



GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION – UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

RESEARCH TOPIC: Higher Education Governance (**\$500**)

CONTEXT:

The Graduate Student Association of the University of Waterloo's (GSA-UW) [Board of Directors](#) and [Council](#) both operate using Robert's Rules of Order. However, the GSA-UW is looking to explore alternative governance models that better supports student engagement and overall meeting efficacy. *Research and recommendations are required on this topic in order to assist the GSA-UW Board and Council with improving student engagement and meeting productivity.*

REQUIREMENTS:

The following deliverables must be completed to the satisfaction of the GSA-UW President and/or Vice President of Administration prior to issuing compensation:

- Coordination meetings with GSA-UW VP Administration (~2 hours)
- Written report (5 – 10 pages not including bibliography/appendices, single spaced, 10 Arial)
- PowerPoint presentation to GSA-UW Council (10 – 15 minutes)

FORMAT:

The contracted researcher is required to produce a report with the following headings:

1. Purpose
2. Issue
3. Background
4. Key Considerations
5. Conclusions and Recommendations to GSA Council
6. Bibliography
7. Appendices (if necessary)

This format was modeled after public sector briefing note templates and can be referred to [here](#) for further guidance.

The following are specific questions that need to be addressed in the report:

1. What are notable alternatives to Robert's Rules of Order, and what are the strengths/weaknesses of each system from the perspective of student engagement and productivity?
2. What governance structures do other Canadian GSAs use to operate their Board/Council?
3. Is there an alternative to Robert's Rules of Order that would better serve the GSA-UW Board and/or Council?

Examples of resources:

- Roberta's Rules of Order: Sail Through Meetings for Stellar Results Without the Gavel: A Guide for Nonprofits and Other Teams / Alice Collier Cochran
- University Governance and Reform: Policy, Fads, and Experience in International Perspective / edited by Hans G. Schuetze, William Bruneau, and Garnet Grosjean
- The Consensus Building Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide to Reaching Agreement / editors Lawrence Susskind, Sarah McKearnan, and Jennifer Thomas-Larmer
- Secrecy and publicity in votes and debates / Elster, Jon

TIMELINE:

The research contract is to be issued in February and completed by June 2021.

PUBLISHING NOTE:

The report and presentation produced as part of this research contract will be the property of the GSA-UW and will be posted on the GSA-UW website. The author(s) will be identified on the final document.

APPLICATIONS:

Resumes/CVs, along with a brief statement of interest (2-3 paragraphs), should be sent to gsa-admin@uwaterloo.ca by **February 26, 2021** using the subject line "GSA Research Contract Application – Governance".