

GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

Monday, March 16, 2015 at 6:00 pm

MEC 2-01

A light, vegetarian dinner will be served at 5:15 pm at MEC 2-01.

Substantive material is sent to all GSA Council members at least one week prior to the date of the meeting to give members abundant time to review (in accordance with the Standing Orders of Council). Any additional substantive material received after this mailing will be emailed as soon as possible.

Reports from committees, Directly-Elected Officers, and management are emailed the Friday before a Monday meeting so that the content is as current as possible.

Speaker Sarah Prescott in the Chair

OPEN SESSION

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the 16 March 2015 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 23 February 2015 GSA Council meeting
Attachments:
 - Minutes from the 23 February 2015 GSA Council meeting
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
 - i. Introduction of New Councillors (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

**Attached Numbered
Pages**

3.0 - 3.10

Closed Session: Presentations and Councillor Announcements

5. Professional Development for Graduate Students
Presented by Nathan Andrews (GSA President)

Guest: Dr. Mazi Shirvani (Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research)

Attachments:
 - **CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT** Regarding Professional Development for Graduate Students

6.0 - 6.34*

**distributed via email*

Open Session: Presentations and Councillor Announcements

6. Mitacs Opportunities for Graduate Students
Presented by Megha Bajaj (GSA Vice-President Student Services)

Guest: Eric Loo (Business Development Specialist, Mitacs)
7. Councillor Announcements

Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates

8. 2015 General Election Results: To Receive For Information For Purposes of Transferring Banking Signing Authority
Nathan Andrews (GSA President) will present the item.

Attachments:

- Outline of Issue

8.0

9. Elections by GSA Council

- i. Acclaimed Election: GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (no additional nominations received)
Sarah Prescott (GSA Speaker) will present the item.

Attachments:

- Nominees for GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee

9.0 – 9.1

- ii. Acclaimed Election: GSA Governance Committee (no additional nominations received)
Michelle DuVal (GSA Nominating Committee Administrative Chair) will present the item.

Attachments:

- Nominees for GSA Governance Committee

9.2

10. Special Business (**none at this time**)

Reports

11. President (**Nathan Andrews, GSA President**)

- i. President's Report
ii. GSA Board
iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
iv. GSA Governance Committee (**two email votes**)

11.0 – 11.1

11.2

11.3

- a) GSA Nominating Committee

- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report (**presented by Michele DuVal, GSA Nominating Committee Administrative Chair**)

11.4

12. Vice-President Academic (**Colin More, GSA Vice-President Academic**)

- i. Vice-President Academic's Report

12.0 – 12.1

13. Vice-President Student Services (**Megha Bajaj, GSA Vice-President Student Services**)

- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report
ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (Joint Chair: Vice-President External) (**no meetings this reporting period**)

13.0 – 13.1

14. Vice-President External (**Susan Cake, GSA Vice-President External**)

- i. Vice-President External's Report
ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee (**no meetings this reporting period; will resume meeting Fall 2015**)

14.0 – 14.1

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| <p>15. Vice-President Labour (Monty Bal, GSA Vice-President Labour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-President Labour's Report ii. GSA Negotiating Committee (no meetings this reporting period; will resume meeting Fall 2015) iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee (no meetings this reporting period) <p>16. Senator (Gary Barron, GSA Senator)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Senator's Report <p>17. Speaker (Sarah Prescott, GSA Speaker)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Speaker's Report (no written report at this time) <p>18. Chief Returning Officer (Hamman Samuel, GSA Chief Returning Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Chief Returning Officer's Report <p>19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Virginia Pimmett, GSA Election and Referenda Committee Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (ERC advised the Chief Returning Officer on a number of questions he sent to ERC members during the 2015 GSA General Election.) <p>20. GSA Management (Ellen Schoeck, GSA Executive Director)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Executive Director's Report | <p>15.0 – 15.1</p>
<p>16.0</p>

<p>18.0– 18.1</p>

<p>20.0 – 20.5</p> |
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Question Period

- 21. Written Questions
- 22. Oral Questions

Adjournment

**Meeting Minutes
23 February 2015
GSA Council Meeting**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nathan Andrews (President)	Harsh Thaker (Councillor-at-Large)	Sulya Fenichel (Elementary Ed)	Dylan Breikreutz (Oncology)
Colin More (VP Academic)	Pooran Appadu (Agri, Foods, & Nutritional Sci)	Willow White (English & Film Studies)	Manoj Parmar (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sci)
Monty Bal (VP Labour)	Alphonse Ndem Ahola (Anthropology)	Madhurima Kumar (Internetworking)	Norbert Kanyo (Phys Ed & Rec)
Susan Cake (VP External)	Michele DuVal (Bio Sci)	Gooneshwaree Beesoon (Library & Information Sci)	Brayden Whitlock (Physiology)
Megha Bajaj (VP Student Services)	Patricia Leighton (Bio Sci)	Brian Rusk (Linguistics)	Margot Challborn (Political Science)
Sarah Prescott (Speaker)	Syed Daniyal Israr (Business MBA)	Amir Nosrati (Math & Statistical Sci)	Roujng Zhou (Psychology)
Roy Coulthard (Deputy Speaker)	Virginia Weber (Business PhD)	Ninad Mehta (Med Microbio & Immunology)	Colin Reynolds (Public Health)
Hamman Samuel (CRO)	Virginia Pimmet (Cell Biology)	Axel Perez Trujillo (MLCS)	Kayla Swanson (Religious Studies)
Richard Kanyo (DRO)	Chad Iverson (Chemistry)	Grant Norman (Neuroscience)	Alison Murata (Renewable Resources)
Gary Barron (Senator)	Jeremy Wohland (Civ and Enviro Eng)	Jennifer Bell (Nursing)	Angela Bentley (Res Econ & Enviro Sociology)
Qendresa Beka (Councillor-at-Large)	Neda Aslsabbaghpourhokmabadi (Computing Sci)	Lisa Pashniak (Occupational Therapy)	Kerry Rose (Secondary Education)
Saeed El Khair Nusri (Councillor-at-Large)	Shelby Sanders (Earth & Atmospheric Sci)	Jenilee Way (Oncology)	Tasha Jayatunge (Sociology)
Shahriar Rozen (Councillor-at-Large)	Amanda Radil (Ed Psych)		

GUESTS: Doug Goss (Board Chair, University of Alberta Board of Governors); Sarah Ficko (Renewable Resources); Alireza Tadaei (Mechanical Engineering); Karen Turpin (Public Health, Member of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee)

Speaker Sarah Prescott in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Roll Call

1. Roll Call of Council Members in Attendance

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the Council Meeting of 23 February 2015

Approval of Agenda**2. Approval of the 23 February 2015 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 23 February 2015 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015.

Agenda approved by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Approval of Minutes**3. Minutes****i. Minutes from the 19 January 2015 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 19 January 2015 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 13 February 2015.

Minutes approved by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Changes in Council Membership**4. Changes in Council Membership****i. Introduction of New Councillors**

This was the first meeting for one Councillor: Margot Challborn (Political Science).

ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors

This was the last meeting for one Councillor: Lisa Pashniak (Occupational Therapy).

Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business**5. Presentation from the Chair of the University of Alberta Board of Governors: Board of Governors' Change Agenda, Graduate Studies, and Goals for the New President**

N Andrews introduced the guest, Doug Goss, Chair of the University of Alberta Board of Governors (BoG). N Andrews stated that the BoG has a vision for the U of A to be among the best universities in the world and that graduate students are part of that vision. D Goss spoke about the BoG's Change Agenda, Graduate Studies, and Goals for the New President and raised the following points:

D Goss stated that there was a lot of anxiety in the province with the low price of oil; however he was not anxious. He saw this as an opportunity for the U of A to go to the next level. There are not many things older than 100 years in Alberta, but this University is one of them. There is an opportunity now to do a reset. This is a transformative time for Alberta - there are changes at the government level and a need to build a revenue model that is sustainable for the province. In D Goss's perspective, this is a time to go to the government to lobby and advocate for the need for a university that is not average, that can compete with the best in the world. He has been working hard with government, and is convinced that there will be sustained investment in the U of A. There was also a realization that for success, graduate programs need to be among the best in the world. The U of A needs to look at other institutions, to see how to compete. It comes down to how the U of A fund stipends, how it supports professional programs, and what it does to help graduate students achieve at a high level. The University has to lead the discussion on change. As part of the Change Agenda, the U of A needs to look at how it helps, funds, and supports graduate students. It is paramount to get this right. D Goss is determined with incoming President David Turpin to deliver. Graduate students need to be properly supported.

N Andrews asked D Goss to explain what the Change Agenda is, and its impact on the university. D Goss stated that the Change Agenda is the realization that the U of A can't stand still. The Change Agenda is about looking at everything we do, sustainable funding has to be paramount, and we have to be sure that when we bring in a graduate student, that student is supported throughout their time here. That's what great universities do. This includes how the U of A supports international students, how they help students in financial difficulties, and to

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the Council Meeting of 23 February 2015

make sure no student is left behind. The U of A has to be better at cross-disciplinary, cross-faculty initiatives, on things like climate change or aging. Want to be known as a place to go to to solve some of the big challenges of our time. The Change Agenda is about being true to our vision to compete with the best - if we're not making process we have to change.

Following the presentation there was a number of questions:

M DuVal asked, with respect to actually supporting graduate students, what specific goals and changes were planned in the next five years, and D Goss replied that there will be cross-institutional policy on admissions, funding, support, and supervision. There will be standards in every faculty about how someone will be treated once they are here, and that leads to a new level of how the U of A recruits.

