Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

8 March 2019

As you heard last month with respect to the changes that were recommended to Section K of GSA Bylaw and Policy, the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC), and other GSA Standing Committees, where appropriate, engages in regular reviews of the GSA’s governing documents. As part of that project, GSA Bylaw and Policy on grants and bursaries (specifically GSA Academic Travel Awards, GSA Child Care Grants (GSA CCGs), GSA Emergency Bursaries (GSA EBs), and GSA Graduate Student Group Grants (GSA GSGGs)) and several recommended changes to this section are now before you for consideration.

The changes can be summarized as follows:

- Various editorial changes.
- Reorganizing sections and removing redundant statements to enhance clarity.
- Removing the provision that only dependent children up the age of twelve (12) are eligible for the GSA Child Care Grant in favour of dependent children up to the age of eighteen (18) be eligible on the grounds that child care costs do not necessarily commensurately decrease with age and the amount provided to the GSA by the Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) to support GSA CCGs would support this.
- Increasing the amount provided for GSA EBs from $2,000 to $4,000 as the amount provided to the GSA by the GSSF to support GSA EBs would support this.
- Providing clarity around the respective roles and responsibilities of the GSA Vice-President Student Services and office with respect to the oversight and processing of GSA grants and bursaries.
- Ensuring that the appeals section adheres to the tenets of procedural fairness.

We look forward to discussing this proposal with you in more detail at the upcoming GSA Council meeting.

Regards,

Sasha van der Klein, President and Chair of the GSA GC

and

Fahed Elian, Vice-President Student Services