



## GSA Special General Assembly Report Proposed By-Law Amendments

### Article IV (General Assembly)

#### **Amendment IV:4**

##### **Current By-Law:**

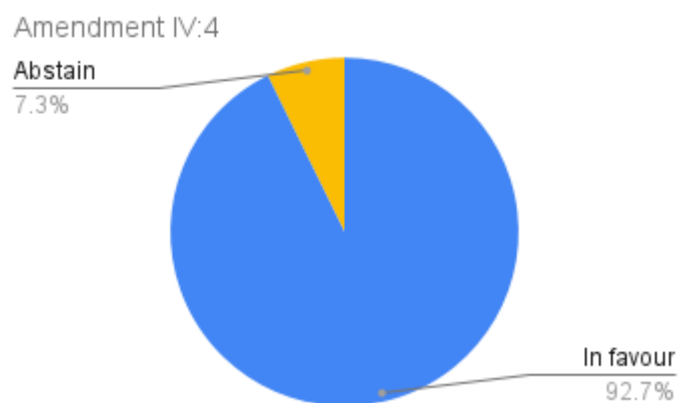
*“Notice of any General Assembly shall be five (5) days. The notice shall be sent by email to each member, posted at the Association’s offices and on the Association’s website” (VI:4)*

##### **Proposed Amendment:**

*“Notice of any General Assembly shall be ten (10) days. The notice shall be sent by email to each member, posted at the Association’s offices and on the Association’s website.”*

##### **RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>4</b>



### Article V (Council of Directors)

#### **Amendment V:14**

##### **Current By-Law:**

*“The Council will determine annually the honorarium that the Directors will be entitled to receive per Council meeting attended. This amount must be ratified by GSA members through a General Assembly. Non-attendance, failure to arrive thirty (30) minutes early as required by by-laws, or leaving before the adjournment of the meeting without documentation or permission of the chair shall result in non-payment of the honorarium for the Director(s) in question.” (V:14)*

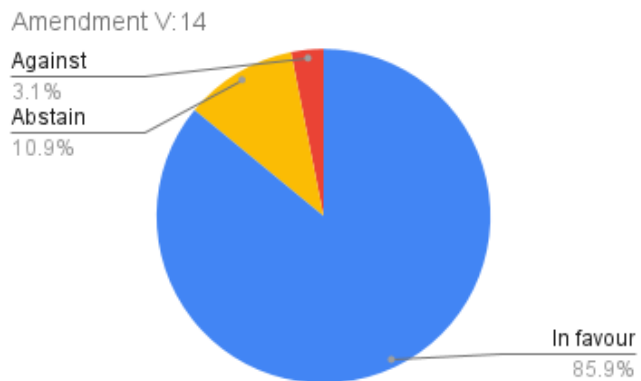


**Proposed Amendment:**

“The Council will determine annually the honorarium that the Directors will be entitled to receive per Council meeting attended. This amount must be ratified by GSA members through a General Assembly. Non-attendance, failure to arrive thirty (30) minutes early as required by by-laws, or leaving before the adjournment of the meeting without documentation or a valid reason to the chair shall result in non-payment of the honorarium for the Director(s) in question. **There will be no fractional payment.**”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>7</b>



***Amendment V:15***

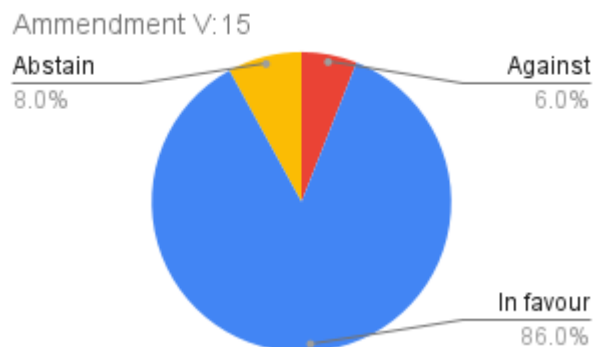
**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“Executives and the vice-director for the Interdisciplinary/SIP seat shall be non-voting members of the Council.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>7</b>





