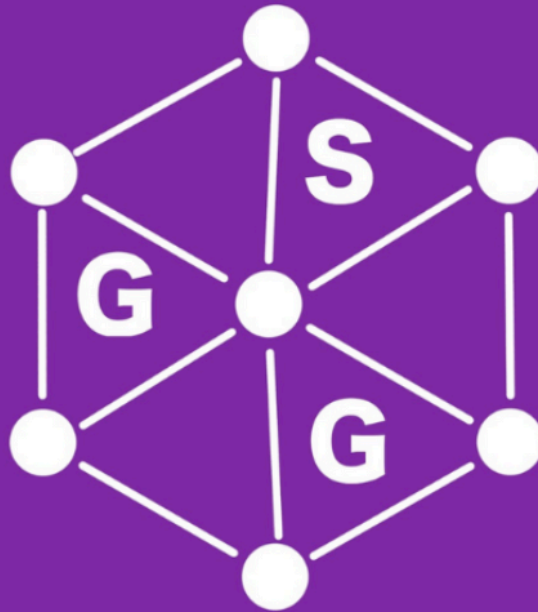


# Global Student Government

## 1st Legislative Assembly

### Meeting Package



*November 25-27, 2022*

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## Welcome Message

Dear Members of the Global Student Government (GSG) (including IFISO members) and honoured guests,

I am pleased to formally invite you to the first GSG Legislative Assembly, which this year will be combined with the 2022 Autumn Meeting of the Informal Forum of International Student Organisations (IFISO). This combined event will take place online from November 25-27, 2022.

At this first GSG Legislative Assembly, we will debate and vote on a number of motions that have the potential to shape the future of the GSG. These votes will take place on November 27th. We will also be appointing five individuals to the GSG Advisory Board, which is the GSG's appeal body that makes rulings on interpreting the GSG Constitution. Details about Advisory Board responsibilities can be found in Article 9 of the [GSG Constitution](#). The motions, itinerary, agenda, and other helpful information about the Legislative Assembly can be accessed in the sections below. Please read through these documents in advance of the meeting.

Delegates from your organization who plan on attending must fill out the Registration Form [linked here](#) by 14:00 CET (8:00 EST), Saturday, November 19, 2022.

If you would like to add motions to the agenda, please send them to GSG Secretary General Zlatan Vasović at [secgen@globalstudentgovernment.org](mailto:secgen@globalstudentgovernment.org) by 14:00 CET (8:00 EST), Saturday, November 19, 2022. If you would like to nominate individuals to the GSG Advisory Board, please send their name, CV, and brief cover letter or statement of motivation to Zlatan by the above date and time.

Delegations from organizations that are not yet part of the GSG are welcome to attend as observers by registering via the form linked above.

I am also pleased to announce that for all organizations using the **opt-in GSG membership type**, the link for your students to opt-in is now available on the GSG website and can be accessed here: <https://globalstudentgovernment.org/individual-membership>. Please share this link with your students so they can sign up to access GSG opportunities and actualize their voting rights in GSG elections. For each of your students that signs up, your organization receives 50% of the membership fee revenue.

On behalf of the GSG team, we look forward to seeing you at this landmark event in our effort to rebuild student democracy around the world. If you have any questions or if there is anything you need, you are welcome to contact us anytime.

Best,



Justin Patrick,  
GSG President

October 14, 2022

# Registration

Please register via [this online form](#) by 14:00 CET (8:00 EST), Saturday, November 19, 2022.

# Itinerary

[Click here to access the itinerary.](#) This document will be updated in real time.

# Legislative Assembly Agenda

*Online, Sunday, November 27, 2022, 8:00 EST. Durations are estimated and may vary depending on what is decided by the Legislative Assembly.*

## 1. Welcome and Introduction 20 minutes

## 2. Keynote Speaker 20 minutes

Frage Sherif was the last Secretary General of the International Union of Students (IUS). He will be sharing his vision for student government and key lessons learned from his experience as a student leader of the IUS.

## 3. Announcement of By-elections 5 minutes

GSG Secretary General Zlatan Vasović will announce the opening of the GSG's first by-elections for the position of Vice-President for Communications. The by-election process will be contingent on the passing of Motion 1 below.

## 4. Motions Part 1

### a. Motion 1: By-elections 20 minutes

This proposed constitutional amendment outlines a process for by-elections if Executive Committee positions become vacant partway through an elected term.

### b. Motion 2: Issues Policy on Student Democracy 10 minutes

Student democracy is a necessary part of education; therefore, democratically structured student governments within educational systems are to be implemented for the purpose of adequately advancing student causes and holding educational stakeholders accountable.

### c. Motion 3: Issues Policy on Housing 10 minutes

Adequate accommodation spaces that are inclusive and affordable for students are important to consider for the purpose of positively impacting students' academic performance.

