GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA
Monday, January 19, 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

	Attached Numbered Pages
OPEN SESSION	
1. Roll Call	
2. Approval of the 19 January 2015 Agenda	
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 08 December 2014 GSA Council meeting *Attachments*: • Minutes from the 08 December 2014 GSA Council meeting	**3.0 - 3.14**

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*)	

Presentations and Councillor Announcements

5. Triffo Hall Psychologist - Introduction
   Presented by Nathan Andrews (GSA President)

   Guest: Richard Dietrich (Registered Psychologist in Triffo Hall, Clinical and Counselling Services)

6. Helping Individuals at Risk
   Presented by Nathan Andrews (GSA President)

   Guest: Robin Everall (Interim Dean of Students)

7. University of Alberta Community Social Work Team - Programs and Services
   Presented by Monty Bal (GSA Vice-President Labour)

   Guests: Sheena Abar (Coordinator, Community Social Work Team, and Registered Social Worker)

Prepared by M Caldwell, C Thomas and E Schoeck for the Council Meeting of January 19, 2015

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8. Health and Dental 101
   Presented by Megha Bajaj (GSA Vice-President Student Services)

   Guest: Kristin Foster (Pacific and Western Director, Studentcare)

9. Councillor Announcements

Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates

10. Elections: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy
    Presented by Virginia Pimmett (Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)
    Attachments:
    - Outline of Issue   **10.0**
    - Elections: Proposed Changes Triple Column   **10.1**

11. GSA Board 2014-2015 Strategic Work Plan: Update **(For Information)**
    Presented by Nathan Andrews (GSA President)
    Attachments:
    - Letter from the GSA President   **11.0 - 11.2***
    - GSA Board 2014 - 2015 Strategic Work Plan Progress Check List   **11.3***
                                                              *previously distributed as Item 10

12. Elections
    i.   Vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee
         Presented by Michele DuVal (Acting Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee)

         Attachments:
         - Nominees for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee   **12.0**

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

Reports

14. President **(Nathan Andrews, GSA President)**
    i.   President's Report   **14.0 - 14.1**
    ii.   GSA Board   **14.2**
    iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee   **14.3**
    iv.   GSA Governance Committee   **14.4**

    a) GSA Nominating Committee
    i.   GSA Nominating Committee Report **(Michele DuVal, Acting Administrative   14.5 - 14.6**
          of the GSA Nominating Committee)

15. Vice-President Academic **(Colin More, GSA Vice-President Academic)**
    i.   Vice-President Academic's Report   **15.0**

16. Vice-President Student Services **(Megha Bajaj, GSA Vice-President Student Services)**
    i.   Vice-President Student Services' Report   **16.0 - 16.1**
    ii.   GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (joint chair: Vice-President
          External) **(no meetings this reporting period)**

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17. Vice-President External **(Susan Cake, GSA Vice-President External)**
    i.   Vice-President External's Report   **17.0 - 17.1**
    ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee   **17.2**

18. Vice-President Labour **(Monty Bal, GSA Vice-President Labour)**
    i.   Vice-President Labour's Report   **18.0 - 18.1**
    ii. GSA Negotiating Committee **(no meetings this reporting period, will resume meeting Fall 2015)**
    iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee **(no meetings this reporting period)**

19. Senator **(Gary Barron, GSA Senator)**
    i.   Senator's Report   **19.0**

20. Speaker **(Sarah Prescott, GSA Speaker)**
    i.   Speaker's Report **(no written report at this time)**

21. Chief Returning Officer **(Hamman Samuel, GSA Chief Returning Officer)**
    i.   Chief Returning Officer's Report   **21.0**
    ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee **(presented by Virginia Pimmett, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)**   **21.1**

22. GSA Management **(Ellen Schoeck, GSA Executive Director)**
    i.   Executive Director's Report   **22.0 - 22.3**

Question Period

23. Written Questions

24. Oral Questions

Adjournment

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Meeting Transcript
08 December 2014
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)	Lauren Richards (Occupational Therapy)
Colin More (VP Academic)	Alphonse Ahola Ndem (Anthropology)	Willow White (English & Film Studies)	Dylan Breitkreutz (Oncology)
Monty Bal (VP Labour)	Michele DuVal (Bio Sci)	James White (History & Classics)	Manoj Parmar (Pharmacy & Pharm Sciences)
Susan Cake (VP External)	Patricia Leighton (Bio Sci)	Sumit Mandal (Human Ecology)	Norbert Kanyo (Phys Ed & Rec)
Megha Bajaj (VP Student Services)	Syed Daniyal Israr (Business MBA)	Madhurima Kumar (Internetworking)	Ruijia Wang (Physics)
Sarah Prescott (Speaker)	Dasha Smirnow (Business PhD)	Gooneshwaree Beesoon (Library & Information Sci)	Ruojng Zhou (Psychology)
Hamman Samuel (CRO)	Virginia Pimmett (Cell Biology)	Brian Rusk (Linguistics)	Rick VanManen (Religious Studies)
Richard Kanyo (DRO)	Elaheh Davari (Chem & Mat Eng)	Amir Nosrati (Math & Stats Sci)	Alison Murata (Renewable Resources)
Jude Kong (Councillor-at-Large)	Chad Iverson (Chemistry)	Ninad Mehta (Med Microbio & Immunology)	Angela Bentley (Res Econ & Enviro Sociology)
Owuraku Kusi-Ampofo (Councillor-at-Large)	Jeremy Wohland (Civ and Enviro Eng)	Axel Perez Trujillo (MLCS)	Kerry Rose (Secondary Education)
Kangyi Lou (Councillor-at-Large)	Candy Pang (Computing Sci)	Rebecca Ellis (Nursing)	Tasha Jayatunge (Sociology)
Saeed El Khair Nusri (Councillor-at-Large)	Amanda Radil (Ed Psych)		

GUESTS: None

Speaker Sarah Prescott in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call
1. **Roll Call of Council Members in Attendance**

Approval of Agenda
2. **Approval of the 08 December 2014 Consolidated Agenda**
Members had before them the 08 December 2014 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014.

Agenda approved by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Approval of Minutes
3. **Minutes**
   i. **Minutes from the 17 November 2014 GSA Council meeting**
Members had before them the 17 November 2014 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 28 November 2014. C More noted that the five individuals who abstained on the Motion to approve proposed

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revisions to GSA Policy, Officer Portfolios, were the five Directly-Elected Officers, and asked that the Minutes reflect their names: N Andrews, C More, M Bal, M Bajaj, and S Cake.

Amended 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 a number of Councillors: N Kanyo, Physical Education and Recreation, and J Peck, Library and Information Sciences.

   ii. **Farewell to Departing Councillors**
There were no Departing Councillors at this meeting.

Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business

5. **Student Success Centre Programming for Graduate Students**
C More introduced the guest. W Doughty spoke about the Student Success Centre and raised the following points:

The Student Success Centre (SSC) has a good working relationship with the GSA, who are in many ways the greatest promoters of SSC services. The SSC has three content areas - communication supports, learning supports, and writing supports. The SSC can take graduate students from start to finish, all the way through to the defense. Writing supports is the longest standing initiative, and helps graduates students to prepare grant applications, conduct literature searches, and assist with components of your dissertation. Graduate students can take courses independently or as part of a package; one-on-one consultations are also available. Learning supports have been mostly offered to undergraduates, but in the last two years have been developed for graduate students as well. Communication supports can help graduate students with presentations, defenses, and impromptu presentation skills. These supports are delivered through individual consultations.The individuals working at the SSC have graduate degrees, teaching experience (in and outside of North America), and TLEF training. Many of them teach at the University level. Graduate level workshops are for graduate students only. The maximum number of participants in a course is 25, but usually get around 16 people per workshop. They are considered safe spaces, where graduate students can talk about the challenges they are facing. The GSA has provided the SSC a lot of opportunities over the years to get out to events with graduate students, give presentations to groups, and talk directly to students. The GSA offers a subsidy for graduate students - there is a charge for the services, but the subsidy helps.

Following the presentation, Councillors had a number of questions:

A Nosrati asked what the workshop schedule is, and W Doughty responded that she had brought handouts of the Winter 2015 sessions. Some sessions are during the week, and some on the weekend. There are currently no evening session for graduate students. A Nosrati asked W Doughty to confirm that the services are not free and she did. A Nosrati asked if SSC offers mentorship throughout a semester, or just single workshops, and W Doughty responded that some students start with workshops and then come back for further individual consultations when they are addressing different things in their program. SSC also has an editing service that they will begin to promote more in 2015.

N Andrews asked about what help is available in the pre-defense stage, in terms of editing and proofreading. W Doughty responded that they can work with graduate students throughout their degree or just at certain stages. Her personal focus is on helping prepare for defense. N Andrews asked if SSC helps students prepare their dissertation for defense, or for help on comprehensive exams. W Doughty responded that they do not help with comprehensive exams and candidacy because they are meant to be an individual test. In regards to the defense and dissertation, they cannot rewrite the dissertation, or write the presentation, but they can help you work

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through the dynamics of how long to speak, what to focus on, what medium to use, and how to deal with difficult committee members.

O Kusi-Ampofo asked if SSC helps students with term papers and W Doughty answered yes. O Kusi-Ampofo suggested that SCC redefine the meaning of comprehensive since in some departments they are more like term papers. W Doughty responded that SSC works with all faculties and everything is contextual, and it is important that they know that context when working with graduate students.

D Smirnow asked if SSC is related to the Centre for Writers and W Doughty responded that they are not related at all but that they do work in partnership. SSC does not recommend Centre for Writers for graduate students as it is a peer review service; there are no fees to use Centre for Writers, so sometimes it is a consumer choice of where to go.

S Fenichel noted that CAPS also helps with job stuff, so there is overlap with SSC, and asked if SSC also helps with CVs. W Doughty replied that SSC and CAPS often work together, offer different aspects of help. They are working on new initiatives and parallel projects that will help students better.

S Cake noted that she had seen SSC fees rise over the three years she has been at the U of A. W Doughty responded that SSC has had to raise its fees because it is a cost-recovery program, and it has lost a lot of its base funding in the University budget cuts. Overall, the fees have remained quite reasonable. S Cake replied that it is important to note that the budget cuts affect graduate students in ways like this, even if it overall doesn't seem like they do.

D Smirnow asked if SSC can do presentations within departments and W Doughty replied that they will come if they are invited. C More asked if there is a cost for that, and W Doughty responded that it is considered marketing to make presentations. If it is a request for a workshop, there is a fee associated with that. SSC is doing a lot more around assessment and evaluation, collecting testimonials for the website. They would also welcome suggestions for if there are other things that graduate students think would be useful.

E Schoeck noted that she reads the graduate student reviews of the workshops and consultations, and that they are extraordinary. Graduate students appreciate the courses and get a lot out of them.

There were no further questions.

6. **Councillor Announcements**

C Iverson followed up on the seminars that CAPS was going to be offering to Chemistry graduate students. There were two seminars, on resume building and interview tips, and he would recommend the sessions, they were very useful. Everyone should encourage their departments to hold these sessions.

7. **Letter to GSA Council from the GSA Speaker, GSA CRO, and GSA President**

S Prescott, H Samuel, and N Andrews presented the item and the following points were raised in discussion:

H Samuel reminded Councillors that in November they were presented with a large package of various changes to elections process and other aspects of GSA Bylaw and Policy. Council also received some questions from I Odoom, the former CRO (responses to which had been distributed to Council on 05 December 2014). From those questions, the discussion at Council, and further suggestions received from Councillors after the November meeting, H Samuel got the sense that the package was too large to vote on comfortably and that Council wanted more background information.