**Amendment V:16**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

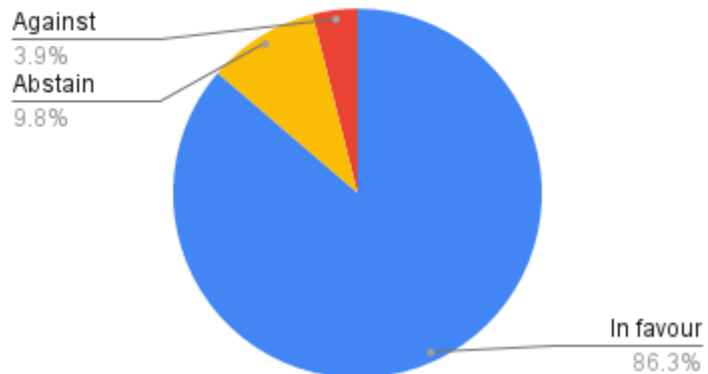
**Proposed Amendment:**

“Council meetings can be held in person or online. In the online setting, all council members need to make themselves visible during the attendance check. Council members shall add their real names and function within the GSA body. Council members which are unresponsive more than three-time during the meeting will be informed and removed from the meeting (e.g. waiting room). The voting in an online meeting will be done by roll call and each individual vote shall be recorded (in favor, against or abstention)”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>5</b>

Amendment V: 16



**Amendment V:17**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

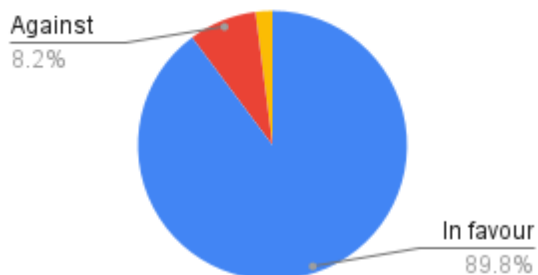
**Proposed Amendment:**

“Council meetings shall not be held on statutory holidays, except for urgent meetings.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>1</b>

Amendment V: 17





**Amendment V:18**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

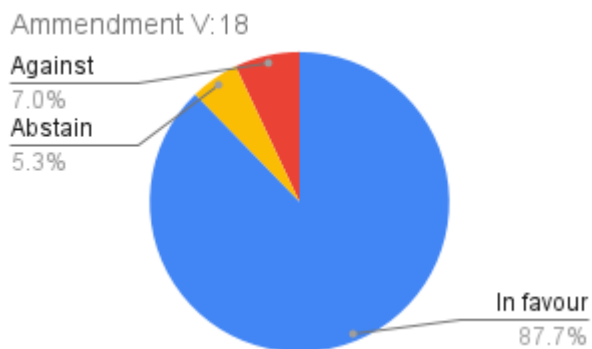
“All GSA-sub-associations shall be invited to each Council meeting and given at least five (5) days’ notice by email. Announcement of council meetings shall be added at least five (5) days before the meetings on the GSA website and posted on social media accounts (e.g. Instagram, Facebook).

In the case of an urgent council meeting, a shorter notice within two (2) days can be sent to all Council members, Students, and GSA-sub associations (Exemptions may apply). The President shall give notice of reasoning for an urgent meeting.

Decisions and resolutions from each council meeting shall be summarized and published on the GSA webpage, as well as be sent to all GSA-sub associations. This information shall be distributed within five (5) days by the VP mobilization.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>3</b>



**Article VIII (Roles and Responsibilities of The Executives)**

**Amendment VIII:2.11**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“VP Internal shall provide quarterly expenditure reports compared to the approved budget of the GSA.”



**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>0</b>

Amendment VIII:2.11



**Amendment VIII:4.5**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

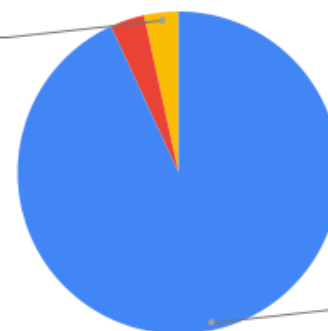
“VP Mobilization is responsible to provide the Association’s monthly newsletter”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>2</b>

Amendment VIII:4.5

Abstain  
3.4%



In favour  
93.1%

**Article IX (Standing Committees)**

**Amendment IX:0.1**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

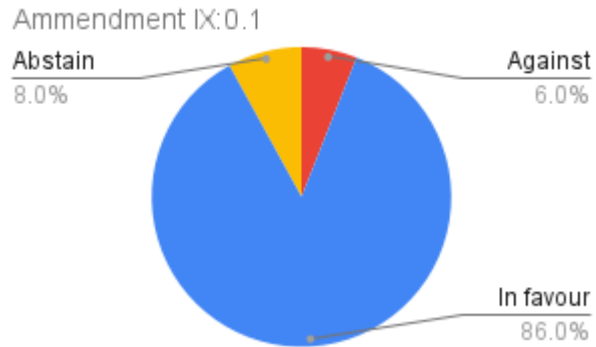
**Proposed Amendment:**



“The committee chair shall not vote except in case of a tie”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>4</b>



