



Brock University Graduate Students' Association

Document 022C

The Past President of the Graduate Students' Association Policy

Name:

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

Purpose:

2. Succession planning is critical for the stability and success of an organization. For the Graduate Students' Association ("GSA"), 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 continuity and stability in leadership and to provide historical context of the GSA, the Past President shall provide mentorship and support for the newly elected President as well as incoming Executive Committee members.
3. To provide oversight and formal connection to the GSA as the past President will be invited to attend both the May and June University's Board of Trustees ("Board of Trustees") and Senate meetings, to provide a framework of continuity and transition of the incoming President.
4. 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:

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

Appointment of the Past President:

6. The appointment shall normally be automatic, with the current President becoming the Past-President on May 1st upon the expiration of their term of office on April 30th, unless circumstances do not allow this transition to take place.
7. 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 from May 1st until August 31st.
9. The term of the Past President may be extended but shall not extend beyond twelve (12) months, upon approval of the Board of Directors ("the Board") in consultation with the Executive Committee, provided that the member seeking renewal is a returning member of the Executive Committee.
10. 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 may extend the invitation to a previous Past President.

General Responsibilities of the Past President:

Enacted: September 2020

Last Review: October 2023

Next Review: December 2026



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11. Serve as ex-officio, non-voting member of both the Board and the Executive Committee and act as a general resource for the GSA, attending meetings when requested by the committee lead (President for Executive meetings; Chair for Board meetings).
12. The Past President provides advice and leadership to the Board regarding past practices and other matters to assist the Board in governing the GSA. The Past President provides general mentorship and supports the President, Deputy President and/or the President-Elect on an as-requested basis.

Specific Responsibilities of the Past President:

13. 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 connections and relationships with various members of the university and broader communities.
 - c. Facilitating relationships with, and communication amongst Executive and Directors,
 - d. Continuing to advocate for graduate students and the GSA, wherever and whenever possible,
 - e. Providing a historical context for decision-making and revising planning, objectives, etc.,
 - f. Acting as a resource for the Governance/Elections/Nominating Committee in the annual recruitment and nomination of new members for the Board when requested by the President.
 - g. Attend, as invited non-voting member, both the Board of Trustees May and June meetings for continuity and transition of the incoming President.
 - h. Serving, if designated, as a special advisor on any projects or initiatives tasked to them by the President, Executive Committee or the Board.
 - i. Performing any other responsibilities as assigned by the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board.