

## 14 May 2012 GSA Council Meeting Agenda

### Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the 14 May 2012 Agenda

### Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes
  - i. Minutes from the 16 April 2012 GSA Council meeting (**attached**)

### Changes in Council Membership

3. Changes in Council Membership (**no material**)
  - i. Introduction of new Councillors (*If you are new to Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
  - ii. Farewell to departing Councillors (*If this is your last Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

### Presentations and Councillor Announcements

4. Presentations
  - i. 89 Avenue Housing Project (Doug Dawson, Executive Director of Ancillary Services) – up to 30 minutes (**no material**)

5. Councillor Announcements (**no material**)

### Reports

6. President
  - i. President's Report
    - a) Past President (**attached**)
    - b) Current President (**attached**)
  - ii. GSA Board (**attached**)
  - iii. Budget and Finance Committee (**no meetings needed this month**)
  - iv. Governance Committee (**meetings by email as noted in item 15 ii**)
  - v. Nominating Committee (**meetings by email regarding CALs as requested by ERC; upcoming meeting regarding replenishment of GSA Committees; replenished GFC Committees and FGSR Council**)
7. Vice-President Academic
  - i. Vice-President Academic's Report
    - a) Past Vice-President Academic (**attached**)
    - b) Current Vice-President Academic (**attached**)

8. Vice-President Student Services

- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report
  1. Past Vice-President Student Services (**attached**)
  2. Current Vice-President Student Services (**attached**)
- ii. Student Affairs Advisory Committee (joint chair: Vice President Student Life) (**the GSAB is seeking SAAC's advice by email on the PAW Centre community kitchen and the 89 Ave housing project**)

9. Vice-President Student Life

- i. Vice President Student Life's Report
  - a) Past Vice-President Student Life (**attached**)
  - b) Current Vice-President Student Life (**attached**)
- ii. Awards Selection Committee (**no need for meetings**)

10. Vice-President Labour

- i. Vice-President Labour's Report
  1. Past Vice-President Labour (**attached**)
  2. Current Vice-President Labour (**attached**)
- ii. Negotiation Committee (**no need for meetings**)
- iii. Labour Relations Committee (**no need for meetings**)

11. Senator

- i. Senator's Report (**see item 10 i – past VPL report**)

12. Speaker

- i. Speaker's Report

13. Chief Returning Officer

- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**attached**)
- ii. Elections and Referenda Committee (**no meetings since last Council**)

14. GSA Management

- i. Executive Director's Report (**previously distributed on 04 May 2012 – updated version attached**)

**Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business**

15. Action Items

- i. Council-elected Officers: Proposal for Bylaw Change (Second Reading) (**Previously distributed on 04 May 2012**) – *Note: this second reading includes an addition regarding voting privileges on Council (in First Reading)*
- ii. Negotiations Committee: Proposal for Bylaw Change (First Reading) (**previously distributed on 04 May 2012**)

16. Elections (**none to date**)

17. Discussion Items

- i. Physical Activity and Wellness Centre Community Kitchen (**previously distributed on 04 May 2012**)

**Question Period**

18. Written Questions (**none to date**)

19. Oral Questions

**Adjournment**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**16 April 2012**  
**GSA Council Meeting**

*[Note: All materials referred to in these Minutes are stored in hard copy in the Official File, as well as electronically]*

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

**1. Approval of the 16 April 2012 Agenda**

Members had before them the 16 April 2012 Consolidated Agenda, which had been distributed on 12 April 2012.

**The Agenda was approved.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**2. Minutes**

**i. Minutes from the 27 February 2012 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 27 February 2012 GSA Council Minutes, which had been distributed on 10 April 2012.

**The Minutes were approved.**

**ii. Minutes from the 26 March 2012 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 26 March 2012 GSA Council Minutes, which had been distributed on 10 April 2012.

**The Minutes were approved.**

**Changes in Council Membership**

**3. Changes in Council Membership**

**i. Introduction of new Councillors**

This was Physics Councillor Colin More's first Council meeting.

**ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors**

This was Neuroscience Councillor Caitlin Hurd's and Linguistics Councillor Grant Aiton's last Council meeting.

**Presentations and Councillor Announcements**

**4. Presentations**

There were no presentations.

## 5. Councillor Announcements

There was no material before members. The following announcements were made:

- Speaker F Wu announced for S Nicol (MMI) the ImmuNet Conference on June 21st at the Oasis Conference Centre. The conference is free for students and more information can be found at [www.immunet.med.ualberta.ca/retreats](http://www.immunet.med.ualberta.ca/retreats).
- A Radomski (MED) announced that the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry is in the process of creating a faculty-level student group. She suggested students in departments within this faculty ask Janice Davis to see if their department still needed a representative and if so, get involved.
- A Sabzevari (LAW) announced that there would be a poster conference with great prizes organized by the Graduate House Council in May, and that he had brought posters with him for Councillors to take back to their departments.

## Reports

### 6. President

#### i. President's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on April 10. In addition, President R Coulthard noted the following:

- The Alberta Graduate Council partnered up with other student associations across Alberta and conducted a survey about post-secondary education; there would a press release at noon the next day.
- The campus radio station CJSR has a seat on their board for a GSA representative to ensure the funds we contribute are well spent, and the GSA will endeavour to fill this seat asap.
- The Alberta Graduate Conference now has 141 registrants, but we're set up for 400 students. There will be excellent networking and professional development opportunities there, as well as great guest speakers. The conference is on campus, so please register. 25 randomly-selected members get their \$40 registration fee reimbursed. You can find more information at [albertagradconference.ca](http://albertagradconference.ca).
- I am very proud of the GSA and what has happened with it over the last few years, and I've had the pleasure of working with a great team. Please continue to contribute and provide help and support the newly- elected officials.

#### ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on April 10. The report stands as submitted.

**iii. Budget and Finance Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on April 10. The report stands as submitted.

**iv. Governance Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on April 10. The report stands as submitted.

**v. Nominating Committee**

NoC is working on nominations for Councillors-at-large and will be dealing with vacancies on GSA committees in May. In addition, R Coulthard deferred to V Kandalam (CAL and vice chair of NoC), who noted the following:

- GFC has 14 positions that we advertised. The deadline to put your name forward is Thursday, April 19, at 9 am. Please email [gsa.execadmin@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.execadmin@ualberta.ca).
- There is also a spot on the UBEF Supplementary Bursary Appeals Committee. They are looking for a person who is available on April 23 from 1pm-3 pm. The deadline to apply is Wednesday April 18 at 9 am. Please email [gsa.execadmin@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.execadmin@ualberta.ca).

**7. Vice-President Academic**

**i. Vice-President Academic's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on April 10. In addition, Vice-President Academic N Yousefi noted the following:

- I am very happy to report that transition is going very well, and that the incoming VPA has a very good understanding of the portfolio.

**8. Vice-President Student Services**

**i. Vice-President Student Services' Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on April 12. The report stands as submitted.

**ii. Student Affairs Advisory Committee (joint chair: Vice President Student Life)**

It was noted on the Agenda that the first meeting of this committee was just recently held. This report stands as submitted.

**9. Vice-President Student Life**

**i. Vice-President Student Life's report**

Members had before them a list of meetings attended by the Vice-President Student Life. Vice-President Student Life H Sparkes could not report further orally, because she was out of town due to a family emergency.

**ii. Awards Selection Committee**

There was no need for meetings at this time.

## **10. Vice-President Labour**

### **i. Vice-President Labour's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on April 10. In addition, Vice-President Labour T Korassa noted the following:

- Please read my report to see what happened in the labour portfolio over the last 12 months.
- The incoming Vice-President Labour Brent Epperson has the passion to keep up the momentum in this portfolio.
- We are also looking for more people to expand our Labour Liaison pilot program – the Labour Liaisons are graduate students who have been trained on our Collective Agreement. Council has been extremely rewarding.

### **ii. Negotiation Committee**

There was no need for meetings at this time.

### **iii. Labour Relations Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on April 10. The report stands as submitted.

## **11. Senator**

### **i. Senator's Report**

There was no written report. Senator T Korassa orally noted the following:

- The next Senate Plenary is taking place on April 26.
- The selection of the next Chancellor is coming up soon – next year's graduates will receive their degrees from someone new.

## **12. Speaker**

### **i. Speaker's Report**

There was no written report. Speaker F Wu orally noted the following:

- I am away for the May meeting, and my predecessor's predecessor, Rem Kooistra, will fill in for me.
- An email will be sent to you regarding your department's Council attendance for remuneration purposes. Please respond to this email after verifying the correctness of your attendance record.

### **ii. Special Speaker Announcement**

There were no materials. Speaker F Wu orally noted the following:

- This is the last meeting for the 2011/12 Elected Officials. They have worked on many issues – for example:
  - Together, they have rebuilt the GSA, resurrected its reputation with central administration and governance, advocated for

graduate students on GFC, the Board of Governors and Senate, and on dozens of committees, boards, task forces and working groups, and on Senate.

- They negotiated an excellent Collective Agreement and secured increased AEGS funds for distribution to graduate students.
  - Two extremely important task forces have been established under their leadership concerning supervision and funding.
  - The Physical Activity and Wellness Centre will become a reality because of their efforts.
  - The GSA has developed or negotiated/maintained a suite of services, including a health and dental plan, group insurance, and GSAP.
  - The GSA committee system is up and running.
  - The AEGS Granting System has been completely revamped.
  - The first two Labour Liaisons are active.
  - There is now a full-time ombudsperson for graduate students.
  - We now have an accountant on board to oversee the budget process.
  - All our staff have now been with us for over a year and a solid management team is in place.
  - We have a filing system, a shared drive, a Wiki and soon a new website.
- Here's a quote by Nelson Henderson that I think applies to this situation: "The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

### **13. Chief Returning Officer**

#### **i. Chief Returning Officer's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 12 April. In addition, CRO R Agrawal noted the following:

- ERC met this morning, and the advertisement for Councillor-at-large by-election will go out on April 23.

#### **ii. Elections and Referenda Committee**

The Agenda contained a note stating that ERC had met that morning. This report stands as submitted.

