

# NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

**AMENDED 2025** 

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## CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY

#### **ARTICLE I: NAME OF SOCIETY**

The name of the society is the Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society (hereinafter referred to as "the Society").

#### **ARTICLE II: SOCIETY PURPOSE**

The purposes of the Society are:

- 1. To act as a democratic body;
- 2. To foster equality among members;
- 3. To develop Society Bylaws and Policies in a fair and open manner;
- 4. To act on behalf of graduate students in general, and to specifically work towards strengthening a sense of place and community at the University of Northern British Columbia (hereinafter referred to as "UNBC") through the following objectives:
  - a. Facilitate an awareness of the rights, privileges, and obligations of members
  - Advocate for the removal of physical and systemic barriers that prevent full access of students to graduate school, academic programs, facilities, and services at UNBC, as well as for the provision of appropriate facilities and services to enable enrollment and participation at UNBC;
  - c. Advocate for adequate and equitable funding for all graduate students;
  - d. Maintain continuous communication between the Society and UNBC administration, faculty, and staff;
  - e. Require the principle and practice of graduate student representation at all levels of decision making at UNBC;
  - f. Ensure the Society's administration office serves as the center of communication;
  - g. Ensure UNBC adheres to the principles of participative and distributive justice;
  - h. Foster and enhance the learning environment at UNBC;
  - Advocate for on campus family housing, affordable childcare, and health care for members;
  - j. Promote graduate student activities among members; and

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- k. Endorse the following statement: Graduate Education is a Right, not a Privilege.
- 5. To perform everything incidental and essential in attaining the aforementioned purposes; and
- 6. To use of any and all profits accrued by the Society for the promotion and attainment of the aforementioned purposes and objectives.

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#### BYLAWS OF THE NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY

#### **PREAMBLE**

These Bylaws, set forth with the belief that vigorous and judicious involvement and contribution in every aspect of the University of Northern British Columbia that concerns graduate students is constructively reasonable, establishes a Society that will be responsive without being repressive or restrictive, and will insure that graduate students of the University of Northern British Columbia are fairly, equitably, and justly recognized and represented.

For full transparency, these Bylaws are to be available online through the Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society's website, with a hardcopy provided to members upon request and at no financial charge.

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#### **BYLAW I: INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS**

- 1. Interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws must:
  - a. Be in accordance with the Society Act of British Columbia; and
  - b. Follow and adhere to the principles of natural justice.
- 2. In these Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - a. AGM means the Annual General Meeting of the Society;
  - b. **Board** refers to the Board of Directors
  - c. **By-election** means an election that is procedurally the same as a general election but is held when a seat on the Board becomes vacant during the 'term of office';
  - d. **Campus** refers to the main campus of the University of Northern British Columbia, 3333 University Way, Prince George, V2N 4Z9;
  - e. **General Election** means an election whereby votes are cast secretly and is held over the span of two (2) business days;
  - f. **Good Standing** means a member of the Society that fulfills the criteria of membership and is current with remittance of membership dues.
  - g. **Member** means a graduate student in good standing with the Society;
  - h. **Membership Dues** are dues paid by members for the provision of programs and services;
  - i. **Plurality** means the number of votes cast for candidate 'A' is more than the votes cast for any other one candidate;
  - Quorum means the number of members required to be present in order to hold a meeting and transact Society business;
  - k. **Regional Campus** means any University of Northern British Columbia campus that is not located in Prince George, BC, as well as other institutions that offer courses from the University;
  - Registered address means the permanent address of a member as recorded on the register of the members;
  - m. Special resolution as defined in the Society Act;
  - n. **Society** means the Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society;
  - o. **Society Act** means the Society Act passed by the provincial legislature of British Columbia;
  - p. UNBC means the University of Northern British Columbia; and

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- q. University means the University of Northern British Columbia
- 3. Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, as well as words importing a person includes any gender.

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#### **BYLAW II: MEMBERSHIP**

#### 1. Members

The members of the Society are all individuals who are registered as graduate students at the University for the current semester and have paid membership dues to the Society.

#### 2. Honorary Members

- a. Honorary members are any individual upon whom honorary membership has been bestowed by the Society.
- b. Honorary members will not pay membership dues.
- c. Honorary members will not vote in Society elections or general meetings, nor will they hold a position on the Board of Directors.
- 3. Members must be in good standing in order to use services and facilities provided by the Society.