### d. Motion 4: Issues Policy on Health 10 minutes

The need for accessible health care plans with proper accreditation, quality, and affordability is relevant for ensuring health and safeguard of students as they pursue their academic programs on campuses.

**e. Motion 5: Issues Policy on Immigration 10 minutes**

International students have experienced issues in accessing essential resources and information about immigration services and requirements to study in a foreign country. They have also faced challenges on account of their visa status, risk of deportation and consequences from xenophobic policies.

**f. Motion 6: Issues Policy on Equity 10 minutes**

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is an important aspect of campus. It is important to create safe, inclusive and engaging learning environments within the education system, we all must be committed to equity and inclusion for all students.

**5. Intermission Social 20 minutes**

**6. Motions Part 2**

**a. Motion 7: Issues Policy on Education Funding 10 minutes**

Across the world, some students have faced difficulties with accessing education funding options due to international student status or other factors. Therefore, efforts on accessible educational funding and affordable education should be made for the purpose of inclusivity on educational costs and funding.

**b. Motion 8: Issues Policy on Environmental Justice 10 minutes**

Across the world there are ongoing movements and struggles to resist policies, resource extraction and development projects that would impact the environment negatively. Environmental justice mobilizes environmental rights, civil rights, anti-racist, anti-poverty, Indigenous rights and feminist agendas to challenge the unequal distribution of environmental burdens and benefits in society.

**c. Motion 9: Issues Policy on Student Journalism 10 minutes**

Student journalism is integral to a healthy student democracy. It serves as an important line of communication between student governments and their constituents. It allows student representatives and other relevant education and societal stakeholders to be held accountable. It is important to support student journalists and hold those with power accountable.

**d. Motion 10: Additional Membership Options 20 minutes**

This proposed constitutional amendment would add a lump sum payment membership option.

**e. Motion 11: Executive Committee Restructure 20 minutes**

This proposed constitutional amendment calls for reducing the number of Executive Committee positions.

## **7. Appointment of Advisory Board Members 30 minutes**

## **8. Adjournment**

# **GSG Introductory Report**

### **What is the GSG?**

The Global Student Government (GSG) is a student democracy representing students at international levels. It was founded in April 2022 after two years of work by a coalition of student governments concerned about declining student representation around the world. Representing an estimated 10 million students across all inhabited continents, the GSG seeks to strengthen, build and/or rebuild student democracy, coordinate advocacy campaigns across borders, and help student governments build their organizational and service capacities. More specifically, the GSG's goals are to:

1. Advocate for students' interests in policy making processes at all levels of government;
2. Ensure quality democratic student representation exists at all continental, national, regional, and campus levels;
3. Establishing and maintaining lines of communication between student governments around the world;
4. Foster continuous improvement of student services, student government capacity building, extracurricular activities, and all aspects of the student experience;
5. Ensure the preservation, access, transfer, and continuous expansion of knowledge pertaining to student government and all aspects of the student experience.

In addition, GSG has been recently expanding its membership outreach from subject-based student governments to student union types. Student democracies of all types are welcome to join the GSG.

### **Why is the GSG necessary for the student voice?**

The GSG's founding student governments joined together to resist substantial threats to student democracy in the twenty-first century that have started a trend of student government decline and collapse. Some student governments that have collapsed are:

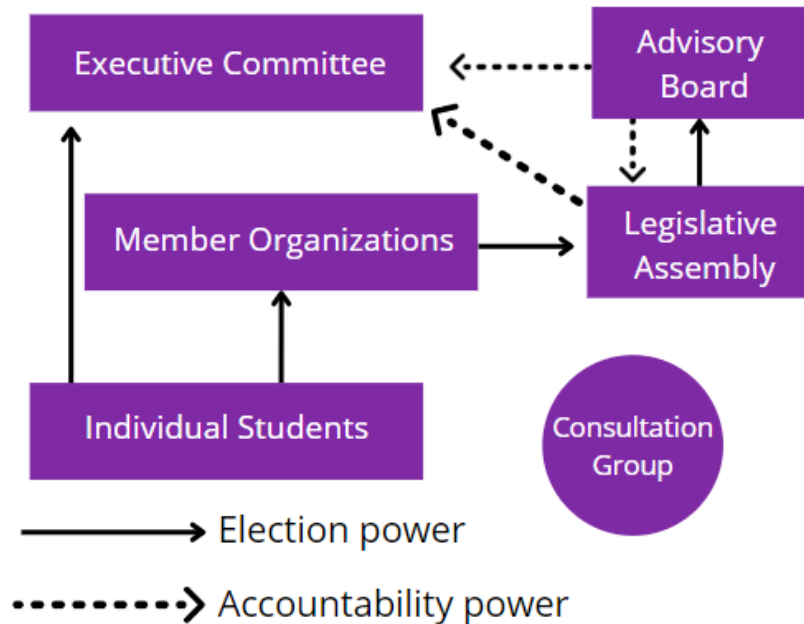
- International Union of Students 1946-2000s
- United States Student Association 1947-2018
- Assorted Hong Kong student unions 2010s-2020s
- International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations 1969-2010s
- Assorted student unions in Asia and the Middle East

