

2024 Bylaw and Policy Committee Semi-Annual Report

[October 2023– March 2024]

Membership

Chair:

- Wyatt Maddox

Members:

- Zibakhanim Alibalayeva (ML)
- Diana Bertuol
- Ladan Kalani
- Jasmine Padam
- Nick Roberts
- Katarina Sawchuk
- Irfan Tanvir, Governance Coordinator, non-voting
- Kyla Turner, Executive Director, non-voting

Duties of Committee

The Bylaw and Policy Committee is responsible for overseeing and proposing changes to the governance documents of the GSS. The Committee responds to the needs of the Society through referrals and requests of staff, members, the Graduate Representative Council (GRC), and the Executive Board. Changes should follow the steps outlined in the flow chart attached, as dictated by the existing bylaws, policies, and the Societies Act.

Overview of Work Completed

Bylaw and Policy Committee met for the first time in October 2023 and commenced with training. The template documents and flow chart created by the 2022-2023 committee provided excellent material to learn about the context and processes of the Committee. Members were given opportunities to contribute and take up tasks.

Over the past six months, the Bylaw and Policy Committee has been effective in updating and removing a number of Bylaws that were contradictory, not in line with other bylaws or policies, or limited the effectiveness and efficiency of the GSS. Following the flow chart template designed by the preceding committee, the team has completed the process of bringing seven bylaw amendments to the Semi-Annual General Meeting for review and approval.

Bylaw and Policy Committee focuses on issues that arise through the day-to-day practice of governance within the GSS. In close consultation with Irfan Tanveer (GSS Governance Coordinator) and Kyla Turner (GSS Executive Director), Bylaws requiring review were identified and presented to the Committee. In a collaborative effort the committee has offered amendments to:

2.5a iv – Cessation of membership

4.7 c. i. – polling period

8.1 c. – employee management

9.1 f. – employee management

12.3 – executive Board directors leaves and resignations
14.6 – signing authority

Overview of Outstanding Work

Over the summer, the committee will continue work on projects currently underway:

1.1 b. – “Core Membership Fees”

2.8 – membership good standing

14.4 – funding avenues

15 – non-partisanship

Electoral Appeals Committee Terms of Reference