#### 4. Membership Dues

a. Setting of Membership Dues

Membership Dues may be set by members of the Society through a referendum conducted in accordance with the Society's Bylaws and Policies.

- b. Amount of Membership Dues
  - i. Effective September 2018, the membership dues for all members will be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per month; and
  - ii. Effective September 2020, the membership dues for members studying primarily on the Prince George campus will be \$17.00; and
  - iii. Membership dues will be adjusted annually based on the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous calendar year.
- c. British Columbia Federation of Students Membership Dues
   As a member of the Federation, the Society will collect and remit membership dues in accordance with the Federation's Bylaws.

#### 5. Cessation of Membership

- a. Individuals will cease to be members of the Society if they cease to meet the requirements listed in Bylaw II Article 1 a or b.
- b. Individuals may be expelled from the Society by special resolution at a quorate general meeting of the Society.
- c. Individuals may resign from the Society in accordance with provisions in the Society Act.

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#### **BYLAW III: RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**

- 1. All members in good standing shall enjoy the following rights:
  - a. Have access to the general information and various resources of the Society;
  - b. Participate and vote in general meetings and referendums;
  - c. Attend open meetings of the Society;
  - d. Vote in Society elections;
  - e. Be a nominee, or to nominate or second candidates for the Board;
  - f. Be represented collectively by a representative;
  - g. Representation at the campus, provincial and national levels in order to advocate and advance the interests of graduate students;
  - h. To initiate a motion to adopt, amend, or rescind, in part or in whole, any Article of the Constitution or Bylaws, including the allocation, retention, or the disproportionate distribution of finances. Motions to amend the Constitution or Bylaws must be in accordance to Bylaw IX.
- 2. The rights listed in these Bylaws are minimum requirements and an agreement to waive any of these requirements has no effect.
- 3. All members of the Society shall be guaranteed due process and impartiality in decision-making.

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#### **BYLAW IV: GENERAL MEETINGS AND REFERENDUMS**

#### 1. General Meetings

- a. There shall be an AGM of the Society held no later than March of each academic year.
- b. General meetings, other than the AGM, may be called at any time by:
  - i. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors; or
  - ii. A petition signed by three (3) percent of, and not less than fifteen (15) Members.

#### 2. General Meeting Agenda

- a. Except hereinafter provided, the agenda for each general meeting will be prepared by the Board of Directors for presentation to the general meeting.
- b. The Board will include on the agenda any special resolutions that are:
  - i. Referred by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors; or
  - ii. Presented to it accompanied by a petition signed by no less than ten percent (10%) of the members of the Society.

#### 3. Referendums

In addition to the annual general meeting, members may vote on resolutions to the business of the Society by means of a referendum. Referendums may be called at any time by:

- a. a majority vote of a Board of Directors meetings; or
- b. As otherwise required by the Society Act.

#### 4. Notice for General Meetings or Referendums

The Board of Directors will give not less than fourteen (14) calendar days' notice of a general meeting or referendum. Sufficient notice will be deemed to have been given by posting no fewer than fifteen (15) notices, not less than 8.5" x 11" in size, stating:

- a. The time, date, and location of the meeting or referendum;
- b. the proposed agenda for the meeting or the resolution(s) for the referendum; and
- c. any special resolutions to be considered by the meeting or referendum.

#### 5. Quorum

The quorum required for a general meeting of the Society will be five percent (5%) of members, or 15 members, whichever is less. The quorum required for a referendum of the Society will be fifteen percent (15%) of members. In the event that the AGM does

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not achieve quorum, but does satisfy the minimum quorum requirements set out in the Society Act, the meeting will proceed, though business will be limited to the following:

- a. Acceptance of the annual audited financial statements;
- b. Appointment of the auditor; and
- c. Acceptance of the annual report of the Board of Directors.

#### 6. Voting by Proxy

- a. Voting by proxy is only permitted for members attending regional campuses. Only a member of the same regional campus can be appointed as proxy.
- b. The form of proxy must contain:
  - i. The member's name;
  - ii. The name of the proxy appointed;
  - iii. Student identification numbers for both members;
  - iv. Contact phone number for the member granting proxy;
  - v. Be dated and signed by the member granting proxy in the presence of a witness who must also sign as well.
- c. A member may hold no more than three (3) proxy votes at any given time.
- d. A member may grant no more than one (1) proxy vote at any given time.

#### 7. Rules of Order

The most recent edition of Roberts' Rules of Order will be used to govern all general meetings of the Society.

