

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAW #6

Summary of changes:

- Updated 6.1.1 to allow for the General Manager to be appointed as the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Rationale for changes:

The role of CRO had been previously filled by the GSA's Elections Coordinator. However, due to a re-structure of Coordinator roles to enhance efficiency and eliminate duplication of work, the Elections Coordinator and Engagement Coordinator positions were merged to form a new role of Elections and Engagement Coordinator. The role of Elections Coordinator had a very uneven workload, with some weeks being packed with Council or Director elections, and some weeks seeing little to no work to be completed. Therefore, merging the roles of Elections Coordinator with the Engagement Coordinator provided a much more even and predictable workload.

In parallel, it was found that when the Elections Coordinator was appointed as CRO, there was significant duplication of work. This stems from the fact that the General Manager was required to liaise between the Elections Coordinator, the GSA Communications Team, and the AGM Planning Committee/AGM Chair, all of whom were fulfilling their AGM duties in addition to their regular GSA duties. Therefore, these proposed changes are meant to streamline the director election process at the AGM.

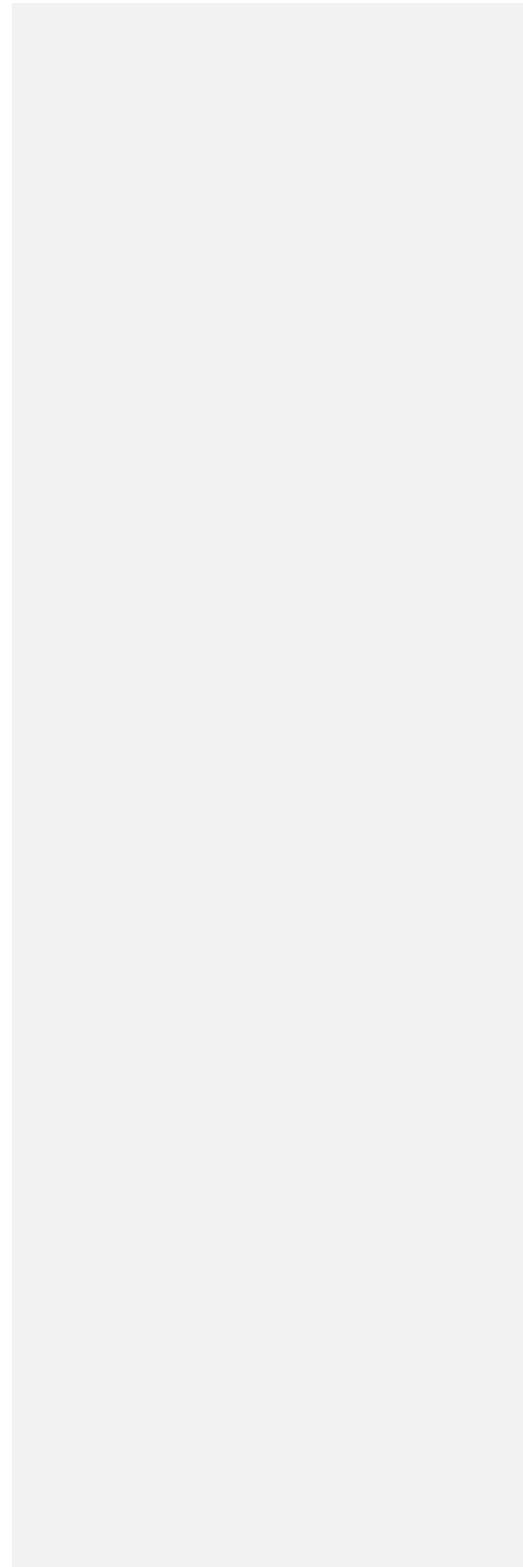
The decision to merge the Elections Coordinator and Engagement Coordinator roles was made in tandem with the decision to update the by-law to allow for the General Manager to be appointed as CRO. One change could not be made without the other – if the Elections and Engagement Coordinator is required to serve as CRO, they will no longer have time to complete their regularly scheduled duties, but if the Elections Coordinator role was to stay as a separate role to allow for the Coordinator serving as CRO, much of their time is wasted due to duplication of work. It's of the utmost importance for the GSA to utilize fees collected from graduate students responsibly, and part of that is ensuring employees are completing meaningful work that will benefit the GSA and graduate students directly.

