



## **Brock University Graduate Students' Association**

Document 083A

Issue Bylaw – Regarding Neutrality of the Graduate Students' Association

### Name

1. This Document shall be known as the “Issue Bylaw – Regarding Neutrality of the Graduate Students' Association”

### Jurisdiction

2. The Graduate Students' Association, in accordance with Document 010A – Legislation of the Graduate Students' Association Bylaw, may enact legislation known as “Issue Bylaws”, which shall:
  - a. Be the responsibility of the Executive Committee, who may create, uphold and pursue them but Council/Board reserves the authority to review and advise on all Issues Bylaws,
  - b. Provide a statement or stance relating to an issue that affects graduate students, that is requires a more comprehensive approach than a motion by either the executive committee or the board of directors,
  - c. Act as statement or stance held by the GSA on any issue that falls within its mandate, as outlined in the constitution,
  - d. Be reviewed on an ongoing basis, but remain in effect until they are amended or redacted by Council/Board, and,
  - e. Automatically expire three (3) years after initial approval.

### Statement

3. The GSA is a not for profit organization that represents all graduate students of Brock University both on campus and in the broader municipal, regional, provincial and federal landscapes. Issues involving Brock University graduate students encompass: education, research, physical and mental health, recreation, social activities, funding, intellectual property, and many others. The GSA supports the diverse interests, practical concerns, and political views that accompany our members, and strives to build an open and inclusive graduate student community.
4. As the GSA operates in the interest of all of its members it must perform its duties without discrimination, so that no graduate student or graduate student group feels singled out, harassed or discriminated against. While the GSA welcomes the diversity of its membership and associated differing opinions and perspectives, it also committed to the belief that a position of political neutrality can better foster openness, inclusivity, support and accommodation as well as effective representation and advocacy. It is therefore understood that the GSA shall:
  - a. Commit itself to a general policy of political neutrality regarding governmental policy or political issues that do not directly relate to GSA or its members,



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- b. Not take positions on political issues, conflicts or situations that do not directly relate to the GSA or its members, and are not consistent with GSA's Mandate, Mission, Vision and Values,
  - c. Shall not be involved in any movement, group, party, faction, wing, lobby, or camp that singles out one race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or disability,
  - d. Shall not join or merge with any municipal, provincial, federal or international political party, pressure group, partisan or lobbying organization, and
  - e. Seek to ensure that its student representatives are not elected on the basis of their political views, if any.
5. In addition, the GSA should not take a stance on complex foreign political issues that have no bearing on the quality of graduate student life at Brock University or its affiliated campuses, but does not preclude GSA taking stances on specific issues that are directly relevant to the University, GSA, and its students and are consistent with GSA's Mandate, Mission, Vision and Values.