Furthermore, governments have implemented voluntary student unionism in Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, parts of the US, and attempted to do so in the Canadian province of Ontario, which forces student government membership to be voluntary instead of automatic, drastically reducing student government revenue and bringing the legitimacy of student representation into question. At the same time, a number of policymakers have been circumventing consultations with elected students in favour of small appointed student or youth councils that they hand-pick themselves, risking a cycle of biased advice and patronage that directly threatens student democracy. We believe these recent trends are part of a larger decline of civil society organizations generally. The result is that students in some continents are shut out of student advocacy at international and national levels while those that remain represent the world's wealthiest student populations.

The GSG is also important for being a positive influence on member student governments regarding how to best structure student democracy and implement organizational operations. For instance, the GSG can work with student governments to help them build their technological and digital infrastructure and mitigate risks of student government corruption and over-corporatization of student government structures, issues which are both prevalent in some student governments that have managed to survive thus far in the twenty-first century.

### **Structure**

The GSG's structure consists of a Legislative Assembly where member student governments meet to vote on GSG policies, outline actions the GSG should take, and hold the Executive Committee accountable. Executive Committee members are elected by the individual students of each member student government. GSG also consists of an Advisory Board which is appointed by the Legislative Assembly to make constitutional rulings. In addition, GSG is equipped with a Consultation Group in which student organizations that are not student governments provide non-binding resolutions and reports to advise the Executive Committee and Legislative Assembly, exploring possibilities for cross-border extracurricular collaboration.



### **Membership Benefits**

The GSG provides many benefits to its members, such as:

#### **1. Direct input in GSG policy proposals, activism campaigns, governance**

Your organization will help decide what the GSG advocates for.

#### **2. Voting rights in GSG Legislative Assembly**

Your organization will help shape the structure of the GSG as an organization.

#### **3. A direct line to raise concerns to international audiences**

Your organization will have opportunities to participate in GSG delegations to meetings of international governing bodies and networks where you can meet other education stakeholders and advocate for students.

#### **4. Global network of student allies to assist in times of need**

If your students are facing an emergency situation and need immediate advocacy support, the GSG can mobilize its member organizations to provide assistance. Your organization can similarly help students in other parts of the world to build your advocacy capacity.

#### **5. Opportunities for cross-border service development**

By bringing students from around the world together, the GSG may be able to develop services in future years that can improve the education experience of all students within the GSG. While



members will likely need to vote on the creation of such services, some ideas being discussed include external partnerships that offer discounts for school supplies, student exchange programs, and scholarships. The GSG may also be able to help Consultation Group organizations scale up their activities to an international level.

### **6. Knowledge exchange, organizational development support**

The GSG provides opportunities for you to network with student representatives from around the world so you can learn more about success stories and lessons learned when it comes to student representation and organizing activities. If your organization is facing challenges, the GSG can connect you with student leaders who can provide advice. The GSG also offers infrastructure support to help your organization build its capacities, such as if you need email addresses, a web page, or online storage space.

### **7. Your students have a direct voice in GSG leadership**

You have an option to allow individual students in your organization to vote directly for the GSG Executive Committee, giving them a direct voice in who represents them while informing them about important student politics developments at the international level.

### **8. Strategic support in achieving advocacy goals**

Do you want to build or rebuild a national or regional student government in your country? Is there a specific policy change your organization has been advocating for over a period of years? The GSG can help you achieve these long-term goals by working with you to develop a unique strategy, help connect you with relevant stakeholders, and provide resources for extra support. All students should have a democratic student government to represent them, and, if necessary, should have the resources to build student representation where it has collapsed or has never existed.

### **9. Opportunities for your students to get involved, build skills**

We offer skill-building conferences and other events for individual students in your organization. These opportunities help them develop research skills on topics relevant to student government, or more practical skills such as how to develop and implement an advocacy campaign on a campus, regional, national, or international level. These events also allow your students to network with their counterparts around the world and form lasting friendships.

### **10. Flexibility to join and leave**

We understand that student governments are constantly evolving and each has unique needs. The GSG leaves it up to the rules of your organization when it comes to joining and leaving. If your organization decides to leave after a few years, it's okay and you are always welcome to rejoin later.

### **11. We're stronger together**

Given the global policy trends that have been detrimental to student governments in the twenty-first century, your organization is under threat by other education stakeholders, political interests, and corporations that actively work against the student voice. They have more money

and resources at their disposal than any single student government, but if we work together, we have a better chance of resisting these trends and defending student democracy for the future student generations. Going at it alone could put your organization at risk of collapse like those mentioned above on page one. The GSG is your organization's best hope for not only long-term survival, but continuous improvement.

