



# Brock University Graduate Students' Association

## Document 022A

### The Past President of the Graduate Students' Association Bylaw

Name:

1. This Document shall be known as the "Past President Bylaw"

Purpose:

2. Succession planning is critical for the stability and success of an organization. For the Graduate Students' Association, this need is amplified given the rate at which the executive experiences turnover, as well as the shifting priorities and responsibilities of its individual members. To ensure stability in leadership and oversight of the association, the Past President shall provide mentorship and support for the newly elected President as well as incoming executive committee members.
3. As the previous President continues to serve as the Graduate Student Representative on the Board of Trustees and as a non-voting member of the University Senate beyond their term of office with the GSA, it is important that the GSA continue to have a role for this individual within the organization to ensure accountability and provide a framework for the actions of an individual who is still a representative on the highest governing body of the university without any formal attachment to the GSA.
4. The role of the Past President is to ensure continuity during governance transitions and organizational change, to help ensure the appropriate succession of Officers and Directors, to support the President in their role, and to provide continuity to the organization by providing historical context for issues.
5. The role of the Past President is intended to be defined and developed within the context of the needs of the President and the Executive Committee.

Qualifications of the Past President:

6. Have normally been the most recent President to have served in the role.

Appointment of the Past President:

7. The appointment shall normally be automatic, with the current President becoming the Past-President on May 1<sup>st</sup> upon the expiration of their term of office on April 30<sup>th</sup>, unless circumstances do not allow this transition to take place. Should the President's Office be vacated mid-term the term of the Past-President shall begin upon the confirmation and acceptance of the vacancy.

Term of Office of the Past President:

8. The Past President's term shall normally be for the four (4) months immediately following their term as President. Normally from May 1<sup>st</sup> until August 31<sup>st</sup>.



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9. The term of the Past President may be extended, upon approval of the executive committee, provided that the member seeking renewal is a returning member of the executive committee.
10. The term of the Past President shall not extend beyond twelve (12) months and shall terminate on April 30<sup>th</sup> in the year following their appointment.
11. Should a situation arise whereby the immediate Past President is not willing or able to fulfill the role of Past President, and the GSA require the role to be filled, the Board of Directors may extend the invitation to a previous Past President.

#### **General Responsibilities of the Past President:**

12. Serve as ex-officio, non-voting member of both the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and act as a general resource for the association upon request.
13. The Past President provides advice and leadership to the Board of Directors regarding past practices and other matters to assist the Board in governing the Association. The Past President provides general mentorship and supports the President, Deputy President and/or the President-Elect on an as-needed basis.

#### **Specific Responsibilities of the Past President:**

14. Support, upon request, the President in ensuring the effective functioning of the GSA through the following avenues:
  - a. Assisting in broadening, developing, and reaching consensus and various topics of discussion,
  - b. Acting as an ambassador for the GSA and assisting in the development of connects and relationships with various members of the university and broader communities.
  - c. Facilitating relationships with, and communication among Executive and Directors,
  - d. Representing, the GSA meetings or events (including convocations), at the request of the President or when the President is unable for any reason to perform their duties,
  - e. Continuing to advocate for graduate students and the graduate students' association, wherever and whenever possible,
  - f. Providing a historical context for decision-making and revising planning, objectives, etc.,
  - g. Act, as a resource for the Governance/Elections/Nominating Committee in the annual recruitment and nomination of new members for the Board of Directors,
  - h. Serve as the GSA Representative on the Board of Trustees until the completion of the board year, normally June 30<sup>th</sup> of a given year.
  - i. Serve as the GSA ex-officio senator on the University Senate until the completion of the Senate term, normally the last day of Spring Convocation.



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- j. Performing any other responsibilities as assigned by the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board of Directors.