**Amendment IX:0.2**

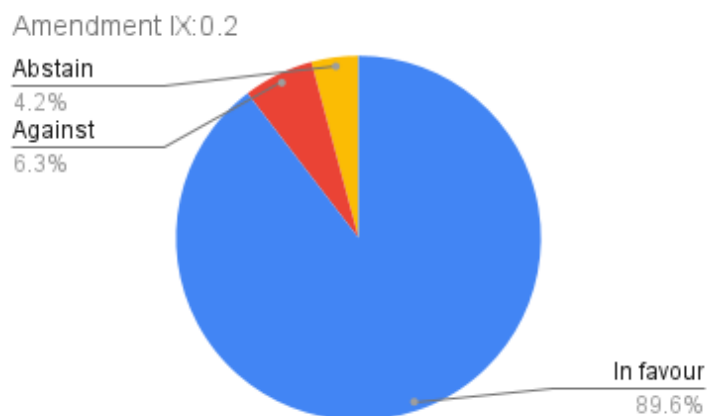
**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“The chair can remove a committee member who fails to attend two (2) meetings without notice. In such a case, Council shall appoint a replacement from the same faculty at its next regular meeting.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>2</b>



**Amendments IX:1.2.3/2.4.4/3.2.4/4.3.2**

**Current By-Law:**



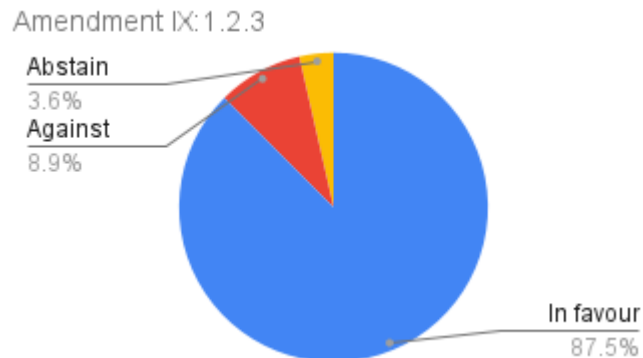
“Five (4) members of the council, from different faculties, appointed by Council.”  
(IX:1.2.3/2.4.4/3.2.4/4.3.2)

**Proposed Amendment:**

“Five (5) members of the council, from different faculties, appointed by Council”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>2</b>



**Amendment IX:1.8**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

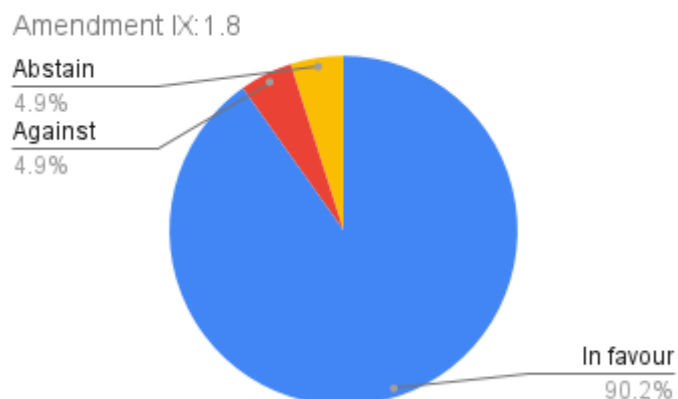
**Proposed Amendment:**

“Prior to the meeting:

- All applicants need to be selected and informed 5 days before the interview.
- Interviews can take place in person and online. In the online setting, all GSA members and the applicant need to make themselves visible at the beginning of the meeting and while conducting an interview.
- The interview shall be led by the chair. After the interview will be a short Q&A period, where the interviewee and committee members can ask questions.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>3</b>





**Amendment IX:4.9**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

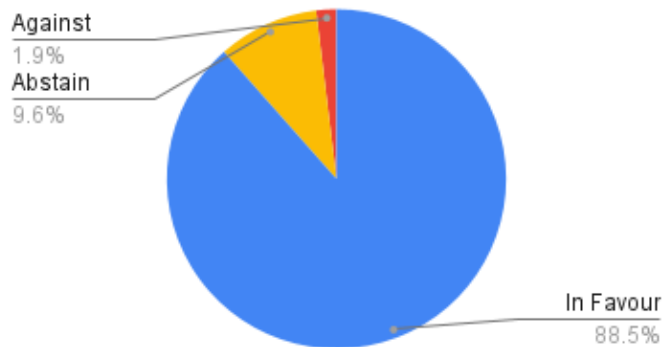
“Prior to the meeting:

