



Brock University Graduate Students' Association

Document 013C

The Graduate Students' Association Honorary Membership Policy

Name:

1. This Document shall be known as the "Graduate Students' Association Honorary Membership Policy"

Purpose:

2. The purpose of this policy is to further clarify the process for appointing honorary members of the GSA, including criteria and process, as well as to identify any persons having been given the title of Honorary Member of the GSA.
3. This policy shall also provide criteria and information required for record are identified within Document 013.

Definition:

4. Under Article Four, Section III of the GSA Bylaw, Honorary Members may
 - a. Be persons offered membership by the Executive Committee, on recommendation by the Board of Directors,
 - b. Be subject to further criteria as established by the Board of Directors,
 - c. Not normally constitute more than one percent (1%) of the total GSA Membership.

Membership Dues:

5. Honorary Members shall not be charged any fees unless their membership cohort was invited to participate in a vote relating to the approval of that fee and its related Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Any such vote must receive the approval of a simple majority (50%+1) of honorary members then appointed.
6. The GSA may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, implement additional fees pursuant to any relevant GSA legislation.

Eligibility:

7. Individuals for consideration will fall into one of three categories: student representatives, staff and community. Specific criteria required for each is outlined below.
8. In addition to the eligibility requirements outlined in Article Four of the GSA Bylaw, Honorary Members must also meet the criteria in at least one of the three sections below:
 - a. Student Representatives:
 - i. Gone above and beyond in their service to the GSA, truly demonstrating their commitment to advancing the causes of the association. Their involvement will have normally yielded growth and development that have benefitted the association and its membership, shown through several years of continuous service.



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- ii. Undertaken leadership roles, at the Board and Executive level, progressively demonstrating growth through advancing and championing issues facing students, normally shown through three (3) or more years of continuous service, in conjunction with an unwavering dedication and interest in ensuring the GSA continues to live its mission, vision and values.
- b. Staff:
 - i. Demonstrated commitment to the principles of graduate student representation, and the core values of the organization in every facet of their interaction, both with student leaders and the membership at large.
 - ii. Demonstrated dedication to graduate students above and beyond the call of duty, normally shown through five (5) or more years of continuous service.
- c. Community:
 - i. Acted as a committed advocate and community champion for the GSA, volunteering beyond their mandate ensuring that graduate students at Brock University are a priority consideration within the community.
 - ii. Actively engaged with the association above and beyond their role, working to establish meaningful connections and long-term relationships.

Appointment Process:

9. In addition to the eligibility criteria outlined in this policy, individuals are normally required to serve a one (1) year waiting period, beginning on the first day after their last formal involvement with the GSA, before they may be eligible for nomination.
10. Such a waiting period may be waived by unanimous consent by the Executive committee and a unanimous motion of the Board of Directors.
11. Individuals will be nominated by the sitting GSA President or Deputy President. Nominations will be firstly considered by the Executive Committee, where a two-thirds majority shall be required to recommend a nomination to the Board of Directors, where a simple majority (50%+1) shall confirm the appointment.
12. Once an appointment has been confirmed, the GSA President or the GSA Deputy President shall reach out to the appointee to confirm their agreement and acceptance of the position.

Additional Provisions of Honorary Membership:

13. Any person nominated to become an honorary member and maintain this membership as outlined in Article Four of the GSA Bylaw, must be determined to be "In Good Standing".



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14. In addition to the language provided in the GSA Bylaw, 'In Good Standing' refers to a member whose actions have upheld the core tenants and principles of both the university and the association. A member's status as 'In Good Standing' shall not be affected as a result of minor infractions as they relate to university or association policy, but instead to serious and grievous actions that violate the core tenants and principles of both the university and the association.
15. Any member who has engaged in conduct unbecoming of a member, who has failed to act in accordance with relevant legislation and has undertaken such actions that are found to be detrimental to the objects, aims and welfare of the Corporation shall be at risk for having their membership rescinded pursuant to Article Four, Section V of the GSA Bylaws, Document 013, and any additional GSA legislation. Such additional documents must not contravene the language established by the GSA Bylaws or Document 013.
16. Any vote to remove the Honorary Membership of a member must have an equivalent vote to that of the initial appointment, first by the Executive and then by the Board of Directors. Such a vote must meet or exceed the threshold set by the appointment vote, (e.g., a unanimous vote to appoint by the Executive and Board of Directors must have a unanimous vote by the Executive and Board of Directors to remove).
17. Any Honorary Member found to have not met the requirements for membership as outlined in Article Four, Section III of the GSA Bylaws, as well as eligibility requirements outlined in this document shall have their Honorary Membership automatically revoked.

Statute Privileges:

18. Honorary Members of the GSA shall be afforded the rights and privileges outlined in Article Four, Section III of the GSA Bylaw as well as Section 7 of Document 011.
19. The Board of Directors of the GSA may, through additional policy, establish any additional privileges for Honorary Members.

Additional Privileges:

20. In addition to the rights and privileges afforded to Honorary Members under Article Four, Section III, Subsection b of the GSA Bylaw, Honorary Members shall have the right to:
 - a. Access all public minutes of Annual General Meetings (AGM's) and Special General Meetings (SGM's) of the GSA,
 - b. The right to attend and speak, at the discretion of the Chair, at all public meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee,
 - c. Access to all public minutes of the GSA, including minutes of the Board and Executive,



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- d. Participate in academic, social, and recreational programs sponsored by the GSA (subject to payment of fees that are required),
- e. Receive promotional materials and products from the GSA or GSA affiliated organizations (subject to payment of fees that are required);
- f. In cases of emergencies, be permitted to hold office, by appointment, for any additional GSA positions, roles, or other opportunities at the discretion of the GSA and pursuant to appropriate legislation. This shall normally be a final consideration when attempting to fill a vacancy in the organization.
- g. Receive GSA publications, including but not limited to the following:
 1. GSA Newsletter,
 2. Any additional GSA publications.

Limitations:

21. No right or privilege provided by this policy may contravene those that are provided by the GSA Bylaws. Any contraventions found shall be addressed in accordance with Article Twenty-Two of the GSA Bylaws.

Titles:

22. Honorary Membership holders shall normally be known as 'Honorary Members' of the GSA but may also utilize the titles of 'Director Emeritus' or 'Chair/Chairperson Emeritus' consummate with highest held office by that member.
23. The title of 'Director Emeritus' shall only be utilized by individuals who have served on the GSA's Board of Directors (either as elected or ex-officio).
24. The title of 'Chair/Chairperson Emeritus' shall only be utilized by individuals who have served in the role of Chair of the GSA's Board of Directors.
25. The title of 'President Emeritus' or 'Vice-President Emeritus' shall only be utilized by individuals who have served on the Executive of the GSA.

Membership Records:

26. A record of all persons having been given the title of Honorary Member of the GSA shall be kept on file by the GSA Office.
27. Records must include an individual's name, the date of their appointment by the Board and experience with the GSA.
28. Following internal procedure, the GSA may collect additional information on Honorary Members and make, at a minimum, the names of Honorary Members accessible on the GSA website.