H Samuel stated that the package was compiled after a lot of work from the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), and addressed many decades of changes without broader perspective. The GSA ERC will not rush the package, and will stay with the existing GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy for the 2015 General Election.

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However, the GSA ERC has determined that there are some issues that should absolutely be addressed before the next election cycle; five sets of proposed changes are before Council at this meeting, and more might come in the next couple months.

Councillors had a number of questions:

J Kong asked why, if the GSA ERC thinks something is not correct, they sticking to it? H Samuel responded that the GSA ERC thought it had brought good changes to Council in November, but ultimately Council has to decide and they felt the package was too big. Instead, the GSA ERC is prioritizing the proposals and will bring forward what is most important first and work on it slowly. They want to give Council the opportunity to understand the changes and rationale in smaller chunks. The crucial changes are being presented today, and other things will be changed later. D Smirnow asked H Samuel to clarify that the GSA ERC will continue to work on the other issues, and he confirmed that the other changes will come forward in the future.

O Kusi-Ampofo stated that the changes shouldn't be rushed just because elections are coming up, because there is already an existing law. Next year there will be another CRO and there might be other changes. H Samuel responded that the GSA ERC feels the package before Council today is manageable, and Council will decide on those. J Kong stated that the previous speaker said that we should keep going as is, but that H Samuel is saying that only elections should be changed. H Samuel stated that the GSA ERC intend to change things that effect elections. J Kong stated that he thinks Council should deal with the big package now. N Andrews responded that last month the package was too big and there were many questions and concerns, so have come back with a smaller package today. The changes will be small rather than sweeping; these small changes will make an impact because they are strategic. There will always be things missing that would be captured in the bigger package. J Kong asked if it is up to Council to decide if issues that affected previous elections need to be dealt with, and N Andrews responded that it is up to Council to decide if it moves ahead with the suggested changes or go back to the original policies. J Kong wanted to know who selects the certain issues that are being brought to Council, and N Andrews responded that the GSA ERC selected the specific items before Council. H Samuel added that the GSA ERC gave the large package to Council originally, and that this presentation is a subset of that. The first choices were based on things that have needed to be done for a while, and also based on Council feedback. There is no one filtering the items. Council has the original package on record for everything that was previously proposed. Now the smaller package is being presented.

There were no further questions.

8. **Nominating Committee: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy**
Councillors had before them an outline of issue, a cover letter, and the proposed changes to GSA Policy in triple column format, which had been previously distributed on 28 November 2014. M DuVal presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Nominating Committee, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately.

M DuVal stated that the proposed changes before Council had three main goals. First, they are intended to put a failsafe into GSA Bylaw and Policy for a situation when the CRO and DRO are both unable to perform duties, to ensure the role is always filled. Second, the Early Call for Talent and Training program has never been described in GSA Policy, so it has been added. And third, the role of the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC) Vice-Chair has evolved greatly since the GSA NoC was first formed. Therefore, it is proposed that the title of that position be changed to Administrative Chair, which better represents the role currently filled by the Vice-Chair, including almost daily contact with the GSA office on day-to-day committee work.

S Cake asked about the change to Section 1.b.i, where it reads that the President can select an Administrative Chair, and if he doesn't then the Council selects the Chair. M DuVal responded that this is so that Council has to

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elect that person to the role. S Cake stated that the rationale for the change is that there is a high turnover in the GSA NoC, and asked how that will be addressed. M DuVal responded that there is not currently a high turnover, but the intent is that if, for example, all members graduate at the same time, there will be a loss of institutional memory. The GSA NoC members learn a lot about the different committees, and the types of people best suited to fill different positions. If there is a loss of members, the President can put forward a name for Administrative Chair who has that knowledge and can restore memory. S Cake asked if the President is responsible for replenishing the GSA NoC and M Duval answered no.

C Iverson asked what the point is of having quorum as the Administrative chair plus one member, and M DuVal responded that it is for emergency situations where you need to pick someone to fill a seat but enough members are not available to vote. If under time pressure, quorum can be reduced to two. E Schoeck added that it has never been used. It was created when more in person meetings were expected, but the majority of the GSA NoC's work is done via email. C Iverson stated that the policy then does not reflect practice.

S Cake asked if the GSA NoC members should be neutral for elections, and whether that applied to referenda. She noted that, if so, language with respect to referenda needed to be added to the relevant sections.

Council then discussed the possibility of removing the emergency quorum allowance from the GSA NoC Policy . Council **AGREED** not to change the quorum section, but to add "under urgent circumstances" to the beginning of Section 4.a.i.

S Cake **MOVED** that language with respect to referenda be added to the relevant sections. C Iverson **SECONDED**.

N Andrews asked why language with respect to referenda was absent from the Policy, and E Schoeck replied that all the referendum pieces were removed from the proposal when these sections were separated from the larger package. There are other places in other Items where references to referenda are also needed. If Council would like, the referendum pieces can be added by the GSA ERC and reported back to Council. S Cake stated that she is happy to withdraw her motion if the pieces are added. H Samuel asked how the addition will affect other Items and Speaker responded that it does not. It can be voted on as is, or look at the whole package and return to Council in January. M DuVal stated that Council should vote on the changes, and then send it back to the GSA ERC to address the referenda issue. N Andrews stated that the Motion should move forward, and that the changes could be reported to Council when they are made. J Kong stated that he does not think Council should vote if changes are needed. Speaker asked S Cake if she wanted to proceed with the amendment and S Cake stated that she would withdraw her amendment. H Thaker stated that he thought E Schoeck's suggestion was to keep amendment on the floor, and that the GSA ERC would then report the changes back to Council at a later date for information. S Fenichel clarified that Council would be asked to vote for or against the motion, with the idea that Council will trust the GSA ERC to add language with respect to referenda where appropriate throughout the documents. S Fenichel stated that she thinks it is a good idea to have the GSA ERC do the changes. J Kong asked how Council could trust changes made after the vote. S Fenichel replied changes would be reported back. H Samuel asked if there was a motion to add the word 'urgent' and Speaker replied that that addition was a friendly amendment and did not need a Motion.

Based on discussion in Council, language with respect to referenda will be added to the relevant sections of the GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Nominating Committee, by the GSA ERC and reported to Council for information.

MOTION: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Nominating Committee, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately.

Motion PASSED. Two opposed. Two abstentions.

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9. **Elections and Referenda Committee: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy**

Councillors had before them an outline of issue, a cover letter, and the proposed changes to GSA Policy in triple column format, which had been previously distributed on 28 November 2014. H Samuel presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Elections and Referenda Committee, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately.

H Samuel noted that this proposal is specifically related to the composition of the GSA ERC and how it relates with the changes to the CRO portfolio (below). The CRO and DRO will not be voting members on the GSA ERC, and the CRO will no longer be Chair and the DRO will no longer be Vice-Chair. Instead, the GSA ERC members will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from amongst themselves. The GSA ERC membership will be increased to eight members, excluding CRO and DRO. The intent is for there to be a more collaborative committee, and the CRO will use the GSA ERC as a sounding board for important decisions. This has been done in practice in the past, but now it will be policy.

D Smirnow asked why membership would be increased to eight, and H Samuel stated that more heads are better. As well, with the removal of CRO and DRO as members, it reduces the number of people voting on decisions. Eight seemed like a good number, and since the Chair and Vice-Chair will be coming from among the members it gives them more options for that selection. D Smirnow stated that her concern is that when a group gets to big it can be hard to reach decisions. H Samuel responded that Council is doing a pretty good job of making decisions and it's a big group.

J Kong stated that he was not at the November meeting, and was wondering why the CRO and DRO do not want to be voting members. H Samuel replied that the GSA ERC makes the bylaws and policies on election processes, if CRO and DRO vote on them, there is no separation between making policy and implementing it. They would be voting on the policy that they are then responsible for enforcing it. CRO and DRO will only enforce policy, the GSA ERC will make the decisions on them. J Kong suggested that the CRO should still be allowed to vote, but that the membership should still be increased. Speaker stated that the suggestion goes against the motion at hand, and J Kong stated that he is against the motion as it stands; the person who comes up with a policy knows how to implement them well and the CRO should be part of the decision making process. H Samuel replied that that was taken into consideration when discussing the proposed changes, and noted that the CRO and DRO will still be part of the GSA ERC discussions and meetings, they just will not be voting - their input will still be heard.

S Cake requested that the vote on the motion be with the understanding that the GSA ERC will go through and ensure that language with respect to referenda is included in the appropriate places in the policy, per the changes to the GSA NoC Policy in Item 8.

Based on discussion in Council, language with respect to referenda will be added to the relevant sections of the GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Elections and Referenda Committee, by the GSA ERC and reported to Council for information.

MOTION: That the GSA Council APPROVE, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Elections and Referenda Committee, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately. H Samuel **MOVED**. V Pimmett **SECONDED**.

Motion PASSED. S Cake abstained.

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10. Chief Returning Officer: Proposed Revisions to GSA Policy

Councillors had before them an outline of issue, a cover letter, and the proposed changes to GSA Policy in triple column format, which had been previously distributed on 28 November and updated on 05 December 2014. H Samuel presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Officer Portfolios, Chief Returning Officer, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately.

H Samuel stated that some editorial changes had been made to this section since it was first distributed on 28 November 2014, and that the changes are highlighted in yellow in the package. The purpose of the proposal is to clarify what the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) does. Previously there was sparse wording around the role of the CRO; one of the outcomes of the GSA President's Task Force on GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy was the creation of a job description for the CRO. The changes list the different requirements for being CRO or DRO, and puts them into policy. It also addresses the issue of training for the CRO and DRO, and requires a written record of all complaints they receive during an election or referendum.

S Fenichel asked about the language in section 3.d about 'surrounding areas' - how far away from Edmonton is too far? There was a lot of discussion in the GSA Governance Committee about the CRO needing to be here, and this seems too ambiguous. H Samuel asked if S Fenichel had a proposed wording change. S Fenichel responded that something like "be able to be at the GSA within two hours" might be better, but then that seems too controlling. It might not need to be in there at all. H Samuel asked if she was proposing to strike "surrounding areas". V Pimmett suggested changing it to "the Edmonton metropolitan area". S Fenichel stated that she knows people who commute from Camrose or Jasper - does the GSA want that person to do this job? "The Greater Edmonton area" could work, but it's still ambiguous.

J Kong asked, in regards to the CRO receiving advice from the GSA ERC, if the CRO deems it necessary to suspend someone, and the GSA ERC says no, who makes the final decision. H Samuel replied that the final decision is still up to the CRO, but that the proposal is to ensure that the CRO is able to consult with the GSA ERC, which was not available to the CRO in the past. J Kong asked what will happen if they disagree, and H Samuel responded that the CRO is the final decision, there can be different opinions or conflicts, but it is important that the CRO be able to have multiple opinions and consider them. J Kong stated that it is not clear as currently written that the CRO is responsible for the final decision. H Samuel replied that this is just the officer portfolio for CRO; elsewhere it is stated that the CRO makes the decision, and that the wording here is that the CRO seeks advice from the GSA ERC. The duty and position of CRO is to oversee elections and make decisions, stating that they seek advice is clear enough to show that the GSA ERC provides advice not decisions.