### **14. GSA Management**

#### **i. Executive Director's Report (previously distributed on 10 April)**



Members had before them a written report, which had been distributed on 10 April. In addition, Executive Director E Schoeck noted the following:

- I haven't seen such sustained dedication and excellence in a group of elected officials in my 27 years working in U-Hall.
- You can all feel very proud of the GSA, and Council is a big part of that - people on Council now ask questions and read materials and Councillors know one another.
- The new team of incoming officials is excellent, and the outgoing officials will help as long as they're around.

## Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business

### 15. Action Items

- Semi-Monthly Pay Cycle:** moved by T Korassa (VPL), seconded by S Lunawat (VPSS)  
*Wayne Patterson (Director of HR Operations) and Chris Cheeseman (Vice Provost and Associate VP Human Resources) were available for questions during this item.*

Members had before them an outline of Issues and a double-column document outlining the proposed changes, both of which had been distributed on April 12. Members were asked to consider the following **MOTION:**

**GSA Council approves, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, changes to the AEGS Collective Agreement as outlined in the attached double-column document.**

Members were advised that Section 95(1) of the Post-secondary Learning Act provides that the business and affairs of the GSA are governed by the Council, and that GSA Bylaws Part V 3.1 state that the GSAB is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by Council.

It was noted for Members that At the February 27, 2012 GSA Council meeting, Dr Chris Cheeseman, Vice-Provost and Associate VicePresident (Human Resource Services) and Wayne Patterson, Director of HR Operations, were invited to provide a presentation on the University's change to a semi-monthly pay cycle beginning July 1, 2012 and how the change would specifically affect graduate students who receive stipends and scholarship payments through Payroll.

Members were advised that on March 26, 2012 a GSA email bulletin was sent to all graduate students from Wayne Patterson explaining the change. On March 29 a town hall information session was held for graduate students impacted by the change. This was followed by another GSA email bulletin on April 3 to graduate students from Wayne Patterson providing information on the Cash Advance Program. HR has also set up a website [www.se2.ualberta.ca/](http://www.se2.ualberta.ca/) to provide information on semi-monthly pay.

Members were also advised that The GSA President and Vice-President Labour met several times with Dr Chris Cheeseman and Wayne Patterson to review the proposed changes and address concerns and questions raised in the GSA and by graduate students, and that as a result of GSA and graduate student feedback, several improvements were made to the semimonthly process and the way these changes were communicated to graduate students. The GSA Board reviewed the proposed changes to the AEGS Collective Agreement as attached and advised in the best interests of graduate students that Council ratify these changes.

VP Labour T Korassa introduced the Motion, noting the following:

- We need to make a change to the Collective Agreement to accommodate the switch to the bi-monthly pay cycle. The changes are laid out in front of you in the double column document. W Patterson and C Cheeseman were here at the February Council meeting to present the changes and to answer our questions. They've made a lot of changes based on our input – for example, students on scholarship are now not affected by the switch; the way the advance will work for students has been smoothed out, and we've also asked for changes on the website to make sure their communications address grad students specifically. I believe you should be confident that the program will work and all students will get the pay they are owed properly.

The following is a summary of the debate on the Motion:

- E Berry (BIOCH) asked why the new Agreement didn't specify the actual dates of students would be paid. He wondered how graduate students would know exactly when they would get paid.
- T Korassa (VPL) responded that this was difficult due to the variability of weekends within any given month. She suggested the Motion be amended.

**T Korassa (VPL) moves to table item 15 i until an amendment is drafted; S Lunawat (VPSS) seconds.**

**No objection - the MOTION is TABLED.**

- ii. **Council Dates Bylaw Change:** moved by R Coulthard (PRES), seconded by S Lunawat (VPSS)  
Members had before them an Outline of Issues and a double-column document showing the proposed changes to the Bylaws, both of which had been distributed on April 10.

Members were asked to consider the following **MOTION:**

**That GSA Council approve in second reading of the change to Bylaw Part I Council as outlined in the double-column below:**

Current Bylaw Part I Council	Proposed Bylaw Part I Council
<p><b>PART I COUNCIL</b> [...] <b>1 Meetings</b> Regular meetings of Council shall be held monthly basis, with a schedule for the wing year from May 1 to the following 30 to be set by Council no later than the regular meeting of Council of any given</p>	<p><b>PART I COUNCIL</b> [...] <b>1 Meetings</b> 1.1. Regular meetings of Council shall be held on a monthly basis. <del>with a schedule for the following year from May 1 to the following April 30 to be set by Council no later than the April regular meeting of Council of any given year.</del></p>

Members were advised that this change would allow the Speaker to set Council dates as set out in the new Standing Orders. It was also noted that at the 26 2012 GSA Council Meeting, Council approved this bylaw change in first reading under item 15 ii, and that he attached Outline of Issues stated:

*“Jurisdiction:*

1. *At its 23 January 2012 meeting, GSA Council approved new Standing Orders containing the following clause:*

*“Meetings of Council: The Speaker of Council sets the meeting dates annually.”*

2. *As part of this change, the contradictory Bylaw quoted below should have been replaced with a section referring the reader to Standing Orders.*

*Section 3.2 from Part III Council: "Regular meetings of Council shall be held on a monthly basis, with a schedule for the following year from May 1 to the following April 30 to be set by Council no later than the April regular meeting of Council of any given year."*

*[...]*

**We ask that Council approve these dates and in doing so authorizes the Governance Committee to make the necessary changes to the GSA Bylaw, to make it comply with the more recently passed Standing Orders.** *Note that as part of its terms of reference, the Governance Committee makes editorial changes to Bylaws and the GSA Policy Manual.[...]"*

R Coulthard introduced the motion, noting the following:

- This is just a bit of housekeeping to ensure that our Bylaws and policy agree with each other.

**The MOTION was APPROVED.**

- iii. **Health and Dental Plan Fees:** moved by R Coulthard (PRES), seconded by S Lunawat (VPSS)

*Amanda Smytaniuk, Prairie Program Manager at Studentcare, was available by phone for questions during this item.*

Members had before them an Outline of Issues and a Projected Plan Cost Impact Document, both of which had been distributed on 10 April.

Members were asked to consider the following **MOTION:**

**GSA Council approves, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, a 5% increase in GSA Health and Dental Plan Fees for 2012-2013.**

Members were advised that at the February 27, 2012 meeting of Council there was a presentation on the GSA Health and Dental Plan by Callan Davey of [studentcare.net/works](http://studentcare.net/works) and that Councillors were provided with the annual claims report and renewal analysis.

It was also noted for Members that at its March 28, 2012 meeting, the GSA Board met with Amanda Smytaniuk of [studentcare.net/works](http://studentcare.net/works) to review the 2012-2013 renewal analysis. It was noted that the GSA would have to bridge any difference between maximum allowable fees increases and the projected 2012-2013 plan premiums, since GSA Bylaws allow only a 5% increase in fees (without

going to a referendum). President R Coulthard noted that the GSA usually sees a drop-off in claims in March and that claims might even out. The Board also agreed that studentcare.net/works should engage in a RFQ (Request for Quotes) process for the GSA Health and Dental Plan.

Members were also advised that a final recommendation on use of the Health and Dental Reserve Fund to bridge any difference, or on a change in benefits to reduce the increase to less than 5%, would need to be taken to Council in June 2012.

R Coulthard (PRES) introduced the Motion by noting the following:

- There are no dramatic changes from two meetings ago when Callan was here.
- There is a 5-6% projected increase in the cost of our insurance, and we are looking at covering the difference out of our reserve fund.
- Studentcare will also take our plan to market to see if we can get a lower quote – they are our broker, not provider, and get paid on a per-student amount, so they have no incentive to inflate the cost for us.
- If taking the plan to market doesn't decrease our cost, we will present a proposal to spend from the reserve fund.
- If that's not approved by Council, we can change our benefits, but last time this went to Council there was overwhelming support to leave benefits where they are.
- The Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC) votes on our fees tomorrow, so we need to bring this forward tonight.

There was no debate on the Motion.

**The MOTION was APPROVED.**

**Abstentions: S Yip (MED GEN), H Samuel (COMP)**

**T Korassa (VPL) MOVES to take item 15 i off the table; seconded by R Coulthard (PRES)**

**No objection - the MOTION is TAKEN OFF THE TABLE.**

**T Korassa moves to make the following amendment to the Motion:**

**To add an Article 16 (a) to the agreement, which reads: Payment for AEGS shall be made in equal semi-monthly instalments over the duration of the appointment. Payments will be made semi-monthly and**

**no later than 10 days following the end of each pay period. See Appendix \_\_ for Current pay dates.**

**No objection - the AMENDMENT is FRIENDLY.**

The new **MOTION** now reads:

**GSA Council approves, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, changes to the AEGS Collective Agreement as outlined in the attached double-column document, with the addition of a new Article 16 (a) which reads: Payment for AEGS shall be made in equal semi-monthly instalments over the duration of the appointment. Payments will be made semi-monthly and no later than 10 days following the end of each pay period. See Appendix \_\_ for Current pay dates.**

The following is a summary of the debate on the Motion:

- H Samuel (COMP) spoke in opposition to the motion. He stated that the members of his department had taken a great interest in this issue and were opposed to this pay cycle change. He stated that the ten-day delay would complicate students' personal payment cycles, like rent; that new graduate students wouldn't receive a full pay cheque until about 1.5 months into their employment term; and that his department is worried that the University is accruing savings that will not necessarily benefit graduate students.
- R Coulthard (PRES) spoke in favour of the Motion. He stated that the savings would improve the bottom line of the University, and that that would ultimately benefit the graduate students - the \$750,000 saved are worth about 10 Graduate Program Administrators. Students will adjust to these changes; we don't necessarily have a choice over whether we move to the new pay cycle, but when and how. He added that scholarships would be moving to the new pay cycle anyway because the GSA had no negotiation power over them. If Council votes in opposition to it, we would honor that, but this change would come back to us, and then possibly in a less friendly manner.
- G Aiton (LING) asked a **Point of Information** to get some details about the workings of the optional advance in July.
  - T Korassa (VPL) explained that the advance could be up to 70% of the pay cheque, and that it is an interest-free loan paid back over the term of a student's appointment. She also stated that she had

received assurances from Human Resources that students whose renewable appointments end at end of August would be processed early enough so that they could have a longer period for payback.