- All applicants need to be selected and informed 5 days before the interview.
- Interviews can take place in person and online. In the online setting, all GSA members and the applicant need to make themselves visible at the beginning of the meeting and while conducting an interview.
- The interview shall be led by the president. After the interview will be a short Q&A period, where the interviewee and committee members can ask questions.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>5</b>

Amendment IX:4.9



**Amendment IX:4.10**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

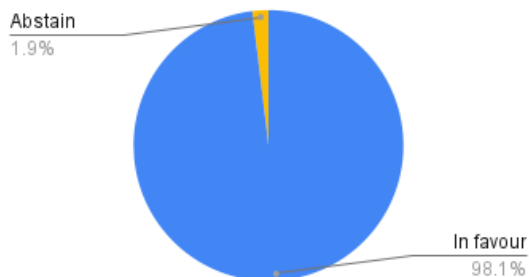
**Proposed Amendment:**

“In cases where the appointments have to be made in less than ten (10) days, the committee shall proceed with the appointment. In such cases, the chair shall report to the Council the appointment for ratification.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>1</b>

Amendment IX:4.10







**Amendment IX:6**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“The Academic Cabinet shall:

- a. Elaborate the positions and priorities of the GSA on Academic Issues;
- b. Consult with graduate students and campus academic groups on academic issues relevant to Concordia University graduate students;
- c. When possible, Academic Cabinet members shall operate as a coordinated unit on their respective bodies;
- d. The Academic Cabinet is composed of:
  - 6.d.1 VP Academic and Advocacy (Chair)
  - 6.d.2 President (non-voting member)
  - 6.d.3 Graduate student representatives on the Board of Governors, Senate, School of Graduate Studies Council, and the Graduate curriculum committee shall form the voting members.
- e. Meet once a month (except in July and August) at the call of The Vice President – Academic/Advocacy who will also chair the committee. The chair shall not vote except in case of a tie. Members shall be given individual notice of a meeting at least five (5) calendar days before the meeting takes place unless this stipulation is waived by every member in writing;
- f. Have a quorum of a majority of the sitting members;
- g. Require a vote of simple majority to adopt a resolution;
- h. Have a secretary for the Committee drawn from the staff positions of the GSA who will be an Ex Officio Non-Voting member;
- i. Carry out any additional functions delegated by The Council.”

**Amendment IX:7**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“The Student Life and Sponsorship Committee shall:

- a. Negotiate sponsorship contracts for the GSA, that shall exclude companies whose actions are against students well-being;
- b. Organize and support events promoting student life and the wellbeing of graduate students;
- c. Be composed of:
  - 7.c.1 Vice President External (chair)
  - 7.c.2 Vice President Internal (non-voting member)
  - 7.c.3 Vice President Mobilization (non-voting member)
  - 7.c.4 Five (5) members of the council, from different faculties.
- d. Meet at the discretion of The Vice President – External who will also chair the committee. The chair shall not vote except in case of a tie. Members shall be given individual notice of a meeting at least five (5) calendar days before the meeting takes place unless this stipulation is waived by every member in writing. The chair can remove a committee member who fails to attend two (2) meetings without notice. In such a case, Council shall appoint a replacement from the same faculty at its next regular meeting;
- e. Have a quorum of a majority of the sitting members;
- f. Require a vote of simple majority to adopt a resolution;



- g. Have a secretary for the Committee drawn from the staff positions of the GSA who will be an Ex Officio Non-Voting member;
- h. Carry out any additional functions delegated by The Council.”

