

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
ITEM FOR INFORMATION**

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<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Roy Dobson, Chair, Governance Committee
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	June 12, 2025
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Editorial Changes to College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Faculty Council Bylaws</b>
<b>COUNCIL ACTION:</b>	<b>Item for Information</b>

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**SUMMARY:**

University Council delegated authority to the Governance Committee to approve editorial changes to the Council Bylaws.

At its May 27, 2025 meeting, the Governance Committee received a memo outlining changes to the Bylaws of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to delete the words “in May of,” from the section of bylaws that read “The Dean of CGPS convenes an annual Graduate Faculty Membership meeting in May of each calendar year to provide a report to its membership on college activity.” This will allow greater flexibility in scheduling the meeting.

The Governance Committee determined that this did, indeed, amount to an editorial change and voted to approve the change.

**Attachments:**

1. Memo re: Minor Change to the Bylaws of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies



**To:** Roy Dobson, Chair, Governance Committee of University Council

**From:** Julian Demkiw, University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer

**Copy:** Debby Burshtyn, Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies  
Lori Lisitza, Executive Officer, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

**Date:** May 20, 2025

**Subject:** **Minor Changes to the Bylaws of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies**

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At the March 27, 2025 meeting of the faculty council of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), a minor change to their faculty council bylaws was approved.

Before the amendment, their bylaws read (under part 2): “The Dean of CGPS convenes an annual Graduate Faculty Membership meeting in May of each calendar year to provide a report to its membership on college activity.” The approved amendment was to delete the words “in May of,” thus allowing for greater flexibility as to the timing of this meeting of USask’s graduate faculty.

Typically, any changes to faculty council bylaws – after having been approved by the respective college or school – would come to the Governance Committee for review and approval before being sent to University Council for a notice of motion and an eventual vote at a subsequent meeting. However, in my opinion, due to the relative insignificance of this bylaw change (that is, it does not impact college governance, decision-making processes, delegation of authority, or membership on a governing body – it only provides flexibility on the timing of an informational meeting), this process seems unnecessarily cumbersome in this instance. As such, I recommend dealing with the changes to these bylaws in a similar way that the Governance Committee is empowered to make editorial changes to the University Council Bylaws. From the *University Council Bylaws and Regulations*, (part 2, section III, clause 13): “The Governance Committee is responsible for ... To review and approve editorial (not substantive) revisions to the University Council Bylaws ... and report them to Council on an annual basis.”

Our office hopes to amend the University Council Bylaws and Regulations to make the Governance Committee's power more explicit when addressing minor amendments to faculty council bylaws, but due to the time involved in executing such a change, this could not be completed at this time.

The motion we are requesting of the Governance Committee would be as follows:

*To approve of the changes to the faculty council bylaws of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies as presented and to report these changes to Council for information.*

If the committee is not in favour of this approach, a formal notice of motion for these changes at University Council will be required, presumably in the fall.