



51gsc.10.2

INTRODUCED AT THE FEBRUARY, 2005 GSC GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE VOTED ON AT THE MARCH, 2005 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Amendment to the Description of Committee Structure and Procedures in the GSC Bylaws

Summary and purpose of this amendment:

The descriptions of committee structure and procedures that currently exists in the GSC Bylaws are unnecessarily confusing and redundant. This amendment clarifies the Bylaws, adds a few minor points, and removes redundant information. Key changes to be noted include:

- o Information regarding the suspension of committees has been moved to a distinct section
- o The details regarding how to change official committee operating guidelines have been replaced with one line that simply states that doing so requires passing legislation at a GCM. This is essentially the same as what was written earlier, except that before it was written in very confusing and redundant language
- o The description of ad hoc committees has been clarified to state that they shall terminate under the Officers under which they were formed, rather than the Council under which they were formed (since the Officers and Representatives finish their terms at different times, it is unclear when one "Council" ends its tenure).
- o It has been added that subcommittees shall terminate with the chairpersons under which they were formed



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GSC Bylaws, Article III, Sections A and B currently read:

A. Committee Structure

The Council may establish committees (or boards) to pursue specific goals of the Council. Those committees provided for in the Bylaws shall be referred to as standing committees. Other committees may be formed by a majority vote of the Council; these shall be referred to as ad hoc committees. All ad hoc committees shall terminate with the Council under which they serve. The membership of committees shall consist of graduate student volunteers who serve at the pleasure of the Council and ex officio members as specified by the committee guidelines or appointed by the Council. A majority of the full membership of the Council may initiate an inquiry into the proceedings of any committee and may suspend a committee. Standing committees shall elect their chairpersons, unless otherwise indicated; the chairpersons of ad hoc committees shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Council. The chairpersons shall call and preside over all meetings, shall enlist members at their discretion and shall be considered voting members of the Council. Graduate student members of Institute Committees shall be ex officio members of Council committees concerned with related issues; in turn, these committees may be called upon by the Nominations Committee to nominate representatives to relevant Institute Committees. A committee chair may petition an organization to appoint a new ex officio member on that committee if the current member does not fulfill the responsibilities of the position.

B. Committee Procedures

Committees established by the Council must operate under the Council Constitution and Bylaws. Committees shall report on their activities to the Council on a regular basis, inform the officers of current developments, maintain pertinent documentation, and handle the responsibilities of distributing publicity or otherwise communicating with the graduate student body. Committees may also form subcommittees, as well as adopt their own operating guidelines or amendments thereof, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Council. These committee laws must be voted upon in a prompt manner according to the following procedure:

First, the committee must notify the Council of amendments that it has approved. This notification (called mail notification) will consist of paper mail sent to or hand delivered to the Council office and/or electronic mail to all the officers of the Council. One of the Council officers must verify receipt of a mail notification by a response (called mail response). This mail response shall be made within 24 hours of receiving the mail and shall be made in the same fashion as the mail received (paper and/or electronic).

The mail notification must consist of the full text of the proposed amendment. It may also include support for or against the amendment as the committee sees fit.

The Council must vote on the amendment at its next general meeting in which a quorum is present. The mail notification must take place at least 72 hours before the next Council general meeting. If the mail notification takes place less than 72 hours before the next Council general meeting, the vote on the proposed amendment will take place at the following Council general meeting with a quorum present.

The Council Secretary will notify the committee of the outcome of the Council vote within 24 hours of the Council general meeting in which the vote took place (in the same manner as the mail notification). If the amendment is not approved by the Council, reasons may also be given to the committee, and reasons must be given to the committee if they are requested.



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GSC Bylaws, Article III, Sections A and B should be amended to read as follows:

A. Committee Structure

Standing Committees of the Council shall be those defined in Article II, Section 3 of these Bylaws. Other committees may be formed by a majority vote of the Council; these shall be referred to as ad hoc committees. All ad hoc committees shall terminate with the Officers under whom they were established. Unless specified otherwise, the membership of committees shall consist of graduate student volunteers who serve at the pleasure of the Council and ex officio members as specified by the Constitution, Bylaws, or committee guidelines or appointed by the Council. Standing committees shall elect their chairpersons, unless otherwise indicated; the chairpersons of ad hoc committees shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Council. The chairpersons shall call and preside over all meetings, and shall be responsible for ensuring that all committee procedures are followed.

B. Committee Procedures

Committees established by the Council must operate under the Council Constitution and Bylaws. Committees shall report on their activities to the Council on a regular basis, inform the Officers of current developments, maintain pertinent documentation, and handle the responsibilities of distributing publicity or otherwise communicating with the graduate student body. In addition, committees may be called upon by the Nominations Committee to nominate representatives to relevant Institute Committees, as specified in Article II, Section C.2 of these Bylaws. Committees may form subcommittees as deemed necessary by the chairs. These subcommittees shall terminate with the committee chairs under which they serve. Committees may establish or modify formal operating guidelines through the passage of legislation at a General Council Meeting.

GSC Bylaws, Article III, Section C should be moved to GSC Bylaws, Article III, Sections D, and the following should be inserted as GSC Bylaws, Article III, Sections C:

C. Suspension of Committees

A majority of the full membership of the Council may initiate an inquiry into the proceedings of any committee and may suspend a committee until such a time as a vote is cast by the full Council to return the committee to active status.