### **Membership Fee Options**

Amongst its many benefits, GSG's membership fees permit all students under the student organization member with GSG opportunities. Below are further details on the two fee options offered by GSG:

1. Conventional Levy
  - a. 1 Euro/student per year
  - b. All your students get voting rights, are informed about GSG opportunities
  - c. For student governments with individual membership systems and annual levies
2. Opt-In Revenue Sharing
  - a. Free
  - b. You promote the GSG to your students and they can choose to sign up via the GSG website for a set fee and actualize their GSG voting rights and access to opportunities. This fee is determined by your organization in collaboration with the GSG Executive Committee.
  - c. Half of the revenue collected goes to your organization
  - d. Your organization receives a list of your students who signed up each year so you can build an individual member list
  - e. For student governments without individual membership or levy systems who are experiencing financial difficulties

The GSG also offers Individual Memberships for students without a student government representing them or who are part of a student government that is not a GSG member. By Fall 2022, these students will be able to sign up as individuals on the GSG website, whereupon they will be regularly informed about GSG opportunities and will be able to vote in GSG elections as part of a special stateless constituency. If there is no existing student government in an Individual Member's area, the GSG may work with them to build or restore a level of student democracy so they can be adequately represented in the future.

### **Consultation Group Benefits**

The GSG Consultation Group allows extracurricular organizations that are not student governments to provide advice to elected students through non-binding resolutions and reports about how to improve the student experience. The Consultation Group also offers opportunities to receive a boost in advocacy in areas that align with the GSG, as well as skill-building events and activities with an extracurricular focus. Below are listed benefits for members under the consultation group:

#### **1. Free to join**

Extracurricular organizations are treated as civil society interest groups and do not need to pay fees like member student governments.

## **2. Opportunities to advise the GSG and its members on how to improve the student experience and what to advocate for**

The Consultation Group will have periodic meetings where you can voice recommendations about what the GSG should work toward in advocacy and service development. These recommendations are shared with elected student leaders of the GSG Executive Committee, Legislative Assembly, and with the networks of member student governments.

## **3. Opportunities to network with similar organizations around the world**

You can meet organizations that organize the same activities in other parts of the world, which provides opportunities for you to collaborate with them to scale up your operations to the next level. For example, if you usually organize a national conference or tournament every year, through the Consultation Group, you can build a cross-border network that will allow you to organize an international one.

## **4. Possibilities for advocacy and activism support**

If you have advocacy priorities that align with the GSG, you essentially just gained a network of 10 million students to promote campaigns to, recruit volunteers from, and help you bring about the change you want to see in the world.

## **5. Opportunities to participate in GSG advocacy and activism**

If there are active GSG campaigns that you align with, there may be opportunities for your students to participate in GSG operations, gaining valuable experience and helping make a difference.

## **6. Updates about GSG opportunities**

We will keep your organization informed about relevant GSG developments and other opportunities that come through our network, so your students will know what is happening in student politics at the international level and how it affects them.

## **7. Opportunities to participate in GSG activities that promote skill building and organizational development**

The GSG organizes conferences, other events, and activities to support extracurricular development. Whether this takes the form of extracurricular-focused segments of larger conferences about the student experience, or events and initiatives specifically catered to skill building for extracurricular organizations, there are plenty of opportunities for students in your organization to build skills and capacities to help make your activities the best they can be.

## **Budget**

The first GSG representatives began their terms in June 2022, so the GSG's main infrastructure, including the implementation of its membership fee system, is still being implemented in consultation with member organizations. If all goes well and members who are

part of the GSG's network are able to contribute fees as planned, estimated revenue and expenses for the 2022-23 fiscal year would be as follows.

*Estimated Revenue (CAD)*

Levy Fees	\$245,800
Opt-In Fees	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$265,000</b>

*Estimated Expenses (CAD)*

Green = necessary expenses to keep the GSG going as an organization

Student advocacy, aid, service development, and rebuilding student democracy <sup>1</sup>	\$100,000
Transitioning volunteers into part-time staff at Canadian minimum wage	\$66,300
Emergency Reserve Fund (one time allocation)	\$58,940
Delegations and Travel	\$20,000
Legislative Assembly Conferences	\$2,000
Student Leadership Conference	\$2,000
Office Supplies	\$1,000
Guaranteed Investment Certificate to Secure Credit Card (one time purchase)	\$1,000
Website	\$1,000
Social Media Promotion	\$1,000
Email Newsletter Software	\$700
Adding non-Canadian treasurer as bank account signing authority	\$50
HootSuite	\$300
Incorporation costs (one time purchase)	\$200

<sup>1</sup> This could include assisting member organizations with advocacy campaigns, helping students in a particular country build or rebuild a national or regional student government, or developing global services to improve quality of education for all students within the GSG. Specific campaigns and initiatives will depend on political developments around the world and the GSG's democratic decision-making.