- N Adnan (CAL) spoke in favour of the Motion. He stated that scholarships were not affected, and that other students had the options of taking advance, which in his opinion took care of most concerns.
- N Yousefi (VPA) spoke in favour of the Motion. He stated that enough debate and discussion has been put into this, and that this was the best time for the GSA to join the University in implementing this change.
- T Korassa (VPL) spoke in favour of the Motion. She stated that B Epperson, the incoming VP Labour, was aware of the details of this change, and that if something should go wrong in July, he will be able to rely on assurances of Human Resources that those students would be dealt with on an individual basis.
- M Duval (BIO SCI) asked a **Point of Information**: If students don't know when they graduate, how do they know how long the payment plan will be?
  - T Korassa (VPL) stated that repayment would never be longer than 1 year, since repayment terms are based on academic appointments, not graduation dates. She explained that if a student has an appointment until December, that's how long s/he has to pay.
- S Lunawat (VPSS) spoke in favour of the Motion. He stated that we have assurances students will not get affected.
- E Berry asked a **Point of Information** : Why was the 70% number kept for the advance? Wasn't that the number calculated for tax-paying NASA staff?
  - W Patterson (HR) stated that they ran some scenarios with numbers, and that in many cases a 70% advance (for example, taking into account tuition fee deduction) will give students more pay in July. He also stated that for many students the number that would keep their cash flow constant was 50%.

There was no further debate.

**The MOTION was APPROVED.**

**Opposing Votes: H Samuel (COMP)**

**Abstentions: A Sabzevari (LAW) and S Bachman (REN R)**

- iv. **Council-Elected Officers (Senator, CRO and Speaker): Proposal for Bylaw change - first reading:** moved by R Coulthard (PRES), seconded by N Adnan (CAL)

Members had before them an Outline of Issue and a Double Column document outlining the proposed changes to the Bylaw, both of which had been previously distributed on 10 April.

Members were asked to consider the following **MOTION**:

**GSA Council approves, in first reading, changes to Bylaw, Part IV Officers, item 3 Council-elected officers, as recommended by the GSA Governance Committee and as set out in the middle column of the attached triple-column document.**

Members were advised that the current timing of the election of Senator has resulted in up to four months where the GSA does not have a representative on Senate. It was also noted that the proposal provided for earlier election of the Speaker and CRO in order to allow for more time for training. The proposal also provides for a deputy Speaker and deputy Returning Officer.

R Coulthard (PRES) introduced the Motion, noting the following:

- The GSA has had a Deputy Returning Officer every year in recent memory, but this position is not found in our Governing Documents; it has just been a tradition. We are making sure that we enshrine this in our documents; the same ideas apply for Deputy Speaker.
- We are also proposing to change the dates for Senator election, because this bad timeline has hurt us before. Tamara will be convocating in June, so we need to make sure we have a new Senator lined up.
- This proposal in its entirety has been looked at by the Governance Committee.

The following is a summary of the debate on the Motion.

- T Korassa spoke in favour of the Motion. She stated that changing the appointment of Senator brings us in line with all other students appointments on the Senate.

There was no further debate.

**The MOTION was APPROVED.**

- v. **2012-13 AEGS Budget Allocation Revision:** moved by R Coulthard (PRES) and S Lunawat (VPSS)

Members had before them an Outline of Issues, which had been distributed on April 12.



R Coulthard (PRES) introduced the Motion by noting the following:

- This is a bit of housekeeping to use the \$1,000 left in the GSA Awards Night budget to fund UofA students' attendance at the AGC conference. Since this is University money negotiated through the AEGS Collective Agreement, we want to make sure to spend it properly and carefully.

There was no debate on the Motion.

**The MOTION was APPROVED.**

#### **16. Elections**

There were no elections.

#### **17. Discussion Items**

There were no discussion items.

#### **Question Period**

#### **18. Written Questions**

There were no written questions.

#### **19. Oral Questions**

There were no oral questions.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

**GSA President (Past)  
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council  
From: Roy Coulthard  
Date: May 8, 2012

Dear Council Colleagues,

This will actually be my last report to you as President, covering the period to the end of April.

**Exit Meetings**

I held exit meetings with the President and Vice-Presidents of the University as well as key Vice-Provosts and AVPs over the past weeks. I am happy to report that the GSA's relationship is very strong and I anticipate that our newly-elected officials will easily transition into their roles on campus.

**GU15**

The GSA successfully hosted the GU15 meeting with seven universities participating. We had excellent seminars and speakers, and most importantly were able to agree to a new mission statement for the group and to a strategy for data collection and sharing in future years. GSA Speaker Fred Wu was a key member of the GSA team by chairing part of the meeting and keeping delegates on track. Fred also does a smashing rendition of Billy Joel's "Piano Man".

**Chancellor's Farewell**

I provided remarks on behalf of all U of A students at the Chancellor's farewell. My remarks were very well received. The GSA has had an excellent relationship with Chancellor Hughes and we look forward to working with the new Chancellor in the future.

**Power Plant**

At the last meeting of my presidential term, I sat down with Provost Amrhein, VP Hickey, and SU President Rory Tighe to discuss the North Power Plant. At this meeting it was clear that the Provost and VP both support the SU and GSA extending the Dewey's lease for at least five years. They support an ongoing process to design a "campus hub" to serve the campus community. All agree that Dewey's is not serving either SU and GSA or the community well at present. We agreed that the SU and GSA would be involved in the Dentistry/Pharmacy re-design. Should we opt to invest in improving Dewey's, the University would further guarantee to refund the residual value of any renovations if the SU/GSA move out of the existing space before full amortization of the costs.

**AGC Conference**

All was ready to go for the AGC conference by the end of April. Writing this on the 7th of May, I am pleased to report the conference was well attended and very successful.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Coulthard  
GSA President Emeritus (President Feb. 2010 - April 2012)

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended from April 10, 2012 until May 01, 2012:*

April 10	Exit Interview with Dr. Babiuk
	Meeting with Dr. Skidmore re: Graduate Supervision
April 11	Exit interview with President of NASA
	GSA Board
	GFC Academic Planning Committee
April 12	Coffee with Dean Shirvani
	Exit interview with VP Phyllis Clark
	AGC Conference Conference Call
April 13	Meeting with Mary Paul
	Meeting with VP Debra Pozega Osburn
April 16	Meeting with Management re: Health and Dental and Social Spaces
	Meeting with Councillor
	GSA Council meeting
April 17	AGC Press Release
	Board Property and Finance Committee
April 18	GSA Board
	Meeting with the Provost
	AGC Conference Call
April 19	GFC Academic Standards Committee
	AGC Conference Call
April 20	GU 15
April 21	GU 15
April 23	Board University Relations
	Board Learning and Discovery Committee
April 25	Meeting with SU Board of Governor
	GSA Board
	Meeting with the President
April 26	Meeting with Dr. Krogman re: Graduate Supervision
	Chancellor Linda Hughes Farewell Celebration
April 27	Exit meeting with Associate Vice-President Operations and Finance Bart Becker
April 30	Change Over
	Parking Lot Issues Meeting
	Meeting with Dean Shirvani
	Meeting with Provost, VP Hickey, SU President re: North Power Plant
	Farewell dinner with the Provost

**GSA President (Present)  
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues  
From: Ashlyn Bernier  
Date: May 8, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

It has been an intense and productive first week for me, and I feel I am starting to develop a feeling for where the GSA is headed and how I would like to spend my time in office.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support and guidance I have been receiving from the outgoing Executive, GSA Management, and GSA support staff.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know as many Councilors possible over the next year, and I would also like to encourage you all to phone or email me with any questions or concerns. I would like to encourage you all to take advantage of pre-Council dinner to get to know the GSA Executive as well as your fellow Councilors, and to initiate discussion on any items of concern or interest.

Some highlights from my first week:

**The Umbrella Committee**

We met to discuss the results of the online submissions and discussed whether the submissions would be made public and/or reopened. The three subcommittees presented their work and solicited feedback from the committee, with the bulk of discussion centering on the Academic Activity Subcommittee. This committee will be focusing on potential modification of Faculty Evaluation Committees, creation of a teaching intensive stream, and the use of technology in teaching moving forward. Other “quick win” savings were also proposed, including reducing the number of printers on campus and introducing automatic computer power downs.

**Graduate Student Supervision Task Force**

Several GSA Elected Officials met with Dr. Naomi Krogman, the Provost Fellow who will Chair this task force, to begin discussions and identify areas of priority. The first meeting of the task force should be scheduled shortly.

**Alberta Graduate Conference**

I am very pleased to report that the second annual Alberta Graduate Conference was a huge success. Held in ETLC from May 3-5, we had over 300 students from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, and Athabasca University attend. This year there was a focus on professional development, and the feedback we received from students on the sessions and speakers was overwhelmingly positive. I hope some of you had a chance to attend, and if so please let me know if you have any comments. The conference will be held next year in Calgary, and we can only hope to build off this year's success there.

**Alberta Graduate Council**

In tandem with the Alberta Graduate Conference, the Alberta Graduate Council met to discuss several key issues and elect a new President and CFO. All members were able to attend, and in addition to a debrief of the conference, we elected U of C’s Franco Rizzuti as our new President. I think he is well suited for the position, having served as U of C GSA’s President for the past and coming year, as well as the past year’s Alberta Graduate Council CFO. We also discussed issues surrounding creation of Bylaws and developed strategy for the coming year.

**89 Ave Housing Project**

VP Student Services Naseeb Adnan and I met with Doug Dawson, the Executive Director of Ancillary Services to discuss the project and devise mechanisms to solicit feedback from graduate students. Doug and his team offered to make presentations to both the GSA Board in late May as well as the June Council meeting. My impression is that they would like to explain how they are going to incorporate feedback they received from residents of the recently completed East Campus Village into plans for the new residence, and would like to get the graduate student perspective on their plans for the project. I have been assured that although a call for bids will go out in June, there will be ample opportunity for any concerns or suggestions from students to be considered by the contractors and the development team.

**Board of Governors**

A Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for Friday May 11, and I will be bringing any items of concern to the attention of Council in my oral report.

