



Brock University Graduate Students' Association

Document 014B

Graduate Students' Association Ambassador Program Policy

Name:

1. This Document shall be known as the "Ambassador Policy"

Purpose:

2. The purpose of this policy is to establish an Ambassador Program, highlighting those individuals that the GSA would wish to sustain relationships with after they are no longer directly associated with the organization, whereby the GSA and the individual may benefit from continued involvement.
3. The structure of this program shall act as a framework to explore the creation of a dedicated class of membership, which through an amendment to the GSA Bylaw, would formalize the relationship of all ambassadors with the GSA.

Program Definition:

4. The GSA Ambassador Program reflects the GSA's commitments to graduate students through Document 007, specifically the strategic priorities of commitment to leadership and commitment to community. The GSA wishes to recognize the immense contribution made by those alumni and community members who continue to serve the association through active and passive advocacy in support of our mission and vision.
5. While program members are not members of the organization within the formalized sense, as they do not constitute an additional membership category to those identified within the GSA Bylaw. Instead of being members alongside graduate students and honorary members, Ambassadors are intended to be a separate and distinct community of advocates for the graduate experience, both within and beyond the university.
6. Those selected may already be ambassadors and advocates for graduate students, without any specific title and connection to the GSA. Such individuals have a vital and ongoing role to play in support of the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan. Helping to promote a culture of growth and development through a display of deep commitment to the values of the GSA. In acknowledging this the Ambassador program seeks to recognize those already engaged in championing a bigger, bolder, brighter future for all those connected to the GSA and the Brock Graduate Community.

Scope:

7. Ambassadors shall not be members of the corporation until such time that Article Four of the GSA Bylaw is amended to provide them such status.
8. Ambassadors shall exist as organizational affiliates, with no specific membership rights or privileges.



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Eligibility:

9. Only individuals may be considered for the ambassador program, and must fall into one of two categories, with specific criteria required for each, these categories are outlined below.
 - a. Alumni: Defined as any individual having graduated from a graduate program at Brock University and currently in good standing with the institution.
 - i. Been an active member of the graduate student community, within the GSA of the university more broadly, truly demonstrating their commitment to graduate studies by demonstrating dedication to graduate studies throughout during their time at Brock University
 - ii. Demonstrated continued commitment to the core values of the university and the GSA through passionate support to both entities as an alumni.
 - b. Community: Defined as any individual not having graduated from a graduate program at Brock University but who has been associated with GSA.
 - i. Acted as an advocate and champion for the GSA, within the Brock Community and beyond. Vocal in their support of the GSA and graduate students, alongside a commitment to the GSA's mission and vision.
 - ii. Actively engaged with the association above and beyond their role, working to establish meaningful connections and long-term relationships.
10. Corporations or any other such non-individual may not be considered an ambassador of the GSA.
11. Consideration as alumni may be provided to current students who have applied to graduate or are in final stage status, provided they meet the other criteria within the alumni category.

Nomination Process:

12. Nominations shall be accepted throughout the year, with a deadline of February 1st in order to be considered for appointment within that year. Successful nominees shall normally be announced at the GSA end of year event in Winter Term.
13. Nominations may be made either through the GSA Website or via email and collected by the Executive Director. The Executive shall be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date nomination form, which shall be available on the GSA website.
14. All nominations, if they meet the eligibility criteria, shall be considered.
15. The Executive Committee shall consider all eligible nominations and provide a slate of nominees to the Board of Directors for final approval.



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16. Nominees shall be approved by a simple majority (50%+1) at both the Executive and Board Level.

Appointment Process:

17. In addition to the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 6 of this document, 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.
18. Such a waiting period may be waived by unanimous consent by the Executive committee and a two-thirds (2/3's) majority of the Board of Directors.
19. Once an appointment has been confirmed the GSA President, GSA Deputy President, or GSA Executive Director shall reach out to the appointee to confirm their agreement and acceptance of the position.

Program Size:

20. The GSA, through its Board and Executive, should ensure the ambassador program does not expand beyond ten percent (10%) of the current alumni population.
21. The total number of nominees approved as ambassadors each year shall not exceed fifty (50) individuals.
22. Should this limit be reached and eligible individuals remain their nominations may be considered again the following year.
23. Nominations shall remain active for three (3) years following the receipt of submission, once this period has expired a new nomination submission shall be required.

Titles:

24. All Ambassadors may be entitled to use the title of "GSA Ambassador" or "Ambassador of the Graduate Students' Association".
25. Any Honorary Member of the GSA shall also be considered an Ambassador and included within components specific to the Ambassador Program.

Adjustments:

26. As GSA Ambassadors serve to market and represent the association in a positive way and extend the reach of the GSA through the promotion of the brand, the GSA also reserves the right to ensure that this brand is represented in the most positive way possible.
27. The GSA may adjust the list of Ambassadors, through the utilization of the same process that was used to appoint nominees. Such a process, with may be done in response to any action, or in anticipation of any action by an individual



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ambassador or group of ambassadors that is perceived to have a negative impact on the brand of the GSA.

28. Concerns over the relationship and connection to individual or a group of ambassadors may be brought directly to the GSA Executive through the GSA President, Deputy President or Executive Director. All concerns shall be immediately investigated and reported to the board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The board may choose to hold a vote on the removal of any individual with or without a preceding motion from the executive.
29. The process for adjusting the list of ambassadors shall be further outlined within specific GSA procedures.

Operationalization:

30. The GSA Executive shall develop an appropriate, corresponding procedure, along with associated terms of reference further outlining roles, responsibilities, relationship, and expectations of both the GSA as well as ambassadors.
31. The GSA Executive shall designate the Executive Director to assign relevant resources, where appropriate, to support the Ambassador program.

Ambassador List & Information:

32. Ambassadors shall have their name, contact information, year of appointment and other relevant information (affiliation, program, graduation year, etc) where applicable, recorded by the office. The GSA may also choose to maintain biographies on each of the Ambassadors. The GSA may choose to make this information available to the membership through the website.
33. Experience with the GSA will note involvement, if any, with the organization prior to appointment