M Bajaj asked what the U of A is going to do different under the new President to ensure that departments comply with the Collective Agreement governing the academic employment of graduate students. D Goss replied that a contract is a contract, and that non-compliance shouldn't be happening. Agreements must be honoured; when one student is compromised, we are all compromised.

R Kanyo asked for an example of critical change in the last five years with respect to cross-faculty interactions. D Goss noted that there have been a few initiatives that have seemed to have fallen flat and he doesn't understand that. Part of the problem might be because the University has been highly decentralized - there are 18 faculties, operating in silos. The University needs to take a multi-disciplinary approach, and D Goss has no doubt that the U of A can take on all sorts of problems if people work together.

S Fenichel stated that there are a lot of existing graduate students at the U of A. How is the U of A speaking about supporting current graduate students? D Goss stated that that conversation is happening. The BoG does not want to be part of not honouring commitments and contracts.

S Cake stated that the U of A does not seem to come together to engage in consultation - instead decisions are just being made. There is not very much consultation about decisions, for example with the recent market modifiers. S Cake asked if the BoG will be taking action to enforce good consultation. D Goss responded that the new President will focus on good consultation, on listening and coming together.

R Coulthard asked about how to make a better case to Albertans about the need for research and graduate studies. D Goss responded that at the end of the day, it's about leadership. The University is involved in major developments in the province, key research goes on at this institution. D Goss believes that the new Premier understands that, and is excited for upcoming opportunities.

K Rose stated that she sees a discrepancy between the 9% across the board cuts, and the U of A being safe from that as a publicly funded institution, and asked how that works. D Goss responded that the province will deliver a four year budget, with three years of deficit, and thinks that the University will be given that same timeline. The province needs to produce new revenues, and D Goss thinks the U of A will be given different tools for revenue creation as well.

M Bal asked what D Goss has learned from past experiences to use to ensure good lines of communications between students, faculty and administration as the budget comes out. D Goss stated that last time he had no warning about the budget, but this time the government is talking with the University, things won't be a surprise this time. So long as the U of A is responsible, and plans for the future, it will soar.

K Swanson asked about guarantees in terms of student recruitment for humanities/social sciences disciplines, who already feel overlooked or neglected, when considering building research specialties such as on climate change. D Goss replied that every single faculty has to be supported. A great university is well rounded and diverse; all faculties have to compete at a high level, and they need resources for that.

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the Council Meeting of 23 February 2015

There were no further questions. N Andrews thanked D Goss for coming.

6. Councillor Announcements

H Samuel reminded GSA Council that the close of nominations for the GSA General Election 2015 was the next day at 1:00 PM.

7. **GSA 2015-2016 Operating and Capital Budget and GSA 2015-2016 Restricted and Other Funding Budget (For Approval) AND GSA Operating and Capital Five-Year Business Plan (2015-2016 to 2019-2020) and GSA Restricted and Other Funding Five-Year Business Plan (2015-2016 to 2019-2020) (For Information) Presented by Nathan Andrews (GSA President)**

Councillors had before them an outline of issue, the GSA 2015-2016 Operating and Capital Budget and Five-Year Business Plan (2015-2016 to 2019-2020), GSA 2015-2016 Restricted and Other Funding Budget and Five-Year Business Plan (2015-2016 to 2019-2020), and their respective narratives, which had been previously distributed on February 13, 2015.

N Andrews (GSA President) presented the item and stated that the proposed 2015-2016 budget was before GSA Council for consideration and it included, for information, a five-year business plan, that included the current proposed budget and a four-year projection. The projection changes every year, and is a factor of Alberta CPI (2.2%) was applied to it. N Andrews reviewed the main points of the cover letter that was before GSA Council, noting that the budget is balanced and on track. N Andrews also noted a few minor edits to the material before GSA Council - the 2.2% increase was not supposed to be applied to the line with respect to Management RRSPs, Workers Compensation, and the GSA Handbook. As well, the 2015-2016 WCB budget line was lowered to reflect actual costs. The Motion will be read with these minor edits in mind.

Following the presentation, questions were invited from GSA Council.

S Nursi asked what kinds of investment revenues the GSA had. N Andrews replied that there are funds from a former business operated by the GSA that are part of the U of A's unitized endowment fund, and they provide revenue every year. The GSA uses the interest generated from that investment. D Sheikh added that the GSA also has GICs that hold money set aside for the Stabilization Fund and the HDPR Fund. S Nursi asked if the GSA invests every year, and D Sheikh replied that if there are surplus funds, they get applied to the Financial Stabilization Fund. H Thaker - Point of Information: The endowment fund is a separate line than the investment revenue, but it was addressed in the response.

S Cake stated that some lines in the budget said that the 2.2% CPI was applied and asked why, specifically, in the 'Other Revenue' category, why was the 2.2% applied to one-time funding. D Sheikh replied that the budget building process automatically applies the increase to all budget lines, and it was only adjusted by herself and the GSA Accountant if they saw something unusual; otherwise every budget line gets bumped up. N Andrews stated that it is GSA Policy that CPI is applied. H Thaker - Point of Information: it is not GSA Policy, it is practice. S Cake asked why CPI was applied to budget lines that were not fully spent in the last year, for example the Board and Other Committees Expenses was underspent in 2013-2014, and D Sheikh replied that currently, that line is on track to meet the budgeted amount for 2014-2105.

H Thaker asked about changes in funding from year to year from the Dean of Students and Dean of FGSR and D Sheikh responded that there was one-time increased funding in 2013-2014.

S Cake asked about the benchmarking of management salaries – when did it happen and what was the process behind it. E Schoeck responded that her position was benchmarked by U of A human resources against the ED at the U of Calgary GSA. She further stated that she normally avoids talking about individual salaries, but has to in order to answer the question. C Thomas and M Caldwell's positions are benchmarked against departmental APOs;

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the Council Meeting of 23 February 2015

in the university system, APOs have a pay scale, and that is the one they are on. S Cake asked if their salaries had been redone to match the scale, and E Schoeck replied not redone, just moved up in accordance to their scale.

K Rose asked about the \$30K for merit pay for management, and if that was a normal thing. E Schoeck replied that it is normal. As part of E Schoeck's contract, she has a set amount in merit pay, that is awarded if the President and Vice-Presidents think she has done a good job after her performance appraisal. The same process is undertaken for the other managers, but the reviews are done by E Schoeck. K Rose asked if this is equivalent to other institutions, and E Schoeck replied that the amount provided at the U of A GSA was less but close to what was done elsewhere.

MOTION 1 BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That, having been recommended by the GSA BFC and GSA Board, the GSA Council **APPROVE** the GSA 2015-2016 Annual Operating and Capital Budget (found on pages 7.4 to 7.12 in the attached material in the "2015-2016 Budget for Approval" column ***bordered in red on each page***) and the GSA 2015-2016 Restricted and Other Funding Budget (found on page 7.27 in the attached material in the "2015-2016 Budget for Approval" ***column bordered in red***).

MOTION 2 BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That, having been reviewed and advised upon by the GSA BFC and recommended by the GSA Board, the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the Five-Year Business Plans attached to the GSA 2015-2016 Operating and Capital Budget and Five-Year Business Plan (2015-2016 to 2019-2020) and the GSA 2015-2016 Restricted and Other Funding Budget and Five-Year Business Plan (2015-2016 to 2019-2020) (pages 7.4 to 7.12 and 7.27 in the attached material).

Speaker called for a vote. R Coulthard – Point of Order: Is there not going to be for debate. Speaker apologized and called for debate before a vote.

H Thaker asked if the projected stipends for the Directly-Elected Officers in the five-year business plan were in line in relation to graduate student pay associated with TA and RAships. This year there is \$120K for the VPs and \$38K for the President, but they increase quite a bit over the next couple years, and it's not how graduate students get paid. N Andrews replied that this question came up at GSA BFC and it was discussed there. It should be noted that the business plan is just a projection based on the current CPI – it could be more or it could be less. The financial team compared the current stipends with other student organizations and they are in line with those. Further, if one considers the hours worked by DEOs, and divide the salaries based on those hours, the hourly rate is pretty much the same as the hourly rate in the own Collective Agreement. R Coulthard added that when the current model for DEO compensation was put in place, the stipends were intended to be equivalent to the lowest hourly RA/TA rate, and that the intent was to compensate people for the amount of work the jobs take. They are more than just volunteer positions, and the compensation is intended to ensure that quality individuals are interested in giving up a year of their degree program to do the work. H Thaker stated that he agreed and he just wanted to point out that it is something that should be considered for the future.

S Cake stated that the budget shows that the GSA is solid, but she thought it was important to have frank discussions about the budget, and this is the time to do it. S Cake noted she felt it was important to look at DEO stipends, they could be an issue later when they could be disconnected from what the average graduate student is paid under the CA. She noted that this does not mean that DEOs should not be compensated, but DEOs do not pay tuition if in a thesis program, so they get more because of that, and GSA Council should know that when considering the budget.

MOTION 1:: That, having been recommended by the GSA BFC and GSA Board, the GSA Council **APPROVE** the GSA 2015-2016 Annual Operating and Capital Budget (found on pages 7.4 to 7.12 in the attached material in the "2015-2016 Budget for Approval" column ***bordered in red on each page***) and the GSA 2015-2016 Restricted and Other Funding Budget (found on page 7.27 in the attached material in the "2015-2016 Budget for Approval" ***column bordered in red***). N Andrews **MOVED**. C Iverson **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED. One abstention.

