Article I. Name: The official name of this organization is the Doctoral Nursing Student Organization at the University of Virginia.

Article II. Purpose: The purpose of this organization is:

1. To facilitate communication among doctoral students (PhD and DNP) and between doctoral students and faculty.
2. To provide a mechanism for student representation on School of Nursing committees and University committees and organizations.
3. To represent the doctoral nursing programs within the University, the community, and to prospective doctoral students.

Article III. Membership: The membership consists of students pursuing a PhD or DNP in nursing and is consistent with the University’s policy of non-discrimination. It is a policy of the University of Virginia not to discriminate in the administration of any of its programs, procedures or practices on the basis of age, color, disability, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Ad Hoc Members: Consistent with Article II, Item 1, students who are not admitted to the PhD or DNP program but are enrolled in PhD or DNP courses in the School of Nursing or students enrolled in PhD or DNP nursing studies at other universities can participate in DNSO social activities as ad hoc members. Ad hoc members are not required to pay dues and are excluded from DNSO activities under Article II, Items 2 and 3.

Article IV. Organizational structure: The organizational structure consists of the following officers:

An Executive Committee that consists of nine members: the president, the president-elect, treasurer, secretary, student representative to the School of Nursing Research Committee, student representative to the School of Nursing PhD Program Committee, Chairperson of the Social Events Committee, a First-Year PhD Student Class Representative, and a DNP student representative. The Executive Committee meetings are open to all members of the DNSO.

1. A President who is responsible for convening the general and executive committee meetings and for coordinating ongoing organizational activities. The President is to communicate as necessary to the Dean of the School of Nursing and other faculty about matters of concern to the DNSO. In addition, the President is to serve as the chairperson of the Executive Committee.
2. A President-Elect who is to assist the president in the duties of that office, assumes responsibility of the president in his or her absence, and serves as the DNSO representative to the GSAS Student Council (once a month meetings).
The President-Elect becomes the new president of the organization in June of each year. The President-Elect will also help the treasurer coordinate and prepare submitting proposals for outside funding for the organization.

3. A Treasurer who is responsible for maintaining the treasury in a non-UVa bank account off-grounds in accordance with other student organizations and coordinating all financial management of the treasury with the School of Nursing fiscal manager. The treasurer is responsible for collecting annual membership dues and for preparing the application for funding from the University Student Council and/or the SON Alumni Council.

4. A Secretary who is responsible for the minutes of the general and executive committee meetings and for any necessary correspondence related to the business of the DNSO.

5. A School of Nursing Research Committee Representative who is responsible for participation in the Research Committee as a representative of the DNSO. The student representative of this committee must be a Candidate for the PhD. Meetings of the Research Committee are monthly.

6. A School of Nursing PhD Committee Representative, elected by the students in the PhD program, who is responsible for participation in the PhD Program Committee as a representative of the PhD student members of the DNSO. Meetings of the PhD Committee are monthly.

7. A Chairperson of the Social Events Committee. Along with coordinating social events throughout the year the chairperson shall be responsible for coordinating student volunteers with Office Student Affairs for the yearly hooding ceremony of PhD students.

8. A First-year PhD Student Class Representative.

9. A DNP Student Representative.

Article V. Elections: The President will solicit nominations in August for September elections each year. The President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, committee representatives, and student representatives are to be elected by closed ballot from a slate of nominees compiled by the President of the DNSO. Nominations are to be made, if possible, from all class levels. The ballot is to be compiled and elections are to be held in September. All elected officers are to assume their responsibilities beginning in the Fall semester for the period of one year and may serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same office, with the exception of the treasurer who serves for 2 years. The President will make appointments to any office vacancies as needed.

Article VI. Committees:
1. The Social Committee coordinates events and activities that are designed to promote camaraderie, social support, and DNSO communication. Committee membership is comprised of volunteers from the general membership.
2. Ad Hoc Committees are to be appointed by the President.

Article VII. Meetings: The executive committee is to meet, physically or electronically, at least twice a year, at the beginning and end of each semester or more frequently if
needed. A general meeting of the membership is to meet at least twice a year. Roberts’ Rule of Order will be followed at both the general and Executive Committee meetings.

**Article VIII. Finances and Dues:** The annual dues for membership in the DNSO are twenty-five ($25.00) dollars and collected each September. These and other monies are to be placed in the DNSO bank account by the treasurer who is authorized to conduct transactions.

**Article IX. Amendment of Bylaws:** Amending the bylaws is to be based on need as determined by the executive committee and/or general membership and approved and disapproved by a majority vote of the membership.

Revised: April 2012