



Council Speaker Appointment

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Category:	Procedure
Owner:	Academic and Internal Relations Officer
Approving Body:	Council
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Preamble

The Council Speaker is a critical position within the GSS due to her/his role in chairing Council meetings and the GSS Appeals Board. The Speaker must not only be knowledgeable about each Council package, but must also be capable of communicating to members about procedural governance in a manner that is constructive and supportive. The Speaker must balance roles as a teacher of, and enforcer of Robert's Rules of Order in Council and Appeals Board meetings.

Purpose

This procedure aims to provide a fair and democratic guideline for appointing the Council Speaker that balances both the needs of the Speaker, the Society, and the membership.

Definitions

1. The following definitions shall be used for this document:
 - a. Academic and Internal Relations Officer (AIRO): the student leader on Executive Committee who is responsible for Council, Caucuses, and governance.
 - b. Council: the highest decision making body within the GSS, other than general membership.
 - c. General Members: graduate students at Simon Fraser University, in good standing, who are not on the Executive Committee or a member of Council (including Alternate Councilors)
 - d. Robert Rules of Order: Provides common rules and procedures for Council meetings in order to place the whole membership on the same footing
 - e. Speaker: The person who chairs Council meetings and the Appeals board

Issuing a call for the Speaker

2. The GSS will issue a call to the general members for the Speaker position in the following circumstances:
 - a. The current speaker has been appointed for three consecutive semesters;
 - b. The current Speaker fails to be renewed for the position for the following semester; or
 - c. The current Speaker resigns from the position.
3. The call to general members shall be 2 weeks before the second last Council meeting of the current Speaker's appointment.
 - a. The call to general members shall occur by posting in the GSS Newsletter and in the GSS Lounge, and through online communications.

Candidate Nomination

4. Candidates shall apply for the Speaker position by sending a short (maximum 200 words) statements of intent to the AIRO, explaining their reasons for interest in the position. These statements will be included in the Council package where the Speaker selection will be made.
5. The application deadline to apply for the Speaker position shall be 2 days before the new business deadline of the Council meeting where the Speaker selection will be made.
6. All Candidates are encouraged to attend the Council meeting where the Speaker selection will be made, and provide a short verbal presentation.

Selecting the new Speaker

7. Council is encouraged to consider the following criteria while appointing the Speaker:
 - Demonstrate knowledge of, and ability to use Roberts Rules of Order;
 - Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the GSS;
 - Have attended at least one Council meeting prior to appointment;
 - Have ability to ensure the business is conducted in accordance with GSS governing documents in a respectful and courteous manner;
 - Have ability to keep members on topic and maintains a positive, professional working environment in the meetings; and
 - Have strong public speaking skills.
8. The Speaker appointment shall come to the second last Council meeting of every semester as a motion to appoint the Speaker for the entirety of the following semester.
 - a. If there are multiple candidates, Council may conduct a non-binding poll to identify the preferred Candidate before discussing and voting on the appointment.
 - b. Council may ask the candidates questions.
9. The elected Speaker is encouraged to come to the final meeting of the semester to watch the process of the meeting and learn from the current Speaker.
10. The outgoing Speaker shall provide brief suggestions and lessons in point form (around 150 words) to the incoming Speaker.

Governing Documents Associated with this Procedure

By-Law V

Amendment History

Created: December 9, 2014

Scheduled Review Date

December 9, 2015