I am looking forward to working with you all in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,  
Ashlyn Bernier

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 01, 2012 and May 08, 2012:*

May 1	The Umbrella Group
	Meeting with GSA Management and Roy
May 2	GSA Board
May 3	AGC Conference
May 4	AGC Conference
May 5	AGC Conference and AGC Transition Meeting
May 7	Meeting with VP Andrews re: GFC Exec
	Reception in honour of Dr. Babiuk
May 8	Meeting with Management
	Meeting with Associate Vice-President Doug Dawson

**GSA Board  
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues  
From: Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director and Coordinator of the GSA Board  
Date: 9 May 2012

The Board reports regularly to Council by listing its agenda items, motions/agreements and main items of discussion. Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. The President, Vice-Presidents, Director of Operations, Financial Manager and I will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the Council meeting.

**April 11, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING**

Main Agenda Items:

Board members discussed the following items: AGC Conference, interaction between GSA and VPR office; North Power Plant; Social Spaces/Legal Defense Fund; Attributes and Competencies; Graduate Supervision, GFC Committees; PAW Steering Committee; Councillor-at-Large by-election; Health and Dentals caps; and fundraising and charitable donations.

Motions and/or Agreements:

There were no Motions or agreements.

**April 18, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING**

Main Agenda Items:

Board members discussed the following items: market modifiers; Public Opinion on Post-Secondary Education in Alberta document; Student Housing development Steering Committee; Provost/VP Academic Portfolio Review and Provost's Review Committee; Community Standards Review Committee; PAW Steering Committee and community kitchen; Council-elected officers; signed agreements including fee advances, Triffo lease, OneCard; Lecture Grant policy interpretation; and Social Spaces/Legal Defense Fund Policy.

Motions and/or Agreements:

Board members **AGREED** to move into CLOSED SESSION. Board members discussed the Provost Portfolio Review Committee. Board members **AGREED** to move out of CLOSED SESSION.

Members **AGREED** that TK should be asked to present a scripted statement accompanied by document to Provost's Review Committee.

Board members **AGREED** to forward Bookstore Advisory Group to SAAC for input.

Board members **AGREED** that the event would not be eligible for a Lecture Grant, but the groups involved would be advised that it would be eligible for a Student Group Grant. Each departmental group would be eligible to apply separately using independent, separate receipts.

It was **MOVED** by HS and **SECONDED** by SL that GSAB adopt the Social Spaces/ Legal Defense Fund Proposal as Board Policy, and inform Council, with BFC to bring the issue forward in 2014.

#### **April 25, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING**

##### Main Agenda Items:

Board members discussed the following items: transition training on external relations; Health and Dental cap in by-law; Health and Dental Reserve Fund; definition of student groups for Board Policy Manual; Deputy Returning Officer and Deputy Speaker as non-voting Council members; and extending Vijay Kandalam's term on GSAB and NoC.

##### Motions and/or Agreements:

Board members **AGREED** that the Health and Dental Reserve Fund Proposal would be turned into a bylaw and policy proposal. The proposal would be forwarded to Governance prior to review by GSAB.

It was **MOVED** by TK and seconded by NY that the definitions of academically-related student groups and non-academically related student groups be part of the Board Policy Manual. **CARRIED.**

Members **AGREED** with the proposal that the two new proposed deputies be non-voting, noting that the proposal would now go to the Governance Committee and on to Council for first reading in May.

Board members **AGREED** to extend Vijay Kandalam's term on GSAB and NoC to June 15, 2012.

#### **May 2, 2012 GSA BOARD MEETING**

##### Main Agenda Items:

Board members discussed the following items: North Power Plant; Parking Lot meeting; TUC meeting; Spring/Summer UPass; reports for Council; Budget Advisory Committee on MNIF; Board basics, terms of reference and composition; Negotiation Committee proposal; GSA Board succession order; University Writing Committee; structure of VP Labour position; PAW Community Kitchen; by-elections; 5 year trend for Health and Dental Reserve Fund; and New Student Experience Working Group Annual Report draft.

##### Motions and/or Agreements:

It was **MOVED** by BE and seconded by NA that the GSAB recommend the proposed changes regarding Negotiating Committee to the Governance Committee for review and recommendation to Council in May, with one revision under 4.1.3, "no more than three additional graduate student members" **CARRIED.**

It was **MOVED** by AB and seconded by NsA that the Board Succession Order be as follows: NA, then NsA, then HZ, then BE. **CARRIED.**

It was **MOVED** by BE and seconded by NA that the GSAB, using its role as the highest administrative authority of the GSA, and in the absence of the current DRO, who has gone back to school, appoint Vijay Kandalam and JD Crookshanks as DROs to replace the outgoing DRO, until the Board decides otherwise. **CARRIED.**

**GSA Vice-President Academic (Past)  
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council  
From: Nima Yousefi  
Date: May 8, 2012

Dear Council Colleagues,

In my final short and sweet report, I wish you all success with your duties on Council as well as your research endeavors. I will quickly review some of the final meetings I attended since our last Council meeting:

FGSR Council received a Notice of Motion for the changes to section 8 of the policy manual (graduate supervision), and that there would be a month to review it. The GSA has been involved in the process of the policy review and will send along our final comments to FGSR. If Councillors are interested, you could send us an email to see the draft of the new policy.

The GFC Nominating Committee has finalized the names for the graduate seats on numerous committees. However, the faculty and staff & undergraduate seats are not filled yet, and it needs another round of advertisement.

The Provost's office held a luncheon meeting with this year's recipients of the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund. TLEF has been created to improve teaching and learning effectiveness and is meant to sponsor instructors who seek innovative ways of creating exceptional learning experiences and environments. The meeting included short presentations and round table discussions.

The GSA members of the Provost's task force on the quality of graduate supervision had a wonderful meeting with Dr. Naomi Krogman, who will be chairing the committee from July 1st (beginning of her appointment as a Provost Fellow). Roy, Tamara and I, along with incoming elected officials Ashlyn, Brent and Nathan spent over 2 hours in exciting conversation with Naomi, around the background of this task force, our priorities, expectations and challenges along the road.

The GSA has come a long way to get this committee formed, and has an extensive amount of information and resources relevant to the work of the task force that need to be addressed. I would encourage Councillors to actively engage in the discussions around the work of the committee, as it is a unique window of opportunity for students to impact the supervision practice on campus.

Best,

Nima Yousefi



*Please find below the list of meetings I attended between April 10 and May 8, 2012.*

April 10	Meeting with Dr. Colleen Skidmore (with Nima, Ashlyn & Roy)
April 11	GSA Board
April 12	Attributes & Competencies Subcommittee co-Chairs (with Nima)
April 16	GSA Council
April 18	GSA Board
April 23	GFC Nominating Committee (with Nima)
April 25	PAW Centre Walk-Through
	GSA Board
	FGSR Council (with Nima)
April 26	Meeting with Dr. Naomi Krogman
April 27	University Research Policy Committee
April 30	GSA Change Over
May 2	University Writing Committee
	GSA Board
May 7	GFC Executive Committee

**GSA Vice-President Academic (Present)  
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council  
From: Nathan Andrews  
Date: May 8, 2012

Dear Councillors,

It almost sounds too good to be true that the GSA has experienced transition with a brand new team of elected officials. But at the same, it is refreshing to know that my co-elected officials are all excited and ready to take the GSA to higher heights! The Vice-President Student Life, Huimin Zhong, has become a delightful addition to the very diverse 'A-Team', attending some committee meetings in the Academic portfolio. And let me also add that the GSA management and office staff have done a fantastic job of keeping us abreast of all the key policies, issues and procedures. I am therefore looking forward to a great year ahead.

As I was going through transition/training the whole of April, I was shadowing my predecessor Nima Yousefi, and thus attended some of his pre-scheduled meetings with him. These are some issues that I would like Council to note:

**Proposed Assessment and Grading Policy Suite (in UAPPOL)**

This new policy for which a Provost Fellow (Dr. Bob Luth) was appointed some two years ago came to GFC Executive Committee meeting for recommendation to the GFC meeting of May 18. The SU Vice-President Academic (Dustin Chelen) and I had some concerns, and we both asked that this policy be delayed for at least one extra month to allow for further consultation and/or clarification of the language used. **The major loophole is that although this policy clearly states that grading shall not be done on a curve or based on a pre-determined/historic distribution guideline, it also gives power to various Faculties and Departments to define their own procedures which somewhat defeats the purpose of having the new policy in the first place. Our proposal to 'table' the proposed policy did not receive any support from other members so it will be voted on at GFC this month.**

**Graduate Supervision Task Force**

The outgoing and incoming President, VPA, and VPL met with the newly appointed Provost Fellow for this task force, Dr. Naomi Krogman. Her term officially begins on July 1, 2012 but she wanted to have an informal meeting to know the incoming officials. It was a great meeting as she appeared to be listening to all our concerns and expectations. Graduate supervision was one of my platform priorities

and so I will keep this task force on my radar and report any latest news to Council starting July when the work of this task force actually begins.

### **CLE Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies**

From what I have seen and heard so far, this subcommittee has yet to actually work towards defining its real targets. As a result of meeting cancellations, not much work has been done. Again, a meeting for the co-chairs (me, SU VPA and Dr. Steve Dew) on May 8 was cancelled due to schedule conflicts. My desire is that this will be off the GSA agenda by the end of my term, also hoping that we can clearly begin to ascertain what kinds of attributes graduate students will find most useful to their after-school careers.

The other issue very dear to me but for which I am yet to attend any meeting is **graduate student funding**. I understand there is a task force that will be working on this but I am yet to attend a meeting in this regard. More information on this should be available for next council.

Let me conclude this report by saying that May is a month of learning and transition for me, and I am sure for all the other elected officials. But with all the support I have received so far (and great guidance from my predecessor Nima Yousefi), I think the journey will be quite enchanting albeit challenging.

Cheers,  
Nathan Andrews  
GSA VP Academic

P.S: Please pardon my absence at today's Council meeting. I am at the Trudeau Foundation's Summer Institute in Montebello, Quebec .

