

GSA Universal Bus Pass Referendum Fall 2021

CRO Report

Ballots were sent to 3092 full and part-time graduate students, and quorum was met with a total of 1127 votes cast over the October 4th -8th voting period.

The referendum **passed for the GSA** with 881 votes "Yes" to 225 votes "No".

Please note these are only the GSA results. Due to the joint nature of the bus pass negotiations, ballots for graduate and undergraduate students will be combined for the purposes of counting; however, quorum for each student group must have been reached independently in accordance with the CSA and GSA quorum by-laws. Provided that quorum is satisfied at both the undergraduate and graduate level, student approval will require a majority (50%+1 vote) of the total valid votes cast.

A joint result statement with the total combined results with the CSA will be released separately.

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Yes	78.17% 881
2	No	19.96% 225
3	Decline	1.86% 21
		1127

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End of Report

Preamble

For more than 20 years, the Central Student Association (CSA) and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) have negotiated with the City of Guelph for a Universal Bus Pass (UPass) that offers unlimited rides on Guelph Transit at a lower rate than the City of Guelph Post-secondary Semester Bus Pass. The UPass provides all University of Guelph main campus students with affordable transportation to campus, downtown, and the greater City of Guelph.

The previous UPass contract, which was negotiated for a five-year term, expired on April 30, 2021. In year-five of the UPass contract, the cost was \$150 per student, per semester.

The CSA and GSA have negotiated a new UPass contract with the City of Guelph, priced at \$151 per semester, with an annual price increase of no more than 2% per academic year, effective January 1, 2022. The contract term is indefinite unless the annual increase exceeds 2%, at which time another referendum must be held. The City of Guelph has committed to hold the annual fee increase at 2% or less for the next 5 years.

Should the referendum pass, the bus pass fee will be charged to all University of Guelph main campus students for the Winter 2022 semester, and UPass service will resume January 1, 2022.

The Universal Bus Pass fee will be mandatory, with no opt-out option. Should the referendum fail, there will be no UPass, and students who require Guelph Transit services will be able to purchase passes directly from Guelph Transit. Currently the City of Guelph offers a Post-secondary Semester Bus Pass priced at \$272 per semester and is subject to annual approval by City Council. The regular monthly fare for adult riders is \$80 per month.

The below question is being asked to all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at the University of Guelph main campus. Due to the joint nature of the bus pass negotiations, ballots for graduate and undergraduate students are combined for the purposes of counting; however, quorum for each student group must be reached independently in accordance with the CSA and GSA quorum by-laws. Provided that quorum is satisfied at both the undergraduate and graduate level, student approval will require a majority (50%+1 vote) of the total valid votes cast.

Question:

Do you support a Universal Bus Pass fee for all University of Guelph, main campus, full-time and part-time, undergraduate and graduate students, effective January 1, 2022, with the following terms?

- Priced at \$151 per each Fall, Winter and Summer semester, with an annual price increase of no more than 2% per academic year.
- The City of Guelph commits to hold the fee increase at 2% or less for the next 5 years.
- The contract term is indefinite unless the annual increase exceeds 2%, at which time another referendum must be held.

Maryam Vazin



Maryam Vazin
Chief Returning Officer
Graduate Students' Association
University of Guelph