

Current Bylaws (deletions are noted as <del>strikethroughs</del> and changes/additions are noted in red font)	Rationale
<p><i>(Throughout the Integrated Bylaw and Policy document)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)</li> </ul> <p>Becomes: <b>Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Postdoctoral Studies (FGSRPS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council Caucus.</li> </ul> <p>Becomes: GSA Faculty of Graduate <del>Studies and Research</del> <b>and Postdoctoral Studies</b> Council Caucus.</p>	<p>Rationale: update any references to FGPS</p>
<p><i>Amendments to GSA Bylaw</i></p> <p>All changes to GSA Bylaw are approved by a two-thirds <del>simple</del> majority vote in favour at two (2) meetings of GSA Council no less than <del>one (1) week</del> <b>two (2) months</b> apart.</p>	<p>Rationale: if it is a two-thirds majority vote, it is not a simple majority vote. Further, the Council does not meet every week so it has to be monthly.</p>
<p><i>A.BYL.1.2</i></p> <p>These Bylaws constitute bylaws for the purpose of Section 95(2) of the Post-Secondary Learning Act, and may be amended by two (2) two-thirds simple majority votes of GSA Council held on seven (7) calendar days' notice of Motion and no less than <del>one (1) week</del> <b>two (2) months</b> apart.</p>	<p>Rationale: if it is a two-thirds majority vote, it is not a simple majority vote. Further, the council does not meet every week, so it has to be monthly.</p>
<p><i>B.BYL.2.2</i></p> <p>Membership fees <del>will be</del> <b>may be</b> indexed annually to inflation as measured by the Alberta Consumer Price Index.</p>	<p>Rationale: to provide some flexibility as it used to read as a requirement.</p>
<p><i>B.BYL.3.1</i></p> <p>All GSA members, except associate members, are eligible to vote <b>and run</b> in all GSA elections (excluding the election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, in which voting <b>and nominations are</b> <del>is</del> restricted to academically-employed graduate students) and referenda.</p>	<p>Rationale: to provide more clarity to eligibility criteria for office.</p>

<p><i>B.BYL.3.3</i></p> <p>Subject to the provisions of contractual agreements, all GSA members (except associate members) have access to services provided by the GSA, including the GSA Health and Dental Plan, GSA Recognition Awards, Graduate Student Assistance Program, GSA grants and bursaries, and the U-Pass service. <b>Associate members, exempt from membership fees, shall have limited access to organizational resources and privileges.</b></p>	
<p><i>B.BYL.3.4</i></p> <p>All GSA members have the privilege of booking meeting rooms in accordance with GSA Board Policy <b>except during the general election campaign period.</b></p>	<p>Rationale: to ensure GSA spaces remain neutral during elections.</p>
<p><i>B.BYL.5</i></p> <p>Filling Vacancies Following the GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour</p> <p><b>Addition: In the event that a Vice President Directly Elected Officer position remains unfilled by the end of the GSA By-Election, either due to no candidates running for the position or “None of the Candidates” is elected, the position shall be considered dormant for a period of one (1) year.</b></p>	

<b>Current Policy</b> (deletions are noted as <del>strikethroughs</del> and changes/additions are noted in red font)	<b>Rationale</b>
<p><i>Amendments to GSA Policy</i></p> <p>As per GSA Bylaw, GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote (50% + 1) of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council. As per GSA Policy, the GSA Governance Committee may make any editorial changes (such as factual inaccuracies and other editorial issues) to the GSA governing documents as deemed necessary by the committee.</p>	
<p><i>C.POL.3.2</i></p> <p>Departmental Councillors and the IGSA Councillor, and their alternates, will be elected (or, in the case of alternates, appointed) annually for a one (1) year term by graduate students from their department ('constituents') or from the membership of the IGSA according to their own procedures or their group Constitution. <b>If a department has no student group, a council seat will still be provided on an interim basis until they are able to get their group registered with Student Group Services (SGS).</b></p>	
<p><i>C.POL.3.2.a.ii (Councilors duties)</i></p> <p>To attend all meetings of GSA Council or, if they are unable to attend, to ensure their alternate can attend in their place <b>(Alternate councilors are required to sign the proxy form if they wish to vote)</b> and</p>	
<p><i>C.POL.4.3.c</i></p> <p>Changes to the agenda made at meetings require a two-thirds <del>simple</del> majority vote.</p>	Rationale: if it is a two-thirds majority vote, it is not a simple majority.
<p><i>D.POL.4.12</i></p> <p>(DEOs) will report monthly to GSA Council in writing; these reports will be shared publicly. Reports will include a list of all meetings attended, as well as highlights of work done, initiatives involved with, etc. since previous reports. DEOs will also report orally to GSA Council at each meeting attended. Likewise, the AVPL will report <del>regularly</del> <b>monthly</b> to academically-employed graduate students in writing <b>through the newsletter.</b></p>	