M Bal asked, in terms of accountability, if the CRO gets advice and decides to go another route, is the CRO accountable to the GSA ERC, and H Samuel responded that the CRO is accountable to Council. M Bal asked if that means the CRO does not have to go back to the GSA ERC and state why they made a decision. H Samuel replied no, the CRO is only accountable to Council, this is just to include the GSA ERC in the decision making process. N Andrews added that this addition came from the GSA President's Task Force, where former CROs stated that it was not good to make decisions on their own and that they would have appreciated being able to consult for advice. In current Policy, the CRO does not have to consult with anyone, so the change is to provide a feedback option to the CRO. The CRO is responsible to Council, and can go against the advice of the GSA ERC, but ideally the CRO will listen and not make decisions by themselves.

C More asked, if the CRO is responsible to Council, what kind of teeth or censure options does Council have if they are displeased with the CRO. E Schoeck states that the CRO is expected to report to Council about what is happening, but that the question drives more to removal from office. C More stated that he knows the CRO can be removed, but is wondering if there is anything else Council can do - a slap on the wrist or overturn a decision. H

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Samuel stated that there is a separate appeals process for decisions that get reviewed by Speaker, not through Council. V Pimmett asked if C More means something like training modules for areas where the CRO is deficient. C More responded that training does not help once something is already done. V Pimmett agreed that there is something missing in between removing the CRO from office and doing nothing. Remedial training could be an in between ground. H Samuel asked if there was a range in what can happen for Directly-Elected Officers, or is it the same as in they can only be removed from office. It seems to be a broader issue for Council to address - that there is nothing between removal and doing nothing.

J Kong stated that he was not clear about the meaning of 'oversees elections' and the clarification around that. H Samuel stated that the CRO is to monitor what is going on in the voting process, and to make sure people are able to vote. Why the wording was not clear is that in one section it said 'oversees' and in another is said 'administers', and they are not the same thing. J Kong stated that he did not see a difference between them. H Samuel replied that the GSA ERC thought it was open to interpretation so wanted to clarify and use the same language in both places. The role has not been changed, the wording has just been strengthened and clarified.

S Cake asked about section 5.e.iii - the CRO has discretion over upholding Bylaws and Policies – does that mean the CRO gets to decide whether or not they uphold Bylaws and Policies. H Samuel agreed that it is not clear. V Pimmett stated that the intent is to give the CRO discretion over interpretation, not over whether or not the Bylaws and Policies are upheld. E Schoeck stated that V Pimmett is correct and that it should say "The CRO upholds..." and that 'discretion' should be removed. H Samuel accepted the change as a friendly amendment to the policy.

SD Israr asked, regarding the wording of 'as many members of the GSA ERC', if there is a minimum threshold for consultation for the CRO. H Samuel replied that the number is eight at the maximum, as that is the membership for the GSA ERC. Why it has 'as many members' is that it will depend on members' availability, and not everyone will be available when a decision needs to be made. Therefore, as many members as are available, the CRO will consult with them as soon as possible. E Schoeck stated for information that Council did not have before them the timelines for how fast the CRO has to make decisions and that it is down to hours, so this Policy leaves it so that it is as many members as can meet with the CRO as soon as possible. SD Israr asked if this means it could just be one member, and H Samuel responded that one member is still better than none and the CRO making decisions alone. The decision process has a very quick turnaround, and the CRO needs to make immediate decisions, but we also want to be able to consult, so this is the balance.

MOTION: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Officer Portfolios, Chief Returning Officer, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately. H Samuel **MOVED**. V Pimmett **SECONDED.**

<div align="right">

Motion PASSED. S Cake, J Kong and O Kusi-Ampofo abstained.

</div>

11. **Campaigning During Voting: Proposed Revision to GSA Policy**

Councillors had before them an outline of issue, a cover letter, and the proposed changes to GSA Policy in triple column format, which had been previously distributed on 28 November and updated on 05 December 2014. H Samuel presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Elections, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately.

H Samuel stated that currently, campaigning during voting is not allowed. The GSA ERC is proposing that it should be. Based on previous election experiences, no campaigning during voting is unenforceable and results in many breaches by candidates. It results in huge problems for the CRO. Many elections run with campaigning during voting, it is not a radical proposal.

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SD Israr stated that Council had discussed the issue of campaigning in unsafe spaces at the November Council meeting and asked if that had been resolved. H Samuel stated that the GSA ERC has been discussing it and has some solutions. The GSA ERC will be meeting with U of A safety officials to discuss restricted spaces and safety, about swipe-card access spaces, and restricted labs. The GSA ERC is also considering transparency for all candidates - to have them list where they have access and to attempt to get access to the same spaces for all other candidates. SD Israr asked if it is the GSA's responsibility to make sure access is given to all candidates. H Samuel replied that the GSA does not have this authority, and cannot get access for everyone, everywhere. The GSA also can't know where everyone is all the time. It's not enforceable. Speaker noted that this issue is not in the proposal before Council, and H Samuel replied that it is related. SD Israr asked if there is no way for the CRO to know, can complaints be brought forward. H Samuel replied that the CRO relies on complaints to know what is going on, in the same manner that the CRO relies on complaints to know that there is campaigning during voting. The main issue is that GSA Elections cannot supersede U of A authority.

M Bal asked how candidates not disclosing spaces will be policed. H Samuel stated that this has not yet been decided; the GSA ERC is having discussions, and policing is the biggest problem. If we decide that we will police, then we will have to follow through on that. M Bal stated that if the GSA ERC does decide to police, the CRO might receive a lot of complaints; how will they be dealt with? H Samuel stated that presently, the policy is silent on restricted spaces. The GSA ERC wants to work with the University on how it can be dealt with, and they want it to be fair for all candidates.

H Thaker asked, with the proposal to expand the GSA ERC to eight members, if polling stations might be possible, and H Samuel responded that the idea of polling stations is to increase voter turnout, but there are decisions to be made around campaigning around stations, and the GSA ERC needs more time to discuss it.

S Cake stated that when polling stations were in the proposal, candidates could not campaign around polling stations. However, it does not seem like that concern has been acknowledged in the discussion about campaigning during voting. N Andrews stated that there is nothing in the proposal about polling stations. H Samuel stated that the GSA ERC does not want to rush into the idea because they might decide polling stations are not the best way to increase voter turnout. S Cake asked how H Samuel intended to deal with more aggressive campaign styles during voting; when does campaigning turn into harassing or bribing? H Samuel replied that the CRO will be actively monitoring the elections, and it is up to the voters to bring these issues to the CRO. S Cake stated that she is concerned that the proposal exchanges one unenforceable thing to another, and asked who will judge what is acceptable behaviour from a candidate. H Samuel stated that the GSA ERC looked at statistics for how often there is coercion for voting during elections, and that it has a very low rate of occurrence. It's more a hypothetical than a practical issue. A Nosrati asked if H Samuel intended to inform voters of their rights to report candidates' behaviours prior to the elections. H Samuel stated that it is a good suggestions to let voters know their rights. V Pimmett suggested including a sentence about candidates and voting practices in the instructions, and make it clear how to contact the CRO.

A Murata asked for clarification on how campaigning is defined - do candidates have to take down posters, or are they not allowed to approach graduate students to vote? H Samuel replied that the current process is that once campaigning ends, candidates cannot ask anyone to vote for them in any manner; they can only encourage people to vote. A Murata asked if that extends to Facebook posts and H Samuel responded that in those instances the timestamp would indicate if it had occurred before or after the end of campaigning. Facebook is an issue, since things stay up, but posters have to be removed.

There were no further questions.

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MOTION: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Elections, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately. H Samuel **MOVED**. V Pimmett **SECONDED.**

Motion PASSED. Seven opposed. Two abstentions.

12. **Provisional Election Results and Deadline to Lodge an Alleged Breach with the CRO: Proposed Revision to GSA Policy**

Councillors had before them an outline of issue, a cover letter, and the proposed changes to GSA Policy in triple column format, which had been previously distributed on 28 November and updated on 05 December, 2014. H Samuel presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Elections, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately.

H Samuel stated that this proposal includes the addition of provisional results; in the previous round of changes, unofficial results were removed and only official results were present in the policy. The GSA ERC proposes to release provisional results, followed by a 24-hour period for complaints to be made to the CRO regarding elections. For those positions where complaints are lodged, the official results will be held until the complaint is resolved. If there are no complaints after 24 hours, the official results will be released. This deals with there being complaints against official results and those results having to be changed; provisional results lets us deal with complaints and resolve issues first. There was previously no deadline for complaints, and we propose that the deadline be 24 hours after provisional results are released. We considered holding all results until complaints are resolved, but we felt this is a better option.

O Kusi-Ampofo stated that he does not understand the difference between provisional and official results. If provisional results are released, they can be changed? If someone is dissatisfied with a complaint, it goes to a higher body and takes more than 24 hours to be resolved. H Samuel stated that provisional doesn't mean they are not official; instead it is providing time for complaints to be lodged. The inclusion of provisional results was recommend by the GSA lawyers.

N Andrews asked that if there is an error with the computer software, if the results might change between provisional and official results, and if an election might be re-run. H Samuel responded that the outcome of an election may be reviewed and lead to a second vote.

O Kusi-Ampofo asked if the appeal system, to move from the CRO to the Speaker when a decision has been made, was still intact, and H Samuel replied that yes, the appeal system is intact. The proposal before Council deals with provisional and official results, not the appeal and complaint process. S Cake stated that under the current appeals process, if someone does not appeal before the results are released they go to the Speaker, if new information is brought back, it goes back to the CRO. Should a person wait to file a second complaint until the original complaint is finished? H Samuel responded that any new complaints should be filed during the 24-hour period. S Cake asked at what point does the 24 hours stop and H Samuel responded that it ends 24 hours after the provisional results are released, and S Cake clarified that the decision process can take longer than 24 hours. H Samuel agreed, and stated that the proposal is so that a complaint cannot be raised months after the fact, since currently there is no deadline for complaints; the actual process of appeals and complaints is not being addressed in this proposal. S Cake asked what the CRO would tell a candidate waiting for a decision or appeal if they have new information. H Samuel stated that if the new information is related it should be brought up to CRO or Speaker; if it is different then it should be a new complaint. S Cake stated that she thinks it might be messy. H Samuel stated that the appeal process is not under consideration here, just the idea that provisional results be released, with a deadline for complaints, and then official results be released after that deadline, or after any complaints and/or appeals are

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resolved. J Kong asked to clarify that the timeline that people have to appeal is not affected by the 24-hour period and H Samuel responded that if there is an appeal before provisional results are released, it has its own timeline. Once the provisional results are released, all candidates have 24 hours to make any complaints. After that time, no new complaints can be lodged, but ongoing complaints and appeals continue until they are resolved.

MOTION: That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Elections, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately. H Samuel **MOVED**. C Iverson **SECONDED.**

Motion PASSED. Three abstentions.

13. **Elections: Ratification of Graduate Student Representative on the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Dean Review Committee**

Councillors had before them the nominee for the graduate student representative on the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Dean Review Committee, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. M DuVal presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RATIFY** Jennifer Crawford (PhD Program, Physical Education and Recreation) as the graduate student representative on the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Dean Review Committee.

M DuVal stated that the process for placing a graduate representative on the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Dean Review Committee states that the local GSA elects a student and GSA Council ratifies the candidate for the committee.

C Iverson asked how the candidate was selected. M DuVal stated that the local GSA selected the student using their own processes and forwarded the name to the GSA. E Schoeck elaborated that the University requires that the local GSA use their own process for the election; the GSA was not involved in the election for the student who was forwarded, they used their own internal process.

