board member's position becomes vacant upon resignation, incapacity, loss of good standing, or removal from the Board.
- (2) A Board member may be removed for misconduct, persistent non–performance, or conduct that brings the Board and Association into disrepute, following due process.

- (3) Removal of a Board member shall be carried out by Parliament in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Constitution, provided the member is given notice and an opportunity to be heard.

66. JURISDICTION, MANDATE, AND SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

- (1) The Board shall have authority to:
- (a) Interpret the Constitution and any subsidiary regulations, standing orders, and duly adopted resolutions of GRASAG-USA, and render binding opinions on meaning and application.
 - (b) Adjudicate misconduct and disciplinary matters arising within the Association, including:
 - (i) breaches of this Constitution, regulations, or duly adopted policies;
 - (ii) abuse of office or authority;
 - (iii) misconduct at Association events or in Association platforms;
 - (iv) financial impropriety, dishonesty, harassment, bullying, intimidation, or conduct that brings the Association into disrepute; and
 - (v) disputes concerning electoral complaints, as provided by the Constitution or election regulations.
 - (c) Receive and consider all requests for:
 - (i) constitutional interpretation; and
 - (ii) constitutional amendment proposals for review of form, consistency, and procedural compliance.

67. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO THE BOARD

- (1) Matters may be submitted to the Board by:
- (a) any member in good standing;
 - (b) any officer acting in an official capacity;
 - (c) the Executive Board by formal referral; or
 - (d) the Electoral Commission, where an election dispute arises.
- (2) A complaint or request shall be submitted in writing and shall state:
- (a) the name and contact details of the complainant/requester;
 - (b) the alleged facts and date(s) of occurrence;

- (c) the specific constitutional or policy provisions implicated, if known;
- (d) the relief sought; and
- (e) any supporting evidence available at the time of filing.

68. PRELIMINARY REVIEW AND CASE MANAGEMENT

- (1) Upon receipt of a complaint or request, the Board shall conduct a preliminary review to decide:
 - (a) whether the matter falls within its jurisdiction;
 - (b) whether the complaint is frivolous, vexatious, or manifestly without merit; and (c) whether urgent interim steps are necessary.
- (2) Where the Board declines jurisdiction or dismisses a complaint at the preliminary stage, it shall provide written reasons for its decision.
- (3) Where the matter proceeds, the Board shall notify the respondent(s) and provide:
 - (a) summary of allegations;
 - (b) copies of filed materials; and (c) a deadline for response.

69. POWERS OF THE BOARD

- (1) The Board may exercise all powers reasonably necessary to carry out its mandate, including:
 - (a) summon parties and relevant witnesses;
 - (b) request documents, records, electronic communications, and other evidence;
 - (c) conduct hearings in person or virtually;
 - (d) issue procedural directions and timelines;
 - (e) attempt settlement or mediation where appropriate, provided that no settlement shall waive or undermine constitutional requirements;
 - (f) make findings of fact and determinations of responsibility;
 - (g) impose sanctions permitted by this Constitution; and
 - (h) make recommendations to the Executive Board or Parliament on governance reforms, policy clarifications, or remedial steps.
- (2) All officers and members shall cooperate with the Board's lawful requests for information and attendance.

- (3) The Board may adopt rules of procedure consistent with this Constitution to govern hearings and filings.

70. HEARINGS AND DUE PROCESS

- (1) The Board shall ensure fairness, neutrality, and due process at all times.
- (2) All parties shall be entitled to procedural fairness, including:
 - (a) timely notice of the allegations, evidence, and hearing date(s);
 - (b) reasonable time to prepare and respond;
 - (c) the opportunity to be heard;
 - (d) the right to present evidence, call witnesses, and challenge evidence; and (e) a decision supported by reasons.
- (3) Parties may appear personally and may be accompanied by one (1) advisor of their choice, provided that the advisor shall not disrupt the proceedings.
- (4) The Board shall decide matters on the preponderance of the evidence.
- (5) Hearings may be conducted:
 - (a) in person;
 - (b) virtually; or
 - (c) by written submissions only, where the Board considers it appropriate and fair.
- (6) Hearings shall be closed to non-parties to protect privacy unless the Board determines that openness is necessary and lawful for the Association's interests.
- (7) The standard of proof for disciplinary matters shall be the balance of probabilities unless the Board determines that the gravity of an allegation requires a higher standard of proof.
- (8) The Board may, where appropriate:
 - (a) encourage amicable settlement or mediation; and
 - (b) formalize settlement terms, provided such terms do not conflict with the Constitution or the Association's public interest.

71. INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY

- (1) The Board shall adjudicate matters without fear, favor, bias, or prejudice.
- (2) No Executive Board member or anyone shall:
 - (a) attempt to influence a pending case; or
 - (b) interfere with the Board's process, decisions, or records.

- (c) Any attempt to improperly influence the Board shall constitute misconduct and may be referred to the Board for determination.

72. MEETINGS, QUORUM, AND DECISION-MAKING

- (1) The Board shall meet as often as necessary to discharge its mandate efficiently.
- (2) The quorum for meetings and hearings shall be three (3) members, including the Chairperson or a member designated by the Chairperson.
- (3) Decisions shall be made by a majority of members present and voting.
- (4) In the event of a tie, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

73. RECUSAL AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- (1) A Board member shall disclose any actual or perceived conflict of interest, including when the member:
 - (a) is a party to the matter;
 - (b) has a close personal relationship with a party;
 - (c) has publicly taken a position on the matter; or
 - (d) has any interest that may reasonably affect impartiality.
- (2) Upon disclosure, the member shall recuse him/herself. Where recusals reduce the Board below quorum, the Executive Board shall appoint temporary members for that matter only.

74. SANCTIONS AND REMEDIES

- (1) Where misconduct is established, the Board may impose or recommend one or more of the following sanctions, proportionate to the offense:
 - (a) verbal or written warning;
 - (b) apology or corrective statement;
 - (c) restitution or reimbursement;
 - (d) mandatory training, counselling, or corrective action;
 - (e) suspension of membership privileges for a specified period;
 - (f) suspension from office or removal from a committee, as allowed by the Constitution;
 - (g) recommendation for impeachment or removal from office, where applicable under the Constitution;

- (h) disqualification from contesting elective office for a specified period; and
 - (i) referral to the appropriate authorities when a matter may involve criminal conduct or serious legal exposure.
- (2) The Board may also order remedies, including:
- (a) nullification of unconstitutional actions;
 - (b) directives to comply with constitutional provisions;
 - (c) corrective administrative measures; and
 - (d) any other remedy necessary to protect the integrity and operations of GRASAG–USA.
- (3) The Board shall, in all cases, state the sanction, its duration, and any reinstatement conditions, if applicable.
- (4) The Board's decisions and sanctions shall be implemented by the Executive Board and relevant officers, subject to any applicable appeal rights.

75. DECISIONS, REASONS, AND RECORDS

- (1) The Board shall issue decisions in writing, signed by the Chairperson (or presiding member), stating:
- (a) the issues for determination;
 - (b) findings of fact;
 - (c) applicable provisions; and
 - (d) conclusions and orders/sanctions/recommendations, if any.
- (2) The Board shall maintain secure, confidential records of complaints, evidence, proceedings, and decisions.
- (3) Decisions affecting an officer's or member's status shall be communicated to:
- (a) the parties; and
 - (b) the Executive Board for implementation where required.
- (4) The Board shall submit an annual summary report to Parliament, excluding sensitive personal details except where disclosure is authorized by law or necessary to protect the Association.

76. APPEALS AND REVIEW

- (1) A party aggrieved by a disciplinary decision may request review or appeal within fourteen

(14) days of receiving the written decision, stating specific grounds.

(2) Grounds for appeal shall include:

- (a) serious procedural unfairness;
- (b) material error of fact;
- (c) misinterpretation of the Constitution; or (d) disproportionate sanction.

