



Governance Committee 2020  
Graduate Students' Association

### **Background Information: Motion 6.4: Governance Documents**

The Governance Committee met to review the Association's governance documents, as per the mandate of the Committee. Members of the Committee were engaged throughout the process and an open discussion ensured questions could be asked, and uncertainties could be clarified. The Committee was strengthened by members who were collaborative, inquisitive and attentive to detail.

This year, the Committee focused on four main themes: creation of a Vice-President Indigenous Engagement position, refinement of the Elections and Referenda Bylaw, assessing the Executive roles and responsibilities, and evaluating the effectiveness of the GSA Standing Committees of Council.

#### **Creation of a Vice-President Indigenous Engagement Position**

Since November 2018, the Indigenous Liaison position has been vacant. In order to ensure the needs and supports of Indigenous graduate students are addressed, graduate students are able to learn more about Indigenous culture and ways of knowing, and best approaches to Indigenousization and Reconciliation, the Indigenous Liaison position was transformed into a Vice-President Indigenous Engagement after consultation with the Team Leader, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success, and Indigenous graduate students. In this manner, the Association moves towards sustainably and with best practices, as the position is no longer linked with a separate organisation.

#### **Refinement of the Elections and Referenda Bylaw**

The Committee, with help from the Chief Electoral Officer and Election Officials, took the time to rewrite and refine the Elections and Referenda Bylaw (#4) to ensure more clarity.

#### **Assessing the Executive Roles and Responsibilities**

The Committee, with help from the current Executives, took the time to assess fair distribution of executive roles and responsibilities, to ensure effective organisation and follow-through with each position.

#### **Evaluating the Effectiveness of the GSA Standing Committees of Council**

The Committee looked at each of the Standing Committees of Council and assessed the effectiveness of each. With help from the current Executives, and input from previous Executive, two of the committees were removed as Standing Committees of Council as it was indicated that their mandate was addressed and handled by the Executive, with input from Council.