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#### **BYLAW V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- 1. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of:
  - a. Chairperson
  - b. Director Events and Communication
  - c. Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and Welfare
  - d. Director of External Relations & Partnerships
  - e. Director of Indigenous Students' Affairs
  - f. Director of Internal Relations & Strategic Management
- 2. No Board member shall hold more than one position on the Board of Directors.
- 3. Term of Office
  - a. The term of office for all members of the Board of Directors shall be one (1) year commencing April 1 and expiring the following March 30.
  - b. Members of the Board of Directors must be members of the Society during their term.
- 4. Meetings of the Board of Directors
  - a. The Board of Directors meet at least twelve (12) times per year and not less than one (1) time per month.
  - b. The quorum required for business to take place at a Board of Directors meeting shall be fifty percent (50%) plus one of currently elected members, but never less than three (3) members. When presence in person is not possible, a member or members may be present by telephone or videoconference, and as such be counted in quorum.
  - c. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to observation by all members of the Society, provided that the Board be permitted to move "in-camera" in extraordinary circumstances.
  - d. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be scheduled by: Resolution of the Board of Directors; or the Chairperson or designate, upon request from three (3) or more members of the Board.

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- e. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.
- f. Minutes of Board of Directors meetings shall be kept in the Society office and also made available to members in a digital format.

#### 5. Board of Directors Remuneration

- a. The remuneration of members of the Board shall be based upon hour requirements per position as set out by the Policy of the Society.
- 6. Leaves of Absence for Board of Directors Members
  - a. Individual members of the Board of Directors may be granted a leave of absence from their duties for a period of up to one semester during their term. Members on leave shall not factor in the calculation of quorum and will not receive remuneration.
- 7. Official transfer of work of the outgoing Board of Directors
  - a. Handover of roles and responsibilities of the board should occur either through a 'Board Investiture Session' or an official meeting or orientation.
  - b. This has to include handing over the duties through a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)/ Transition document to the new board, which can be before or after the end of the term of office.
  - c. This should be after the elections and preferably before the official duties of the new board start.

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#### BYLAW VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 1. The **Chairperson** shall:

- In collaboration with the Director of External and partnerships, officially represent the Society at the external level, including other bodies or universities and all levels of government;
- b. Along with other members of the Board, be responsible for matters pertaining to relations with University administration, faculty, and staff, and the Northern Undergraduate Student Society.
- c. Be ex-officio on all committees of the Society;
- d. Assist other members of Board in the execution of their duties;
- e. Be a signing officer of the Society;
- f. Call and chair regular meetings of Board;
- g. Leads and ensures that the annual Student Week is planned and executed in the winter semester as approved by the board;
- h. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
- Ensure that the Board of Directors shall conduct an annual evaluation of the Executive Director 1 month closer to the end of that year of service of the ED together with the Staff relations officer who will be a board member assigned by the board to look into staff relations.

#### 2. The **Director of Events and Communications** shall:

- a. Coordinate all Society social events, including but not limited to, the annual winter and spring social events, as well as at least one other event per semester (Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer);
- b. Coordinate all Society educational events;
- c. As per by Laws coordinate and execute the student week along with the chairperson.
- d. Coordinate and promote all Society events and functions (social and/or educational) to its Members;
- e. Coordinates the posting of contents on, as well as the maintenance of the Society's website, mobile app, and social media with the relevant admin staff.
- f. Work with the Chair to design communication channels and information to keep students informed of the Society's activities always;
- g. Promote student engagement and maintain the society's presence across all platforms;
- h. Work with the board of directors on the implementing Society's campaigns;
- i. Primarily works in Prince George; and
- j. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

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k. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

#### 3. The Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion & Welfare shall:

- a. Liaison with the Women's Centre, Pride Centre, Access Resource Centre, and International Centre
- b. Work on equality campaigns of the Society
- c. Oversee the welfare of all members;
- d. Liaise with UNBC EDI office, Women's Center and Pride Center
- e. Oversee the Food Bank Operations as directed by the Chair;
- f. Work with the Director of Community Development to plan welfare events that would benefit members;
- g. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
- h. Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors

#### 4. The Director of External Relations and Partnerships shall:

- a. In Collaboration with the Chair, officially represent the Society at the external level, including other bodies or universities and all levels of government;
- b. Work with the Director of Communications to coordinate the Society's campaigns;
- c. Develop and maintain partnerships with external entities
- d. Oversee sponsorships and fundraising initiatives and maintaining relationships with external organizations
- e. Coordinate the campaigns of the British Columbia Federation of Students in collaboration with the Federation Representative;
- f. Be a signing officer of the Society;
- g. Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors

#### 5. The Director of Indigenous Students' Affairs shall:

- Represent the concerns of Indigenous graduate students to the Board of Directors;
- b. Serve as a liaison between the First Nations Centre, local Indigenous groups, and Indigenous graduate students, and the Society;
- Collaborate with the Director of Student Affairs to hold events to foster mutual interaction and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous graduate students; and
- d. As appropriate and authorized by the Board of Directors, use NBCGSS email

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- communication list and social media to outreach to Indigenous students, and to educate non-Indigenous students about Indigenous culture and traditions, to foster the values of the UNBC motto, En cha huna (Carrier: Respecting all forms of life).
- e. Organize, in collaboration with the Director of Community Development, at least one Indigenous-focused event per fiscal year that promotes Indigenous culture, traditions and ways of knowing, and fosters connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous graduate students, provided that:
  - i. The event to be received guidance and support from an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, Elder, or community representative; and
  - ii. In the event that the Director of Indigenous Students' Affairs position
    is vacant or if appropriate Indigenous guidance cannot be secured, the
    requirement to hold the event may be deferred until such time as
    proper Indigenous support and representation can be obtained to
    ensure cultural sensitivity and appropriateness
  - The approved annual budget would be \$4000 or more depending on the allocation the board approves. But not less than \$4000.

#### 6. The Director of Internal and Strategic Management shall:

- a. Oversee all financial operations and budgeting of the society along with the executive Director
- b. Develop long-term strategic plans, manage relationships with UNBC administration;
- c. Explore revenue generation opportunities;
- d. Keep all financial records of the Society in compliance with the Society Act;
- e. Work with the Executive Director to provide an annual budget for approval by the Board;
- f. Provide quarterly financial statements to the Board of Directors;
- g. Work with the Executive Director to provide a year-end financial report at each Annual General Meeting;
- h. Be responsible for reconciliation and third-party audits of the Society accounts in accordance with the Society Act;
- i. Oversee the maintenance of the Society's Health and Dental Plan;
- j. Be a signing officer of the Society; and
- k. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the Board of Directors

#### **BYLAW VII: ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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#### 1. Chief Returning Officer

- a. The Board of Directors shall maintain a Chief Returning Officer (CRO) at all times.
- b. The CRO must not be a current member of the Board of Directors and may not run in an election they are overseeing.
- c. The CRO will be responsible for the administration of all elections to fill Board of Directors positions and will ensure that all elections occur in the manner prescribed by this bylaw and the Policy of the Society.
- d. The CRO will determine the eligibility of all nominated candidates in accordance with the Policy of the Society.
- e. The CRO may disqualify a candidate or rule an election invalid for any violation of these Bylaws.
- f. The CRO shall act in an impartial manner in every respect concerning an election to the Board of Directors. The CRO shall in no way support any candidate, except when exercising the right to vote.
- g. The CRO may make any interim decisions, rulings or orders deemed appropriate, fair and just, provided such decisions, rulings or orders do not conflict with:
  - i. The Constitution or any subsidiary regulation;
  - ii. Any instructions from the Board issued prior to the opening of nominations, nomination rules; and, any instructions issued by an elections Bylaw.
- h. The CRO may decide the form of the ballot, provided that the nominees for each position be listed in alphabetical order by surname.
- i. In the event of a strike, circumstance beyond human control or other event that may delay the electoral procedure, the CRO may decide how and when the electoral procedure may best be completed.
- j. The CRO will submit a report on the conduct and results of all elections to the Board of Directors for ratification.

#### 2. Scheduling of Elections

- a. The Society will hold:
  - a general election for the Board of Directors between February 15 and March 31 of each year; and
  - ii. by-elections at such times as deemed necessary by:

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- 1) the Board of Directors; or
- 2) the CRO in the event the number of members of the Board of Directors falls below three (3), notwithstanding that elections may be delayed in the event of a strike, natural disaster, or other such occurrence.
- 3) However, where there is a void as in (2) above and in the absence of a CRO, the Board of Directors can appoint reputable members into the board.
- b. The schedule of elections will include:
  - i. a minimum one (1) week period for the submission of nomination forms to the CRO;
  - ii. a minimum one (1) week period between the close of nominations and the commencement of polling; and
  - iii. not less than twelve (12) hours polling.
- c. The schedule of elections for the Board of Directors will be set by:
  - i. the Board of Directors; or
  - ii. the CRO in the event that the number of members of the Board of Directors falls below three (3), provided that the entire election falls within the period set out in Bylaw VI, Article 2.a.