(3) Appeals shall be determined in the manner provided by this Constitution. Where no appellate body is specified, the Board may, where practicable, conduct an internal review by members who did not participate in the original determination.

77. CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENTS

(1) The Board shall be the principal organ for constitutional interpretation.

(2) All requests for constitutional amendment and interpretation shall be submitted to the Board, which shall:

- (a) review the request;
- (b) identify relevant constitutional provisions and interpretive issues;
- (c) issue a written opinion/interpretation; and
- (d) where an amendment is sought, advise on the proper constitutional pathway, including required notices, thresholds, and procedural steps.

(3) The Board shall issue an opinion on the proposed amendment and may recommend improved wording, transitional arrangements, or implementation guidance.

(4) Interpretations issued by the Board shall be binding unless reversed on appeal or superseded by a duly enacted constitutional amendment.

(5) Interpretations shall be guided by:

- (a) the plain meaning of the text;
- (b) the purpose and spirit of the Constitution;
- (c) consistency across provisions; and
- (d) the best interests of good governance and the Association's objectives.

(6) Where ambiguity exists, the Board shall interpret in a manner that promotes fairness, accountability, unity, and orderly administration.

78. TRANSITIONAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY RULES

(1) The Board may propose supplementary procedural rules to the Executive Board for adoption, provided they do not contradict this Constitution.

- (2) In the event of a conflict between supplementary rules and this Constitution, this Constitution shall prevail.
- (3) Where any procedural matter is not expressly covered by this Constitution, the Board shall apply principles of fairness, natural justice, and the best interests of GRASAG-USA.

CHAPTER SEVEN
THE GOVERNING BOARD

79. ESTABLISHMENT AND STATUS

- (1) There shall be established a Governing Board of GRASAG–USA comprising of a Board of Patrons and Board of Advisors in accordance with the statutes of the laws of the state of Maryland and the federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3), responsible for overseeing the state and federal regulatory compliance according to GRASAG-USA's public charity status.
- (2) In the exercise of its functions, the Governing Board shall provide firm, impartial, and strategic oversight of the operations of the respective organs and members of the GRASAG-USA in accordance with the Constitution of GRASAG-USA and the statutory and federal regulations guiding the Association.
- (3) Wherefore, in the discharge of its duties, the Governing Board shall serve primarily as an advisory body to the administrative leadership of GRASAG-USA; only exercising prosecutorial powers in respect of state and federal regulatory compliance.

80. APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF THE BOARD OF PATRONS

- (1) The association shall have a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of seven (7) patrons.
- (2) The Board of Patrons shall be appointed by the Executive Board in consultation with Parliament and the outgoing Board of Patrons.
- (3) The Board of Patrons shall hold office for five (5) calendar years and shall be eligible for reappointment for no more than two consecutive terms.

81. FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF PATRONS

- (1) The Board of Patrons shall be responsible for the state and federal regulatory compliance of the association
- (2) The Board of Patrons shall provide financial oversight in accordance with the federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3)
- (3) The Board of Patrons shall meet periodically with the Executive Board to review and align the association's programs and activities in accordance with state and federal regulations.

82. APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF THE BOARD OF ADVISORS

- (1) The association shall have a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) advisors.

- (2) The Board of Advisors shall be appointed by the Executive Board in consultation with Parliament and the Board of Patrons.
- (3) The Board of Advisors shall hold office for five (5) calendar years and shall be eligible for reappointment for no more than two consecutive terms.

83. FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF ADVISORS

- (1) The Board of Advisors shall be responsible for advising the Executive Board in its operations
- (2) The Board of Advisors shall support the Board of Patrons in exercising financial oversight in accordance with the federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3)

CHAPTER EIGHT
OTHER OFFICERS OF GRASAG USA

84. ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner shall be responsible for organizing credible and transparent elections for the association at all levels.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner shall prepare a Constitutional Instrument, when necessary, to regulate the conduct of elections and present it to Parliament for approval
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner shall be responsible for hosting manifesto readings, debates, and election interaction sessions for the association.
- (4) The Electoral Commissioner shall superintend over electoral votes and the declaration of election results.
- (5) Shall preside over a 4-member electoral commission approved by Parliament to run all general elections of the association.
- (6) Responsible for other activities regarding elections