MOTION 2: That, having been reviewed and advised upon by the GSA BFC and recommended by the GSA Board, the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the Five-Year Business Plans attached to the GSA 2015-2016 Operating and Capital Budget and Five-Year Business Plan (2015-2016 to 2019-2020) and the GSA 2015-2016 Restricted and Other Funding Budget and Five-Year Business Plan (2015-2016 to 2019-2020) (pages 7.4 to 7.12 and 7.27 in the attached material). N Andrews **MOVED**. V Pimmett **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED. S Cake opposed.

N Andrews noted that the GSA BFC would look at DEO stipends again moving forward.

8. GSA 2014-2015 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report

Councillors had before them an outline of issue and the 2014-2015 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report, which had been previously distributed on February 13, 2015.

N Andrews stated that the quarterly report comes for information and has been reviewed by the GSA BFC and the GSA Board. Nothing is out of place, and the financial team believes everything is on track. The quarterlies are presented so that Council can see that we are on track, and provide you a chance to question or comment on things.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2014-2015 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report.

C Iverson stated that he was glad to see that the surplus will be better than projected, but wanted to know if there was any particular reason why. D Sheikh replied that most of the surplus comes from the HR line, where we have not spent to budget just because of how staffing has been this year.

MOTION: That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2014-2015 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report. N Andrews **MOVED**. L Pashniak **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Special Business (none at this time)

Reports

10. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report from the GSA President, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The reports stood as submitted. In addition, N Andrews stated that the Prayer and Meditation Space is closer to getting finished. The University has agreed to contribute \$500K and the remaining \$200K needed to renovate the old UAI space will be raised through fundraising. The team is working on getting an MoU in place to ensure that stakeholders are committed moving forward. N Andrews also asked Councillors to complete the Supervision Survey sent to all thesis-based graduate students by FGSR. The answers will help focus on what to improve related to supervision, and which of the suggestions in the Krogman report to focus on. It will also ensure that the policies being created will help graduate students.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted.

iii. Budget and Finance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted.

iv. Governance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted. S Cake asked about the editorial notes referred to in the report. C Thomas replied that it is a note from management cross-referencing the statement in Bylaw that CPI is applied to stipends inserted into budget Policy as a way to ensure someone looking at the Policy would be aware of the Bylaw, as well as a note related to the practice of applying a factor of Alberta CPI to the budget. There was a brief discussion of the role of internal references in GSA Policy. S Cake asked if such notes constituted changes to Policy, and C Thomas responded in the negative and also noted that anything beyond editorial changes (noted in the GSA Council-approved mandate of the Governance Committee) required the approval of GSA Council.

a) Nominating Committee

i. Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted.

11. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C More stated that included in the Supervision Survey mentioned by N Andrews, there is a question about professional development. C More encouraged everyone to answer the question as peoples' thoughts will help shape the discussion. C More also noted that he had met with the Chief Librarian regarding potential loss of access to different journals with budget cuts. The libraries have already taken a budget cut and may be hit again. The best way to ensure that you retain access to the journals you need is to speak with your department's liaison librarian to let them know what you need access to. S Cake asked if it was true that a certain number of clicks on an item the library does not have means they will buy it, and if that also worked on journals, and C More replied that he did not know if that was how it worked. V Pimmitt stated that she was the graduate student representative on the medical sciences library committee and wanted to know if other such committees existed. M Challborn replied that there was one for the Rutherford library, but that it disbanded almost as fast as it was put together. C More stated that he is fairly certain there are a few others, but that not all faculties have them. A Radil and Q Beka confirmed that there were at least a couple others. R Coulthard stated that in his department, an email went around saying that a certain journal had been discontinued, so there is some communication about the losses. V Pimmitt stated that librarians are there to help students get what they need, and that they will also run seminars and such. They are willing to help if students just ask.

12. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Bajaj stated that the GSA would be hosting guided tours of PAW to show graduate students all the various bookable spaces. Everyone on GSA Council was invited to attend, and invitations would also be going to departmental GSAs. These spaces are free to use for all graduate student group events. H Samuel asked what had happened about PAW signage the Van Vliet Complex, and M Bajaj replied that PAW will be included on the outside signs so that it is clear to students and others that they are entering PAW. This was a success for the GSA.

ii. Student Affairs Advisory Committee (joint chair: Vice-President External)

No meetings this reporting period.

13. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition S Cake stated that she and N Andrews would be travelling to Calgary in the next month to nail down the advocacy efforts for ab-GPAC. There were also lots of changes coming with residence, and S Cake is interested in hearing from anyone who lives in residence. S Cake noted that Public Interest Alberta would be launching their media campaign about the importance of Post-Secondary Education at the U of A Campus that Friday. Councillors were encouraged to attend, and asked to check the GSA website and Facebook for more information. N Andrews stated that he had gotten an email from Parking Services saying that they were going to change the parking system at Michener Park so that parking is assigned by zone rather than stalls, and that you might end up parking far away from where you actually live. N Andrews asked if S Cake had heard about it, and she replied that she had not. B Rusk stated that he had also received that email and was concerned about what it would mean for enforcement, when it is already difficult for them to prevent someone else from parking in your spot. S Cake stated that she would ask Residence Services about it and bring information back to GSA Council.

ii. Awards Selection Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition S Cake stated that the winners of the GSA Awards have been announced, and congratulated the winners. She thanked the members of the GSA ASC for their work in adjudicating the applications.

14. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition M Bal stated that graduate students should be getting involved with events about mental health on campus, as currently the conversations are dominated by undergraduates who do not have the same concerns and needs as graduate students do. It would be great to have more graduate student voices involved so that we can add something more strategic to mental health discussions on campus. M Bal also offered an update on non-criminal deaths on campus. A psychologist has been hired specifically to work on a campaign on suicide prevention, and the plan is to start rolling it out shortly. Graduate student voices need to be included, otherwise we are missing out on a chance to help shape policy and strategy.

ii. Negotiating Committee

No meetings this reporting period. The Agenda noted that the GSA NC will resume meeting in Fall 2015.

iii. Labour Relations Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

15. Senator's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, G Barron stated that the Senate would be meeting in a couple weeks and that he would report further in March.

16. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report was required at this time. In addition, S Prescott stated that N Kanyo, a new Councillor for the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, had approached her to talk about some things he thought could be improved regarding orientation for new Councillors and about GSA Council communication in general. One of S Prescott's goals as Speaker has been to help make sure there is good communication between Councillors, that GSA Council members know enough to prepare for meetings, and that Councillors feel able to participate in meetings. N Kanyo attended a recent GSA Board meeting, where there was a good discussion about what various different options there might be to improve communication, and to make GSA Council better and more effective. S

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the Council Meeting of 23 February 2015

Prescott noted that right now, the GSA does a number of things to try and make aid and orient Councillors. There are 101 training sessions organized by GSA Management, so that Councillors can understand things like budget and finance, or health and dental. The dinners before GSA Council are a way to get to know your fellow Councillors. The team has also been working at trying to introduce new Councillors to continuing Councillors. And the post-Council social gatherings are also a way to improve communications.

There are however more things that can be done. For example, the office is working on a major overhaul of the GSA website; the timing of the rollout not confirmed because it depends on the University transitioning to a new system, but when that time does come Councillors will be invited to provide feedback on how the website could be more friendly. Shortly after the upcoming election, there will be a survey of GSA Council regarding the services that the GSA negotiates for graduate students; if Councillors have specific things you think should be asked, let S Prescott know. S Prescott would also be happy to hear any other ideas about how communication and training for GSA Council might be improved. S Prescott then asked Councillors if they felt like it would be a useful idea to have Councillors' emails posted, with permission, on the GSA website. K Swanson said that if you are using your U of A account, you can type in any name and the email address comes up, while having them on the website makes them public. Q Beka acknowledged that the addresses are available, but that having the addresses on the website makes it more inviting for someone to actually email you. H Samuel noted that if you aren't using your actual U of A account to email, the auto-complete does not work. C Iverson suggested a password protected section of the website just for Councillors. P Appadu noted that you don't always know if it's the right person (in the auto-complete emails) when people have the same/similar names. A Radil suggested using a general groups email account instead of a personal account. V Weber stated that everyone's email is already public through the university's directory service, but that she is also in favour of them being easily accessible. M DuVal responded to A Radil that not all Councillors have access to the group email address and that it might be a hindrance to promoting communication between Councillors. At this point, S Prescott took a straw poll of GSA Council, asking who thought having Councillors' email addresses on the GSA website would help – a little over half of GSA Council thought it would help. Councillors were encouraged to email S Prescott with anything else they might want to say on the matter.

17. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

No written report was required at this time. In addition, H Samuel stated that he had been busy preparing for the GSA General Election 2015. Nominations for the DEO and CAL positions ended the next day at 1:00 PM. H Samuel encouraged Councillors to participate and nominate themselves. H Samuel had also been busy preparing for the All-Candidates meeting which was being held the next day. H Samuel informed GSA Council that a different software system would be used for voting. On the voters' end there is no change, it was still preferential voting, but the system was better and more stable. H Samuel had also been busy preparing for videos that will be done for all the candidates, and for the Election Forum on March 2.

R Coulthard asked H Samuel if he could confirm that the All-Candidates Meeting was mandatory for anyone running for election, and H Samuel replied that the meeting was mandatory but that exceptions can be made. If a candidate is going to miss the meeting they must notify the GSA CRO in writing at least one hour before the meeting.

18. Elections and Referenda Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition V Pimmett stated that the GSA ERC has been working closely with the GSA CRO to get ready for the election, the All-Candidates Meeting, and filming the interview videos. They have also been hard at work on a 'get out the vote' campaign. The low voter turnout does not reflect the character of the GSA, and the GSA ERC is trying to create broader awareness of the election for graduate students. H Samuel noted that last year, voter turnout was 5.6% of students; this year they would love to double that number. Councillors are asked to help get the word out that it is important to vote, because the GSA negotiates for services that are important to graduate students.