*Please find below the list of meetings I attended between April 10 and May 8, 2012:*

April 10	Meeting with Dr. Colleen Skidmore (with Nima, Ashlyn & Roy)
April 11	GSA Board
April 12	Attributes & Competencies Subcommittee co-Chairs (with Nima)
April 16	GSA Council
April 18	GSA Board
April 23	GFC Nominating Committee (with Nima)
April 25	PAW Centre Walk-Through GSA Board FGSR Council (with Nima)
April 26	Meeting with Dr. Naomi Krogman
April 27	University Research Policy Committee
April 30	GSA Change Over
May 2	University Writing Committee

May 7           GSA Board  
                  GFC Executive Committee

**Vice-President Student Services (Past)  
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues  
From: Sagar N. Lunawat  
Date: May 08, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you guys are doing really well and enjoying the summer. I really enjoyed my term as Vice-President Student Services at GSA. The orientation with newly- elected VPSS went pretty smoothly and I hope new VPSS will be successful in the portfolio.

There are many things going on currently but there are few important points I want Council members to know about.

**East Campus Village renovation and expansion:** The project was presented at GFC - FDC and Graduate students will see new student housing on campus in the next few years.

**Physical Activity and Wellness Center:** As Council members are aware, the new PAW Centre will be constructed on campus. You will notice the construction activity will start in the summer of 2012. I am excited to see the new PAW Center constructed on campus.

**Mental Health on Campus:** The Provost is allocating money for mental health on campus initiatives and the team leader will be elected for this initiative. Money allocation for Student Support is 400K in Budget. **The University wants a referendum with the two student associations (SU and GSA) to come up with 400K to make total funding of 800K for student mental health.** Students would contribute \$5 per term (tentative) to support this initiative and the proposal will go the student councils this summer with a presentation. The University is also discussing with the government around getting funding for mental health initiatives.

If you have any questions you can write them to me at [lunawat@ualberta.ca](mailto:lunawat@ualberta.ca) and I will be happy to answer them.

Best,

Sagar Lunawat

*Please find below a list of the meetings I attended from April 10, 2012 until May 01, 2012:*

April 10	PAW Open House
April 11	GSA Board
April 13	Community Standards Review Committee

April 16	GSA Council
April 17	PAW Steering Committee Meeting
April 18	GSA Board
April 19	U-Pass Admin Meeting
April 23	Book Store Advisory Group
April 25	GSA Board
April 27	Health Centre Advisory Group
April 30	Change Over

**Vice-President Student Services (Present)**

**Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues

From: Naseeb Adnan

Date: May 8, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

The last few weeks of transition at the GSA were really exciting for me. After being involved with the GSA as Councillor-at-Large for more than a year, I am now thrilled to take greater responsibilities starting this month. I am looking forward to work with all of you and get the best deal of services for grad students at the UofA. I would like to thank the outgoing elected officials and office staff who provided great support in understanding and learning my job during the transition.

Last month I attended the *PAW Community Kitchen* meeting. In the PAW Centre design, there is a space for a community kitchen that still requires a detailed design, a business plan and a governance model. It was discussed that the GSA and SU will sit together to find out how this kitchen might be used. Before I meet with the SU to discuss further, I would like to get feedback from you about how to use this space efficiently.

I attended another meeting on *sector 8 planning* with Doug Dawson, Executive Director of Ancillary Services. Ancillary Services is going to build two new buildings, one mainly for grad students. At a later date, Doug along with the Project Manager will present detailed ideas here at GSA Council.

Sincerely,

Naseeb Adnan

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 17, 2012 and May 8, 2012:*

April 19	U-Pass Admin Meeting
April 25	PAW Kitchen Meeting
May 2	GSA Board Meeting
May 7	Meeting with GSA Management re: PDG cheques
May 8	Meeting with Associate Vice-President Doug Dawson re: Sector 8 planning

**GSA Vice-President Student Life (Past)  
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues  
From: Hillary Sparkes  
Date: May 08, 2012

Dear GSA Council,

I wanted to begin my last report by saying thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the GSA. I really enjoyed my year as VPSL – I learned so much and had a great experience. I'd also like to recognize our office staff for all their hard work each and everyday. They produce amazing results for the elected officials and really help the GSA as it moves forward.

I am confident that the new elected team that is sitting in front of you will be amazing. They are all eager and well suited for these positions. I wish them good luck as they enter into these new jobs.

I do have a few items to bring to your attention that I had been working on in my last weeks at the GSA.

Residence and Ancillary Services have gotten their **87<sup>th</sup> avenue housing project** approved and are hoping to begin planning and breaking ground this summer. I encourage all of you that are interested to get involved and provide feedback and suggestions about their building plans. They are looking for student opinions so if you'd like to help design a residence keep an eye out for more information about this project.

I have also been working with various students from **Michener Park** about the state that these residences are in. Ancillary Services are aware of this and have said that they will address these issues in the future, however there is no time frame given for the necessary repairs. Considering how many graduate students we have living in Michener Park I suggest you keep this on the radar so that we are prepared to respond to problems as they arise.

The **Festival of Ideas** will be happening again this coming November. There are some fantastic presentations and speakers coming to Edmonton and I will definitely be going to many of these presentations and I would suggest you do too.

**SACIE** is a committee focused on international students and finding ways to better engage them. There is an international symposium being planned for early next fall, there will be a call for presenters in July. They are looking for international students to share their experiences in Canada, or Canadian students who have had international



experiences, or students who are doing international research who would like to share their experiences, triumphs and difficulties. This will be a mixture of academic and non-academic presentations.

I wish Huimin the best of luck as she takes over this portfolio.

Sincerely,  
Hillary Sparkes

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 8, 2012 and May 01, 2012:*

April 23	Residence Community Standards Review Committee
	UBEF Supplementary Bursary Appeal Committee
April 24	U School Convocation
	New Student Experience Working Group (attended with Huimin)
April 25	Graduate Programme Administrators Committee
	Festival of Ideas Planning Committee meeting (attended with Huimin)
	GSA Board
	UBEF Bursary Meeting
April 26	GFC Facilities and Development Committee
	Chancellor Linda Hughes Farewell Celebration
April 27	Meeting with Director of Residence Services re: Michener Park
April 30	Meeting with Huimin

**GSA Vice-President Student Life (Present)  
Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues  
 From: Huimin Zhong  
 Date: May 08, 2012

Dear GSA Council Members,

This past month has been very exciting for me since I am transitioning into my new position at the GSA. Starting from March, I began to work closely with all the GSA staff and the outgoing elected officials and this turns out to be a great learning process for me. Their dedication, sense of responsibility and commitment have impressed me a lot. I am very looking forward to working with all of you to ensure that all graduate students in University of Alberta can have their best study experience and their voices are clearly heard.

The past few days have been a combination of learning and working on the GSA issues. The following are some items I would like to highlight.

- Working together with Hillary, I have been working on the concerns of student residents from Michener Park. In the informal meeting with Ancillary Service, it has been a consensus that the issues are important and should be addressed as soon as possible, although they are unable to promise a deadline to fix this problem. I will follow up the issues and get back to you when there is an update.
- The CSRC (Community Standards Review Committee) is a committee that reviews the policies in residencies and makes necessary changes to current rules based on Restorative Justice. The committee has identified the key items that needed to be reviewed and addressed, and will begin discussing these issues starting from next meeting. Due to the large number of graduate students who are residents of university housing, I will pay much attention to this committee.
- I will participate in the meeting for Festival of Ideas very soon and if there is anything important, I will bring it up in the Council Meeting.

Please find a list of meetings I attended between April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

May 1	GFC Academic Standards Committee Subcommittee on Standards
May 2	GSA Board
May 3	Meeting with Director of Residence Services re: Michener Park
May 7	Residence Community Standards Review Committee
	Meeting with Hillary

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Hillary and all the other outgoing elected officials for their wonderful job and great help.

Sincerely,  
 Huimin Zhong

**GSA Vice-President Labour (Past)  
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council  
From: Tamara Korassa  
Date: May 8, 2012

Hello Council!

I am writing to update you on the last couple weeks of my term. I have to say that they were not as packed as my schedule usually is because I was also finishing of the last of my law school exams. However, there were some exciting events nonetheless.

First, I am happy to announce that the Senate elected the **20<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of the University of Alberta**, Ralph Barclay Young on April 27, 2012. Mr. Young will be installed as Chancellor at the close of convocation ceremonies on June 13, 2012. Check out the University of Alberta's website to find out more information about Mr. Young.

Second, a review of our **emergency bursary program** will be conducted over the coming months with the assistance of Frank Robinson, Dean of Students. The purpose of this is to ensure that the GSA can be accountable for the expenditure of the Emergency Bursary fund to GSA members.

Third, on my last day in office Roy, Ashlyn, Brent, and myself attending the **Parking Lot Issues Meeting** (now called the GSA-Administration Working Committee (GAWC)). This was productive as a date for later in the summer will be set for the establishment of the Regulation Review Committee and a good discussion around parental leave took place. Over the next months there should be new language confirmed around parental leave to clarify the right to academically employed students. M. Shirvani, Dean of FGSR, gave an update on the Graduate Funding Task Force. The data needed for that Task Force to do its job is almost complete. Hopefully within the month of May, M. Shirvani will receive the remaining data needed and the Task Force can begin to analyze and make recommendations.

Fourth, Roy and I met with M. Shirvani as one of our final acts as elected officials to discuss the money that FGSR will receive from the **Market Modifier Program Fee** and how this money should be distributed back to students. It is agreed that the money should form the basis of some kind of bursary and work will be done in the coming weeks to solidify the terms of reference for that bursary.

Best Regards,

Tamara Korassa

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 10, 2012 and May 01, 2012:*

April 16	GSA Council
April 23	GSA Labour Relations Committee
April 25	GSA Board
	Meeting with Dean Robinson re: Emergency Bursaries
April 26	Meeting with Dr. Krogman re: Graduate Supervision
April 27	Change Over
	GSA/ Administration Working Group (GAWG)
	Meeting with Dean Shirvani

**GSA Vice-President Labour (Present)  
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council Colleagues  
From: Brent Epperson  
Date: May 8, 2012

Dear Councillors,

Prior to officially serving as VP Labour since May 1, I spent the month of April as VP Labour-elect, shadowing Tamara Korassa, familiarizing myself with GSA committees, and becoming better acquainted with the other incoming executives and the GSA office staff. The training period helped facilitate a smooth transition.