85. CONGRESS CHAIR

The Congress Chair shall:

- (1) Be responsible for planning and executing the GRASAG-USA Congress.
- (2) Put together a committee and chair meetings for the bi/annual research conference
- (3) Ensure the congress is well-publicized on all platforms (website and social media)
- (4) Collaborate with other executive board members to ensure the organization of a successful congress

86. HONORARY PATRON

GRASAG-USA shall have an honorary patron in the form of the holder of the office of Ghana's Ambassador to the United States of America.

87. IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

- (1) GRASAG-USA shall have a non-Executive role for the immediate past President, for the purposes of continuity and consistency.
- (2) The immediate past President shall serve as an Ex-Officio member and advisor to the President.
- (3) Their role shall be deemed as an active ceremonial role.

CHAPTER NINE
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

88. TENURE OF OFFICE

- (1) All officers of the Executive Board shall hold office for one (1) academic year.
- (2) Any officer of the Executive Board 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 and/or
 - (e) Any act that is likely to bring GRASAG-USA into disrepute
- (3) An officer of the Executive Board may be removed from office only by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Parliament
- (4) A member may initiate an impeachment proceeding against any officer by writing to Parliament, stating very clearly the reason(s) for the impeachment and providing all the necessary evidence for the allegation(s), and Parliament shall take all the necessary steps to address the issue to its logical conclusion and give judgement to impeach, suspend, or exonerate accused officer of alleged charges
- (5) Where credible evidence is found against the person, he/she shall be punished in accordance with the provisions under this Constitution, but where there is a favorable finding, he/she shall be reinstated.
- (6) Where an officer is not satisfied with the verdict of Parliament, he /she may appeal to the Judicial Board Chairperson for a review of the verdict, and the Chairperson shall consider the merit of the application in taking any decision, and the decision so taken shall be final.
- (7) An officer of the Executive Board other than the President may relinquish his/her post voluntarily by writing to the President and Parliament at least four (4) weeks prior to the proposed date of resignation.
- (8) The President may relinquish his/her post voluntarily by writing to the Secretary and the Parliament at least four (4) weeks prior to the proposed date of resignation.

- (9) An officer who resigns his/her position or who otherwise leaves office shall hand over all properties of GRASAG-USA in his/her possession to the Executive Board and clear himself/herself in respect of any other obligations he/she may owe to GRASAG-USA within two (2) weeks.
- (10) Any vacancy created in respect of any officer by whatever cause shall be filled within twenty-one (21) days through a bye-election. The bye-election shall be held in accordance with the electoral rules and guidelines set out by the Electoral Commission.

89. INCOME

- (1) The funds of GRASAG-USA shall include:
 - (a) Annual membership dues,
 - (b) Fundraising,
 - (c) Donations, and
 - (d) Any other lawful sources of cash contribution
 - (e) Other financial ventures as outlined in the financial plan or agreed on by Parliament.
- (2) Any ad hoc Committee set up by Parliament of GRASAG-USA shall have the power to raise funds for the effective performance of its function(s).
- (3) Any such Committees/Commissions shall, within forty-eight (48) hours of raising or receiving the revenue on behalf of or in trust of GRASAG-USA, route the money through the Director of Finance of GRASAG-USA into the GRASAG-USA Bank Account.
- (4) The annual dues shall be determined by Parliament and shall be paid by all members facilitated by their State Representatives/Parliamentarians.
- (5) Payment of dues shall be compulsory for all members of the association.
- (6) Any member who defaults in the payment of the dues to GRASAG-USA shall lose benefits provided by the association for its members, as well as voting rights in the case of executive members, regional coordinators, or state representatives.

90. CONGRESS

- (1) Congress will be chaired by the Congress Chair.
- (2) Congress shall be held in person and only made virtual in the event of unusual circumstances.
- (3) Congress will be the point of decision-making between members.

