Outline of Issue
Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That the GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and following the first reading by GSA Council, APPROVE recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, as shown in track changes in the attached document and effective upon approval.

NOTE: This is the second reading of recommended changes to GSA Bylaw. The first reading occurred at the 16 March GSA Council meeting.

Background:

In a previous election for GSA Council-Elected Officer positions, one candidate put their name forward to run for a GSA Council-Elected Officer position while concurrently seeking election to several GSA Standing Committees. Several of the relevant GSA Standing Committees’ terms of reference stipulated that those holding GSA Council-Elected Officer positions were ineligible to serve on them (for example, an individual cannot hold the position of the Deputy Returning Officer while also serving as a voting member of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) but because the elections for both positions were happening in the same GSA Council meeting, a situation arose in which the person elected would immediately have to resign from one of the positions they were elected to. Given the importance of ensuring that GSA Council-Elected Officer positions are filled in order for the business of the GSA to continue with efficiency, this recommended clarification to GSA Bylaw is aimed at closing this “loophole.”

This recommended change to GSA Bylaw and Policy was discussed with the GSA Nominating Committee at a meeting on 22 January 2020 and the GSA Governance Committee unanimously recommended this item to GSA Council for approval via email vote on 7 February 2020. The GSA Board reviewed the recommended changes for information and onward transmission to GSA Council at its 26 February 2020 meeting. The first reading of the recommended changes occurred at the 16 March GSA Council meeting.

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.”

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.”

Prepared by C Thomas for GSA Council 20 April 2020