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the Council Meeting of 23 February 2015

N Andrews asked where the posters would be placed so that they wouldn't have to compete with SU posters. V Pimmitt replied that the GSA ERC will be posting them, and hopefully putting them in departments and grad lounges. P Appadu noted that he felt that many of the Elections emails are too long and recommended putting the important points at the start, before all the details. P Appadu also noted that he had provided the GSA ERC with suitable places for postering within his department, and V Pimmitt thanked all Councillors who had provided the postering and restricted space information to the GSA ERC, and invited anyone who had not yet sent information in to do so as it would be going in the packages for candidates at the All-Candidates Meeting.

19. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The report stood as submitted and, in addition E Schoeck noted that the written report focused on the goals that the management team is going to try and accomplish over the next eight months. E Schoeck thanked L Pashniak, for whom this is the last meeting, as she reviewed the GSA's communication pieces and as the result of her work the GSA will be launching a new website. Councillors will be asked to review the website before it launches.

Question Period

20. Written Questions

Written questions from C Iverson regarding professional development and Response from Colin More, which had been previously distributed on 20 February 2015. The response stood as submitted, and the following points were raised in discussion:

S Fenichel wanted to know who was meant to create the list of graduate student long-term goals with respect to professional development and what it was meant to achieve, and C More replied that nothing was certain right now. But to answer the question, there was a professional development mandatory component, it will add to graduate students' workloads, but that it should not be an absurd amount. The core intent was to get graduate students to think about why they are in graduate school, what they can/will do with it. This sort of program has worked successfully at other institutions, the crux of it is how you measure it – a half page list or a 500 page document – no one is expecting the latter. S Fenichel stated that she appreciated the idea, but that part of the problem was that there is still a misunderstanding that all graduate students can get academic jobs, and this is not the case, and not even what all graduate students want. So there needs to be a shift in the culture, and if it is only being shifted by students and not by faculty, there will be no investment from faculty. C More stated that he was not sure what could change the culture other than a bunch of small little things adding up, and this is just one small little thing. Overall though, the culture has to change – way more PhDs are being produced than there are academic jobs.

S Cake noted that what she has found concerning about the conversations is the implementation of a new requirement without department support. The reality is that some departments will not change because they do not have to – because they are already doing professional development for their students. The hope is that those ones will be the models. We are also hoping that grad students will provide feedback on how it is working within their departments, with the recognition that your department can get help if it's not working.

C Iverson stated that he is glad the question is in the survey, but disappointed that it was not advertised specifically. C Iverson asked if there was a way to advertise that specific question. C Iverson was also curious to know what other departments think, what GSA Council thinks, about a mandatory component.

G Barron added that the 'college for supervisors' will require faculty to apply to become supervisors, and that part of the reviews they go under will be related to their work with professional development. Supervisors will not have to know everything, but there will be some accountability and review. In terms of outside pressure, G Barron sees departments failing in the next 10-15 years if they do not get on board with professional development, because things are changing and they will have to keep up.

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the Council Meeting of 23 February 2015

N Andrews noted that the Dean of FGSR was coming to GSA Council in March, and Councillors were encouraged to ask questions. He also noted that the GSA would send a reminder about the supervision survey, specifically pointing out the question on professional development.

21. Oral Questions

R Coulthard asked where Councillors would informally meet after GSA Council and RATT was agreed upon.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Outline of Issue (GSA Council)

2015 General Election Results: To Receive For Information For Purposes of Transferring Banking Signing Authority

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the results of the 2015 General Election wherein the following graduate students were duly elected as President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Labour, and Vice-President Student Services:

President	Colin More
Vice-President Academic	Harsh Thaker
Vice-President External	Alphonse Ndem Ahola
Vice-President Labour	Sarah Ficko
Vice-President Student Services	Alireza Talaei

NOTE 1: The 2015 General Elections official results were announced by the CRO on Friday March 6, 2015.

NOTE 2: GSA Council is now asked to *receive for information* the results, to be set out in the Minutes. The GSA's bank requires that the names of the newly Directly-Elected Officers appear in the Minutes in order to transfer signing authority on 1 May, 2015.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Policy, Budget Principles, Practices and Procedures, Section 3.1:

"Signing Authority

- a. *Financial documents related to the Unrestricted Operating Budget requiring signature, including but not limited to cheques and investment instructions, require two (2) signatures: either any two (2) Directly-Elected Officers, or any one (1) Directly-Elected Officer and one Director.*
- b. *The President, at least two (2) Vice-Presidents, and at least two (2) Directors shall each as individuals have authority as signing officers for the GSA.*
- c. *Wherever possible, it is preferable for one of the signatories to be the President."*

GSA Policy, Elections, Section 11.1:

"Upon completion of the ballot count, the CRO shall announce provisional results, ie results that are subject to appeal for twenty-four (24) hours from the time the provisional results are released and which may, in addition, be affected because of earlier complaints not yet resolved. Results will be made official only when the GSA's process of dealing with alleged breaches of Elections Bylaw and Policy and any appeals within that process are exhausted."

GSA BOARD/GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEE

List of Nominees and Call for Additional Nominations Previously Distributed to Council on March 5, 2015; Advertisements for Council Position on GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee Distributed to GSA Council on February 24, 2015

Recommended Motion

GSA Council is asked to consider the following Motion:

That the GSA Council, acting on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Speaker and Executive Director, **receive for information** the newly-elected GSA Council member for the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee combined position.

Newly-elected GSA Council Member on the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee:

1. **Syed Daniyal Israr (Councillor, MBA)**

Jurisdiction:

GSA Policy, Nominating, Section 1.1

“If there are vacancies on the NoC, the **Executive Director and Speaker will advertise those vacancies to Council** and, after a reasonable amount of time has elapsed, will select individuals meeting the criteria set out in Section 2, Expectations, to fill those vacancies and **submit their names to Council for ratification.**”

GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 2.1.e

“Council (GSA Bylaws Part III, Council) may appoint up to three members of Council as non-voting members of the GSAB.”

No additional nominations were received by the deadline provided of 12 (noon) on Wednesday March 11, 2015 (GSA Policy, Nominating, 6.6). The nominee presented in this report is therefore declared **elected**.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Vacancy: ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL

Nominating Committee Member Expectations from GSA Policy (Nominating, Section 2 Expectations):

1. “Members of the NoC must have a demonstrated ability to be **neutral** and are expected to **act impartially**, including declaring conflicts of interest and rising above individual/departmental interests to ensure the best fit between nominees and vacancies.
2. The NoC is expected to fill vacant positions in a timely fashion to ensure that there is continuity in the graduate student “voice” on committees, Councils, and other bodies, thereby ensuring the best possible representation for graduate students.”

GSA Board: Vacancy: ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL

GSA Board Role and Requirements (GSA Board Policy):

The **GSA Board** is the senior administrative authority of the GSA and meets **every Wednesday from 12:00 – 2:00 PM**. As set out in the GSA Board Policy, the responsibilities of the Councillor positions on the Board are:

9.1

1. **“Regular attendance at Board meetings is expected**, with regrets and reasons submitted to the President. Any voting Board member may question attendance of Councillors at any time.”
2. **“Understanding that the essence of this position is to provide a link between the elected GSA officials and the floor of Council is essential [...].”**
3. **“These Councillors will have a birds-eye view of the Board operations and business. They are expected to provide information gleaned from these meetings, from their own perspective, to Council – ie to participate and speak up at Council when Board business is discussed, from their own unique views.”**

GSA Council Member Leaving the GSA Board and Nominating Committee: Lacey Fleming (Anthropology) has resigned to focus on her dissertation research.

GSA Council Members Staying on the GSA Board: Michele DuVal (Biological Sciences) and Harsh Thaker (Medicine)

GSA Council Members Staying on the GSA Nominating Committee: Michele DuVal (Biological Sciences) and Ninad Mehta (Medical Microbiology and Immunology)

GSA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE NOMINEE

**List of Nominees and Call for Additional Nominations Previously Distributed to Council on March 12, 2015;
Advertisements for one Council Position on GSA Governance Committee Distributed to GSA Council on
March 5, 2015**

Recommended Motion

GSA Council is asked to consider the following Motion:

That the GSA Council, acting on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee, **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected member of the GSA Governance Committee.

Newly-elected GSA Council Member on the GSA Governance Committee:

1. **Susan Cake (PhD Candidate in Sociology, GSA Vice-President External until April 30, 2015, and Councillor-at-Large as of May 1, 2015)**

Jurisdiction:

GSA Policy, Nominating, Section 6.6

“The NoC will provide Council with nominations for the GSA Board, all GSA standing committees, Speaker, CRO, and Senator. Additional nominations may be made by Councillors, in writing, in advance of the Council meeting where elections will take place. If a Councillor(s) makes an additional nomination, there will be a written ballot at the Council where the election will take place. All other vacancies will be filled by the NoC and reported to Council.”

No additional nominations were received by the deadline provided of 10:00 AM on Friday March 13, 2015. The nominee presented in this report is therefore declared **elected**.

GSA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Vacancy: ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL (GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 3.1.4)

GSA Governance Committee Role (GSA Policy, Standing Committee, Section 3.2.a):

“The GC will advise Council on the GSA Bylaws, matters of policy not in the purview of any other Standing Committee, or other governing issues and provide a report on recommended changes at the next scheduled Council meeting; and make any routine or editorial changes to the governance documents as deemed necessary by the Committee.”