- (4) Elections shall henceforth be held at Congress and the final point for declaring results.
- (5) Until polling centers are established, Congress shall be the only polling station.
- (6) Handing over ceremonies will be held at the congress unless otherwise stated by executives.

91. EXPENDITURE

- (1) GRASAG-USA shall use its funds to run its activities, particularly the organization of the annual conference.
- (2) Expenses by GRASAG-USA shall include:
 - (a) Administrative expenses
 - (b) Transportation expenses,
 - (c) Lodging and travel expenses of GRASAG-USA Executive members on official duty.
 - (d) Seed money or Investments into Projects duly approved by the Parliament
 - (e) Costs to host the organization's website and other IT logistics required for webinars and online forums
 - (f) Other expenses incurred on the Member(s) welfare.
 - (g) Any other expenditure not stated in this Constitution but approved by the Parliament.
- (3) Any other expenditure not stated in this Constitution and not approved by the Parliament amounts to mismanagement and shall not be recognized by this Constitution.
- (4) Any mismanagement of funds constitutes an offence, and sanctions shall be applied under this Constitution.

92. INSIGNIA

- (1) The Executive Board shall have an insignia, which shall be displayed at every sitting of the Board
- (2) The Judicial Board shall have an insignia, which shall be displayed at every sitting of the Board
- (3) Parliament shall have an insignia, which shall be displayed at every sitting of Parliament

93. REPORTS AND ARCHIVES

GRASAG-USA shall ensure its minutes, reports, and correspondence are properly archived and available for use by succeeding administrations.

94. AMENDMENT OF THIS CONSTITUTION

- (1) Any eligible member of the association may request an amendment to the Constitution, stating the reasons for the amendment.
- (2) Such requests shall be presented in the form of a Parliamentary Petition
- (3) The petition shall state the specified provision (s) to be amended, the justifications for the amendment, and the proposed amended provision
- (4) The petition for amendment shall be supported by a Schedule of not less than 30 members of GRASAG-USA, including at least 2 Regional Coordinators
- (5) Parliament, upon receipt of the petition, shall consider, debate, and approve the amendment in accordance with Standing Order provisions.

95. REVIEW OF THIS CONSTITUTION

- (1) The Executive Board may initiate a review of this Constitution by setting up a representative Review Committee of not less than seven (7) members
- (2) The Review Committee members shall include:
 - (a) Two representatives from the Executive Board
 - (b) Two representatives from Parliament
 - (c) One representative from the Judicial Board
 - (d) Two members drawn from the general membership of GRASAG-USA
 - (e) One other member, who may be an affiliate member, preferably one with significant legislative or legal knowledge.

FIRST SCHEDULE
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. REPEAL OF THE 2023 GRASAG-USA CONSTITUTION

The 2023 Constitution of GRASAG-USA is hereby repealed upon the coming into force of this Constitution

2. CONTINUATION OF LAWS, PROVISIONS, AND CONVENTIONS

Notwithstanding the repeal under clause (1) of this Article, any provision of the repealed Constitution in existence or in force immediately before the coming into force of this Constitution shall, subject to this Constitution, continue to be in force until revoked, altered, cancelled, or expired.

3. EXISTING OFFICERS

Notwithstanding any provision in this Constitution, officers of the Executive Board, the Judicial Board, and Senate (Parliament), and any other duly appointed officers, immediately before the coming into force of this Constitution, shall be deemed to be duly elected or appointed under this Constitution.

4. NEWLY ESTABLISHED OFFICERS

GRASAG-USA shall make reasonable efforts to ensure the appointment/ election of officers into newly created positions under this constitution and the continuation of such positions in subsequent administrations.

5. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GRASAG-USA AS A NON- PROFIT

- (1) GRASAG-USA shall be registered as a Federal Non-profit Organization under the relevant laws of the United States.
- (2) In line with Federal Requirements, GRASAG-USA shall introduce practices, procedures, and laws to maintain compliance with federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3).

