Outline of Issue

Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and Addition of GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council and GSA Standing Committees

Suggested Motion for the GSA Council Board:

That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C: GSA Council and GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval of GSA Council.

NOTE 1: The recommended changes apply to Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council; Section C: GSA Policy, GSA Council; Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, GSA Council Attendance; and Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees.

NOTE 2: The is the second reading of recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and first and only reading of recommended changes to GSA Policy. The first reading of recommended changes to GSA Bylaw was approved at the November GSA Council meeting.

Background:

The attached proposal for recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy address the following:

- The addition of a seat on GSA Council for a representative from the Indigenous Graduate Students’ Association, following consultation with this group over the summer.
- On the recommendation of the GSA Speaker, integrating the Standing Orders of GSA Council (currently a separate document) into existing GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council, in the interests of streamlining the GSA’s governing documents.
- The addition of language concerning what occurs in the event of a tie vote in a GSA Council or GSA Standing Committee meeting to align with current practice that a tie is considered a loss.

The GSA Governance Committee reviewed and recommended this proposal to GSA Council at its 25 October 2018 meeting. The GSA Board reviewed and made its own recommendation to GSA Council at its 31 October 2018 meeting.

Please see the attached cover letter to GSA Council from the President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Speaker for additional information.

Jurisdiction:

Section F: Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.a
The GSA GC will “advise GSA Council on matters of GSA Bylaw and Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governance issues, and recommend changes to GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, 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.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, 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.”