GSA Council Member Leaving the Governance Committee: Lacey Fleming (Anthropology) has resigned to focus on her dissertation research.

GSA Council Members Staying on the GSA Governance Committee: Sulya Fenichel (Elementary Education) and Sandra Sawchuck (Humanities Computing/Library and Information Studies)

GSA President
Report to Council for March 16, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Nathan Andrews
Date: March 13, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

It's beginning to look a lot like Spring, and I just can't wait for the warm season to begin! Let me begin by saying congratulations to the newly elected GSA Directly-Elected Officers, Colin, Harsh, Sarah, Ali, and Alphonse. Some of my friends are already calling me a 'lame duck', being that there is already a new team ready to take over in a few weeks. I could be called anything at this point but one thing I know is that the GSA is going to be in good hands with the joint efforts of these five DEOs, staff, and management. Kudos to everyone!

Now, let me highlight three main things from my meetings. **Regarding the Prayer and Meditation Space** project, the MoU has not yet been signed as we have been seeking substantial feedback on a draft the SU and GSA prepared. We recently met with the Interfaith Chaplains' Association who gave some great feedback on how to proceed. It does seem to be that my next report will come with some good news around the signing of the MoU, as it is something we are bent on signing before the end of April.

Your VP External Susan and I spent the full day of February 28 in a meeting with our **Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council** (ab-GPAC) counterparts in Calgary. At this meeting, a number of things were discussed including budget, the amount of fees each school should collect, what kind of staff support is needed in the first year, and transition for the next team of executives, among others. I will give a bit more details when I report orally, and I'm sure Susan will as well. One other update on ab-GPAC is that the *Soecities Act* application to form the group has now been submitted and we are waiting to hear from the government office in charge. It is my hope that the group receives its legal status by the end of April in order to advance real advocacy priorities.

The GSA, SU and the University have been working restructuring and reviewing **Mandatory non-Instructional Fees** (MNIFs), which includes CoSSS, registration and transcript, student services and athletics and rec fees. The major bone of contention is that even though student dollars are going into specific services intended for students, we are not part of the discussion that leads to such distribution. We have therefore been meeting with all identified stakeholders to assess how proper transparency and accountability would be ensured moving forward. This discussion is expected to result in a new committee that includes students which has an explicit oversight responsibility over all MNIFs. I will keep Council informed on how this discussion unfolds.

Besides these points, I am happy to answer any questions about any of the meetings I attended since my last report to Council. Please find the list of meetings included below.

Cheers,
Nathan Andrews, GSA President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between February 22, 2015 to March 16, 2015.

February 24	Board and Human Resources and Compensation Committee (BHRCC)
February 24	Board and Finance Committee (BFPC)
February 24	MoU Discussion with the SU and MSA??
February 25	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
February 26	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees/ Common Student Space, Sustainability and Services Fee (MNIF/CoSSS) Restructuring Committee
February 27	Campus Food Bank Fundraiser
February 28	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) (Calgary)
March 3	Prayer and Meditation Space MoU
March 3	Coalition Working Meeting
March 5	Dean of FGSR
March 9	Sexual Misconduct and Assault Response Team (SMART)
March 9	General Faculties Council (GFC)
March 9	President's Reception
March 11	MNIF/CoSSS with the SU
March 11	Prayer and Meditation Space with Interfaith Chaplains' Association Representative
March 12	MNIF/CoSSS Restructuring Committee
March 12	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)
March 12	Board of Governors' Dinner
March 13	Board of Governors
March 13	Presidents' Coalition Dinner

**GSA Board
Report to Council for March 16, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
 From: Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director and Coordinator of the GSA Board; Heather Hogg, Director of Operations; and Courtney Thomas, Director of Services and Governance
 Date: March 13, 2015

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. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The President, Vice-Presidents, Director of Operations, Director of Services and Governance, Financial Manager, and I will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the Council meeting.

25 February 2015 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Semi-Annual Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2014: To Receive for Information; GSA Board Meetings: Proposed Addition to GSA Board Policy; Attendance at GU 15, April 5-9, 2015, in Calgary, AB: Estimated Expenses

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **receive for information** the attached semi-annual participation report, as provided by TD Insurance Meloche Monnex. NA **MOVED**. CM Seconded. **CARRIED**.

That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the attached GSA Board Policy, effective immediately, after editing Section 2.1 to read "Any GSA Member who wishes to present an item to the GSA Board should write to the President as Chair of the GSA Board, including a description of the topic on which they wish to present that may be circulated to GSA Board members. The description should ideally be a paragraph or two in length." NA **MOVED**. CM Seconded. **CARRIED**.

That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the estimated expenses for four (4) representatives of the GSA to attend the GU 15 meeting, April 5-9, 2015, in Calgary, as shown in the 2015-2016 Advocacy Travel Expense Estimates distributed to members. NA **MOVED**. CM Seconded. **CARRIED**.

04 March 2015 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Plaques Recognizing Graduate and Undergraduate Student Contributions to the PAW Centre; ab-GPAC: February 28, 2015 Meeting Debrief; Restructuring of Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees: Discussion Document from University Administration for Review; Travel and Expense/Travel Advance: Changes to UAPPOL Policy

Motions and Agreements:

None at this time.

11 March 2015 GSA Board Meeting

Meeting cancelled as three DEOs attended the Student Advisors Conference. No pressing items.

**GSA Governance Committee (GC)
Report to Council for March 16, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Nathan Andrews
Date: March 13, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC), under delegated authority from the GSA GC, approved, via email, the removal of Section 5.9 of the GSA Policy on Elections. This section had read, "After the campaign period has closed, candidate(s) and slate(s) may distribute communications encouraging students to vote in a General or By-Election. Candidate(s) and slate(s) shall not campaign after the campaign period has closed. As denoted in 5.5, "campaigning is defined as any form of promotion of an individual or slate." All campaign materials (including but not limited to posters, Facebook pages, websites, etc) shall be removed before the close of the campaign period." **On December 8, 2014, GSA Council approved a change to GSA Policy that permitted the campaign period to extend into the voting period and to close when voting closed. This made Section 5.9 redundant and, in consultation with the CRO, removing it was deemed editorial.**

Additionally, on February 27, 2015, the GSA GC approved, via email, a Motion to update the low income cut offs listed in GSA Policy on Child Care Grants. The previous low-income cut offs were taken from 2009 Statistics Canada data and more current data from 2013 was available. As a result of this Motion, the low-income cut offs in GSA Policy have been raised. From an operational standpoint, many graduate students apply for CCGs and were a little over the previous cut-offs, but were under the new cut-offs. **By updating the cut-offs, the GSA will be able to distribute this grant to more graduate students in need who did not fit the current policy, but were still properly considered to be low-income families.** This change, proposed in consultation with the Vice-President Student Services, was deemed routine and editorial as it did not substantively alter GSA Policy but, rather, updated it to reflect more current information.

I would be happy to report further orally.

Respectfully,
Nathan Andrews, GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee

**GSA Nominating Committee (NoC)
Report to Council for March 16, 2015 Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Michele DuVal, Acting Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee
Date: March 13, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The report from the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC) is a summary of discussions/decisions the NoC has made since its last report, together with a list of all vacancies filled.

The Bylaw governing the NoC is located in Part V (Standing Committees). Policy governing the NoC is found in the sections titled "Nominating" and "Standing Committees." As provided for in its terms of reference, the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC) has been conducting business via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Michele DuVal, Acting Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee

GSA Standing Committees

1) GSA Governance Committee

Due to the resignation of one member of the GSA Governance Committee (GC), there is currently one (1) vacancy on the GSA GC. The NoC advertised this vacancy via email to GSA Council on March 5, 2015. The deadline for nominations was Wednesday, March 11, 2015. We received one (1) nomination. On Thursday, March 12, 2015 the GSA Nominating Committee forwarded this one (1) nomination to Council with a call for additional nominations. Additional nominations were accepted until Friday, March 13, 2015 at 10:00 AM. We received no additional nomination. Since we did not receive any additional nominations, those nominees are declared elected. The graduate student declared elected to serve on the Governance Committee is Susan Cake (PhD Program, Sociology).

Bodies External to the GSA

Council has delegated to the NoC the responsibility of filling positions on all committees external to the GSA. Normally, all vacancies are advertised. According to Policy, "advertising may be waived in instances where, in the NoC's view, it is urgent to fill a vacancy" (GSA Policy, Nominating, 5.2).

1) Research Date Management Week Program Committee

This position was advertised in the GSA newsletter on Friday, January 16, 2015, and we received no nominations. The NoC then contacted a graduate student from the GSA Bank of Names to offer the opportunity to serve on this Committee. The NoC elected **Hannah Madsen** (MLIS/MBA Combined Program) to serve on this committee.

**GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to Council for March 16, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Colin More
Date: March 13, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Happy March, everyone! Personally, I miss the snow, but the sun *is* quite nice!

There has been a lot happening in my portfolio lately, most of it centred around various initiatives on which we're partnering with the FGSR. Possibly the most well-known of these is the proposed **professional development program**. As I have mentioned in previous reports, the details of the overarching program are currently in development by a committee chaired by Renee Polziehn. On that front, there is little extra to report. However, the proposed requirement for all students to complete an **Individual Development Plan**, or IDP, was discussed by the FGSR Policy Review Committee (PRC) last week. Members were broadly supportive of the idea, and with a few modifications (such as allowing individual programs to opt out), the proposal will be going forward to the next FGSR Council meeting for discussion.

