Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and Addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups

Suggested Motion for the GSA Council:

That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, APPROVE the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and the addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

NOTE 1: The recommended changes apply to Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council; Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, GSA Council Attendance, Section N: Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups, GSA Bylaw Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups, and Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios. This document also introduces the new Section N: GSA Graduate Student Groups, GSA Policy, GSA Graduate Student Groups.

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 October GSA Council meeting.

Background:

At its meeting of 27 June 2018, the GSA Board approved a proposal to move the sections of GSA Board Policy dealing with GSA Council remuneration and the definitions of graduate student groups into GSA Policy. The GSA Board is now asked to recommend the addition of these sections to GSA Policy on GSA Council, alongside other recommended changes aimed at streamlining existing GSA Bylaw and Policy on graduate student groups.

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

Please see the attached draft cover letter to GSA Council from the President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and the Vice-President Student Services 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 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.”