In April, as part of my training, I attended meetings for the Graduate Funding Task Force, GFC Executive, GSA Board, Labour Relations Committee, and the GFC Campus Law Review Committee. I also attended the GSA transition meeting with incoming and outgoing executives, office managers, and office staff.

In May, thus far I attended the GSA Board and met with Deborah Eerkes, Director of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs, to discuss the Campus Law Review Committee and the ways in which proposed policy and semantic changes to regulations may affect graduate students. In cooperation with Heather Hogg, Financial and Operations Manager, I met with a graduate student regarding a supervisory dispute, contract, and collective bargaining questions. I will continue to assist the student as needed.

I look forward to working with all of you in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Best regards,

Brent Epperson

*Please find below a list of the meetings I attended from May 01, 2012 until May 09, 2012:*

May 2	GSA Board
	Disclosure Documents Review with Director of Judicial Affairs
May 3	Meeting with student re: labour issue
May 9	GSA Board

**GSA Chief Returning Officer**

**Report to Council**

To: Council Colleagues  
From: Rahul Agrawal  
Date: May 14, 2012

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Board has appointed Vijay Kandalam and JD Crookshanks as DROs (Deputy Returning Officers). JD is immersed with thesis submission right now, and Vijay has been diligently participating in the programming of by-elections for CALs (Councillors-at-Large).

Following the previous month's report, programming of by-elections to elect Councillors at Large (CAL) has been in execution. May 07 was the deadline of nominations for CAL. ERC received 8 applications. The All-Candidates Meeting was held right after the nomination deadline with seven candidates attending. Campaigning began on May 07 and closes on May 15. The polling period extends from May 15, 10AM to May 17, 10AM. Unofficial results of the elections will be disclosed, right after.

Council is requested to vote in the CAL by-election, and we expect to see a fully functional CAL team.

Best,

Rahul Agrawal

Chief Returning Officer

GSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
REPORT TO BOARD AND COUNCIL FOR MAY 2012  
(drafted April 27, 2012)

Dear Board and Council,

The first of these reports was before Council and 2011 and will be updated annually. Here is the latest on the documents that define the GSA as a corporate entity. See bolded sections in particular.

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Collective Agreement (AEGS)	Sets out terms of employment for certain graduate students and terms for use of AEGS funds.	2-year agreement in effect until 2012. <b>Negotiations open in October 2012.</b>
Semi-Annual Pay Cycle	Governs AEGS pay cycle	Signed in April.
Audit	As a separate corporation from the university, we hire our own auditor.	Audit will occur in June 2012. Our accountant and Financial and Operations Manager are reviewing our General Ledger process first.
Banking and signing authorities	Operating account, GICs, investments.	Actively reviewed with BMO in April.
Campus Food Bank	Regulates GSA involvement with Food Bank.	GSA gives \$9000/annum to Campus Food Bank.
CAPS	Provides for subsidy of certain CAPS course for grad students.	<b>We had a similar agreement with the Writing Resources Centre which has lapsed. We do subsidize some of their courses.</b>
Ceridian (Payroll)	GSA staff are now paid by direct deposit.	We are very pleased to have contracted out payroll.
Council By-laws and policies	Regulated by the <i>Post-secondary Learning Act</i> .	Comprehensive review to occur 2012.
U of A Financial Services	Stipulates when GSA receives fees collected by the U of A on our behalf.	Re-negotiated and signed in April.
Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)	Provides for a wide range of personal counseling.	Reviewed this summer. <b>We have four free lunch-and-learns annually.</b>
Health and Dental Agreement with Studentcare	Provides for Health and Dental Plan.	Re-signed to 2015.
Info Sharing with	Allows Studentcare access to	Under review with the U of A

Studentcare and University	graduate students' personal information for strictly defined purposes regarding the GSA's Health and Dental Plan.	Privacy Officer and Studentcare.
Personal Information Sharing Agreement with the U of A	Allows the GSA access to graduate students' personal information for strictly defined purposes, eg emailing the newsletter.	Under review with minor changes expected; review that we are compliant with PIPA.
Liability Insurance	As a separate corporation from the university, we carry our own general liability insurance.	U of A and our broker reviewed these for us. <b>We will likely double our liability insurance. We are not covered for alcohol use and yet have GSA students groups who have self-reported that they use alcohol.</b>
Officers/Directors' Insurance	As a separate corporation from the university, we carry insurance that covers the elected officials, and management.	U of A and our liability broker reviewed this policy. We will likely shift this policy to our liability broker as their service is outstanding.
TDIMM	Provides for group auto and home insurance.	Re-signed to October 7, 2016.
Management contracts/letters of appointment	Sets out terms of employment managers.	Appointment letters will be reviewed by our lawyers.
Collective Agreement with NASA covering office staff	Sets out terms of employment for GSA staff.	Signed in April.
PAW Centre Agreement	Sets out terms of operation of PAW.	Signed in April 2012.
Power Plant and Dewey's	The GSA has four agreements with the U of A and/or the SU.	<b>Key meeting held April 30, 2012.</b>
Referenda Master File	All referenda questions that actively impact graduate students (eg. UPASS, PAW Centre, GSAP, Health and Dental Plan, etc).	Complied and filed.
Triffo Lease	Detailed lease covering our use of Triffo office space .	First-ever lease was signed in April.
Tuition Agreement Letters	Letters from the University stating the tuition increases for the upcoming academic year.	Received for 2012-2013.



UBEF	UBEF administers the GSA's emergency bursary funds.	Oral agreement only. Entire area being reviewed with Dean of Students in May.
Transit Agreement with the U of A	Governs U-PASS.	
Agreement with the City of Edmonton	Governs U-PASS.	To be reviewed in April 2012.

Best,

Ellen

*Please find below the Executive Director Reports to GSA Board from April 10, 2012 until May 08, 2012:*

#### **ED REPORT TO GSA BOARD, April 11, 2012**

##### **Financial**

Shirley, Dorte and I spent an hour and a half at BM discussing use of our Mastercard and the **possibility of using electronic transfer of funds**, both for payment of regularly occurring and to move money between our accounts. We then **met with the banker who deals with our accounts**. We now have a common understanding of the nature of the GSA, its business and purpose, and of its accounts. We are discussing what the appropriate number of signing authorities should be.

Dorte has drafted a **new agreement between the GSA and Financial Services**, whereby we will receive a significant advance of our fees to deal with cash flow issues as we head into our third year of a deficit budget.

I talked with our Auditor, Tom Gee, about the timing of **this year's audit**. The audit will occur in late June. Shirley and Dorte and cleaning up the General Ledger and otherwise getting things in order for audit.

Tom and I also talked about the **\$7K bill we received several months ago from the CRA** for not having filed proper forms several years ago. It s a lengthy process to resolve this issue but all is proceeding apace.

Shirley and I are working on the **timing of the quarterly reports to BFC and Council on budget**.

##### **Office**

Dyan has updated the **Front Desk Manual**; this is now on the Wiki, our electronic repository of records. Word on our **STEP proposal** is imminent; if successful, we will have subsidized staff to ramp up Wiki work.

**The Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS)** responded to the GG13 "issues of concern" document, as the Board knows. The CAGS president suggested we read their strategic plan. I have done that and highlighted areas of interest; Dyan will prepare an executive summary for the Board and for GU15.

Intense week getting ready for **Council and Board** – also a busy week for grants.

The **change of coverage dates** for next year's Health Dental Plan have been set.

Before we sign the **Triffo lease, our insurance coverage** is being checked by our broker in relation to what the University expects us to hold.

The lawyers are reviewing the draft **Collective Agreement** covering our staff.

We are **preparing to move the photocopiers** (one to the general office and one to the red room). Then we will turn the photocopy lounge into a boardroom and turn the current boardroom into quiet study space and bookable space for students groups. There will also be some physical moves within the office. A major spring clean-up of the photocopy room and current lounge has been done.

**Staff duties will be changing slightly** and everyone is or will soon be training on some new duties. This will result in more cross-training and also allow us to focus one of the four staff positions on departmental GSA work.

Casey has been working on many **GU15 conference matters**.

#### **ED REPORT TO GSA BOARD, April 18, 2012**

##### **Sad and Happy**

Transition time is Janus-faced; both happy and sad. We mourn giving up our close ties with the current elected officials – and yet we feel so fortunate to be working with our new group.

Transition is new to most of us so please be forgiving as we all learn....

##### **Financial**

Signing authority papers for Ashlyn, Brent and Naseeb are prepared. Bylaw says all elected officials are signing authorities but the bank strongly advises against having five signing authorities. We are going one step at a time on this and keeping the bank happy for now.

Dorte finalized the new **agreement between the GSA and Financial Services, which is now signed!** We will receive a significant advance of our fees to deal with cash flow issues as we head into our third year of a deficit budget. This is a huge win for the GSA. Cheers!

**Legal Defense Fund (LDF)/Social Spaces Fund:** The LDF monies are now in a restricted account with terms that make it compliant with GSA Bylaw. The remaining funds are in operating and are now governed by Board policy passed today, April 18, 2012. The total infusion into operating is c \$80K, and this alleviates cash flow problems for the next fiscal year.

##### **Collective Agreement**

Heather is intensively reviewing the CA as we are **in a negotiating year**. We are re-jigging duties in the office to provide her with time to focus on negotiations. We regret that we do not have the two management positions proposed in this year's draft budget, but will make the best of it.

## **Office**

Our **STEP proposal** was successful, and we will have one subsidized staff position to ramp up Wiki work. All our contractual agreements will be the first to be wiki-fied. Scanning and wiki are part of our disaster plan, a U of A requirement.

All **contractual files** have been review by Heather and me and are in A1 shape. This project has taken over a year to complete.

**The Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS)** responded to the GG13 “issues of concern” document. Dyan prepared an executive summary, attached to the April 18, 2012 meeting Agenda.

**The Triffo lease has now been signed. (Yay!! One year, 20 drafts).**

The draft **Collective Agreement** covering our staff is close to the signing stage.