There were no further questions.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RATIFY** Jennifer Crawford (PhD Program, Physical Education and Recreation) as the graduate student representative on the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Dean Review Committee. **M DuVal MOVED. S Fenichel Seconded.**

Motion PASSED. One abstention.

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

Reports
12. **President**
    i. **President's Report:**

Members had before them a written report from the GSA President, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The reports stood as submitted. In addition, N Andrews stated that one specific item on the GSA Board 2014-2015 Strategic Work Plan is Professional Development (PD). N Andrews and the Vice-Presidents have started planning a PD event for early 2015 where individuals will be present to speak with graduate students about how they got into the careers they are in right now. They are trying to invite people from all different areas, including government and not-for-profits.

N Andrews stated that they had heard from the Dean of FGSR that the graduate reform package is almost ready to be made public. It has been toned down a lot from what we had been hearing over the last year. From what the

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GSA has heard, it is very basic and will not negatively impact graduate students. The package apparently addresses how progress in a program is tracked, attaining milestones, and a tracking system for supervisor meetings, but N Andrews has not seen the package so cannot provide details. The document will be shared with Council as soon as possible.

There were no questions.

ii.   GSA Board
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The report stood as submitted.

iii.   Budget and Finance Committee
No meetings this reporting period. The Agenda noted that the committee would be meeting on 09 December 2014.

iv.   Governance Committee
No meetings this reporting period.

a) Nominating Committee
i.   Nominating Committee Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The report stood as submitted.

14. Vice-President Academic
i.   Vice-President Academic's Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C More stated that he would be attending a meeting of the FGSR Professional Development Advisory Board the following day, which brings together the three working groups on PD strategy to develop the final action plan on a PD program for graduate students at the U of A. There had been rumors about a $4 million pot of money in Campus Alberta for PD, but the new rumor is that money is no longer available. C More will update Council as he learns more.

There were no questions.

15. Vice-President Student Services
i.   Vice-President Student Services' Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Bajaj stated that the PAW Strategic Operating Committee met for the first time two weeks ago. The committee oversees operations and programming in PAW. The most important thing is booking spaces for student groups and events, which will be discussed further at the next meeting in January and more information will be brought back to Council after that meeting. M Bajaj also stated that the GSA is working with Student Group Services to support departmental GSAs in registration and that E Schoeck will speak more to that item in her report.

Councillors had a number of questions. H Thaker asked about how signage on the PAW building was being done, and M Bajaj replied that there will be signage inside to let people know that the Athletics and Recreation Fee and the PAW Fee pay for the facilities and spaces. In regards to exterior and way finding signage, the committee discussed a few things, and overall the U of A needs to consult with the GSA and SU before putting up outside signage.

S Nusri asked what kinds of spaces will be available for booking and M Bajaj replied that there will be the GSA and SU lounge, as well as multipurpose spaces on the first floor of PAW available for booking. S Nusri asked if groups

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could hold events in those spaces, and M Bajaj replied that yes, they would be able to hold academic and social events in the spaces.

N Andrews stated that the current GSA and SU lounges are not empty spaces - they are always packed with undergraduates. S Nusri asked if the spaces were currently unfurnished, and M Bajaj stated that they are furnished now and students are using the spaces to study and hang out. If a group wants to hold an event, they will go through the booking process and be able to use the space. The details of that process will be discussed in the January PAW SOC meeting.

S Fenichel asked if only registered groups can use the spaces, or can an individual book them for an event. M Bajaj replied that she believes it needs to be a group. S Fenichel asked if the group had to be registered, and M Bajaj stated that she did not know and that it will be discussed in January.

J Kong asked if there is a cost associated with using the space and M Bajaj replied that students are paying the PAW fee beginning in January, but that there will not be an extra fee for booking spaces.

There were no further questions.

ii. Student Affairs Advisory Committee (joint chair: Vice-President External)
No meetings this reporting period.

16. Vice-President External
i. Vice-President External's Report
Members had before them a written report from the Vice-President External, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The report stood as submitted. In addition S Cake stated that the U of C GSA referendum to join ab-GPAC had passed, and the group is in the process of finalizing the governing documents and submitting an application to form under the *Societies Act*. S Cake also reminded Council that the Alumni Council is looking for volunteers for Winter Fest.

There were no questions.

ii. Awards Selection Committee
Members had before them a written report from the Vice-President External, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The report stood as submitted, and in addition S Cake congratulated all the award nominees. S Cake also stated that the GSA Awards are now open and applications are due on 14 January 2015.

There were no questions.

17. Vice-President Labour
i. Vice-President Labour's Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The report stood as submitted. In addition M Bal stated that his report indicated that funding for the Sexual Assault Centre had been cut at the provincial level, but what had actually happened is that the money flows through the U of A and they have changed how they distribute that money. The amount going to the Sexual Assault Centre has decreased, but it may not be because of provincial funding. Instead, it is because of the internal processes of how money is allocation. S Cake has asked about this issue at the provincial level, because the GSA deems it to be an essential service.

M Bal MOVED to go into CLOSED SESSION. H Samuel Seconded.

Motion PASSED.

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M Bal MOVED to leave CLOSED SESSION. H Samuel Seconded.

Motion PASSED.

There were no questions.

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.

18. Senator
i. Senator's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The report stood as submitted. G Barron was absent from the meeting, and will report further orally in January 2015.

19. Speaker
i. Speaker's Report

No written report was required at this time.

20. Chief Returning Officer
i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

No written report was required at this time. In addition, H Samuel highlighted that the GSA ERC had met twice since the last meeting of Council. H Samuel also asked what Council thought of the new cross light saber in the new Star Wars trailer. M Bal stated that it is not practical, and C More countered that it seems completely practical.

There were no questions.

ii. Elections and Referenda Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The report stood as submitted.

21. GSA Management
i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 05 December 2014. The report stood as submitted and, in addition, ED E Schoeck stated that the office has started looking at student groups and getting out into departments. Many times, Councillors are the GSA only contact with departments, and so the GSA may depend on you to help with certain things. Please send emails regarding student group registration experiences to gsa.reception@ualberta.ca; we have heard from groups that have problems, and from some that haven' had any problems - we would like to hear about everyone experiences with Student Group Services.

There has also been a huge increase in Faculties asking us to run elections for faculty councils, dean and chair review committees. We want you to know that we can offer this service, and we are going to also be ramping up letting the Faculties know that this is available as well. We will be ramping up our Departmental Liaison program again in the spring, and are hoping to fill a vacancy in the office in April to help with that specifically.

Following the presentation there were two questions. S Nusri asked if Councillors were being asked to send in experiences related to graduate groups and E Shoeck replied yes. A Radil stated that Student Group Services had undergone some employment changes in the last three months and that the process now seems slower than it was before. E Schoeck stated that there had been new rules implemented and C Thomas added that there had been some staff turnover and a maternity leave that are affecting the staffing at Student Group Services. E Schoeck

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added that the office is currently helping Secondary Education register as a group and is using it as a case study to train GSA staff and to development some template materials to help other groups.

There were no further questions.

<u>**Question Period**</u>
22. Written Questions
No written questions were received prior to the meeting.

23. Oral Questions
There were no questions.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

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<u>Outline of Issue</u> **(GSA Council)**

Elections: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

GSA Council is asked to consider the following Motion:

> That the GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Elections, as contained in the attached triple-column document, effective immediately.

Background:

Details on the proposed revisions can be found in the 'Rationale/Background' column of the attached triple-column document (page 10.1).

At its meeting of January 15, 2015, the GSA Elections and Referenda committee discussed the proposed change to Elections Policy to **extend the amount of time given to the Chief Returning Officer to reach a decision on alleged breaches and for the Speaker to reach a decision on appeals to seventy-two (72) hours.** The GSA ERC voted unanimously to **recommend** to GSA Council the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Elections, as contained in the attached triple column document effective upon approval by GSA Council.

The proposed revisions are before Council at its meeting of January 15, 2015, as the Elections Policy must be included on the nomination forms when the Nomination Period for the 2015 GSA General Election opens on February 2, 2015, and a decision on whether or not to extend the amount of time must be made before that time.

GSA Council members will note that they originally received this proposal, as part of the "Elections and Judicial" package at the meeting of November 17, 2014. Subsequently, **the GSA ERC met on November 20 and 28, and December 16, 2014, and January 15, 2015, to discuss the feedback received from GSA Council and amend parts of the "Elections and Judicial" package. The proposed changes were circulated to the GSA Board for information via email on January 15, 2015.**

Jurisdiction:

<u>GSA Bylaw, Part I, Section 2.2</u>
"*The GSA Policy Manual is under the jurisdiction of Council (Part III) and may be amended by a simple majority vote of Council at any meeting of Council.*"

<u>GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 9.3.c</u>
"*The GSA ERC will review GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaws and Policies annually and make any recommendations to GSA Council through the GSA Board.*"

Timelines for the CRO and Speaker to Reach Decisions on Alleged Breaches and Appeals: Proposed Changes to Policy

Current Policy	Proposed Changes	Rationale
7. CRO's Decision on Penalties, Remedial Action, and Referrals		
7.1 When the CRO becomes aware of an issue or breach of GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy, or other applicable policies or laws, or a third party complains to the CRO about an alleged issue or breach of GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy, the CRO shall:	*No change.*	
7.1.a ~~Forthwith email the candidate(s) or slate(s) setting out details of the issue/breach, ask for a written response within eight (8) hours, and consider that response.~~	7.1.a The CRO will aim to reach a decision on alleged breaches within seventy-two (72) hours.	*This proposal allows for possible informal resolution before leaping into a formal process involving a written response. This proposal also gives the CRO more time to reach a decision in complex cases requiring investigation/witnesses.*
7.1.b ~~Inform~~ the candidate(s) or slate(s) of his/her decision on penalty, remedial actions, or referrals, his/her reasons for the decision, and shall state whether the candidate(s) or slate(s) can still campaign. ~~The CRO has up to twenty-four (24) hours to make this decision.~~	7.1.b Upon reaching a decision the CRO will inform…	*See above rationale re timing.*
9.4 Appeals Process		
9.4.a …	*No change.*	
9.4.a.i …	*No change.*	
9.4.a.ii Once a candidate(s) or slate(s) receives a decision on penalties, remedial action, and or/referrals from the CRO, the deadline for the Speaker to RECEIVE an appeal is twelve (12) hours from the receipt of the decision. Any appeal shall be in writing and shall address all matters raised in the CRO's email concerning the alleged issue/breach. The CRO and Executive Director shall be copied. ~~The Speaker has up to twenty-four (24) hours to decide on the appeal~~ and may exercise his/her discretion in all matters in arriving at a decision. The Speaker shall ensure both parties to the appeal are heard, and shall consult with the Executive Director or delegate on process. The Speaker's decision shall be communicated by email to both parties and the decision is final and binding.	The Speaker will aim to reach a decision on the appeal within seventy-two (72) hours …	*The experience of dealing with hourly deadlines in 2014 caused multiple deadlines to occur in the middle of the night. In addition, during the appeal of the CRO's decision last year, every hourly deadline was extended on the advice of the GSA's lawyers, who support this change in GSA Policy.*

The full Policy can be seen here : http://www.gsa.ualberta.ca/en/~/media/gsa/GoverningDocuments/GSAPolicyManual.pdf, beginning on page 21.