#### 3. Notice of Elections

- a. Notice of the opening of nominations will be given not less than three (3) days prior to the opening of the nomination period via email to all members and by posting no fewer than fifteen (15) notices, not less than 8.5" x 11" in size, stating:
  - i. the positions vacant or expiring;
  - ii. the opening and closing of the nomination period;
  - iii. the location at which nomination forms may be obtained;
  - iv. the location to which completed nominations forms are to be submitted;
  - v. the opening and closing of the campaign period; and
  - vi. the day(s) on which voting will take place.
- b. Notice of candidates for election will be given not more than three (3) days after the closing of the nomination period via email to all members and by posting no fewer than fifteen (15) notices, not less than 8.5" x 11" in size, stating:
  - i. the members nominated for positions on the Board of Directors;
  - ii. the date, and time voting will take place; and

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iii. in the circumstance the election is being conducted using a physical polling station, the location of the polling station.

4. Eligibility

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- a. Nominees for any position on the Board of Directors must be members of the Society.
- b. Nominees for the position of Director of Indigenous Student Affairs must identify as an Indigenous person of First Nations, Métis, or Inuit ancestry and be a member of the Society.
- c. In order to seek election to the Board of Directors, members must be nominated by not less than ten (10) members of the Society.
- d. Members of the Society will not seek election for more than one (1) position on the Board of Directors at any one time.

#### 5. Nominations

- a. Nomination packages will be available in the Society office for the full duration of the nomination period.
- b. For members seeking election from campuses other than the Prince George campus, nomination packages may be requested via email from the CRO.
- c. Nomination packages must be completed in accordance with Policy of the Society and must be submitted to the Society office or to the CRO no later than 4:30 pm on the closing day of the nomination period.

#### 6. Conduct of Nominees

- a. Nominees for all positions will limit their campaigning to the period between the close of nominations and the close of voting.
- b. Nominees' campaign expenses will not exceed the limit established by Policy.
- c. Nominees will abide by all regulations established by Policy and by the CRO.

#### 7. Voting

- a. Members of the Society may vote only once for each position in an election.
- b. Voting may be conducted online or by physical ballot, as determined by the CRO and in accordance with the Policy of the Society.
- c. If only one (1) nomination is received for a particular position, members will be asked on the ballot to approve or disapprove the nominee. The nominee must receive the approval of the majority of the ballot cast to be declared duly elected.
- d. In the circumstance that the election is being conducted using physical polling stations, sealed ballot boxes will be returned to the Society's office immediately upon completion of voting. The ballots will be counted by the electoral committee. Where positions are contested, the nominee receiving a plurality of votes cast will be declared duly elected.

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e. Each nominee may appoint a scrutineer to oversee the counting of the ballots.

#### 8. Recounts and Appeals

- a. A nominee may request a recount of votes cast, provided such request is made in writing to the CRO within forty-eight (48) hours following the announcement of the election results.
- b. A nominee may appeal any decision of the CRO to a meeting of the Board of Directors or to a quorate general meeting of the Society.

#### **BYLAW VIII: REMOVAL OF A BOARD MEMBER**

- 1. Board members who fail to fulfill the position requirements detailed below and stated in their individual contracts will be removed by a majority vote on a motion for dismissal at a Board meeting. In addition to the individual contracts, each Board member must:
  - a. Attend each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board or be excused from them with a reason approved by the Board, and
  - b. Maintain an email account and respond in a timely manner (3 working days) to inquiries and tasks related to their position, and
  - c. Actively advance the interests of the Society as determined by the Board, and
  - d. Complete regular duties as detailed in a Board position description, and
  - e. Complete the minimum number of hours required for their position as stated in the Policy of the Society, and
  - f. Must exude respectful and professional behavior befitting a representative of the NBCGSS to fellow Board members as well as the general university body.
- 2. The Board of Directors may, by a majority vote, pass a resolution for dismissal of a Board member in the event they have not fulfilled their obligations under these Bylaws. Absence or tardiness from two (2) Board meetings will result in a review of the board member's performance and a motion for removal. Prior to obtaining a special resolution for expulsion, a notice of the motion for dismissal must be posted to graduate student members ten (10) business days in advance of the Board of Directors meeting where the motion will be made.
- 3. In the case of Board members, those who neglect to provide regrets to regularly scheduled meetings of the Board or be excused from them with a reason provided to the Board of Directors will be contacted by the Society Chairperson. The purpose of this contact will be to inform the Representative of their noted absence. The Representative will have the opportunity to address the matter at the next Board Meeting if a motion is made for their removal.
- 4. A valid petition containing the names, signatures, and student identification numbers of 51% of general members may recall any member of the Board. The petition must be

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presented to the Society's Chief Electoral Officer.