<p><i>D.POL.4</i> General Information and Qualifications</p> <p>Addition: <b>Elected Officers and candidates for elected office must maintain official student status throughout their term of office, which spans from May to April.</b></p>	<p>Rationale: all elected officers must hold official student status and be current GSA members.</p>
<p><i>D.POL.4</i> General Information and Qualifications</p> <p>Addition: <b>Elected officers cannot concurrently serve as executives in any other student group, student club, board, student association, departmental association, or any organization that may present a real or perceived conflict of interest. This ensures that elected officers can fully dedicate their time and efforts to the GSA without divided loyalties or potential biases. By preventing conflicts of interest, the GSA aims to maintain the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and fairness in its governance, thereby safeguarding the trust and confidence of its members. Any officer found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the GSA bylaws.</b></p>	<p>Rationale: to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest.</p>
<p>President Duties</p> <p><i>D.POL.5.1.m</i></p> <p>Delete: <del>The President maintains the relationship with TD Insurance Meloche Monnex.</del></p>	<p>Note: the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex is one of the annual awards we give out</p>
<p><i>D.POL.5.2.b</i></p> <p>The President (or delegate) chairs any GSA bodies associated with provincial <b>and federal</b> lobbying.</p>	
<p><i>F.POL.3.3 Meetings</i></p> <p>Addition: <b>Any Elected Officers who miss two (2) GSA Board meetings without excuse shall be subject to discipline.</b></p>	
<p><i>F.POL.5.1.b</i></p> <p>The <del>President</del> <b>Vice-President Indigenous Relations (VPIR)</b>, as Vice-Chair.</p>	

<p><i>I.POL.15</i> Filling Vacancies Following the GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour</p> <p>Addition: In the event that a Directly Elected Officer position remains unfilled by the end of the GSA By-Election, either due to no candidates running for the position or “None of the Candidates” is elected, the position shall be considered dormant for a period of one (1) year.</p>	
<p><i>I.POL.6</i> General Principles and Rules of Conduct for Elections</p> <p>Addition: Elected Officers and candidates for elected office must maintain GSA membership and official student status throughout their term of office, which spans from May to April.</p>	
<p><i>O.POL.3.3</i> A minimum of <del>eight (8)</del> <b>seven (7)</b> and up to <del>twelve (12)</del> <b>eleven (11)</b> GSA members elected by GSA Council as voting members. The GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) Chair, in consultation with the GSA ASC Vice-Chair and the Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee, can decide to increase the number of GSA members on the GSA ASC.</p>	
<p><i>P.POL.1.2.a</i></p> <p>Applicants must be GSA members as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, <b>including students who have graduated within six months of the application submission date</b>, Sections B.BYL.1.a and B.BYL.1.1.b.</p>	
<p><b><i>P.POL.4 GSA Emergency Bursaries</i></b></p> <p><i>P.POL.4.6 Appeals</i></p> <p>Please be advised that all decisions related to GSA Emergency Bursaries are final and binding. Once a decision has been made, it cannot be appealed further.</p>	

<p>P.POL.4.6.a Any appeals of denied applications must be received by the VPSS, with a copy to the Executive Director (or delegate) within ten (10) working days from the date on which the denial of the application was issued.</p> <p>P.POL.4.6.b Appeals must state the grounds for the appeal in writing.</p> <p>P.POL.4.6.c Appeals will be heard based on the material submitted by the applicant and any associated response concerning the denial of the application.</p> <p>P.POL.4.6.d Appeals will be heard by a Directly-Elected Officer (DEO), excluding the VPSS, and two (2) GSA Councillors or GSA Council-Elected Officers selected by the President (or other DEO if there is a conflict of interest).</p> <p>P.POL.4.6.e Appeal decisions will normally be made within twenty (20) working days of the receipt of an appeal. P.POL.4.6.f All decisions concerning appeals are final and binding.</p>	
<p>H.POL.4.2</p> <p>All GSA Standing Committee, GSA ad hoc committee, and GSA subcommittee members are expected to attend all meetings. If a GSA Standing Committee, GSA ad hoc committee, or GSA subcommittee member cannot attend a meeting, they will provide an advance written reason to the Chair. <del>Lack of attendance and/or the submission of written reasons may result in the Chair declaring the position vacant.</del> <b>Should a member fail to fulfill their committee duties, miss two (2) consecutive meetings, or miss more than three (3) meetings, for any reason, the GSA representative to that committee may be replaced, or action may otherwise be taken in compliance with the terms of reference of the committee in question.</b></p>	