The PRC also examined the question of **how best to educate incoming students on the University's view of academic integrity**. With an inordinate number of cases seen by the FGSR and the Ombudservice being related to academic integrity, such an effort would likely lead to more efficient use of resources and (more importantly) decreased stress for those who genuinely do not understand the University's philosophy. Initially it was thought that the FGSR could integrate a module on academic integrity into the existing ethics requirement, and mandate its completion by the end of a student's first semester. However, further reflection showed that other delivery methods may be more effective; the FGSR's senior leadership will be consulting with Renee Polziehn on the subject, and will return to the PRC with a revised proposal.

As a result of Naomi Krogman's report on **graduate supervision**, the FGSR was also thinking of mandating a list of subjects which should be covered during the first meeting between student and supervisor (or other academic advisor, depending on how a program is set up). Such a list would be intended to facilitate the communication of clear expectations between both parties, hopefully mitigating cases where small misunderstandings become big problems. The PRC thought that the best approach might be for FGSR to not mandate such a list itself, but to require each program to develop their own. That would allow the necessary flexibility, while still hopefully addressing the root concerns about communication. This proposal will be discussed next by the full FGSR Council.

Finally, the GSA and SU are working with central administration on a **new structure for mandatory non-instructional fees, or MNIFs**. At present, there is very little accountability to students as to how the university spends MNIF-derived funds. Our main goal with a new structure is to get much greater accountability in terms of which units are directly supported with our money, and to what degree. In addition, we hope to ensure that students' voices are heard in future discussions around possible additional MNIFs.

Well, I think that essay is long enough for now. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or complaints!

Colin More, GSA Vice-President Academic

12.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between February 22, 2015 to March 16, 2015.

February 24	FGSR Caucus
February 24	Professional Development (PD) Sub-Committee
February 25	FGSR Council
February 26	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees/ Common Student Space, Sustainability and Services Fee (MNIF/CoSSS) Restructuring Committee
February 26	General Faculties Council Facilities Development Committee (GFC FDC)
February 27	"Post-Secondary Education is the Answer" Campaign Launch
February 27	Campus Food Bank Fundraiser
March 2	SU VP Academic
March 3	Advisory Search Committee for Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
March 4	General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee
March 4	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
March 5	Dean of FGSR
March 9	Sexual Misconduct and Assault Response Team (SMART)
March 9	General Faculties Council (GFC)
March 9	President's Reception
March 10	Bob Luth
March 10	Policy Review Committee (PRC)
March 10	Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Sub-Committee
March 11	MNIF/CoSSS with the SU
March 12	MNIF/CoSSS Restructuring Committee
March 13	Academic integrity Council
March 13	Presidents' Coalition Dinner
March 16	SU VP Academic

**GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to Council for March 16, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Megha Bajaj
Date: March 13, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Hope you are well. Below is an update from some of the meetings I attended since last Council.

PAW- Strategic Operating Committee: An update was provided at the meeting on various sections in PAW. The kiosk in the social street is currently mostly being used in the evenings. **Full usage in wellness and programming at the kiosk is expected to begin by the Fall term** this year. As mentioned in the last council meeting, **proper signage on the south east corner of PAW on 114th street and 87th avenue has been installed.** All the **'student spaces'** in PAW which includes the two multipurpose rooms and the two student lounges are **available for booking for student groups.** You can find more information on how to book these spaces on the GSA website and feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this. A large wall mounted tv will be installed in the graduate student lounge for the purpose of hosting seminars/presentations in the room. **Creation of a patio space will be done in the summer just north of the student lounges in PAW.** So stay tuned for that!

In another PAW meeting, administration proposed the **installation of a plaque in the PAW building that honours student contributions to this project.** A plaque with the GSA and SU logos will be put up in PAW. We have also proposed to administration that all the graduate and undergraduate students at the U of A should be acknowledged in this plaque for making this project happen. I am waiting to hear back from administration on this.

I would also like to **thank all the students and GSA councillors who were able to join me for one of the PAW tours in the last two weeks.** I will be doing one more tour next week. I hope you all can make use of the spaces available in PAW for your student group events!

Student Advisor's Conference: The Student Advisor's Conference was hosted by the Dean of Students Office at the U of A. **The theme of this year's conference was 'Building Capacity for a Community of Support'. Monty and I presented at this conference about Internationalization.** We presented information on **challenges faced by international graduate students, some of the GSA initiatives for international students and the possible next steps for the university to consider in supporting international graduate students.** Our presentation was well received by the audience and we have been **able to make some new connections for the GSA at this conference.**

I want to take this opportunity to **thank members of the GSA management, Courtney Thomas and Megan Caldwell who helped us put together our presentation and supported us in preparing for this conference.**

ONECard Student Advisory Committee: The ONECard office is working on a **mobile app for ONECard.** This app will enable the use of mobile devices for library, use of ONECard account, printing and various other services linked to the student ID card. A **soft launch** of this app will be done by the **ONECard office in Fall 2015** and this will only involve smaller groups of students as the office identifies what needs to be improved to make the app user-friendly. The full fledged launch will probably happen later in 2016.

New laundry machines are expected to be installed in all university residences by September 2015 - all new machines will **only accept ONE Card payment** through the student account. Students living in residences will **not be charged any extra fee for installation** of new laundry machines as this revenue will come directly from the laundry cost collected.

The last year at the GSA has flown by quite quickly and I can't believe that elections are already done! I would like to **congratulate the newly elected incoming GSA team and wish them good luck** in the upcoming year. We will soon get into the transition mode where the new elected officials will start shadowing us at our meetings.

Please feel free to drop me an email if you have any questions on my report or otherwise.

Sincerely,

Megha Bajaj, GSA Vice-President Student Services

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between February 22, 2015 to March 16, 2015.

February 24	Campus Addressing
February 25	Health and Dental with Kristin Foster
February 27	University Research Policy Committee (URPC)
February 27	Campus Food Bank Fundraiser
March 2	ONEcard Student Advisory Group (SAG)
March 3	PAW Plaques
March 5	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
March 5, 6, 12	PAW Tours
March 6	North Power Plant and Alumni Centre
March 9	President's Reception
March 11	Students' Advisors Conference

**GSA Vice-President External
Report to Council for March 16, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Susan Cake
Date: March 13, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Another month has come and gone once again. It's nice to finally have some warmer weather as well. I hope everyone has been doing well since the last time we met, and once again things have been busy at the GSA.

This past month I've been dedicating a number of hours to finalizing an MOU with different partners on campus regarding **Prayer and Mediation Space**. I'm very happy to see progress on this project and look forward to the whole thing being finalized in the coming year.

I know I've been giving ongoing updates regarding the **new provincial advocacy group for graduate students (ab-GPAC)**. I'm happy to report that we have finally signed the documents and the application for the *Societies Act* has been submitted. As well, GSA President Nathan Andrews and I had the chance to meet our counterparts from the other three GSAs in Alberta to discuss plans for the coming year. We are in the process of finalizing our orientation for the incoming executives across the province and setting out timelines for that group to establish advocacy goals. This group has an important year ahead to establish themselves as an effective advocate for graduate students on top of the upcoming provincial budget to be announced later this month.

Considering the current political atmosphere of Alberta, I've also served as the representation from our GSA involved with the group **Public Interest Alberta and their "Post-Secondary Education is the Answer Campaign"**. We had a media launch in late February at the University of Alberta. You can check out their campaign material and video online (<http://pialberta.org/pseistheanswer>).

As usual, I am also working away on **residence related issues**. Thanks to the collective efforts of students living in Michener Park, the issue with parking has been addressed and all new changes are being put on hold until further community consultation can be done. Once again, I'm interested in talking about graduate students who live in university residences to hear about your experiences and any suggestions you may have to make residences better.

Lastly, I've been invited to attend an upcoming event on Friday March 20th called the "Future of the PhD in the Arts: Changing conditions for graduate education". I'm happy to attend this as our university embarks on efforts to create a **Professional Development** program for students. I'm also interested in talking with graduate students from Arts and Humanities about this issue. Please contact me through email.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to contact me. As well, if you have any residences issues or concerns also contact me. I'm happy to help out in any way I can.

Susan Cake, GSA Vice-President External

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between February 22, 2015 to March 16, 2015.

February 24	Residence MoU with the SU
February 25	Career Model Consultation
February 27	"Post-Secondary Education is the Answer" Campaign Launch
February 27	Campus Food Bank Fundraiser
February 28	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) (Calgary)
March 3	Prayer and Meditation Space MoU
March 3	Coalition Working Meeting
March 3	Michener Park Zone Parking
March 4	Future of the PhD in the Arts
March 6	Residence MoU Process
March 6, 7	Alumni Council Retreat
March 9	Sexual Misconduct and Assault Response Team (SMART)
March 9	President's Reception
March 10	Residence Hall Association (RHA)
March 11	Students' Advisors Conference
March 11	Prayer and Meditation Space with Interfaith Chaplains' Association Representative
March 12	Alumni Council
March 12	(ab-GPAC)
March 12	Residence MoU Process

**GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to Council for March 16, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Monty Bal
Date: March 13, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

As I was away for academic obligations for a couple of weeks since we last met and I have had limited meetings since then, my current report will be short and sweet.

Collective Agreement Update

In accordance to the 2 year agreement which was put in place last year, the 2015-16 Agreement will go into place in September at the rate of 1.5% (0.8% salary + 2.2% award). In addition to this, the Graduate Student Support Fund will see an increase of **\$674,000 to \$689,000**. With respect to the current budget situation, this two-year agreement has protected the GSA and ensured stability as the province and University move towards budget cuts in the upcoming year. In addition to this, we have begun work to collect information on the information being made available to students through departmental handbooks and websites to ensure that it is correct, up to date, and easily accessible.

