Outline of Issue

Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios

Suggested Motion for the GSA Council:

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

NOTE: The proposed changes apply to Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios and Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees.

Background:

The recommended changes are administrative and editorial in nature and can be summarized as follows:

- Moving several sections of GSA Board Policy to GSA Policy (including the status of the President as the official spokesperson of the GSA; the requirement that the President determine a line of succession for the position of President (currently stipulated in GSA Policy but with the associated process noted only in GSA Board Policy) and for chairing GSA Board meetings); the role of the GSA Board with respect to the selection of GSA Presidential Citation recipients; and the role of the three GSA Councillors serving on the GSA Board)

- Addition to GSA Policy of the current practice associated with the appointment of the GSA’s third member to the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council

- Various editorial revisions

The GSA Governance Committee reviewed and recommend this proposal to GSA Council at its 24 September 2018 meeting. The GSA Board reviewed and made its own recommendation to GSA Council at its 26 September 2018 meeting.

Jurisdiction:

Section F: Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.a
The GSA GC will “advise GSA Council on GSA Bylaw, matters of GSA Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governing issues and provide a report on recommended changes at the next scheduled GSA Council meeting.”

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