We have made major physical moves organized by Casey Germain. **Photocopiers** have been moved (one to the general office and one to the old red room). The photocopy lounge is now our boardroom and the boardroom is now flex space – mostly quiet study space and bookable space for students groups.

**The GU15 conference starts tomorrow and all logistics have been handled by Casey Germain.**

## **Other**

A blizzard of meeting material was received by the office this week, including grading and assessment policies – we thought this was an issue left in the backwater, but it has suddenly revived and is a full-blown proposal headed thru governance.

## **Transition**

We are moving along, but never enough time. I have asked the ERC to think about election of officials in February rather than April to allow for a two-month transition.

ED REPORT TO GSA BOARD, April 25, 2012

Dear all,

Thursday through Saturday night were devoted to hosting GU15, which went extremely well. The sessions were excellent and discussion about issues of concern lively. Roy and Speaker Fred chaired, Casey Germain handles all logistics and I produced the draft conference notes Saturday night.

The Triffo lease was resigned – we got one-last minute change we wanted. I hand-delivered it to the real Estate Office on Monday.

On Monday, Roy directed me to get out the call for nominations for CALS, which I did with excellent help from Catrin and Casey.

On Monday there was a transition meeting concerning a number of matters, including North Power Plant/

I attended a 90 minute meeting Monday afternoon with AVP Bard Becker and SU GM Marc Dumochel concerning the Power Plant lease/

Today, Tuesday, the entire day was spent with Jo and Lisa reviewing the last few months Board action matters, training on NoC and getting out the second mailing of the Board agenda and material.

### **ED REPORT TO GSA BOARD, May 2, 2012**

Dear All,

#### **External Meetings**

I attended the PAW Kitchen meeting with Naseeb and have submitted a report. We have excellent feedback from Lacey Fleming on program ideas.

**Graduate Supervision Task Force:** I attended the pre-meeting with several elected officials and Dr Naomi Krogman.

**Parking Lot:** Heather attended Monday's meeting as adviser and support to the elected officials.

**North Power Plant:** Roy and Rory Tighe had a meeting on April 30 with VPs Amrhein and Hickey, but although progress was made, no new Agreement was signed.

#### **Staff and Office**

There are **many small changes to staff duties that began May 1**; discussions with staff began several weeks ago. Rationale: break up the Communications position, with duties going to several people and create a fairly **new position focusing on students groups and on liaising with departments**. A Workplan will be completed by the end of May, then discussed with **Janelle Morin**, who re-joins us for her third and last summer, and then presented to the Board. (Janelle is a former SU President and former Student Groups Director). We still have many HR pieces to establish at the GSA but are getting there.

On Friday we said **goodbye to Sarah Barnes**, who is off to journalism school after four years on and off with the GSA in several positions. On Tuesday we **welcomed back Dr Katie Bittner**, who has been on leave teaching for five months.

The **financial duo has moved** to the file/archive area. Katie and Janelle will be in the space at the west end of the Main Office, right by our indoor salad garden.

**Workplans** have been drafted for the Board and Council and will be done for all GSA committees and events (eg orientation, Awards Night). These will all be presented to the Board. The Work Plans for Board, BFC and Council will set out when the new regime of **quarterly budget reports** go to each group.

#### **Signed Agreements**

The **Collective Agreement covering the staff** was signed by Roy Coulthard and me, and then hand-delivered to NASA for their signatures. This ends almost two years of work and negotiation.

The **executed Triffo lease** has been returned to us.

#### **Services**

Heather and I will be having our annual admin meeting with the providers of **GSAP**.

Have a look at the **new quiet study space** (the old Board Room, which we are calling GSA Flex space). We will be advertising this space in the newsletter. It can also be booked as meeting space for groups. The booking sheet has been made simpler and friendlier. Casey has worked hard on these infrastructure matters.

**The new Board Room** will soon have a frig with water dispenser (no more schlepping jugs of water to meetings), a proper kitchen cart and a garbage can so we can bus the lunch dishes ourselves. White boards are coming. We are on budget for all these changes.

**New Website:** Our internal review of the new website will be done May 2. An FAQ was added today.

**Grants:** A small mountain of grants is being processed by Catrin for onward review by Heather and then approval and signature by Naseeb.

**Council Support:** We are all working to get our reports and other Council materials to Catrin by May 2 for the first mailing to Council.

**Nominating Committee (NoC)**

Vice-chair Vijay Kandalam and I did a thorough review of where we stand with recruiting people to run for the **8 vacant CAL positions**. We also discussed some of the **upcoming vacancies** on GSA committees. We had several team meetings in the office to **review bylaw and policy covering GSA committees**, and to review which committees had been “reformed” (i.e. given a composition and updated terms of reference). We found the **composition and terms of reference for the Negotiations Committee lacking clarity** and not quite aligned with the AEGS Collective Agreement. Roy advised on changes, which are now before the Board for input.

The early call for nominations for **Senator, CRO and Speaker** (and deputies for the latter two) will be out soon.

**Changeover:** The GSA had its first complete changeover in several years on April 30. Ashlyn and I met to go over the May 2 Board agenda; incoming and exiting elected officials met at the Sugarbowl the evening of April 30; and on May 1, Ashlyn, Heather and I had dinner/debrief with Roy. The five elected officials’ offices were tidied up on May 1, files were culled, distribution lists updated and computers and mobile devices managed by Casey.

With Ashlyn’s approval, **Tamara Korassa** will join us on the management side for the month of May, working on projects (eg Emergency Bursary review) each Tuesday and Thursday. **Roy is available as needed** as a consultant. The budget has allowed for this.

**Council-elected Officers (Senator, CRO and Speaker): Proposal for Bylaw Change**

Note: Deletions from current policy are shown in italics in the left-hand column. Additions are underlined in the right-hand column.

CURRENT	PROPOSED	RATIONALE/COMMENT
<b>3 Council-Elected Officers</b>		
3.1 Election	Election of <u>Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)</u>	<p>The position of Senator has, in the past, not been filled for up to four months because of an incumbent's program completion date in conjunction with both the current Bylaw requirement for an election in August and the Senate end-of-term date (where we have a choice of May 30 or June 30, with May 30 as optimal).</p> <p>In this proposal, the position of Senator is dealt with separately in Bylaw order to ensure that the position of Senator is continuously filled.</p> <p>Currently there is no Deputy Speaker or Deputy Returning Officer. It is seen as prudent and wise to provide for these positions.</p> <p>Currently, there is very little transition time between the current Speaker/CRO and their successors. The timing of their election is pushed forward to allow for a three-month training/transition.</p> <p>Finally, current Bylaw was written before the GSA had a Nominating Committee. A role for the Nominating Committee is provided for in this proposal.</p>
3.1.1 Unless otherwise specified, Council-elected Officers shall be GSA members.	No change	
		NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS DEAL WITH SPEAKER/CRO AND NOT SENATOR

<p>3.1.2 <i>Nominations for Council-elected Officer positions will open starting from the date of the June regular meeting of Council in any given year.</i></p>	<p>3.1.2 <u>The GSA Nominating Committee will open nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO and DRO on or about May 1 of every year by email to every graduate student.</u></p>	
<p>3.1.3 <i>Nominations for Council-elected Officer positions shall be submitted in writing to the GSA office by the close of the office eleven working days before the August regular meeting of Council in any given year.</i></p>	<p>3.1.3 <u>Nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO and DRO shall be submitted in writing to the GSA Nominating Committee by May 30 or the next following working day.</u></p>	<p>In this proposal, the timing for election of Speaker and CRO (and their Deputies) is proposed as:</p> <p>Nominations open c. May 1          Nominations end c. May 30          Election in June          Take office the same time as in current Bylaw – end of August. This timing allows for transition/training.</p>
<p>NEW</p>	<p>3.1.4 The Nominating Committee will follow its legislated process in forwarding one or more nominations to Council except that the Nominating Committee may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated Nominating Committee process allows for Councilors to make additional nominations.</p> <p>[Note: Renumbered from here on].</p>	
<p>3.1.5 <i>In the case of a permanent vacancy in an Officer position, a by-election for the position will be held in accordance with the Policy Manual.</i></p>	<p>3.1.6 <u>In the case of a resignation or other vacancy in the Speaker or CRO position as determined by the GSA Nominating Committee, the Nominating Committee will advertize the position and arrange for election by Council in the most expedient way possible.</u></p>	<p>The Policy Manual actually says nothing about by-election in the case of a permanent vacancy; nor is the term “permanent vacancy” defined. This proposal deals with the matter through the GSA Nominating Committee.</p>
		<p><b>NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS DEAL WITH ELECTION OF SENATOR</b></p>

NEW	3.1.7 Election of Senator	
NEW	3.1.8 <u>Nominations for Senator will open on April 1 of every year or on another date set by the GSA Nominating Committee in order to ensure that the position of Senator is continuously filled. The nomination period will normally be one month.</u>	The timing for election of Senator is:  Nominations open c. April 1 Nominations close c. April 30 Election in May
NEW		
NEW	3.1.9 The Nominating Committee will follow its legislated process in forwarding one or more nominations to Council except that the Nominating Committee may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated Nominating Committee process allows for Councilors to make additional nominations.	
NEW	3.1.10 The Senator shall be elected by a simple majority vote of Council, normally for a one-year term, at the May meeting of Council. If the matter is urgent, a mail or email ballot may be held before the May meeting.	
NEW	3.1.11 In the case of a resignation or other vacancy in the Senator position as determined by the GSA Nominating Committee, the Nominating Committee will advertize the position and arrange for election by Council in the most expedient way possible.	
3.2 Duties 3.2.1 The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of		One addition to 3.2.4: <u>Duties of the Deputy Speaker and DRO are to assist the Speaker and CRO as</u>



<p>GSA Council and General Meetings.</p> <p>3.2.2 The Chief Returning Officer is responsible for running all GSA elections and referenda.</p> <p>3.2.3 The Senator is the GSA’s representative to the University of Alberta Senate.</p> <p>3.2.4 Further duties of Council-elected Officers may be found in the Policy Manual.</p>		<p><u>needed. ONE FURTHER ADDITION ON RECOMMENDATION OF THE GSA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AND SUPPORTED BY THE GSA BOARD: “The Deputy Speaker and DRO are non-voting members of Council.” First reading of these new sentences May 14 and second reading on June 11.</u></p>
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## OUTLINE OF ISSUE

### **Council-elected Officers (Senator, CRO and Speaker): Proposal for Bylaw Change- SECOND READING**

#### **Suggested Motion:**

Council is asked to consider the following proposed Motion:

*GSA Council approves, in second reading, changes to Bylaw, Part IV Officers, item 3 Council-elected officers, as recommended by the GSA Governance Committee and as set out in the middle column of the attached triple-column document.*

#### **Jurisdiction:**

GSA Bylaw, Part VII, item 2, provides that the Governance Committee will “advise Council on the Bylaws....”