GSA Council 19 January 2015
GSA Board 2014-2015 Strategic Work Plan: Update

Dear GSA Council,

As continuing members will recall, **the GSA Council received the GSA Board 2014-2015 Strategic Work Plan (SWP) at its meeting of June 16, 2014**. GSA Council then received an **update concerning the GSA's progress thus far in pursuing the strategic goals outlined in the SWP. I now offer you a second update.** While a final update will follow in April, I encourage you to ask questions about the status of SWP goals at any time.

As a reminder, the SWP is available online for your review at http://www.gsa.ualberta.ca/03SWP.aspx. It was prepared by me along with the GSA Vice-Presidents to direct our efforts and identify areas where we can work with others in the University community. The current SWP builds upon the 2013-2014 SWP, which ensures continuity in terms of strategic goals, planning, and advocacy.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
The FGSR professional development working groups continue to meet, and the GSA remains active in those groups, with Vice-President Academic Colin More and Vice-President External Susan Cake leading the team on professional development issues. **In February, the GSA will host a professional development event where interested graduate students will be able to connect and network with a range of working professionals in government, industry, and the non-profit sector**. The entire team of DEOs is working closely and collaboratively on the planning of this event and we are very excited to be hosting it.

SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Vice-President Student Services Megha Bajaj and Vice-President Labour Monty Bal continue to work on the issue of **Permanent Residence (PR) application assistance at the U of A**. As you may recall, they met with Vice-President (International) Britta Baron in August to discuss the issue. From that meeting, we learned that **the proposal for PR application assistance includes initial consultations regarding under which PR stream to apply, group sessions about PR application, and the ability to have an immigration consultant review a PR application before it is submitted.** The application assistance services are proposed to be **available at a subsidized, pay-per-use cost**. The proposal is currently under review by the U of A legal counsel and we plan to meet again in January to review its status. Furthermore, **the GSA Board met with Britta Baron and Doug Weir (Executive Director, Student Programming and Services, UAI) in the fall to discuss services for international students more broadly**. We will continue to engage in this important dialogue and meet with UAI about PR as the proposal evolves.

DEPARTMENT LIAISON INITIATIVE (DLI) AND DEPARTMENTAL GSAs
In August, the GSA moved forward with the next stage of the Departmental Liaison Initiative (DLI). Vice-President Student Services Megha Bajaj and I sent letters to a number of departmental GSAs, **asking for the opportunity to come to their departments, and speak with graduate students about their concerns and priorities**. We have had the opportunity to meet with one department, and are working to contact and arrange meetings with others. **It is our goal to have meetings with every departmental GSA on campus, to hear directly from graduate students, and to strengthen the connection between graduate students and the GSA**. We have also **ramped up our work with respect to departmental GSAs**, as you have heard at past Council meetings. We are **working with Student Group Services to streamline the registration process for departmental GSAs** and will continue to move forward on this issue.

GSA INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVOCACY
As you know, Vice-President External Susan Cake and I are close to **finalizing the creation of the new provincial advocacy group with the three other Alberta CARI GSAs. We have regular teleconference meetings with the representatives of these other groups and are in the process of identifying our common advocacy goals. Additionally, we continue to work with the GU15 graduate student group.** In the fall, **Vice-President Student Services Megha Bajaj attended a meeting of the Conference Board of Canada and Vice-President Academic Colin More attended a meeting of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies**. The dialogues engaged in at both of these venues were fascinating and enlightening and they offered forums for information sharing that we found very valuable.

www.gsa.ualberta.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Room 1-37, Killam Centre for Advanced Studies
Triffo Hall, University of Alberta
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MENTAL HEALTH
Vice-President Labour Monty Bal continues to be an active participant in an array of discussions on mental health that are happening on campus and this is a priority for the GSA. As he reported to you in Council, **the University is planning several major initiatives with respect to mental health and Monty will ensure that the graduate student voice is present in those initiatives**. Council will be regularly updated on the GSA's engagement with this issue.

SUSTAINED AND ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN PSE TUITION, FEES, AND FUNDING DISCUSSIONS
Vice-President External Susan Cake has been representing graduate students across Alberta on a **number of committees organized by the Alberta Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education**. As part of this work, Susan has reached out to the other Alberta CARI GSAs to receive input and examples to take back to the committees, and meets with representatives from the Council of Alberta Undergraduate Students (CAUS) and the Alberta Student Executive Council (ASEC) to **ensure that student voices are consistently represented at the table. As you heard when the Provost and Vice-President Academic and the Vice-President Finance and Administration presented to Council, tuition will be increasing by Alberta CPI (2.2%) in the coming year.** The GSA will remain engaged in all discussions related to tuition, market modifiers, and mandatory non-instructional fees.

PRAYER AND MEDITATION SPACE
As Council has heard, we are working with various stakeholders to **renovate the designated HUB mall space into a Prayer and Meditation Space to accommodate students of all religions**. **We have had numerous meetings related to this issue and know the design and estimated cost**. Next we will focus on funding discussions.

PAW CENTRE
I would like to again remind Councillors that the Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre (and the Graduate Student Lounge) are now open! As Vice-President Student Services Megha Bajaj has reported to Council previously, the grand opening is slated for March 2015. The GSA is excited about the Graduate Student Lounge that is now open in the PAW Centre for graduate student drop-in use, graduate student group bookings, and for social engagement events hosted by the GSA. We hope to be able to arrange for some tours of the Lounge space for interested graduate student groups who may want to book the space for events, meetings, etc. I also want to draw to Councillors' attention that graduate students will begin to see the PAW Centre fee on their tuition and fee assessments starting in January 2015.

LONG-TERM HEALTH OF THE ORGANIZATION
As continuing Councillors will know, and new Councillors will come to know, **the GSA has undergone a complete rebuild since 2010 and is in its final stages. I am happy to report that the GSA's organizational health is excellent.** The Financial Team (ED Ellen Schoeck (team leader), Director of Operations Heather Hogg, Financial Manager Dorte Sheikh, and Accountant Shirley Ball) have been hard at work preparing the 2015-2016 GSA Budget and Five-Year Rolling Plan. I am happy to report that we will be presenting a balanced budget to Council in February. Councillors will remember that following on Council approval, **we signed a new five-year agreement with Studentcare to act as the broker and administrator of the GSA Health and Dental Plan**. Signing a five-year agreement allows both the GSA and Studentcare to focus our time on supporting and improving the GSA Health and Dental Plan for graduate students. As well, **our five-year photocopier lease, which has been discussed many times in Council, expires in March**. We have been working hard to **secure as many quotes as possible** while we consider our options for replacing the photocopiers, and I am pleased to report that **whichever option we choose, we will be saving money compared to our current lease.**

As the GSA continues to evolve, **Executive Director Ellen Schoeck and her management team have reassessed our staffing needs** to ensure optimal support for the initiatives outlined in the Board SWP (for example, we created a position that will focus (in part) on **graduate student group support**). **The GSA brought in two external consultants over the summer to review our human resources (particularly the collective agreement that governs GSA staff) and communications. Over the winter we had an external IT professional review our IT operations and an external consultant is now reviewing our governance and business operations. We feel the GSA is at a stage in its evolution as an organization where such reviews are beneficial as we move forward with new**

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initiatives. We continue to work on the comprehensive review and restructuring of GSA Bylaw and Policy that began in 2010 (joining bylaw and policy together is a top priority), with the most recent changes being those approved by Council in December. A major re-haul of bylaw and policy with respect to GSA elections remains ongoing. Our lawyers have reviewed portions of our bylaws and policies and agree that they consist of decades of accretion of repetitive (and sometimes conflicting) statements and are in need of review.

The next four months at the U of A will prove to be interesting, with the new President on campus and a search underway for a new Provost. We are positive that despite the changes in University administration, we will be able to complete several of the outstanding objectives in the GSA Board 2014-2015 Strategic Work Plan. I look forward to reporting these successes to you in our final report on the SWP in April.

Sincerely,

Nathan Andrews, GSA President 2014-2015

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The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta

GSA Board 2014 - 2015 Strategic Work Plan Progress

	Complete For Our Term with Ongoing Attention	In Process of Implementation	Stakeholder Buy-In & Engagement	Stakeholder Consultation & Coordination
Increased Funding for the GSSF	✓			
PAW Centre - Graduate Student Lounge	✓			
Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision		✓		
Connecting with Graduate Student Groups (Department Liaison Initiative)		✓		
Sustained and Active Engagement in PSE Tuition, Fees and Funding Disucssions		✓		
Effective Advocacy to the Government of Alberta and BoG		✓		
Professional Development Opportunities for Graduate Students		✓		
Increased Funding for Graduate Students		✓		
Connecting with Graduate Students through Social Engagement		✓		
Permanent Residence Assistance and Improved Services for International Graduate Students		✓		
Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Space		✓		
Collective Agreement Education and Compliance			✓	

GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE NOMINEES

List of Nominees and Call for Additional Nominations Previously Distributed to Council on January 13, 2015; Advertisements for four positions on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Distributed through the GSA Newsletter on December 12, 2014 and on December 16, 2014

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 members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.

Newly-elected GSA Members on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee:
1. **Jean-Philippe Crête (Sociology)**
2. **Justin Leifso (Political Sciences)**
3. **Axel Perez Trujillo (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies)**
4. **Karen Pheasant (Educational Policy Studies)**

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 January 16, 2015. The nominees presented in this report are therefore declared **elected.**

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elections and Referenda Committee Member Eligibility from GSA Policy (Standing Committees, Section 9.2.a):
"All members of the GSA are eligible to serve on the GSA ERC unless they intend to run in the GSA General Election or By-Election, or they have run in the previous General Election or By-Election. If standing for election to the GSA ERC, ERC candidates agree not to campaign for or endorse any individual running in the GSA General Election or By-Election. GSA ERC members must also be neutral and impartial (eg having no immediate or vested interest in the outcome of GSA Elections and Referenda)."

GSA President
Report to Council for January 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Nathan Andrews
Date: January 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Welcome back, everyone! I hope you all had a delightful and, of course, restful holiday. I took advantage of the break to travel to Abbotsford, our good-old Calgary, and then to Singapore for an academic conference. As a result, I don't have much to report in terms of outcome from meetings attended. But I have a few updates.

First, as some of you may already know, **the five market modifier proposals submitted to the government by the U of A were all approved.** MBA fees will increase by 42% once implementation is fully completed by 2018-2019, and MSc in Physical Therapy fees will go up by 8% by 2016-2017. The other programs are BA (Economics), BSc (Pharmacy), and JD (Law). Overall 25 proposals were approved across Alberta's post-secondary institutions.[1] While student leaders in these respective programs supported the proposals, this is an issue of concern for the GSA as we continue to advocate for sustainable funding for post-secondary education. We are also concerned that additional fees collected from graduate students are not being used to increase supports for them. Susan will report further on this issue in her report to you.

The formation of the **Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)** is still underway but we're almost there. The documents have now been finalized and are getting signed by the respective GSAs for onward submission. It's not certain when everything will be done but I would like to be modest and say that at least by the end of our term (ie April), the group will have been legally formed.

As I announced in my report last month, we are planning a **Winter Career & Networking Mixer** to align with our SWP goal of exploring different professional development opportunities for graduate students. The office is very busy making preparations and we currently have a fine list of professionals from diverse fields who have signed up to attend. The event is scheduled to occur on **Thursday, February 12, 2015,** from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Lister Centre (Maple Leaf Room). I encourage you to book the date in your calendar and encourage your friends/colleagues to come as well. Watch for an invitation in the GSA Newsletter next Friday!

