

## **Bylaw III: Elections**

### **Article I: Election of Executive Committee**

#### **Section 1: Election Oversight**

The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) shall oversee all aspects of the election.

#### **Section 2: Candidacy**

Any member of the GSA in good standing may pursue any position of the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 3: Call for Nominations**

A nomination period of two weeks immediately following the call for elections must precede the election. Where reasonable measures shall be taken by the CRO to ensure graduate students are informed of:

- a) Their right to seek office
- b) Where nomination forms are to be submitted
- c) Closing date and time of nomination period
- d) Date and time when election is to be held

Nomination forms must be submitted to the CRO prior to the closing of the nomination period.

- a) Candidates for a Vice-Presidential position must submit a completed nomination form signed by at least two members of the GSA.
- b) Candidates for the Presidency must submit a completed nomination form signed by at least six members of the GSA.

The CRO must inform the GSA members of the official nominees for the position of the president within 48 hours of the closing of the nomination period and no later than 1 week prior to the date of the election.

The CRO shall inform the GSA council members of the official nominees for the position of the Vice Presidents in the meeting on the date of the election.

## Section 4: Eligible Voters

- a) Eligible voters are:
  - i. Only Council members are eligible to vote in the election of Vice- Presidential positions
  - ii. All GSA members are eligible to vote for the GSA President. Reasonable measures shall be taken to ensure graduate students are informed of their right to vote in the presidential election.
- b) Eligible voters may proxy their vote for Presidency if they provide a signed letter identifying an eligible proxy to the CRO prior to the commencement of the election.

## Section 5: Elections

- a) Notice of the date, time, and location of the election must be circulated to eligible voters two weeks prior to the elections held at the AGM for the position of President and one week prior for all other positions;
- b) The CRO and two additional Council Members (selected by the CRO) shall count the ballots in private. Each candidate has the right to appoint a scrutineer to observe the ballot counting process;
- c) The winner of the election for the position is the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes;
- d) The outcome of the election is recorded and certified by the CRO, who shall present the results before the conclusion of the meeting;
- e) The CRO shall keep all ballots and proxy votes from the election for a period of 30 days and will produce the ballots if they are called into question in the event of an elections appeal.

## Section 6: Appeals

- a) Results of an election may be appealed by any member of the GSA. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the GSA Chair within 30 days of the election;
- b) The GSA Chair will inform Council of any appeals. The GSA Chair shall be responsible for determining the validity of appeals and mandating any actions and will inform Council of any decisions.

## **Article II: Absenteeism and Vacancies**

- a) Executive Committee Members may take a leave of absence for up to one month for academic, health, or other reasons as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee and Council. For this period the other Executive Members will share in the duties of that Member.
- b) The President must inform Council of any Executive Members expecting to be absent for a period exceeding one month. Council can decide to grant that Executive Member an extended leave of absence.
- c) If any Executive position becomes vacant, the Executive Committee and the Council Chair will notify the Council. If no members come forward to fill vacancies, the Council will then determine appropriate allocation of related duties and honoraria to be distributed within the current Executive Committee. This arrangement will be set in place until at least one member comes forward as a candidate for the vacant position.