6. PARLIAMENT

- (1) Without Prejudice to the establishment, conventions, and structure of the Senate at GRASAG National, Ghana, GRASAG-USA shall operate and establish the principles, practices, and structures consistent with a unicameral Parliament informed by practices at the Ghana National Parliament.

(2) Parliament of GRASAG-USA shall make efforts to affiliate with and be informed by practices, principles, and precedents coming from the Ghana National Parliament.

SECOND SCHEDULE
FORMS OF OATH

OATH OF THE PRESIDENT

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

I further (solemnly swear) (solemnly affirm) that I will conform to the principles of strict accountability, financially and otherwise, and that should I at anytime break this oath of office, I shall submit myself to the dictates of the GRASAG-USA Constitution and suffer the penalty for it. (So Help Me God).

To be administered by the Chief Justice before Parliament

OATH OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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

I further solemnly affirm that I will conform to the principles of strict accountability, financially and otherwise, and that should I at any time break this oath of office, I shall submit myself to the dictates of the GRASAG-USA Constitution and suffer the penalty for it. (SO HELP ME GOD).

To be administered by the Chief Justice before Parliament

JUDICIAL OATH

I.....having been appointed as (Chairperson) (Justice) of the Judicial Board of GRASAG USA, do hereby (in the name of the Almighty God swear) (solemnly affirm) that I will interpret the GRASAG-USA Constitution without fear of favor, to defend and uphold the

Constitution, and to adjudicate on all matters that shall be brought before the Judicial Board without affection, ill will or personal interest.

I further solemnly affirm that I shall not be found wanting in the discharge of my responsibilities as a member of the GRASAG Judicial Board nor place myself in such a position as to frustrate the efficient function of the Judicial Board of GRASAG-USA. (SO HELP ME GOD). *To be sworn before the President, the Chief Justice, or such other person as the Chief Justice may designate*

OATH OF THE SPEAKER

I..... do (in the name of the Almighty God swear) (solemnly affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the GRASAG-USA Parliament as by law established, that I will uphold the integrity of the House; that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge my duties as the Speaker of Parliament; and that I will uphold, preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the GRASAG-USA and that I will do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution of the GRASAG-USA and the laws and conventions of Parliament without fear or favor, affection or ill will. If I at any time break this Oath of Office, I shall submit myself to the penalties prescribed by the Constitution. (SO HELP ME GOD). *To be sworn before the Chief Justice*

THE OATH OF A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

I.....having been elected as a member of Parliament do (in the name of the Almighty God swear) (solemnly affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to GRASAGUSA as by law established; that I will uphold, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of GRASAG-USA, and that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of a member of Parliament (So help me God)
To be sworn before the Speaker

OATH OF OFFICE

I.....having been elected/ appointed as.....do hereby (in the name of the Almighty God swear) (solemnly affirm) that I will at all times faithfully and truly serve GRASAG-USA; that I will support and uphold the principle of accountability, financial and otherwise, and seek the welfare of GRASAG-USA.

I further solemnly affirm that should I at anytime break this oath of office, I shall submit myself to the dictates of the GRASAG-USA Constitution and suffer the penalty for it. (SO HELP ME GOD).

To be sworn before the President or such other person as the President may designate

OATH OF SECRECY

I,, holding the office of do (in the name of the Almighty God swear) (Solemnly affirm) that I will not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person any matter which shall be brought under my consideration or shall come to my knowledge in the discharge of my official duties except as may be required for the discharge of my official duties or as may be permitted by the Constitution of GRASAG-USA. (SO HELP ME GOD).

To be sworn before the President, the Chief Justice, or such other person as the President may designate.

Made this day, 8th Day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six

FELICITY SENA DOGBATSE

CHAIRPERSON

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

ANANE YAO KUWORNU

PRESIDENT

GRASAG-USA

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JOSEPH BOAMAH DARKWA

PETER AMUQUANDOH

CALEB OTABIL

EMMANUEL MYLO DADZIE, Ph.D

DAVID KOFI MENSAH, Ph.D

HILDA AFEKU-AMENYO

EBENEZER BARNSFUL

MARVIN ADJEI LARBI