Zoom	\$200
Online Event Platform	\$200
Bank account fees	\$60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$265,000</b>
<b>Bare minimum to keep the GSG going</b>	<b>\$2,510</b>

### **Grant, Sponsorship, and Partnership Opportunities**

The GSG has a strict policy of being funded by students for its essential operations to prevent external influence by non-student stakeholders. With this being said, the GSG may be open to exploring sponsorship opportunities and other collaborations with organizations that have similar values and objectives for matters pertaining exclusively to supplementary initiatives that do not impact core GSG operations.

When implemented ethically, these collaborations could offer the possibility to amplify student advocacy to form alliances with non-student allies. Through these opportunities, the GSG plans to engage with other organizations in public events and campaigns that aim to increase knowledge, awareness, and dialogue in regards to student governments. In addition to monetary and in-kind contributions, sponsorships may take the form of discounts for products and services relevant to students.

In addition, sponsorship will provide opportunities for the GSG to develop regular skill development conferences with informative workshops for its members. These workshops will provide the opportunity to network with other student leaders and members of their respective unions.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact us via the links below on page eight.

### **Why Partner with the GSG?**

The GSG represents a collective voice for students across local, national and international student bodies. With about 10 million students in its network, partnering with the GSG will help your organization reach a global student audience.

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for considering the GSG and championing the cause of student democracy. Students today face substantial challenges, but our members joined together to create the GSG because we have hope for a better future for all students, a future in which they have a meaningful voice in their education and their society. If you have any questions or if there is anything you need, you are welcome to contact us anytime.

### **Contact Us**

Global HQ: Department of Political Science, Concordia University,  
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montréal, Québec, Canada, H3G 1M8  
[president@globalstudentgovernment.org](mailto:president@globalstudentgovernment.org) | [globalstudentgovernment.org](http://globalstudentgovernment.org) | [LinkedIn](#)

## Legislative Assembly Tips

Here are some tips about the procedures of the GSG Legislative Assembly. There are some important rules that need to be followed, as well as some things to keep in mind before and during the meeting:

- The Legislative Assembly operates according to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*. This is a set of rules for facilitating meetings to help ensure that they are run fairly and efficiently. A basic overview can be found [here](#) and a more detailed overview can be found [here](#). It is important that your delegates understand how the procedure works before the meeting.
- If you would like to submit a motion to add to the agenda, you must submit it to [secgen@globalstudentgovernment.org](mailto:secgen@globalstudentgovernment.org) by 8:00 EST, November 19, 2022. This will allow time for other members to read the motions.
- The Global Student Government Constitution and other official documents can be found [here](#). Votes to amend the Constitution require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. Votes to approve policies or other actions the GSG should take require a simple majority vote.
- In the motions package, you will see some text that has unusual formatting. Here is what this means:
  - **Red text** indicates text that the motion wants to add.
  - **Red-strikethrough text** indicates text that the motion wants to remove.

### **Important Note About GSG Advisory Board Appointments**

After the motions, the Legislative Assembly will appoint three individuals to serve on the GSG Advisory Board, which is the GSG highest appeal body that makes rulings regarding the interpretation of the GSG Constitution. Your organization can nominate individuals for the Advisory Board by sending their name, email, and ideally a copy of their CV or link to their LinkedIn profile, plus a brief cover letter to [secgen@globalstudentgovernment.org](mailto:secgen@globalstudentgovernment.org) by 8:00 EST, November 19, 2022.

# Motions Package

## **Motion 1: By-elections**

Whereas the GSG needs to have a procedure in place to fill Executive Committee positions that go vacant mid-year;

Be it resolved that the GSG Constitution be amended as follows:

### **Article 13: Elections**

13.1 Any GSG member in good standing can run in the election.

13.2 The right to vote in elections belongs to the Individual Members of GSG in good standing, or Association Members if said Association members do not have an individual membership system established.

13.3 The election shall be held in the last month of the Executive Committee's term.

13.4 The election shall be administered by the GSG's online election system or a third-party provider of secured online elections. In the case of the latter, the Secretary-General shall be in charge of organizing the election with the selected service provider.

13.5 The Secretary-General shall set the date for an election at least three (3) months in advance.

13.5.1 The date of the election shall be announced on communication channels used by GSG:

- a. websites;
- b. social media pages;
- c. email newsletters.

13.5.2 The Secretary-General shall begin accepting candidates' applications to the election on the same day of the election date announcement.

13.5.2.1 The Secretary-General shall stop accepting candidates' applications to the election at least 30 (30) days prior to the election date.

13.6 The Secretary-General shall be accountable to the Executive Committee by providing regular reports on the election organization process.

13.7 The Secretary-General shall be responsible for creating a webpage with a description of positions and candidates running for them.

13.8 The Secretary-General shall be responsible for reviewing the candidates' eligibility to run in the election. The candidates shall be informed of whether they are accepted to run in the election no later than seven (7) days after they submit their application or at least thirty (30) days before the election date, whichever is earlier.