Student Advisors' Conference

Vice-President Student Services Megha Bajaj and I were able to present at this year's Student Advisors' Conference. We highlighted specific problems faced by international students, including issues relating to funding, PR supports, CA compliance, and mental health concerns. We were able to also share with the university community, and representatives from other schools, how the GSA is working to deal with many of these issues. Our presentations was well received and a number of representatives came to us to ask how they can support our efforts with respect to CA compliance and professional development opportunities through volunteering possibilities.

Public Interest Alberta Event Launch

A few representatives from the GSA were able to attend the launch of PIA's PSE advocacy campaign, which included the launch of a video concerning the budget issues in Alberta currently (<https://pialberta.org/content/post-secondary-education-answer-media>). GSA Vice-President Susan Cake was able to speak about specific issues facing graduate students. It would however be nice to have more students attend events like this in the future to ensure there's good representation.

Pride Week Reception

I was able to attend as the GSA representative to the Pride Week Reception hosted by the Provost's office. We were informed of the numerous efforts ongoing on campus to make it a more diverse and inclusive campus. This included the launch of the University's own You Can Play media campaign (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpmBcHdBrX4> - which only has a 104 views currently it seems).

BHRCC

GSA President Nathan Andrews and I were able to present to the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee. We would normally present at this Committee as a part of our collective bargaining negotiations effort, however as we are in a two-year agreement, we informed the committee of the ongoing non-compliance issues. We made the Committee aware of the potential dangers of non-

compliance not only for the students but also for the University itself. We also notified the Committee that there was no doubt in our minds that if the administration was committed to forcing compliance throughout the University, it was definitely something which could be achieved.

Sexual Misconduct and Assault Response Team

The GSA Exec met with the members of the Sexual Misconduct and Assault Response team. We informed them that we believed that there needs to be more of a public effort by administrators from the top down to highlight the importance of the sexual misconduct and assault issues on campus. We also informed them that there was a need to ensure not only the prevention aspect of their outreach was reaching students, but that there was an equal commitment to training and dealing with members of the University community if an incident did occur. We also informed them that it was important to reach international students and one mechanism by which this could be done was to frame the material from highlighting the punitive aspects of the process to a rights based framing where students would be informed about what rights they had if they were a victim of misconduct and assault and how the support services could be navigated by someone who was seeking assistance.

Finally, as always, if there are any issues you have related to your RA/TAsip, please contact us directly so we can work to help you out.

Thanks,

Simarjit S. Bal (Monty), GSA Vice-President Labour

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between February 22, 2015 to March 16, 2015.

February 24	Board and Human Resources and Compensation Committee (BHRCC)
February 25	FGSR Council
February 27	"Post-Secondary Education is the Answer" Campaign Launch
February 27	Campus Food Bank Fundraiser
March 3	Coalition Working Meeting
March 3	Pride Week Reception
March 3	Adolescent/young adult Connections to Community-driven, Early, Strengths-based and stigma-free Services (ACCESS) Project Working Group
March 5	Meeting with the Student Ombudservice Representative re Student Issue
March 5	Student Meeting
March 5	Office of Human Rights and Safe Disclosure (OSDHR)
March 9	Sexual Misconduct and Assault Response Team (SMART)
March 9	President's Reception
March 11	Students' Advisors Conference
March 13	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Week Planning

GSA Senator
Report to Council for March 16, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Gary Barron
Date: March 13, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Since my last report the Senate held its regular Plenary Meeting on the evening of March 5 and morning of March 6. At the meetings we heard a report from the President, Indira Samarasekera, Board Chair Doug Goss, and a talk from Mayor Don Iveson regarding the province, the economy, the upcoming budget and the city's relationship with the University of Alberta. The message from our President and Board Chair were generally optimistic, and there was not anything particularly noteworthy in statements made by either of them, with one exception. In response to a question regarding potential changes to tuition the President stated (this is not a direct quote) that the University of Alberta is known to have graduate tuition among the lowest in Canada and that they would consider all options in the face of budget cuts to ensure that tuition is appropriate.

At the Senate Plenary we heard Mazi Shirvani's report on plans for graduate student professional development. I reiterated what I had said at our last GSA Council meeting regarding the fact that cultural change across the university is possible, but will not be immediate. I also noted that it is likely that if departments hire faculty with more experience outside of the university it would likely facilitate such cultural change and also provide more resources for student mentoring and professional development, the idea seemed to be well received. The Dean of Arts in particular noted that the idea of "industrial chairs" is promising.

Finally, I will note that focus groups for the Task Force on Community Engagement are complete and an aggressive work plan that involves weekly meetings is in place to complete a final report and share it with the Senate executive committee by April 17, 2015. The Executive Committee will then decide on where this report will go next and confer with the Board of Governors and President's Office as to whether any action should be taken in relation to the Task Force's findings. I will be sure to update you on any new developments as they arise.

Best regards,

Gary Barron, GSA Senator

**GSA Chief Returning Officer
Report to Council for March 16, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Hamman Samuel, Chief Returning Officer
Date: March 13, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

This report serves as the written report that GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios, Section 8.5.g.ii) notes the CRO will provide annually following the GSA General Election. This report also serves as my procedural report, as required by GSA Policy (Elections, Section 12.1).

The GSA General Election 2015 has concluded and official results were released on March 6, 2015. The voter turnout was 5.83% with a total of 6,925 graduate students eligible to vote and a total of 404 eligible ballots cast. The voter turnout increased slightly from last year. Overall, this was the 2nd highest voter turnout since 2011.

The changes to GSA Policy approved by GSA Council in December called for greater consultation between the CRO and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC). This new process worked really well over the course of the GSA General Election, from its planning stage to the election itself.

I would like to thank all the members of the GSA ERC for their support and sustained efforts during this year's General Election. Their dedication to increasing voter turnout by designing and putting up posters to encourage graduate students to vote, and to ensuring that voters were well informed, was greatly appreciated.

I received feedback from some individual graduate students regarding the turnout statistics. Notable among these was the lack of recognition or familiarity with the candidates among many of the departments. This might be correlated with minimal campaigning done by candidates, mostly using electronic means. I would like to strongly encourage future candidates to use innovative means to get themselves known to the graduate student population.

I also received feedback regarding the second round of voting for the GSA VP-Academic position, as well as the outcome for the CAL positions. For the GSA VP-Academic position, a second round of tallying was done where votes were redistributed (in line with GSA Policy on Elections, Section 10.6). Further rounds of voting are a feature of the preferential voting method. For all other positions, results were decided on the first round of votes tallied. Out of the 9 CAL candidates on the ballot running for 10 positions, 4 were elected. Suggestions on alternative methods of voting for CAL positions have been brought up by graduate students: 1) a 'yes/no' ballot for each candidate, where the candidate would be elected if the number of 'yes' votes are greater than the number of 'no' votes; 2) electing the CAL positions could be done by GSA Council instead of being a part of the General Election. These suggestions will be forwarded to the GSA ERC for further consideration. In accordance with current GSA Elections Policy

18.1

(Section 13.3) the remaining CAL vacancies will now need to be filled through a GSA Council election process.

Using Google Forms for the first time to run the GSA General Election 2015 had a favourable outcome. A few questions arose regarding Google Forms, including a very small numbers of graduate students having trouble accessing the form, all holders of @ualberta addresses being able to vote, and anonymity in voting. These questions had straightforward answers considering that, once graduate students were connected with their @ualberta address, they could access the form without any problems. Also, safeguards had been put in place to tally only those votes submitted by graduate students, and all CCIDs were stripped down from the response sheet after the 24-hour complaint period, ensuring voter anonymity. It should be noted that CCIDs would be critical in case any voter were to bring a complaint about their vote being tampered with, case in point being the recent Ruling #6 in the March 2015 Executive and BoG Election of the Students' Union (SU), related to "Tampering with Ballots and Voting Procedures."

Other minor issues arose concerning deadlines for bio/resume submission, the scheduling of the video interviews and the time allowed to answer questions during these video interviews. All these issues were resolved rapidly and in consultation with the GSA ERC, and in line with the Guiding Principle of the GSA elections (as contained in GSA Bylaw, Part VIII, Section 1.1) to be fair and respect the wishes of voters.

No official complaints were received during the GSA General Election 2015.

I recommend to GSA Council to reconsider with great attention the proposed changes to GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy presented during the November GSA Council. Those changes were the product of a lot of reflection from the GSA ERC, the DRO, and myself and, after the completion of the GSA General Election 2015, it is our belief that having these changes in place would have been highly beneficial. The ERC will review these proposed changes and feedback received from Council before submitting any further recommendations to Council.

**GSA Executive Director
Report to Council**

To: GSA Council
From: Ellen Schoeck
Date: March 13, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Attached is a table setting out the GSA's key corporate documents, and I will be happy to answer any questions at Council.

The detailed management reports submitted weekly to the Board are attached. As always, Courtney, Heather and I welcome your questions and feedback.

Best,
Ellen Schoeck, Executive Director

Documents that Define the GSA as a Corporate Entity

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
<i>Agreements with Expiry Dates</i>		
North Power Plant and Dewey's	<p>2009 Memorandum of Agreement with the Students' Union regarding the operation of Dewey's</p> <p>2010 Memorandum of Understanding with the U of A for use of North Power Plant Space for the Tory Building decant</p> <p>1997 Memorandum of Agreement with the U of A guaranteeing graduate social space in North Power Plant or at another location; 2004 Letter of Confirmation on this MoU from the Dean of Students</p>	<p>Expired August 2012 - conversations and negotiations are currently ongoing</p> <p>Expired - Tory Decant complete</p> <p>No Expiration - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP underway as part of this MoA</p>
Collective Agreement (AEGS)	Sets out terms of employment for certain graduate students and terms for use of AEGS funds.	Current agreement expires August 31, 2016.
Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)	Provides for a wide range of personal counselling.	Originally signed December 31, 2010 for a two-year period with the possibility of 4 two-year extensions. Was reviewed and re-signed via email in August 2013. Dependents added in December 2013. Current agreement expires December 31, 2014 but is described by Administration as a rolling plan. Reviewed annually with Administration.

