GSA Officer Portfolio Restructuring: Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, K, and Q

Suggested Motion:

That GSA Council APPROVE, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, K, and Q, as noted in the attached double column proposal, effective upon approval by GSA Council, with the changes to Sections B, I, and J to take effect upon approval and with those to Sections C, D, E, F, G, K, and Q to take effect on 1 May 2023.

Note: The is the second reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and proposed changes to GSA Policy (which require only one reading) are presented for approval. The first reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw were presented at the October 2022 GSA Council meeting, where accompanying sections of GSA Policy were presented for information.

Background:

The GSA Board engaged in extensive discussion over the summer of 2022, as GSA Council has been previously informed, and decided to move forward with a proposed restructuring of GSA Officer Portfolios. The recommended changes are aimed at making the Vice-President Labour position into an Associate Vice-President Labour as this would more clearly separate the GSA’s dual roles as a union and a student association and also parallel the structure of other provincial GSAs. A proposal to this effect was developed that, firstly, amends the position of Vice-President Labour to that of an Associate Vice-President Labour (also creating a new position (Vice-President Student Life) and accordingly realigning all sections of individual portfolios, moving certain responsibilities to those of other officers, etc) and, secondly, creates an electoral mechanism for the filling of the Associate Vice-President Labour. The position would still be considered as a Directly-Elected Officer one but would be directly-elected only by members of the bargaining unit in a process that would run parallel to the GSA General Election, would follow the same process, and would also be overseen by the CRO. The stipend for the Associate Vice-President Labour position would be drawn from collected union dues, while the stipend for the new position of Vice-President Student Life would be drawn from the GSA’s operating budget (as the stipend for the now Vice-President Labour currently is).

Please note that, as the recommended changes impact multiple sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy (some also under the mandates of other GSA standing committees), elements of this proposal have previously reviewed and/or recommended to GSA Council by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and the GSA Labour Relations Committee. The proposal on its entirely was then recommended to GSA Council by the GSA Governance Committee on 22 September 2022 and by the GSA Board on 5 October 2022.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.1.2
“These Bylaws ... may be amended by two two-thirds majority votes of Council held on seven calendar days’ notice of motion and no less than one week apart.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.2.2
“GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council.”

Prepared by E Heiberg for GSA Council 21 November 2022