13.9 The election campaign shall begin thirty (30) days before the election date.

13.10 Candidates must make themselves available during the election campaign for questions from GSG members. They can choose to answer the questions via email or a social media profile. This contact information and relevant links must be included in their CV or platform statement.

13.11 The standard period of voting shall be seven (7) days.

13.12 All voting for elections shall be by secret ballot.

13.13 The results of the online voting shall be announced by the Secretary-General to all GSG members within seventy-two (72) hours after the closing of the voting period.

13.14 Elections shall be organized according to a constituency system.

13.14.1 The number of constituency votes an Association Member has will correspond with the number of votes they have in the Legislative Assembly.

13.14.2 A constituency shall exist for students not represented by an Association Member, which shall have the same number of electoral college votes that it would have if it was a member of the Legislative Assembly.

13.14.3 If an Association Member does not have an individual membership system established, its elected representatives can vote on behalf of their organization.

13.15 Elections shall be conducted using a ranked ballot system.

13.16 Candidates with the most constituency votes following the implementation of the ranked ballot system win.

### 13.17 By-elections

13.17.1 If an Executive Committee position goes vacant in between regular elections, the Executive Committee may decide to hold a by-election to fill the vacant position.



13.17.2 The Executive Committee may appoint an individual to serve in a vacant Executive Committee position in the interim until someone can be elected to the role.

13.17.3 In the event of a by-election, the Secretary General shall implement the same procedure for general elections with the exception that it can be initiated at any point within six (6) months of the Executive Committee's elected term.

13.17.4 If an Executive Committee position goes vacant after six months into an Executive Committee's elected term, any interim appointed by the Executive Committee shall serve until the end of the elected term.

## **Motion 2: Issues Policy on Student Democracy**

Be it resolved that the following policy be added to the GSG's guiding documents:

### **Student Democracy**

Student democracy is a necessary part of education. When structured and implemented well, it is the best way for students to make their voice heard.

#### The GSG Supports

1. Democratic student governments at sub-campus, campus, regional, national, continental, and global levels
2. Students having structural power within education systems sufficient to adequately advance student causes and hold other education stakeholders accountable

#### The GSG Opposes

1. Educational leaders and policymakers relying on small groups of appointed students to represent the student voice
2. The over-glorification of ad hoc, often undemocratic student movements in which students risk their lives in violent confrontations with state authorities
3. Students holding insufficient structural power to make change, leaving their voice tokenized

### **Motion 3: Issues Policy on Housing**

Be it resolved that the following policy be added to the GSG's guiding documents:

#### **Housing**

For many students around the world, living space can directly impact their academic performance; which is considered the most important aspect of the university experience. According to the 2019 International Student Survey by QS, 60% of international students expressed that accommodation information was most influential in their decision-making. It is important to note for Universities to have adequate accommodation spaces for students and for students to have accessible affordable housing options.

#### The GSG Supports

1. Housing cooperatives that are run by students solely for the purpose of non for profit
2. Inclusive housing initiatives for students
3. Affordable housing schemes for students
4. Campaigns that call for universities to adjust their cost of rent to fairer rates for the purpose of inclusive housing for all students

#### The GSG Opposes

1. Disruptive building work and inhumane housing practices for students
2. Exploitative rental rates for student housing

#### **Motion 4: Issues Policy on Health**

Be it resolved that the following policy be added to the GSG's guiding documents:

##### **Health**

Students should be offered a Health Plan for prescription drugs, dental benefits and accident benefits. Students battle misdiagnoses and inaccessible care in certain colleges around the world. Many campuses have experienced challenges with the COVID-19 and the ability to safeguard their students as they return to campus. Health care facilities should be accessible to all students with proper accreditation, quality, safety, affordability, and appropriateness of care provided.

##### **The GSG Supports**

1. The need of accessible health care plans for students
2. Campaigns for affordable, quality, safety and appropriateness of care provided

##### **The GSG Opposes**

1. Dismissive health clinics with inappropriate wait times and high costly health care plans and services for students

### **Motion 5: Issues Policy on Immigration**

Be it resolved that the following policy be added to the GSG's guiding documents:

#### **Immigration**

International students have experienced issues in accessing essential resources and information about immigration services and requirements to study in a foreign country. International students have faced challenges on account of their visa status, for instance In 2020, the federal government of United States increased this pressure by issuing a number of short-sighted and xenophobic policies, from requiring international students to attend classes in person during the COVID-19 crisis or risk deportation, to restricting H1B visas, to the Muslim travel ban, to restrictions on Chinese international student visas, and more International students that join student unions will not have any impact on their immigration status. Unionizing does not affect international student status or visa.

