Appendix XIII Policy Revision Form

Instructions:
The purpose of this form is to present proposed policy amendments or additions in an explicit and standard manner. Members of the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver wishing to make policy amendments or additions for Council approval must use this form. Consultation with the Code and Policy Committee is strongly recommended to ensure that the language and style reflects that of the current policy manual. The Committee can be emailed at cpcom@gss.ubc.ca. As per bylaw 13.1.4 and policy 1.2.1, notice of a proposed policy amendment or addition must be posted on the Society’s website and emailed to all Council members at least seven days prior to the motion at Council. For assistance with putting forms on the website, you may contact Communications and Marketing Director at communications@gss.ubc.ca.

Date: Aug 5, 2019
Submitted by: Katharine Sedivy-Haley, Chair of Code & Policy Committee

What type of change is this?
- Amending an existing policy
- Addition of a new policy
- Removal of a policy

Original Policy #: 8.5, minor adjustment to Policy 12 and Appendix V.

New Policy # (if applicable): same

Proposed Revised Policy:

8.5.1. The Elections Committee shall:
(a) carry out the duties on organizing elections and referenda as outlined in Section 12 of this manual,
(b) annually review and report to Council by July on non-event related communication and marketing materials produced by the GSS communications staff members and published on the GSS website, social media, and other platforms,
(c) write and annually update a graduate student engagement plan, to be presented no later than October in a Council meeting. The plan will address means to increase election visibility and accessibility, voter turnout, and candidate nominations. The plan will be developed in consultation with the executives,
(d) assist VP Students, other executives, and staff members in the implementation of the engagement plan.

8.5.2 The ex officio members of the Elections Committee shall be the President and the Electoral Officer.
Further, any references to the “Chief Electoral Officer” will be changed to Electoral Officer. This will affect 16 instances in Policy 12 - Election Procedure, and one instance in Appendix V. Preliminary Announcement of Election Results.

Rationale Behind Proposed Changes:

The Elections Committee Terms of Reference is currently merely “The Elections Committee shall carry out the duties outlined in Section 12 of this manual. [Election Procedure]” However, there is a need to address wider issues of graduate student engagement with the society through mediums other than events (which are managed by Services Committee). EC is well equipped to communicate with students and has proposed that they take on these engagement activities during the parts of the year during which Elections are not held.

Strategic Plan Priority 3.2 Goal E “Increase the visibility, accessibility, and participation of the GSS Elections” is also incorporated into the graduate student engagement plan for which EC will not be responsible.

The title “Chief Electoral Officer” has the confusing abbreviation of “CEO,” and the title “Chief” is unnecessary as there exist no other Electoral Officers in the GSS. CPC and EC thus recommend using instead “Electoral Officer.”

As EC now functions year-round rather than only during elections, the position of Electoral Officer is separate from that of Elections Committee chair. As such, it should be clarified that the Electoral Officer is an ex officio member of EC.