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
<i>Agreements with Expiry Dates</i>		
Officers/Directors' Insurance	As a separate corporation from the university, we carry insurance that covers the elected officials, and management.	We doubled our coverage in 2013. Current agreement expires January 28, 2016.
Photocopier Lease	Covers three photocopiers.	Current agreement expires March 20, 2015.
Collective Agreement with NASA covering office staff	Sets out terms of employment for GSA staff.	Signed in April 2012. Current agreement expires April 30, 2015.
Liability Insurance	As a separate corporation from the university, we carry our own General Liability insurance and Directors and Officers insurance.	We doubled our liability insurance in 2012. We are not covered for alcohol use and yet have GSA students groups who have self-reported that they use alcohol: discussions in 2013-2014 with Administration and insurance experts. General Liability insurance expires May 17, 2015. Directors and Officers insurance expires January 28, 2016.
Health and Dental Agreement with Studentcare	Provides for Health and Dental Plan.	Re-signed in 2014. Provider changed in 2012. Current agreement expires August 31, 2020 (renegotiated agreement was signed in October 2014). Review service levels annually.
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 2012. Re-negotiated again in 2013 for the academic years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016. Deals with cash flow issue. Current agreement expires April 30, 2016.
Triffo Lease	Detailed lease covering our use of Triffo office space.	First-ever lease was signed in June 2011; 5-year term, four renewals. Current agreement expires May 30, 2016 (notification of desire to renew must be given 6-12 months before expiry).
TDIMM	Provides for group auto and home insurance as well as some funding for GSA events.	Current agreement expires October 7, 2016. Funding for the TD Student Service Award continues until 2017.

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Agreements with Expiry Dates		
U-PASS Transit Agreement with the U of A	Governs U-PASS.	Referendum held in March 2013. New agreement signed in September 2013. Current agreement expires in 2017 when the U of A agreement with the City of Edmonton expires.
Agreement with the City of Edmonton	Governs U-PASS.	The University, rather than the GSA, signs this agreement with the City and the U of A and the GSA and SU then sign a separate agreement. Current agreement expires in 2017 and an agreement in principle on renewal must be reached between the U of A and City of Edmonton by October 31, 2016.
NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
AGREEMENTS WITH NO EXPIRY DATE (ONGOING)		
Semi-Annual Pay Cycle	Governs AEGS pay cycle	Signed in April 2012. Ongoing with no expiry date.
Banking and signing authorities	Operating account, GICs, investments.	Actively reviewed with BMO in April 2012. Signing authorities reviewed annually.
Campus Food Bank	Regulates GSA involvement with Food Bank.	GSA gives \$9000/annum to Campus Food Bank. Ongoing Memorandum of Understanding with no expiry date.
CAPS and Writing Resources Centre Agreement (Academic Workshop Subsidies)	Provides for subsidy of certain CAPS and WRC courses for grad students.	Annual subsidy of \$5500. Subsidy part of the GSA budget.
Ceridian (Payroll)	GSA staff and elected officials are now paid by direct deposit.	We are very pleased with Ceridian. Outsourcing is cheaper than in-house production of cheques. Agreement signed May 30, 2011. Ongoing with no expiry date.
Direct Deposit	Provides for direct deposit of AEGS cheques and T4A production by U of A.	Signed 2012. Major infrastructure change. Ongoing with no expiry date.
Info Sharing with Studentcare and University	Allows Studentcare access to graduate students' personal information for strictly defined purposes regarding the GSA's Health and Dental Plan.	Reviewed with the U of A Privacy Officer and Studentcare in 2012 and new agreement signed on May 3, 2013. Ongoing with no expiry date, GSA gives notice of 6 months if wanting to terminate.

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
AGREEMENTS WITH NO EXPIRY DATE (ONGOING)		
Personal Information Sharing Agreement with the U of A	Allows the GSA access to graduate students' personal information for strictly defined purposes, e.g. emailing the newsletter, elections.	Signed in May 2013. Ongoing with no expiry date.
PAW Centre Agreement	Sets out terms of operation of PAW. SU also a signatory to the Agreement.	Signed in April 2012. Need to negotiate business terms with SU (discussion began in December 2013 and continues).
Student Financial Services (formerly UBEF)	UBEF administers the GSA's emergency bursary funds.	2006 AEGS Memorandum of Settlement between GSA/BoG provides for establishment of bursary program with terms of reference developed by GSA and "distributed through the University Bursary Program."
NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Other Corporate Documents		
Audit (based on Council-approved budget)	As a separate corporation from the university, we hire our own auditor. Requirement of the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> .	Audit occurs annually in May-June.
Council Bylaws and Policies	Enabled by the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> .	Comprehensive review began in 2013 and continues.
Management contracts with ED/letters of appointment	Sets out terms of employment for managers.	Standard appointment letter has been reviewed by our lawyers.
Referenda Master File	All referenda questions that actively impact graduate students (eg UPASS, PAW Centre, GSAP, Health and Dental Plan, etc).	Compiled and filed. Ongoing as referenda arise.
Tuition Agreement Letters	Letters from the University stating the tuition increases for the upcoming academic year.	Received annually.

Management Report to the GSA Board, February 25, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on February 18, 2015:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Budget discussions, support for the GSA ERC (planning for the All-Candidates Meeting and the election forum), transition planning, Budget 101, preparing for GSA Council and Council follow up, tours of PAW for graduate student groups and Councillors, recognition plaques for PAW, graduate supervision survey with FGSR, register of committees for the GSA website, ab-GPAC *Societies Act* registration, FGSR Council Caucus, PaMS, photocopier lease.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial:** See above. Additionally, a review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, and creating a “definitions” section; and **Substantive:** thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual, and a targeted focus on some specific policies, including judicial, is planned.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to ramp up work with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, election of a new Councillor for Occupational Therapy, PAW tours for graduate student groups and Councillors, alcohol liability waiver, assisting with departmental graduate student group elections in AFNS and Renewable Resources, ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, **the next stage of the Department Liaison Initiative (getting into departments) and connecting effectively with constituents.**

Grants and Operations

- **Social Media:** Facebook = 555 likes (up 0 from February 18). **Our Facebook posts reached 153 users this week**, down 34 from February 18. Twitter = 343 followers (up 0 from February 18).
- **Awards Night and Election Forum planning.**
- **Grants review and processing (note, with the approval of the VPSS, some funds have been reallocated within the categories below):**

	Total Amount Available this period	Total Amount Remaining this period	Number of New Applications	Total Number of Applications this period
PDA's	\$91,864	\$62,683	4	59 (27 pending processing)
CCGs	\$146,212	\$19,000	6	91 (30 pending processing)
ASGAs	\$6,932	\$0	0	11 (7 pending processing)
EBs	\$153,068.00 (no periods)	\$48,715.27 (no periods)	0	37 (0 pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Support for the **GSA ERC and planning for the General Election.**
- **Supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** and assisting with elections for departmental GSAs.
- Assistance with planning for Awards Night and the Election Forum.
- **Grants processing** and T4A preparation.
- Assistance with preparing a **register of GSA committees** for the website and assisting with **two departmental GSA elections** (AFNS and Renewable Resources).

Management Report to the GSA Board, March 4, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on February 25, 2015:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Support for the GSA ERC and CRO (Election Forum, video editing, get out the vote campaign, opening of the voting period, etc), Mac and Cheese Affair, transition planning, tours of PAW for graduate student groups and Councillors, recognition plaques for PAW, ab-GPAC *Societies Act* registration, preparing for GFC Caucus, photocopier lease, report on usage of GSSF funds, collection of feedback on the PD event.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial:** See above. Additionally, a review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, and creating a “definitions” section; and **Substantive:** thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual, and a targeted focus on some specific policies, including judicial, is planned.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to ramp up initiatives with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, PAW tours for graduate student groups and Councillors, alcohol liability waiver, assisting with departmental graduate student group elections in AFNS and Renewable Resources, ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, **the next stage of the Department Liaison Initiative (getting into departments) and connecting effectively with constituents.**

Grants and Operations

- **Social Media:** Facebook = 557 likes (up 2 from February 25). **Our Facebook posts reached 260 users this week**, up 107 from February 25. Twitter = 352 followers (up 9 from February 25).
- **Awards Night and Election Forum planning.**
- **Grants review and processing (note, with the approval of the VPSS, some funds have been reallocated within the categories below):**

	Total Amount Available This period	Total Amount Remaining this period	Number of new applications	Total number of applications this period
PDA	\$91,864*	57,063	5	71 (13 pending processing)
CCG	\$146,212*	17,000	6	93 (19 pending processing)
ASGA	\$6832	405	0	8 (0 pending processing)
EB	\$134,068 *(no periods)	50,020.27	0	36 (0 Pending processing)

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Support for the **GSA ERC and planning for the General Election. Supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** and assisting with elections for departmental GSAs.
- Assistance with **planning for Awards Night and the Election Forum.**
- **Grants processing** and T4A preparation.
- Assistance with preparing a **register of GSA committees** for the website.