**Amendment IX:8**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“The Sustainability Committee shall:

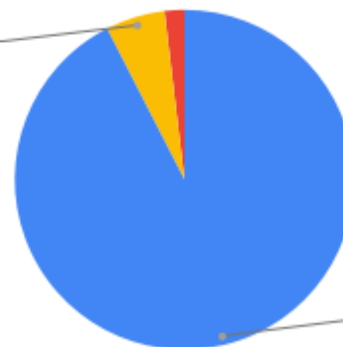
- a. Lead sustainability initiatives and support a culture of sustainability for the activities of the GSA and for graduate students;
- b. Recommend to the GSA positions to advocate for an improvement of sustainable practices by the university;
- c. Be composed of:
  - 8.c.1.1** Vice President Internal (chair)
  - 8.c.1.2** Vice President Academic and Advocacy (non-voting member)
  - 8.c.1.3** Vice President External (non-voting member)
  - 8.c.1.4** Five (5) members of the council, from different faculties.
- d. Meet at the discretion of The Vice President – Internal who will also chair the committee. The chair shall not vote except in case of a tie. Members shall be given individual notice of a meeting at least five (5) calendar days before the meeting takes place unless this stipulation is waived by every member in writing. The chair can remove a committee member who fails to attend two (2) meetings without notice. In such a case, Council shall appoint a replacement from the same faculty at its next regular meeting;
- e. Have a quorum of a majority of the sitting members;
- f. Require a vote of simple majority to adopt a resolution;
- g. Have a secretary for the Committee drawn from the staff positions of the GSA who will be an Ex Officio Non-Voting member;
- h. Carry out any additional functions delegated by The Council.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>3</b>

Ammendment IX:6-8

Abstain  
5.7%



In favour  
92.5%



Article XII (Elections)

**Amendment XII:16**

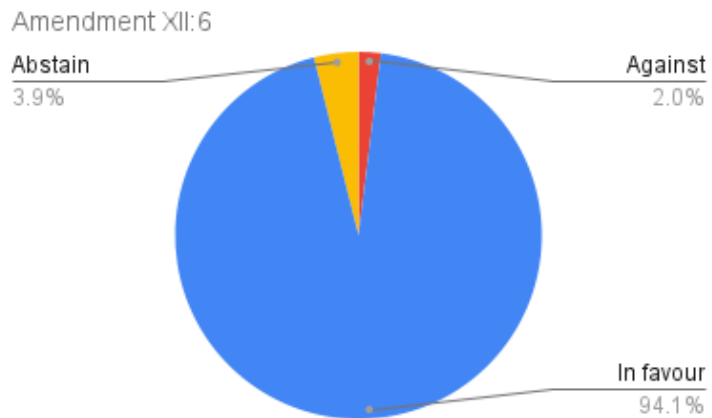
**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“Starting at the latest of May 1 or the date of certification of the elections by the EJC Chair, the Executives elect shall train with the outgoing executive until they take office on June 1. During that period, they shall have the right to attend all meetings as non-voting members of the Board of Directors and committee meetings where the current Executive member is sitting.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>2</b>



**Amendment XII:17**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

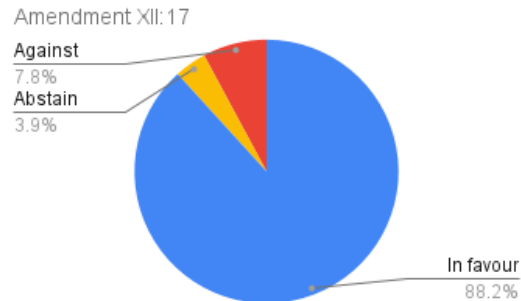
**Proposed Amendment:**

“The INDI Director position (one) is filled with two Directors (Director and Vice-Director). Both, the Director and Vice -Director must run together as a slate. The INDI Director will become a voting member of the Council once elected and the Vice-Director will become a non-voting member but with the right to participate on committees. In case the INDI Director seat becomes vacant, the Vice-Director shall be deemed appointed as a Director until the end of the unexpired term.”



**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>2</b>



**Article XV- Resignation by Absence**

**Amendment XV:2**

**Current By-Law:**

*“An executive or a director who is absent for a valid reason may ask the Council for his absence to be for a valid reason. If approved by a simple majority vote, the absence is not counted for the application of this article. Work commitments, scheduled course commitments, illness, bereavement or emergency are valid reasons for absence. The council may request documentation in all cases.”*

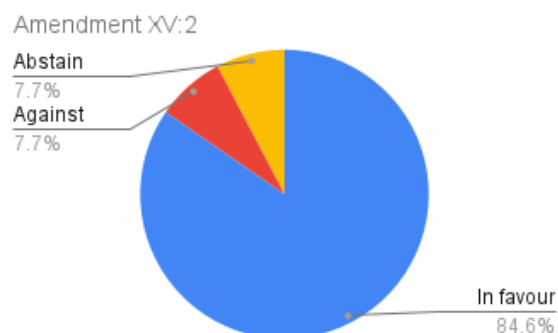
**Proposed Amendment:**

“An executive or a director who is absent from three (3) council meetings shall be deemed to have resigned. An executive or a director who is absent for a valid reason may provide the Service Manager or equivalent staff position with a valid reason for his absence, including documentation in all cases. Work commitments, scheduled course commitments, illness, bereavement, or emergency are valid reasons for the absence.