Besides these three 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

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[1] You can see the details of the government announcement here: http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=3754380CEB670-DCC4-E09D-3C20ADA721FB7A4E.

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 9, 2014 to January 18, 2015. I was on personal leave from December 18 to December 19, 2014 and at an International Conference from January 6 to January 13, 2015.

December 9	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
December 9	U of A President's Holiday Party
December 10	Board of Governors (BoG)
December 10	Board of Governors (Special Meeting)
December 11	International Fee Differential
December 12	Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
December 12	Alumni Relations Strategy
December 12	Associate Vice-President Alumni Relations, Sean Price, Farewell Reception
December 16	Dean of Students
December 12	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee/Mandatory non-instructional Fees Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC/ MBAC)
January 15	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) Review
January 15	Student Participation Handbook Process Edits
January 16	Coalition Meeting

GSA Board
Report to Council for January 19, 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: January 16, 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.

10 December 2014 GSA Board Meeting
Main Agenda Item:
Alberta Student Leadership Summit: Request for Sponsorship; GSA President's Citation: 2015 Proposed Recipient

Motions and Agreements:
That the GSA Board **APPROVE** an external grant for the Alberta Student Leadership Summit, as requested by Jane Lee, Senior Manager - Student Services, University of Alberta Students' Union, in the attached proposal on pages 3.1 - 3.6. CM **MOVED**. MoB Seconded. **DENIED**. SC Abstained.

That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the awarding of a GSA President's Citation to Sean Price, Associate Vice-President Alumni Relations/Executive Director Alumni Association. CM **MOVED**. SC Seconded. **CARRIED**.

That the GSA Board, as "the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by Council" (GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 2.2.a), permit the GSA ERC to use the quorum previously approved for the committee by GSA Council until additional members can be elected to the GSA ERC at the January 19, 2015 meeting of GSA Council. CM **MOVED**. MoB Seconded. 2 votes for and 1 vote against. **CARRIED.**

17 December 2014 GSA Board Meeting
Main Agenda Items:
Brainstorming of 3-4 Problems Caused by Provincial Funding Cuts to PSE: Action Arising from S Cake's Public Interest Alberta Meeting Report

Motions and Agreements:
None at this time.

07 January 2015 GSA Board Meeting
Meeting cancelled due to no pressing action items on the Agenda.

14 January 2015 GSA Board Meeting
Main Agenda Items:
Media, Social Media, Visual Identity, and Citations and Other Honorifics: GSA Presence - Proposed Revisions to GSA Board Policy; SmartFare Funding Letter: Support Requested from the GSA; Actual Expenses for Attendance at the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Annual Conference, October 26-30, 2014, St John's, NFLD: External Relations Travel Expenses

Motions and Agreements:
That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the proposed revisions to the GSA Board Policy "**Media, Social Media, Visual Identity, and Citations and Other Honorifics: GSA Presence**" as presented in the attached tracked changes document, **effective immediately**. NA **MOVED** CM Seconded. **CARRIED**

That the GSA Board **SUPPORT** the letter to the Minister of Transportation requesting funding for the Edmonton Capital Region transit SmartFare project pending the addition of a specific "ask." MeB **MOVED.** SC Seconded. **CARRIED.**

Board Members **AGREED** to post the summary of actual expenses incurred through attendance at the "Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Annual Conference, October 26-30, 2014, St John's, NFLD" on the GSA website.

GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
Report to Council for January 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Nathan Andrews
Date: January 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The **GSA BFC met on December 9, 2014 to review and advise upon** the Annual Operating and Capital Five-Year Budget/Business Plan (2015-2016 to 2019-2020) and Restricted and Other Funding Five-Year Budget/Business Plan (2015-2016 to 2019-2020). At this meeting **the GSA BFC unanimously recommended the Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2015-2016) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2015-2016)** to Council.

The GSA BFC will be meeting again on January 20 to review and receive for information the GSA 2014-2015 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report.

The GSA Board and GSA BFC will soon meet jointly to further review the GSA's Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2015-2016) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2015-2016). **The budget and quarterly financial report will be presented to GSA Council at its meeting of February 24, 2015.**

I would be happy to report further orally.

Respectfully,
Nathan Andrews, GSA President and Chair of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee

GSA Governance Committee (GC)
Report to Council for January 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Nathan Andrews
Date: January 15, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Governance Committee approved, via email on January 15, 2015, a Motion to make **two editorial revisions to GSA Policy relating to GSA Awards and the GSA's Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures**.

The changes included adding a short section to the GSA Policy on Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures to clarify that that offers of unsolicited external funding to the GSA are subject to the approval of the GSA Board (the current section, 2.6.a, only addresses unsolicited funding offered by the University).

Additionally, a further section of GSA Policy, GSA Awards was removed as it was factually inaccurate because the Rosen Teaching Award is not being offered this year as funds were not provided.

Finally, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee, under delegated authority from the GSA Governance Committee and on the recommendation of the GSA ERC, approved the addition of language related to involvement with referenda to GSA Policy on eligibility to serve on the GSA ERC and the GSA NoC. Council had asked that this matter be attended to at the December 8, 2014 meeting.

I would be happy to report further orally.

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

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GSA Nominating Committee (NoC)
Report to Council for January 19, 2014 Council Meeting

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To: GSA Council
From: Michele DuVal, Acting Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee
Date: January 16, 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 Elections and Referenda Committee
Due to the approval of the proposed revisions to the GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC) by GSA Council on December 8, 2014, and to the resignation of one member, there are currently four (4) vacancies on the GSA ERC. The NoC advertised these vacancies through the GSA Newsletter on December 12, 2014 and again on Friday, December 19, 2014. The deadline for nominations was Friday January 9, 2015. The NoC also proactively reached out to students they thought would be a good fit for the GSA ERC. We received four (4) nominations. On Tuesday, January 13, 2015 the GSA Nominating Committee forwarded these four (4) nominations to Council with a call for additional nominations. Additional nominations were accepted until Friday, January 16, 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 students declared elected to serve on the ERC are Jean-Philippe Crête, Justin Leifso, Axel Perez Trujillo, and Karen Pheasant.

2) GSA Judicial Committee
GSA Policy requires that the GSA "Judicial Committee shall be comprised of eight (8) Councillors who are selected at random as members of the Committee at the outset of each semester." Pooran Appadu (AFNS), Jordan Bartlett (Communication Science & Disorders), Mohammad Maghfourian (Physical Therapy), Hasriadi Ary Masalam (Educational Policy Studies), Antoinette Nguyen (Paediatrics), Virginia Pimmett (Cell Biology), Sandra Sawchuk (Humanities Computing) and Harsh Thaker (Medicine) were selected at random to serve on the Judicial Committee for the 2015 Winter term.

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) Human Rights Lecture Selection Committee
The NoC elected representative from 2014 expressed interest in serving a second term on this committee. The NoC elected **Rochelle Starr** (PhD program, Educational Policy Studies) to serve a second term on this committee for 2015.

2) Office of Sustainability Academic Advisory Committee
This position was advertised in the GSA newsletter on Friday November 28, 2014, 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 **Jasmine Lamarre** (MSc program, Renewable Resources) to serve on this committee.

3) Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Review Committee for Three (3) Departmental Chairs
Following UAPPOL, the GSA was contacted by the Executive Administrative Assistant to Vice Dean Faculty Affairs to assist the Faculty in finding graduate student representative on three Departmental Chair Review Committees.

a) Department of Medicine Review Committee for the Chair
As there is currently no departmental GSA in the Department of Medicine, we emailed all graduate students in the Department of Medicine to advertise for this position. We received four (4) nominations. The graduate students in the Department of Medicine elected **Harsh Thaker** (MSc program, Medicine) to serve on this Committee in an online election.

b) Department of Biochemistry Review Committee for the Chair
The Biochemistry Departmental GSA requested the GSA's help to assist them in the process of finding a graduate student representative to serve on this committee. We emailed all graduate students in the Department of Biochemistry. We received one nomination. **Lucy Sun** (PhD program, Biochemistry) was declared elected to serve on this committee.

c) Department of Dentistry Review Committee for the Chair
The Dentistry Departmental GSA elected **Human Saltaji** to serve on this committee through its own process.

GSA Vice-President (Academic)
Report to Council for January 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Colin More
Date: January 16, 2015

Hello everyone!

I hope you all had some time to sleep over the holidays! I certainly maximized my own opportunities...

Given the holidays, I haven't much that's new to report on. However, there are two longer-term projects which I should mention. First is the formation of a General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment Subcommittee on Fostering the Pedagogy of Technology, or GFC CLE SFPT for short. Committees are nothing if not acronym enthusiasts. The subcommittee's main task is to analyze, in some depth, the results of a comprehensive survey of students and professors conducted last summer. In the absence of a clear question, or set of questions, to direct the analysis, the subcommittee may quickly become a quagmire. However, there are people on it who genuinely care that technology be used to best empirical, rather than rhetorical, effect, so I'm hopeful that it will be useful!

The second long-term project is the FGSR Professional Development Advisory Board, which Vice-President External Susan Cake also reports on. At last week's meeting, the Board discussed its final list of recommendations. It agreed that the list was in a good enough form for implementation to proceed. That, however, will be a larger challenge than making the list in the first place. The plan is for a subgroup of the Board, overseen by the full Board, to determine which recommendations are feasible at this time. It will be a somewhat complex and time-consuming project, but hopefully the results will be worth it!

Right, I think that's it for this month. Enjoy the (currently melting) snow!

Colin

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 9, 2014 to January 18, 2015. I was at an academic conference from December 15 to December 19, 2014.

December 9	Professional Development Advisory Board (PDAB)
December 9	Associate Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and Chair, GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
December 12	Associate Vice-President Alumni Relations, Sean Price, Farewell Reception
January 5	Professional Development Advisory Board (PDAB)
January 5	Winter Orientation
January 9	Mechanical Engineering Orientation
January 9	Standing Advisory Council on International Engagement (SACIE)
January 12	SU VP Academic
January 12	General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC)
January 12	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
January 15	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) Review
January 16	Professional Development (PD) with Land Reclamation International Graduate School (LRIGS)
January 19	SU VP Academic
January 19	Advisory Search Committee for Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to Council for December 8, 2014 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Megha Bajaj
Date: December 5, 2014

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful winter break and got some time to enjoy the festive season.

I was away for a month and was able to take a trip to India to see my family and friends after two long years. The warm weather in Edmonton these days makes me wonder if I might have brought back some heat from India!

As always, things are moving fast in the GSA and I have some interesting updates from my meetings.

Meeting with University of Alberta, International (UAI) for Permanent Residency (PR) Application Services for International Students: Monty and I met with Britta Baron, Vice-President International, and Doug Weir, Director of UAI, to follow up on the PR services project. UAI has made some progress since we last met with them in September 2014. They have now **initiated the hiring of an immigration consultant** who would be able to help international students put together their PR applications. There have been a few internal delays but I will report on this in detail during my oral presentation to Council. We also suggested that they **provide general information for PR applications on their website.** This could include information like a list of documents required for application, application forms, etc. We are working closely with UAI to finalize what information should be included on their website. We think that this information will be very useful for students who are planning to apply. Monty provides further details on this meeting in his report.

Template Constitution for Departmental GSAs: As part of our ongoing work on graduate student groups, which Council has heard about in past meetings, we have developed a **template constitution for departmental GSAs.** GSA management and staff have **worked together with Student Group Services (SGS)** and they have reviewed our template constitution several times and have confirmed that it meets all their requirements while also being a **simpler version of the standard SGS template constitution that is better suited for the needs of departmental GSAs**. I will report on this further at Council.

