Outline of Issue

Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers and Section Q: Collective Bargaining

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Labour Relations Committee Committee, APPROVE recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers and Section Q: Collective Bargaining, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

NOTE: The is the first reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and proposed changes to GSA Policy are presented for information. The second reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and approval of proposed changes to GSA Policy will be presented at the July GSA Council meeting.

Background:

As GSA Council approved the establishment of the GSA Labour Union Fund in January 2021 and academically-employed graduate students voted to instate the collection of a union due starting 1 September 2021, it is now necessary to amend GSA Bylaw and Policy to reflect this, and also to ensure the GSA’s continued compliance with applicable legislation (particularly the Labour Relations Code and Bill 32). Additionally, the recognition of a faculty steward system was successfully bargained for in recent collective agreement negotiations with the University and additions to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section Q (as well as amendments to Section D) are necessary to begin the process of creating a faculty steward network (once approved, the process of filling these positions will begin).

These recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy were reviewed by legal counsel from Chivers Carpenter, a firm specializing in labour relations and union matters, in order to ensure compliance with relevant provincial legislation. The GSA Labour Relations Committee then reviewed and recommended this proposal to GSA Council at a meeting on 13 May 2021. The GSA Board also reviewed the recommended changes, for information and onward transmission to GSA Council, at its meeting of 9 June 2021.

Jurisdiction:

Section A: Authority, GSA Bylaw, Authority, Section A.BYL.1.2
"These Bylaws ... may be amended by two (2) two-thirds majority votes of GSA Council held on seven (7) calendar days’ notice of Motion and no less than one (1) week apart."

Section A: Authority, GSA Bylaw, Authority, 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."

Section Q: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Labour Relations Committee, Section Q.POL.7.2.d
The GSA Labour Relations Committee will “make recommendations to GSA Council with respect to GSA Bylaw and Policy on collective bargaining.”

Prepared by E Heiberg for GSA Council 21 June 2021