If a director disagrees with the Service manager’s decision. The director may ask the Council to excuse their absence for a valid reason. If approved by a simple majority vote, the absence is not counted for the application of this article.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>3</b>





Article XVI (Eligibility for Office)

**Amendment XVI:5**

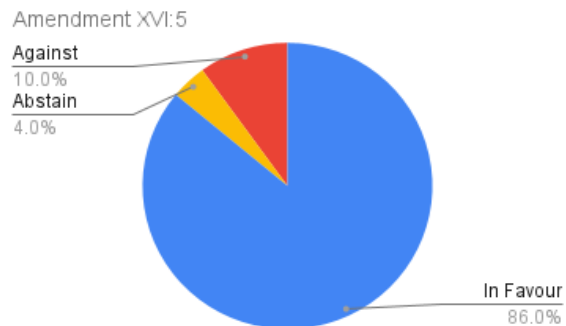
**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“A person elected to the Council must, prior to taking office, sign the Counselor Responsibility Contract [annexe B of these By-Laws.]”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>2</b>



Article XXVI (Conflict of Interest)

**Amendment XXVI:3**

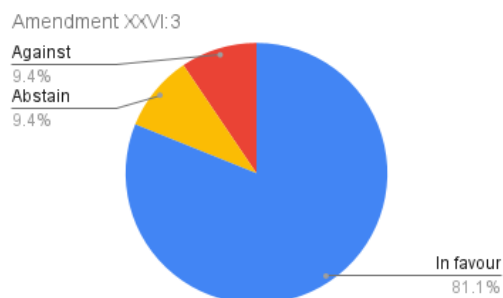
**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“The Council member shall not participate in any discussion or vote on any matters relating to the conflict or perceived conflict of interest.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>5</b>





**Amendment XXVI:4**

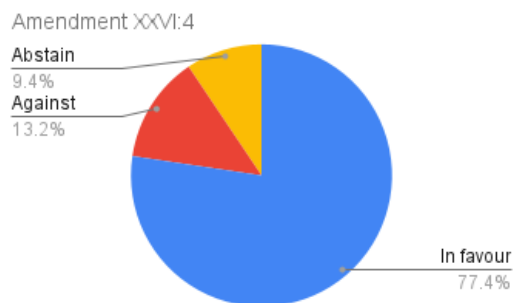
**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“GSA Council members (including non-voting members) are ineligible to apply for any awards and/or subsidies of the GSA, unless the award and/or subsidies are based on objective criteria decided prior to the application period and/or that the applications are evaluated anonymously by the relevant GSA officer and/or deciding body.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>5</b>



**Article XXXII (Gender, Number and Dates)**

**Amendment XXXII:2**

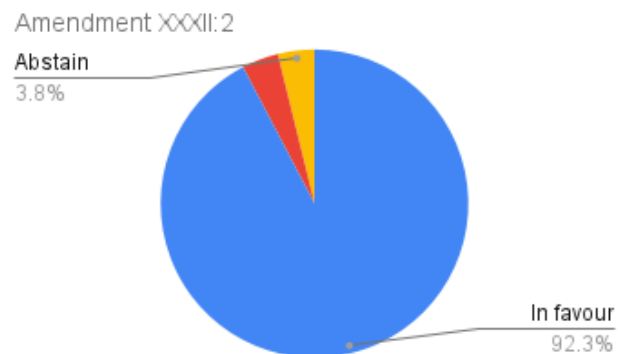
**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“In these by-laws, a day refers to a business day, excluding any weekend and statutory holidays.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>2</b>





Article XXXIII—Interpretation

**Amendment XXXIII**

**Not in Current By-Laws**

**Proposed Amendment:**

“In case of a disagreement over the interpretation of this constitution, the President of the GSA shall seek a legal opinion from the GSA legal counsel. The President, in consultation with the legal counsel, can refuse to request a legal opinion if, in the opinion of the President in consultation with the legal counsel, the request is frivolous, abusive or made in bad faith with the purpose of causing a financial prejudice with the legal costs to the association to seek the legal opinion.”

**RESULTS:**

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>5</b>