#### **Background:**

Complete background information, including a rationale for proposed changes, is set out in the attached comparative document.

In short, the current timing of the election of Senator has resulted in up to four months where the GSA does not have a representative on Senate.

The proposal also provides for earlier election of the Speaker and CRO in order to allow for more time for training.

The proposal also provides for a deputy Speaker and deputy Returning Officer.

#### **Update since first reading:**

The Board, upon reviewing this proposal just prior to the April Council meeting, raised the issue of whether the Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer should be voting or non-voting members of Council. The Board then considered this matter at its April 18 meeting. The Board unanimously recommended that these positions be non-voting and referred the matter to the Governance Committee, which also has supported the suggestion that these positions be non-voting. The Governance Committee voted by email on this matter and their recommendation is set out in section 3.2.4 of the attached comparative table, where the following sentence is added: **“The Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer are non-voting members of Council.”** First reading of this sentence would occur May 14 and second reading June 11.

GSA OUTLINE OF ISSUE

**GSA Negotiation Committee (NC): Recommendation for the GSA Governance Committee for Change to Bylaw**

**Suggested Motion:** That Council, in first reading, approve changes to GSA Bylaw concerning the Negotiation Committee, as set out in the right-hand column of the attached comparative table.

**Jurisdiction:** GSA Bylaw, Part VII Standing Committees, 2.2.1, states that the Governance Committee will “advise Council on the Bylaws....” The Governance Committee approved this proposal in an email vote on May 3, 2012.

In addition, the GSA Board, acting as the GSA’s “highest administrative authority” endorsed this proposal and recommended it favourably to the Governance Committee (GASB, May 2, 2102).

**Related Policy Manual Changes:** Note that if this proposal passes in second reading, the following changes to the Policy Manual will be made: Officer Portfolios, items 3 (VP Academic) and 6 (VP Student Services) – the VP Academic would sit on the NC as Vice-chair (and not the VPSS), as the academic portfolio is more closely aligned with CA issues than the services portfolio.

*This motion also entails a number of editorial changes to the GSA Bylaws and Policy Manual, since all references to the “Negotiations Committee” must be changed to the “Negotiating Committee”.*

**Urgency:** Both the Governance Committee and the Board see the matter as urgent as we are entering a negotiating year.

**Background:** The background and reasoning behind the proposal are set out in the attached cover letter from former GSA President Roy Coulthard.

**Alignment with the Collective Agreement (CA):** GSA Labour Professional Heather Hogg has checked this proposal against the Collective Agreement. In the attached proposal you will see notes headed “rationale” that refer to requirements in the CA.

Prepared by Executive Director Ellen Schoeck,  
Coordinator, GSA Board and GSA Governance Committee  
May 4, 2012

**GSA Negotiations Committee Reform**

***Note: strikethrough= deletion; bold & underlined = change/addition***

<b>CURRENT</b>		<b>PROPOSED</b>	
<b>Related Policies &amp; Bylaws</b>	Bylaw Part VII §1 General Bylaw Part VII §4 Negotiations Committee		
<b>Related Forms</b>	N/A		
<p><b>4 Negotiation Committee<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>4.1 Composition</p> <p>4.1.1 The Negotiation Committee (NC) is under the jurisdiction of the Vice President Labour, who chairs the committee.</p> <p>4.1.2 The Vice President <del>Student Services</del> is a member of the NC and will assume the duties of the chair in the absence of the Vice President Labour.</p>		<p><b>4 Negotiating Committee (Rationale: “Negotiating” is the word used in the Collective Agreement).</b></p> <p>4.1 Composition</p> <p>4.1.1 The Negotiating Committee (NC) is under the jurisdiction of the Vice-President Labour, who chairs the committee.</p> <p>4.1.2 The Vice-President <b>Academic</b> is a member of the NC <b>as Vice-chair</b>, and will assume the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Vice-President Labour.</p> <p>4.1.3 <b><u>The GSAB will annually name at least two but no more than three additional graduate student members to the NC, and in doing so may consult with the Nominating</u></b></p>	

<sup>1</sup> Passed by the Extraordinary General Meeting on January 11, 2010 (20100111.5).

	<p><b><u>Committee.</u></b> <i>Rationale: Under the Collective Agreement, the Vice-President Labour shall name no more than five representatives.</i></p> <p>4.1.4 <b><u>In addition, the GSA Labour Professional will serve as a non-voting member of the NC.</u></b></p>
<p>4.2 Mandate</p> <p>4.2.1 The NC will review the Collective Agreement between the GSA and the University of Alberta for clarity of language and meaning, and identify areas where interpretation or clarification is required.</p> <p>4.2.2 The NC will <del>advise Council on matters of Collective Agreement revision and provide a report on recommended changes at any scheduled Council meeting.</del> <i>Rationale for deletion: redundant given 4.2.4.</i></p> <p>4.2.3 The NC will prepare the initial position to be taken to the negotiations over the Collective Agreement between the GSA and the University of Alberta.</p> <p>4.2.4 The NC will report to Council and the GSA membership on the negotiation process and changes to the Collective Agreement.</p> <p>4.2.5 <del>On or before August 31 of each year, the NC will strike a subcommittee consisting of four members of the NC, chaired by the Vice President Labour, to act as the Negotiation Team (NT) for the GSA.</del></p> <p>4.2.5.1 The NT will present the initial position to the negotiations with the University</p>	<p>4.2 Mandate</p> <p>4.2.1 The NC will review the Collective Agreement between the GSA and the University of Alberta for clarity of language and meaning, and <b><u>will</u></b> identify areas where interpretation or clarification is required.</p> <p>4.2.2 The NC will <b><u>consult with the LRC and GSAB regularly.</u></b></p> <p>4.2.3 The NC will prepare the initial position to be taken to the <b><u>Collective Agreement</u></b> negotiations <del>over the Collective Agreement</del> between the GSA and the University of Alberta.</p> <p>4.2.4 The NC will report to <b><u>the GSAB,</u></b> Council, and the GSA membership on the negotiation process and changes to the Collective Agreement.</p> <p>4.2.5 The NC will present the initial position to the</p>

of Alberta. *Note: Items 4.2.5.1-4.2.6 have been renumbered.*

4.2.5.2 The NT will negotiate the Collective Agreement, including salary, benefits, policy, and regulations governing graduate student academic employment;

~~4.2.5.3 The NT will liaise with the NC on any changes to the initial position that have been negotiated.~~

4.2.5.4 The NT will finalise the agreement with the University.

4.2.6 The NC will submit the final agreement reached during negotiations ~~between the NT and the University~~ to the next meeting of Council for approval.

**University Administration Negotiating Team by the date set within the Collective Agreement.**

4.2.6 The **NC** will negotiate the Collective Agreement, including salary, benefits, policy, and regulations governing graduate student academic employment.

4.2.7 The **NC** will finalise the agreement with the University.

4.2.8 The NC will submit the final agreement reached during negotiations **to the next meeting of Council for approval.**

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND WELLNESS CENTRE (PAW):  
**COMMUNITY KITCHEN**  
**BRAINSTORMING SESSION: HOW COULD THIS KITCHEN BE USED?**

Dear Council,

**Function of the PAW kitchen**

As part of the PAW design plan, there is an 800 sq ft community kitchen that can hold 60 people. The GSA and the SU have been asked for their ideas about how this kitchen might be used. This kitchen will have commercial grade appliances, and the ideas both student groups submit for the **function** of this kitchen will **drive its detailed design**.

**In a recent meeting called by the Dean of Students to bring together interested parties, the Dean saw three main purposes for the kitchen:** teach nutrition; groups can use kitchen to cook; international students can use kitchen to cook. Those present at the meeting came up with the following ideas:

- Involve the student group Health Nuts;
- Teach food safety;
- Iron chef competitions;
- Congregate and cook a meal;
- Staff and alumni could use the space;
- NAIT culinary program could partner;
- Teach healthy recipes;
- Not-for-profit fruit and veggie stand; partner with farmer's market on campus (cook what you buy at the market);
- A variety of partners were mentioned, eg fruit rescue and foraging. Donations to Food Bank?
- Cook food for GSA Council;
- Learn to make *inexpensive*, healthy meals;
- Learn where ethnic markets are in Edmonton;
- Have place to store food;
- Decide if kitchen should be outfitted for demos to large audiences; have spaces where groups could store dry good.

The GSA Board was asked for input last week Board member and Councillor Lacey Fleming has brought back the following ideas after discussion with graduate students in her department:

- Canning and preserves workshops;
- Events during which students have access to the amenities of a full kitchen and can make foods that are easily frozen and/or keep for a long time for personal use;
- Events for teaching frosh (or anyone, really) how to make easy to prepare, healthy meals (and perhaps ones that take into account not having a full kitchen?);
- Locavore/sustainable food workshops--preparing locally available foods, butchery workshops;
- Food preparation events for missions and shelters ;
- Science of cooking classes for non-science people (yogurt, bread making, pickling);
- Homemade natural product workshops: soaps, lip balm, etc. (still require use of a kitchen);
- Offering cooking (and related topics) classes to the U of A and the community, much like recreational fitness classes that are open to all. Fees collected from such non-credit classes might be put back into the kitchen and fund its operation.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The GSA and SU will be meeting to talk about function/programming, a booking model that gives GSA and SU priority in booking as they are financial partners in PAW, a governance model, overall responsibility for the kitchen (eg food safety) as well as a business plan for the kitchen.

**Respectfully,**  
**Naseeb Adnan, VP Student Services**