Re-purposing the North Power Plant: The **Alumni Association** has been working with Facilities and Operations (F&O) to create a space on the north campus for their **Alumni Centre**. They have **expressed interest in collaborating with the GSA and the SU in repurposing the North Power Plant for the Alumni Centre**. Their vision is to have this space suitable for the use of the Alumni Association and also provide student career and placement services in this building among other things. They have also **shared a proposal and draft designs with the GSA and SU**. This is a very recent development and we will be meeting with the Alumni Association in the coming weeks to discuss this further. I will bring more information to you as this takes shape.

This is all for now. As always please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. See you in Council!

Sincerely,

Megha Bajaj, GSA Vice-President Student Services

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 9, 2014 to January 18, 2015. I was on personal leave from December 9 to December 19, 2014 and from January 5 to January 8, 2015.

January 9	North Power Plant
January 12	Permanent Residency Services for International Students
January 15	U-Pass Administration
January 19	PAW Naming
January 19	Studentcare

GSA Vice-President External
Report to Council for January 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Susan Cake
Date: January 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

First I would like to welcome everyone back from the holiday break. I hope it was a refreshing pause from academic life, or, for those of you like me, a delightful time to focus on academics.

Since my last report there are a few things I want to update Council on. First, as Nathan also reported, I'm very happy to report that **final bylaws and documents should be in the process of being signed by the various GSAs across the province to form the provincial advocacy group**. I know Council has been getting lots of updates about this group and its formation and it can be hard to see why this group is so important. For a large part of the last year each GSA in the province was doing its own advocacy work by sending reps to the various government meetings. Our GSA in particular has taken on a large role in government representation for graduate students, partly because we have the resources to handle this task, but also because we are located in Edmonton where the meetings tend to take place. With the formation of this provincial group we will be able to direct our advocacy work through another body that will have a greater claim of representing all GSAs in the province. **This is a very exciting time and I have high hopes for what will come**.

Aside from this update, Vice-President Academic Colin More and I have attended a number of meetings related to **professional development**. I'm optimistic for what will come out of the working group for FGSR in terms of PD at the U of A. We are looking at some other models around the country and trying to create a program that fits our university. I've also met to discuss some upcoming conference related to PD and the role graduate students can play in the national discussion of graduate skills in Canada. **These conversations are productive and highlight the common desires to improvement across various groups. This task will be something the next executive team and Council will be taking up as discussions continue over the next year**.

The last update I will highlight is in regards to **market modifiers** recently approved by the provincial government, as Nathan also discussed. Some of you may have read in the news just before Christmas that the province approved a number of market modifiers across the province, twenty-five to be exact. Five of these proposals came from the U of A, two of which were for graduate student programs – the MBA program and the Master of Science, Physical Therapy. The MBA program will see a 42% increase for domestic students and 8% for Physical Therapy. I'm frankly surprised with the results of this round of market modifiers since the government had put a limit of three proposals from each institution, and this was clearly not followed by the U of A. As well, I have serious concerns regarding the consultation process for these applications. I look forward to discussing these concerns in the appropriate venues.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to contact me. As well, if you have any residence 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 December 9, 2014 to January 18, 2015.

December 9	Professional Development Advisory Board (PDAB)
December 11	International Fee Differential
December 11	Public Interest Alberta (PIA)
December 11	Residence Halls Association (RHA)
December 12	Alumni Relations Strategy
December 12	Associate Vice-President Alumni Relations, Sean Price, Farewell Reception
January 5	Professional Development Advisory Board (PDAB)
January 6	Skills Summit Debrief
January 6	ab-GPAC
January 5	Winter Orientation
January 9	General Faculties Council (GFC) Secretary
January 16	Professional Development (PD) with Land Reclamation International Graduate School (LRIGS)
January 16	Peter Lougheed Leadership College Academic Advisory Committee (PLLC ACC)
January 16	Coalition Meeting

GSA Awards Selection Committee (ASC)
Report to Council for January 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Susan Cake
Date: January 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Awards Selection Committee (ASC) is responsible for selecting the recipients of the thirteen different GSA Awards. The deadline for the GSA to receive nominations for the GSA Awards was January 14, 2015. The GSA received 109 nominations, down from the 121 received in 2014.

GSA ASC members met for adjudication training on January 15, 2015. GSA ASC members will be adjudicating the nominations until January 31, after which they will meet to determine the recipients in each category. I will report the recipients to Council in February.

Best,
Susan Cake, GSA Vice-President External and Chair of the GSA Awards Selection Committee

GSA Vice-President (Labour)
Report to Council for December 8, 2014 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Monty Bal
Date: December 5, 2014

Dear Council Colleagues,

Hope you all had a better vacation than I did (I was fighting the flu!). Below are some of the highlights of what I've been up to since we last met.

Search for the New Secretary to GFC
As some of you who are reps on GFC may know, the University is currently seeking a new GFC Secretary to replace Garry Bodnar, who is retiring. I have served as the GSA's representative on the search committee. My goal has been to ensure that the candidates interviewed recognize that the graduate students on GFC believe it is of the utmost importance that candidates express a strong commitment to the operation of fair process and exercise independence. We should know shortly whether a replacement has been selected.

International Students
ED Ellen Schoeck, Director of Services and Governance Courtney Thomas, and I recently met with former CSJ Dean Marc Arnal concerning international students. As an outcome of the meeting, we contacted Interim Provost Olive Yonge and recommended that a Provost's Fellow be appointed to deal directly with the quality of the international student experience on campus. We were informed by Dr Yonge that her office is moving forward in dealing with this issue, albeit in a slightly different fashion. We will be meeting with Dr Yonge to discuss how this initiative will move forward and how the GSA can actively participate.

Meeting with Britta Baron and Doug Weir
As you read in Megha's report, she and I (along with Courtney Thomas) met recently with Britta Baron and Doug Weir from UAI to discuss the progress of the PR program. We were notified that although progress has been slower than initially anticipated, there has been movement and UAI is currently working to create a contractual agreement with someone who would provide this service. We also discussed the issues facing international students and it was agreed that more needs to be done to deal with the academic issues facing both international undergraduate and graduate students. We suggested that it may be beneficial for graduate students who are TAs to be trained with the goal of recognizing the unique problems faced by international students. We also recommended that more work be done to study the progress of international students in various faculties and departments to see which departments have the best practices to ensure undergraduate and graduate student success. The GSA will actively work to support this initiative and provide input on the training which would be beneficial to international students who are TAs.

Finally, as always, if there are any issues you have related to your RA/TAship, 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 December 9, 2014 to January 18, 2015.

December 9	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
December 12	International Fee Differential
December 12	General Faculties Council (GFC) Secretary Search
December 12	Associate Vice-President Alumni Relations, Sean Price, Farewell Reception
December 16	General Faculties Council (GFC) Secretary Search
December 18	International Student Issues
January 2	Chemical and Materials Orientation
January 2	University of Alberta International (UAI) Orientation
January 5	Winter Orientation
January 9	Medicine Orientation
January 9	General Faculties Council (GFC) Secretary
January 12	Permanent Residency Services for International Students
January 16	Coalition Meeting

GSA Senator
Report to Council for January 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Gary Barron
Date: January 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I am sorry that I missed our meeting on December 4, 2014. I was away at a conference and so my report is largely a re-submission of my report on that date, as I want to speak to these items.

I recently took part in a confidential meeting regarding the conferral of honourary degrees. The committee deliberated on a number of deserving and very interesting candidates. Unfortunately, I cannot share details of our deliberations, or the names of recipients but the names will be announced in due course.

I also held two focus groups for the Senate Task Force on Community Engagement. I held one at my home in Calgary at November 13, and another in Edmonton at Enterprise Square on November 24. Again, I cannot share details as to what was said at these meetings, but I can say that the report will have some very interesting things to say about the University of Alberta and how it is perceived by people across the province. Another senator from Calgary has volunteered to hold an additional focus group, and I am currently trying to rally a few additional individuals to participate in that discussion. The next focus group is scheduled for January 23, 2015.

During the final week of November I met with the Senate liaison for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and research, Joan Welch. I informed her about the GSA's SWP, particularly emphasizing professional development, graduate supervision, and concerns surrounding international students. I also emphasized the many contributions that graduate students make to the University of Alberta. Joan was impressed with the GSA SWP, as well as the variety of activities we undertake individually. I also provided her with a copy of the SWP, so that she can refer to it in the future.

I also attended the Senate plenary meetings on December 4 and 5, 2014. I asked some questions regarding concern with the Alberta and University budget in light of declining oil prices, but the state of affairs has changed significantly since that time. I also informed the Senate of the GSA's ongoing work regarding graduate student professional development, and invited Senators to take part in upcoming activities that are being planned by the GSA in this regard.

Finally, I hope you all have a relaxing and rejuvenating winter break, and would like to wish you all a happy new year.

Best regards,

Gary Barron, GSA Senator

GSA Chief Returning Officer
Report to Council for January 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Hamman Samuel
Date: January 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy 2015! At the end of the past year I have been working with the ERC to prepare for the upcoming elections. Council approved various motions related to the ERC and elections this past Council meeting. ERC had its first meeting with Virginia Pimmett as the new ERC Chair. The ERC is also going through the process of having more members after the membership was increased to eight. I have been focusing on Campaigning in Unsafe/ Restricted places, and evaluation of the Elections Software.

Access to certain areas on campus during campaigning has been an issue in the past. This year, I am taking a proactive approach in finding solutions to the issue of unsafe/ restricted spaces. I have been in contact with the Department of Chemistry to work cooperatively to address any concerns the Department may have and receive guidance regarding any potential restricted spaces in the Department that could be communicated to the candidates. The ERC had I have discussed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements, as well as generic postering options. We have also attended a thorough presentation on Labs and Restricted Spaces by Rob Munro, who is the Director of Environment, Health & Safety at the University Risk Management Services. In addition, we will be asking Council members for their input regarding access to spaces within your departments (i.e. the set up of offices and labs). Specifically, we will be looking to identify restricted or unsafe spaces within your departments, as well as regulations regarding putting up posters. We are particularly interested in ensuring that campaigning is safe and in line with departmental regulations.

I have been working closely with the ERC in evaluating the Elections Software. I will be getting in touch with one of the coders/developers of the current software, and discussing some stability issues that have arisen in the past. We will also be discussing technical support and ongoing maintenance. I have also been exploring other provider solutions for running elections, such as Google Forms, which is currently being used extensively at the University for running various elections. To that end, the ERC and I have attended various presentations on Google Forms to familiarize ourselves with the features and range of abilities. We have been reviewing how Google Forms would be supported in the long term and have had excellent discussions and support from Gordie Mah, Chief Information Security Officer from the Office of the Vice-Provost Information Technology (VPIT), as well as positive communications with the Information Services and Technology (IST) office regarding potential long-term technical support of the platform.