The proposed changes have been approved by the Board at a first reading November 28, 2024, and a second reading February 27, 2025. Additionally, the proposed changes have been reviewed by the Joint Policy Review Committee (a standing committee with representatives from the Board and Council) and presented to Council for feedback, with any feedback implemented before the second reading was approved. This is the standard method for changing by-laws and policies in the GSA.

Format of this document:

Included in this document are the current version of the by-law with edits and comments, and a copy of how the by-law will look upon ratification from GSA membership. Pages 3 and 4 outline

the proposed changes, with comments outlining the rational behind the changes. Red text (**example**) indicates an addition to the by-law, and red text that's struck through (~~**example**~~) indicates removal from the by-law. Pages 5 and 6 display the by-law as it will stand upon ratification, with red text (**example**) indicating an addition to the by-law.



By-law #6: Officers of the GSA-UW

Amended April 6, 2016
Amended April 12, 2017
Amended January 28, 2020
Amended July 15, 2020
Ratified August 20, 2020
Amended November 29, 2023
Ratified April 3, 2024

6.1.0 Appointment of Officers. The Board shall appoint the Officers of the GSA-UW.

6.1.1 Officers to be Members Officers of the GSA-UW must be graduate student members of the GSA-UW, except for the Corporate Secretary, ~~and~~ Treasurer, and Chief Returning Officer, who may be a full time staff member of the GSA-UW. Directors may be appointed to any office identified in 6.1.2, but they may not simultaneously be appointed as a Vice President and serve as a director on the board of directors.

Commented [GC1]: To allow for General Manager to be appointed as the CRO. This position had been typically filled by the GSA's Election's Coordinator, however, it had been found that the Elections Coordinator consistently would not have enough hours to fulfill the job description. Additionally, the GM already needs to liaise with the GSA Comms Team and the Board for the AGM, so this alleviates a duplication of work.

6.1.2 Officers

(a) The President is an officer and shall be appointed by the Board of Directors in such manner and for such term or terms as shall be determined from time to time by agreement of the Board of Directors and the Council.

(b) The Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Corporate Secretary, and Treasurer are officers and shall be appointed by the Board. Directors who intend to run for re-election must recuse themselves from voting and discussion on the motion to appoint the CRO.

(c) The Vice-Presidents are officers and shall be appointed by the Board of Directors in such manner and for such term or terms as shall be determined from time to time by agreement of the Board of Directors and the Council.

(d) The President is a director of their office, in lieu of election.

6.1.3 Additional Officers The Board may appoint such other officers, as it shall from time to time determine.

6.1.4 Annual Review of Officer Duties The Officers' duties and powers to manage the administrative activities and affairs of the GSA-UW will be reviewed annually by the Board and recorded in the GSA-UW policies and procedures.

6.1.5 Members to ratify appointments Members shall ratify appointments to the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer Officer positions in accordance with policies and procedures.

6.2.0 Term of Office Term of service of the Officers shall normally be held for one (1) year from May 1st following their appointment and shall last until April 30th of the year following their appointment. Officers appointed after May 1st, shall hold office, unless otherwise removed from office, until April 30th following their appointment.

6.2.1 Reappointment and Multiple Offices Except as otherwise specified in this by-law, the Board may appoint one individual to hold more than one officer position at one time and/or may appoint one individual to hold a position for more than one term.

6.2.2 Exception for President and Vice President No individual may simultaneously hold the offices of President and Vice President.

6.2.3. Term Limit No individual may serve more than two (2) terms in the office of President or Vice President.

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