



## GSU elections

Delegates to GSU's March 18 and 19, 2021 biennial policy conventions will elect the following:

- GSU president (1)
- GSU vice-presidents (2)
- GSU general secretary (1)
- GSU Defense Fund Board of Directors (5)

Candidates may be nominated by another delegate or they may nominate (volunteer) themselves for office and need not have a nominator.

Candidates are asked to send their nominations, announcements, and required information to GSU's assistant general secretary by email to [Lynn@gsu.ca](mailto:Lynn@gsu.ca) for arrival by March 10, 2021 in order to be included in convention materials.

Detailed information is available inside.

**If you have questions about the responsibilities and requirements of these elected positions, contact general secretary Hugh Wagner at [Hugh@gsu.ca](mailto:Hugh@gsu.ca)**

# Elections

**GSU biennial policy conventions are responsible for electing GSU's president, two vice-presidents, general secretary and the five-person board of directors of the GSU Defense Fund. Each of the elected offices is for a two-year term.**

1. All elections are to be by secret ballot.
2. The election for the office of president proceeds first and must be completed before moving on to electing the two vice-presidents followed by the general secretary and then the board of directors of the GSU Defense Fund.
3. All elected officers are required to swear GSU's oath of office upon election.
4. To be elected a candidate must receive at least fifty (50) percent plus one of the votes cast unless the candidate is unopposed and declared elected by acclamation.
5. Candidates for president, vice-president and general secretary must be delegates to the GSU biennial policy convention where the elections are being held.
6. Candidates may be nominated by another delegate or they may nominate (volunteer) themselves for office and need not have a nominator.
7. Candidates for the GSU Defense Fund board of directors need not be delegates to the GSU policy convention, but they must be GSU members in good standing.
8. Since GSU's 2021 policy convention will consist of in-person delegates as well as delegate participating remotely via a video link, the following election and voting process has been adopted for the 2021 GSU policy convention.
9. Delegates to the 2021 policy convention who wish to be a candidate for an elected office(s) will be asked:
  - to announce their candidacy ahead of time;
  - to identify the office(s) they are running for;
  - to provide a brief bio; and
  - to provide a photo of themselves.

Candidates are asked to send their announcements and information to GSU's Assistant General Secretary by email to [Lynn@gsu.ca](mailto:Lynn@gsu.ca) for arrival by March 10, 2021.

10. Candidate information received by March 10, 2021 will be circulated to all of the delegates in advance of the convention call to order on March 18, 2021.
11. Candidates who do not announce in advance will still be able to declare their candidacy during convention on March 18 at 4:00 p.m., but they will sacrifice the advance opportunity to connect their information with delegates.
12. Since the 2021 policy convention consists of in-person and video link delegates, all voting in the elections will be conducted electronically. This will allow instant and confidential tabulation of results.
13. Beginning with election of president, the delegate chairing the convention session at 4:00 p.m. on March 18, 2021 will declare nominations to be open and will identify the candidates who have announced their intention to run for the office in advance of convention.
14. The chairperson will ask if there are any additional candidates and will then ask each candidate to confirm that they are running for the office in question.
15. Each candidate will be given an opportunity to speak to convention delegates for two minutes before the election process proceeds.
16. If there is only one candidate for an office they will be asked to confirm their candidacy and, after ensuring there are no other candidates, the candidate will be declared elected by acclamation.
17. If there are two or more candidates for an elected office there shall be an election in which delegates cast a secret ballot in favour of the candidate(s) they choose.
18. In elections with three or more candidates for the position(s) in question the candidate with the lowest vote total will drop out of the next round of voting.
19. An election will be declared once a candidate(s) has received fifty (50) percent plus one of the votes cast.
20. The elections will be conducted in descending order starting with the office of president. The election for each office will be completed before moving on to the next.

## Additional Information: Defense Fund directors

When delegates to GSU's 14th biennial convention meet on March 18 and 19, they will elect five union members to two-year terms on the board of directors of the GSU Defense Fund.

The elected directors oversee the administration and investment of the GSU Defense Fund assets (current market value of \$5.2 million) and set policy for payment of strike/lockout pay for union members engaged in collective bargaining disputes. The board meets three or four times a year (or more often, if required) to review the Fund's financial position, investment strategy and other administrative matters. Most meetings are held via conference call or video technology and paid union leave is arranged for participation in the meetings.

Every GSU member in good standing is eligible to be a candidate for a seat on the Board of Directors, although three seats are reserved for members from GSU Locals 1 (Viterra), 2 (Viterra), 14 (Richardson) or 15 (Nutrien). Union members who represent their Local on GSU's Joint Executive Council cannot also be a director of the Defense Fund.

Candidates do not have to be delegates to the GSU biennial policy convention where the elections are conducted.

It is useful to have knowledge of financial markets, but the main criterion to be on the board of directors of the GSU Defense Fund is a commitment to support union members' welfare and collective bargaining rights when they get into a dispute with their employer.

Over the years GSU members have built up a sizeable resource to defend their interests, and the responsibility of Defense Fund directors is to ensure the money is managed well so it's available when needed.