- 5. A vacancy created by recall may be filled by a by-election.
- 6. The Society's Chief Electoral Officer shall call a by-election no later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of the recall petition. The by-election shall be in accordance with Bylaw VII.

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#### BYLAW IX: CONSTITUTIONAL AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS

- 1. The Society's Constitution and Bylaws must only be amended at the AGM by special resolution in accordance with the Society Act.
- 2. The Constitution and Bylaws must be amended in accordance with the following procedure:
  - a. In order to amend the Constitution due notice must be given, which means a motion must be delivered to the Chairperson twenty-one (21) days before the AGM. The motion must clearly specify and detail the proposed amendment in that it is made by section and subsection;
  - b. The Board of Directors is responsible for determining whether the motion conforms to the overall spirit of the Constitution and Bylaws. This decision must be indicated on the notice of the motion given to members;
  - c. Notice of a proposed amendment of the Constitution and/or Bylaws will be given in writing to the general members at least fourteen (14) days before the AGM at which an amendment motion is to be introduced;
  - d. The decision made by the Board may be overturned by a three- quarters (3/4) vote of general members in good standing and present at the AGM for which the notice was given;
  - e. The motion may be amended on the floor through a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the members in good standing and present at the AGM;
    - i. If amended on the floor, and before the motion is voted upon, the Chair and the Speaker of the meeting must determine whether the amendment conforms to the spirit of the Constitution; and
    - ii. Three-quarters (3/4) of the general members in good standing and present at the AGM must vote "Yes" (for the floor amendment, before the motion is to be considered appropriate for an amendment vote.
- 3. The Constitution and/or Bylaws are considered amended if the motion satisfies the following requirements: due notice in accordance with this Bylaw, maintains the spirit of the Constitution, and receives three-quarters (3/4) vote of members at the AGM.
- 4. Voting by proxy is permitted according to Bylaw IV, Section 6.

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#### **BYLAW X: AFFILIATION**

- 1. The Society may seek affiliation with other organizations or persons with similar purposes:
  - a. Affiliation with another organization or person requires Board approval; and
  - b. Subsequent changes to terms of agreements between the Society and an organization or a person, requires Board approval.

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#### **BYLAW XI: POLICIES**

- 1. The Society may enact policies as necessary, provided they are in accordance to the principles embodied in the Constitution and conform to these Bylaws.
- 2. Policies outline the Society's position on issues of importance and provide general direction to members.
- 3. Policies are created, amended, or repealed by the Board. Motions to create, amend, or repeal policies must receive a 51% vote of the Board in order to pass. The Board must notify members of any changes.

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#### **BYLAW XII: BORROWING**

An order to carry out the purposes of the Society the Board may, on behalf and in the name of the Society, exercise borrowing powers in accordance with the Society Act.

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#### **BYLAW XIII: LOCATION OF OPERATIONS**

The operation of the Society shall be carried out solely on the main campus of UNBC in Prince George, BC. This provision was previously unalterable.

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#### BYLAW XIV: DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

In the event of winding-up of dissolution of the Society, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of its debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such an organization promoting the same purposes of the Society, as may be determined by members of the Society. In the event such an organization does not exist, then such funds shall be held in trust until such time as such organization exists.

#### Northern British Columbia Graduate Student Society (NBCGSS)

#### **History of Bylaw and Constitution Amendments:**

Registered, September 17, 1997

Amended: March 30, 1999

Amended: January 30, 2002

Amended: March 12, 2003

Amended: March 24, 2006

Amended: March 27, 2013

Amended: March 18, 2014

Amended: April 9, 2015

Edited (for formatting of numbering, fonts, spelling, and consistency of titles usage only): June

2016

Amended to comply with Societies Act: October 3, 2017 Repealed

and replaced: January 30, 2020 Amended: December 2, 2020 Amended: November 3, 2023 Amended: March 13, 2025

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