#### **GSG Supports**

1. The need of providing essential services to international students from information on student/study visas to health plans for international students
2. Campaigns for the support of international students and the need to eliminate xenophobic policies for international students
3. Equal treatment for international students
4. To write letters on behalf of international students to elected officials overturn xenophobic policies.
5. Host immigration sessions with immigration lawyers

#### **GSG Opposes**

1. Xenophobic immigration policies that limit international student rights

### **Motion 6: Issues Policy on Equity**

Be it resolved that the following policy be added to the GSG's guiding documents:

#### **Equity**

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is an important aspect of campus. It is important to create safe, inclusive and engaging learning environments within the education system, we all must be committed to equity and inclusion for all students. Diversity in leadership, human rights and equity focused professional development will increase fairness amongst educators by removing barriers for underrepresented communities. Research indicates that students reflect with their learning environment when there is a sense of belonging and well-being.

#### **GSG Supports**

1. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in every aspect for each student
2. Student groups with a strong commitment to equity, safety, and the creation of safe(r) spaces for its membership
3. Efforts to challenge all forms of discrimination and oppression on campuses
4. To identify, remove and prevent systemic barriers and discriminatory practices to help students reach their full potential and improve student achievement

#### **GSG Opposes**

1. Any form of inequity and discrimination in regards to its members and their students

### **Motion 7: Issues Policy on Education Funding**

Be it resolved that the following policy be added to the GSG's guiding documents:

#### **Education Funding**

Through student governments, members have a say in setting the policies and direction towards education funding. This would include ways to defray the cost of educational and extracurricular activities for students. Across the world, some students have faced difficulties with accessing education funding options due to international student status or other factors.

The GSG supports:

1. Affordable, if not free, education for all students.
2. Student-led campaigns on accessible educational funding for vulnerable students.
3. Strategies to manage funding in cases of government mandates and policies such as opt in/out student government fee structures.

The GSG Opposes:

1. High education costs that prevent all students from receiving an education
2. Students being financially exploited by education institutions, other education stakeholders, and governments during their education experience.
3. Inaccessible education funding options

### **Motion 8: Issues Policy on Environmental Justice**

Be it resolved that the following policy be added to the GSG's guiding documents:

#### **Environmental Justice**

Across the world there are ongoing movements and struggles to resist policies, resource extraction and development projects that would impact the environment negatively. Environmental justice mobilizes environmental rights, civil rights, anti-racist, anti-poverty, aboriginal rights and feminist agendas to challenge the unequal distribution of environmental burdens and benefits in society. This can be applied to students and their education through sustainable initiatives that involve the pursuit of ecological integrity, social equity and economic prosperity within the biophysical constraints of local and planetary ecosystems.

#### The GSG Supports

1. Movements for the support of sustainable initiatives on campus to reduce environmental degradations.
2. Initiatives that call for a climate emergency

#### The GSG Opposes

1. Colonial laws, policies, and resource extraction and development projects on unceded Indigenous lands and waters.



### **Motion 9: Issues Policy on Student Journalism**

Be it resolved that the following policy be added to the GSG's guiding documents:

Student journalism is integral to a healthy student democracy. It serves as an important line of communication between student governments and their constituents. It allows student representatives and other relevant education and societal stakeholders to be held accountable. It is vital for student journalists to be given access to the operations of student government in order to ensure that the greater student body is given transparent information about the organization's inner workings. Furthermore, it is crucial that student journalism organizations themselves are equitable organizations that avoid any bias or agenda beyond providing good news coverage; student journalists should have the ability to cover stories that will be important to the student body, even if they are controversial. There should be no conflict of interest that prevents stories from being covered properly and in their entirety. It is ideal for student journalism organizations to be independent of the school in order to ensure freer and more accurate coverage.

#### The GSG Supports

1. Student journalists being able to report on student government activities at all levels
2. Investigative student journalism that holds those with power accountable
3. Student government officials being transparent and cooperative with student journalists
4. Student journalism organizations that serve as independent news outlets that are free of bias or conflict of interest.
5. Student journalism outlets collaborating across campus and borders

#### The GSG Opposes

1. Student journalists being denied access to consequential student government activities and governance processes
2. Student government members, representatives, employees, and volunteers being prohibited from or heavily restricted in communicating with student journalists
3. Student government processes being hidden in any way from student journalists
4. Student journalism organizations that are restrictive and hinder the ability of student journalists to cover the news.
5. Conflicts of interest within student journalism or student government organizations that affect the way the news is reported or the extent to which stories are covered.

### **Motion 10: Additional Membership Options**

Whereas GSG members have requested for additional membership options to that meet their unique organizational needs;

Whereas increasing membership options and flexibility can allow for more student governments to fully participate in the GSG;

Be it resolved that the GSG Constitution be amended as follows:

#### 5.3 Membership Fees

5.3.1 Membership fees can be paid through one of the following ways.

5.3.1.1 An annual levy ~~of one (1) Euro~~ per student added to an Association Members' existing annual levies or individual membership fees, which is paid to the GSG annually.