In preparation for the approaching elections, I have also been working with the ERC in drafting an Elections Timeline, and making preparations for the All-Candidates Meeting, Elections Forum, and Candidate Videos. We are also renewing our focus on how to increase voter turn-out. This quote says it best: "Every election is determined by the people who show up." Wishing you all an exciting year ahead, and feel free to contact me with any questions: gsa.elections@ualberta.ca

Best regards,

Hamman Samuel, GSA Chief Returning Officer

GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to Council for January 19, 2015 GSA Council Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Virginia Pimmett
Date: January 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The **GSA ERC met on December 16, 2014 to** prepare for the 2015 General Election. At this meeting **the GSA ERC reviewed the Draft Timeline for the 2015 GSA General Election.**

The GSA ERC met again on January 15, 2015 to continue the preparation for the 2015 GSA General Election. At this meeting **the GSA ERC agreed on editorial changes to GSA Policy to include referenda involvement to GSA Policy on eligibility to serve on the GSA ERC and the GSA Nominating Committee.** Councillors will recall at the December meeting, Council agreed to refer this matter back to GSA ERC for action. **GSA ERC also agreed to recommend to GSA Council the proposed revisions to GSA Policy, Elections, on timelines for the CRO and Speaker to reach decisions on alleged breaches and appeals.** This proposal is now before GSA Council members for consideration. The GSA ERC also discussed several other items pertaining to the preparation of the 2015 General Election, including strategies to get out the vote.

The GSA ERC will be meeting again on February 3 to continue its work on the details of the 2015 General Elections.

I would be happy to report further orally.

Respectfully,
Virginia Pimmett, Chair of GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

GSA Executive Director
Report to Council

To: GSA Council
From: Ellen Schoeck
Date: January 16, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

When this report reaches you, I will be in Madagascar, viewing lemurs! I will not be at January Council, but would like to report briefly on the Early Call for Talent and Training, and update you on the building of the 2015-2016 GSA Budget and Five-Year Rolling Budget/Business Plan.

Early Call for Talent and Training
Continuing Councillors will have heard me speak before about the **Early Call for Talent and Training, which is a unique program in Canada intended to introduce graduate students interested in running for elected office to key aspects of the five positions.** The program is rooted in the GSA Council-approved mandate of the GFC Nominating Committee (NoC), which is to seek out graduate student talent both for committees and for elected office (especially GSA President and VPs).

This year, with respect to the proactive search and training of potential elected officers, we received a good response from a number of grad students, and under the leadership of NoC Vice-Chair Lacey Fleming (Alternate Councillor for Anthropology), the GSA ran the following training sessions: **GSA/Governance 101, GSA Board Strategic Work Plan and Hot Topics with the current Directly-Elected Officers, GSA External Advocacy 101, GSA Services 101, and Elections 101 with the GSA CRO**. The current elected officials, staff and management have all participated in running these intensive sessions and the entire effort has been superbly supported by Julie Tanguay, Nominating Committee Coordinator.

Building the 2015-2016 GSA Budget and Five-Year Budget/Business Plan
Council will see the **proposed 2015-2016 budget at the February meeting as part of a broader, rolling five-year plan, along with the third set of Quarterly Financial Reports for 2014-2015**. In 2013-2014, under President Ashlyn Bernier, we went through 17 drafts of the budget and business plan as we continued the rebuild of the GSA. By this year, under President Nathan Andrews, we are down to 4 drafts of the budget – a significant indicator of the GSA's recent evolution. The draft budget supports the GSA's services, advocacy, and governance; the GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan initiatives (new and continuing); and GSA corporate infrastructure, including staffing.

The GSA has a modernized support system for its budget planning. Led by Nathan, we have an interactive team comprised of our Chartered Accountant Shirley Ball, Financial Manager Dorte Sheikh, and former U of A departmental budget heads Heather Hogg and myself. Director of Services and Governance Courtney Thomas is also involved in aspects of budget planning. Our Budget and Finance Committee has met to review budget proposals, and will meet jointly with the GSA Board to review the final draft.

We will be offering GSA Budget 101 for Councillors in February. Watch your email for details and be sure to attend, as these sessions provide both a review of the actual budget and context for the different budget items.

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

Management Report to the GSA Board, December 10, 2014

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on December 3, 2014:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** GSA Council and associated action; budget building and a meeting of the GSA BFC; Early Call; planning for the upcoming GSA General Election; graduate student groups (we were approached by a graduate student group needing registration assistance and are working with SGS to both help the group and learn more about the process with an eye to streamlining things for graduate student groups); Winter Orientation planning, training new Front Desk Support staff; staff collective agreement bargaining; equipment/infrastructure assessment.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial**: integrating Bylaw and Policy into one document (a draft has been prepared and will be reviewed), 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, is planned.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** See above; ongoing plan to ramp up work with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Student and Student Group Services, template constitution, alcohol liability waiver, 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 = 521 likes (up 0 from December 3). **Our Facebook posts reached 272 users this week**, down from 278 last week. Twitter = 306 followers (up 2 from December 3). **Our Twitter posts were viewed 182 times this week**, down from 207 last week.

- **GSA Awards**.

- **Grants review and processing**:
  <u>October 1 - December 31 Funding Period:</u> **Professional Development Awards** ($106,401 is available for each period (but $112,990 was available for this period due to under-expenditure in period two), of which **$77,102 remains**) and 73 applications submitted this period (7 pending processing), **Childcare Grants** ($44,210 is available for each period (but $48,422 was available for this period due to under-expenditure in period two), of which **$4,422 remains; period closed October 1, 2014**) and 30 applications submitted this period (0 pending processing), **Academically-Related Student Group Awards** ($3,562.50 is available for each period (period opened with $4,870.25 due to under-expenditure in period two), of which **$4,870.25 remains**) and 0 applications submitted this period, **Emergency Bursaries** (no periods; $153,068 is available for the fiscal year, of which **$90,411.27 remains**) and 30 applications submitted since April 1, 2014 (1 pending processing). **Note: the totals provided above do not include the contingency fund of 5% associated with each grant, award, and bursary.**

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Support for the **GSA ERC, Early Call, and work associated with the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy**.
- **Supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** (Office of Sustainability Academic Advisory Committee, Dean of FPER Review Committee, and Chairs Review Committee in the Faculty of Medicine).

- **Assistance with planning for the December 8 Council meeting** and with **Winter Orientation** planning.

Management Report to the GSA Board, December 17, 2014

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on December 10, 2014:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Major ERC meeting, planning for January, staff collective agreement bargaining, finalizing a template constitution for departmental GSAs to use when registering with SGS, graduate student group preparation for a meeting with Dean Everall, SU changes to the consultation framework, NoC issues, wrapping things up before the holiday closure; planning for the upcoming GSA General Election; Winter Orientation planning, Awards Night planning; strategic thinking with respect to residence issues.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial**: integrating Bylaw and Policy into one document (a draft has been prepared and will be reviewed), 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, is planned.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** See above; ongoing plan to ramp up work with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Student and Student Group Services, a template constitution for departmental GSAs has been drafted, alcohol liability waiver, 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 = 522 likes (up 1 from December 10). **Our Facebook posts reached 311 users this week**, down from 272 last week. Twitter = 308 followers (up 2 from December 10). **Our Twitter posts were viewed 211 times this week**, up from 182 last week.

- **GSA Awards**.

- **Grants review and processing**:
  <u>October 1 - December 31 Funding Period</u>: **Professional Development Awards** ($106,401 is available for each period (but $112,990 was available for this period due to under-expenditure in period two), of which **$74,102 remains**) and 79 applications submitted this period (6 pending processing), **Childcare Grants** ($44,210 is available for each period (but $48,422 was available for this period due to under-expenditure in period two), of which **$4,422 remains; period closed October 1, 2014**) and 30 applications submitted this period (0 pending processing), **Academically-Related Student Group Awards** ($3,562.50 is available for each period (period opened with $4,870.25 due to under-expenditure in period two), of which **$4,870.25 remains**) and 0 applications submitted this period, **Emergency Bursaries** (no periods; $153,068 is available for the fiscal year, of which **$86,411.27 remains**) and 30 applications submitted since April 1, 2014 (0 pending processing). **Note: the totals provided above do not include the contingency fund of 5% associated with each grant, award, and bursary.**

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Support for the **GSA ERC, planning for the General Election, and work associated with the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy**. **ERC replenishment**.

- **Supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** (Office of Sustainability Academic Advisory Committee, Dean of FPER Review Committee, and Chairs Review Committee in the Faculty of Medicine).

- Creating a Student Groups resource binder and assistance with planning for **Winter Orientation**.

Management Report to the GSA Board, January 14, 2015

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on December 17, 2014:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Council preparation, planning for the upcoming GSA General Election; review of bylaw and policy with a view to integration, strategic thinking with respect to international student issues, early planning for transition, revisions to GSA Board Policy on use of the GSA logo, preparing for an upcoming meeting of the GSA BFC, GSA ERC replenishment, quarterly financial statements.

- **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, is planned.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** Template constitution for departmental GSAs, arranging to meet with graduate students in CSJ, ongoing plan to ramp up work with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Student and Student Group Services, alcohol liability waiver, 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 = 534 likes (up 12 from December 17). **Our Facebook posts reached 311 users this week**, equal to the number reached last week. Twitter = 317 followers (up 9 from December 17). **Our Twitter posts were viewed 298 times this week**, up from 211 December 17.

- **Winter Orientation, Awards Night planning; professional development event planning, planning for the adjudication of GSA Awards, office organization (files, Google Drive, etc)**.

- **Grants review and processing**:
  <u>October 1 - December 31 Funding Period</u>: **Professional Development Awards** ($106,401 is available for each period (but $112,990 was available for this period due to under-expenditure in period two), of which **$71,602 remains**) and 84 applications submitted this period (5 pending processing), **Childcare Grants** ($44,210 is available for each period (but $48,422 was available for this period due to under-expenditure in period two), of which **$4,422 remains; period closed October 1, 2014**) and 30 applications submitted this period (0 pending processing), **Academically-Related Student Group Awards** ($3,562.50 is available for each period (period opened with $4,870.25 due to under-expenditure in period two), of which **$3,270.25 remains**) and 2 applications submitted this period (2 pending processing), **Emergency Bursaries** (no periods; $153,068 is available for the fiscal year, of which **$86,411.27 remains**) and 30 applications submitted since April 1, 2014 (0 pending processing). **Note: the totals provided above do not include the contingency fund of 5% associated with each grant, award, and bursary.**
  <u>January 1 - March 31 Funding Period</u>: **Professional Development Awards** ($106,401 is available for each period (but $180,864 was available for this period due to under-expenditure in period three: $50,000 is being transferred to Child Care Grants under the direction of VP Student Services, M Bajaj, leaving a total of **$130,864**), of which **$125,864 remains**) and 10 applications submitted this period (10 pending processing), **Childcare Grants** ($44,210 is available for each period (but $48,212 was available for this period due to under-expenditure in period three; $50,000 is being transferred under the direction of VP Student Services, M Bajaj, giving a total of **$98,212**), of which **$50,000 remains; period closed January 6, 2015. A special opening will begin January 16, 2015**) and 35 applications submitted this period (35 pending processing), **Academically-Related Student Group Awards** ($3,562.50 is available for each period (period opened with $5,432 due to under-expenditure in period three), of which **$2,532 remains**) and 2 applications submitted this period (2 pending processing), **Emergency Bursaries** (no periods; $153,068 is available for the fiscal year, of which **$82,411.27 remains**) and 32 applications submitted since April 1, 2014 (2 pending processing). **Note: the totals provided above do not include the contingency fund of 5% associated with each grant, award, and bursary.**

Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Support for the **GSA ERC and replenishment of the committee, planning for the General Election, and work associated with the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy**. **Supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** (Office of Sustainability Academic Advisory Committee, Community Connections Award Selection Committee, etc.).

- Assistance with planning for **Winter Orientation** and **event planning** (PD event, Awards Night).

- **Grants processing**.