**5.3.1.1.1 Each levy amount shall be decided by the Executive Committee**

5.3.1.2 A membership system set up for an association member by the GSG that varies by country as determined by the Legislative Assembly, with fifty percent (50%) of the membership fee for each student going to the Association Member and fifty percent (50%) going to the GSG, and for which the GSG would pay the Association Member its share annually.

5.3.1.3 An individual GSG membership system for students who do not belong to an Association Member affiliated with the GSG set at annual rate(s) determined by the Executive Committee.

5.3.1.4 A free membership for each Consultative Member that shall last indefinitely, which can be terminated if an association member opts out through a vote of its governing body or through a vote of the Legislative Assembly.

**5.3.1.5 An annual lump sum a Member pays to the GSG, the amount of which is determined by the Executive Committee**

### **Motion 11: Executive Committee Restructure**

Whereas in the first few months of operation, it was discovered that there are certain aspects of Executive Committee roles that need to be restructured to function better in practice;

Whereas there is some overlap in existing Executive Committee portfolios that caused some confusion, and which could not be rectified informally;

Be it resolved that Article 7 of the GSG Constitution be amended as follows:

#### **Article 7: Executive Committee**

7.1 The Executive Committee is elected annually by Individual Members and is tasked with implementing the democratic will of Individual Members and the Legislative Assembly.

7.2 The Executive Committee consists of the following positions:

- a. President;
- b. Secretary General;
- c. Treasurer;
- d. Vice-President for Communications;
- e. Vice-President for External Affairs;
- f. Vice-President for Operations;
- ~~g. Vice-President for the Regions.~~

7.3 The President shall:

- a. Lead the Executive Committee and the GSG as a whole in accordance with the GSG's primary purposes;
- b. Represent the GSG in an official capacity;
- c. **Oversee the GSG's regional structures;**
- d. Chair the Legislative Assembly;
- e. Have access to all the GSG's financial accounts;
- f. Report on the state and progress of the GSG at each Legislative Assembly.

7.4 The Secretary General shall:

- a. Oversee the recording and preservation of minutes at Executive Committee meetings and Legislative Assemblies;
- b. Ensure that the GSG's guiding documents are updated in a timely manner;
- c. Oversee the preservation and effective dissemination of institutional knowledge;
- d. Oversee the organizing of Legislative Assemblies and elections;
- e. Ensure the GSG guiding documents are followed and implemented correctly;
- f. Oversee the organizing of the Consultation Group.

7.5 The Treasurer shall:

- a. Oversee the GSG's finances and ensuring that the GSG's remains in good financial standing;
- b. Develop and implement an annual budget;
- c. Have access to all the GSG's financial accounts;
- d. Provide annual financial reports to the Legislative Assembly and ensure that all financial reporting is completed effectively and on time.

7.6 The Vice-President for Communications shall:

- a. Oversee the GSG's public relations;
- b. Oversee the GSG's promotion activities;
- c. Oversee the GSG's design and aesthetic;
- d. Oversee the GSG's social media accounts.

7.7 The Vice-President for External Affairs shall:

- a. Oversee the GSG's relations with external organizations;
- b. Oversee the GSG's external advocacy activities;
- c. Oversee the gathering, preservation, and effective dissemination of external intelligence.

7.8 The Vice-President for Operations shall:

- a. Oversee the GSG's internal communications;
- b. Oversee the GSG website;
- c. Oversee the GSG's information management systems;
- d. Oversee the GSG's information technology systems;
- e. Ensure internal information is preserved and accessible.

~~7.9 The Vice-President for the Regions shall:~~

- ~~a. Oversee the GSG's regional structures;~~
- ~~b. Liaise with and manage the members of each region's leadership;~~
- ~~c. Facilitate communication between the regional structures and the GSG Executive Committee and Legislative Assembly;~~
- ~~d. Facilitate communication within and between the regions;~~

Be it further resolved that Article 12 of the GSG Constitution be amended as follows:

**Article 12: Regions**

12.1 The GSG is supplemented by subordinate regional governance structures, known as Regions.

12.2 The objective of the Regions is to assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling the GSG's mandate across all areas of the world, and to ensure that all areas are in direct communication with the Executive Committee for their particular and distinct issues.

12.3 The GSG may use the Regions as geographical groupings to differentiate between countries for the purpose of enabling less economically-developed countries to fully participate in the GSG.

12.4 The geographical extent of the Regions shall be determined by the Executive Committee, with consideration to uniformity in economic capacity within each Region.

12.5 Each of the Regions shall have a Regional Manager who is appointed by the Executive Committee.

12.6 The Regions shall communicate with the Executive through the ~~Vice-President for the Regions~~ President.

Be it further resolved that any individuals occupying positions that were removed from the GSG Constitution through this motion be transferred into appointed positions within the Office of the President.