**GSA Council Meeting AGENDA**
Monday, May 25, 2015 at 6:00 pm
MEC 2-01

**A pizza dinner will be served at 5:15 pm at MEC 2-01.**

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

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

**Speaker Sarah Prescott in the Chair**

| OPEN SESSION | Attached Numbered Pages |
|---|---|

**OPEN SESSION**

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of the 25 May 2015 Agenda

3. Approval of the Minutes from the 20 April 2015 GSA Council Meeting
   *Attachments*:
   - Minutes from the 20 April 2015 GSA Council Meeting      **3.0-3.10**

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. Councillor Announcements

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

6. GSA Senator: Paper Ballot Election
   **Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair, GSA Nominating Committee) will present the item.**

   *Attachments*:
   - Nominees for GSA Senator      **6.0 - 6.2**

**NOTE:** Nominees for GSA Senator have been invited to answer two questions.

Nominees were given these two questions in advance of the meeting:
   1. According to GSA Policy, Officers Portfolios, Section 9.2, "The Senator should have prior experience acting as a representative for the GSA and/or as a liaison with bodies external to the University." What experience do you have as a representative for the GSA and/or as a liaison with bodies external to the University?
   2. If you were asked by Senate to give a one-minute description of the GSA what would it

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Nominees will be given 30 seconds to answer each question. At the time of this mailing, one nominee will be in attendance at GSA Council and a brief video presentation will be shown for the other nominee, who was unable to attend.

7. GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election: Paper Ballot Election
   **Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair, GSA Nominating Committee) will present the item.**

   *Attachments*:
   • Nominees for Councillor-at-Large                                                    **7.0 - 7.2**

   **NOTE:** Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large have been invited to answer two questions. Nominees were given these two questions in advance of the meeting:
   1. What prompted you to run for the position of Councillor-at-Large?
   2. What are the critical issues facing graduate students today?
   Nominees will be given 30 seconds to answer each question. At the time of this mailing, one nominee will be in attendance at GSA Council and a brief video presentation will be shown for the other two nominees, who were unable to attend.

8. GSA Standing Committee Elections: GSA Elections and Referenda Committee
   **Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair, GSA Nominating Committee) will present the item.**

   *Attachments*:
   • Nominees for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee                              **8.0**

9. GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan
   **Colin More (GSA President) will present the item.**
   *Attachments*:
   • Outline of Issue                                                                    **9.0**
   • Cover Letter from the GSA President                                                 **9.1-9.2**
   • GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan                                             **9.3-9.12**

10. GSA Council Attendance AND Responsibilities and Attendance at GSA Committees and University Governing Bodies and Committees: Proposed Changes and Additions to GSA Policy (Only Reading)
    **Presented by Colin More (Chair, GSA Governance Committee and GSA President) and Virginia Pimmett (Chair, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)**

    **GSA GC and GSA ERC members who are members of GSA Council:** Sarah Ficko (GSA Vice-President Labour and GSA GC member), Sulya Fenechal (Councillor, Elementary Education, and GSA GC member), Susan Cake (CAL and GSA GC member), Shelby Sanders (Councillor, EAS, a GSA GC member), Leigh Spanner (CAL and GSA ERC member), Axel Perez Trujillo (Councillor, MLCS, and GSA ERC member), Hamman Samuel (GSA CRO), Richard Kanyo (GSA DRO).

    **GSA ERC voting members invited to GSA Council as guests:** Jennifer Bell (former Councillor, Nursing), Christopher Chen, Justin Leifso, and Zhendong Li (former Councillor, Chemistry).
    *Attachments:*
    • Outline of Issue                                                                   **10.0**
    • Cover Letter From the Chairs of the GSA GC and the GSA ERC                          **10.1**

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| • GSA Council Attendance: Double Column of Proposed Additions to GSA Policy | **10.2-10.4** |
| • Responsibilities and Attendance at GSA Committees and University Governing Bodies and Committees: Double Column of Proposed Changes to GSA Policy | **10.5-10.9** |

11. GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part III) (First Reading)
**Presented by Colin More (Chair, GSA Governance Committee and GSA President) and Virginia Pimmett (Chair, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)**

**GSA GC and GSA ERC members who are members of GSA Council:** Sarah Ficko (GSA Vice-President Labour and GSA GC member), Sulya Fenechal (Councillor, Elementary Education, and GSA GC member), Susan Cake (CAL and GSA GC member), Shelby Sanders (Councillor, EAS, a GSA GC member), Leigh Spanner (CAL and GSA ERC member), Axel Perez Trujillo (Councillor, MLCS, and GSA ERC member), Hamman Samuel (GSA CRO); Richard Kanyo (GSA DRO).

**GSA ERC voting members invited to GSA Council as guests:** Jennifer Bell (former Councillor, Nursing), Christopher Chen, Justin Leifso, and Zhendong Li (former Councillor, Chemistry).

*Attachments:*

| | |
|---|---|
| • Outline of Issue | **11.0*** |
| • Cover Letter From the Chairs of the GSA GC and the GSA ERC | **11.1** |
| • GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings: Double Column of Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw | **11.2-11.4*** |
| | ***Note: Revised After First Mailing** |

12. Vote-for-One: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy (Elections, Section 10) (Only Reading)
**Presented by Colin More (Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA President) and Virginia Pimmett (Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)**

**GSA ERC and GSA GC members who are members of GSA Council:** Leigh Spanner (CAL and GSA ERC member), Axel Perez Trujillo (Councillor, MLCS, and GSA ERC member), Hamman Samuel (GSA CRO), Richard Kanyo (GSA DRO), Sarah Ficko (GSA Vice-President Labour and GSA GC member), Sulya Fenechal (Councillor, Elementary Education, and GSA GC member), Susan Cake (CAL and GSA GC member), Shelby Sanders (Councillor, EAS, a GSA GC member).

**GSA ERC voting members invited to GSA Council as guests:** Jennifer Bell (former Councillor, Nursing), Christopher Chen, Justin Leifso, and Zhendong Li (former Councillor, Chemistry).

*Attachments:*

| | |
|---|---|
| • Outline of Issue | **12.0** |
| • Cover Letter From the Chairs of the GSA ERC and the GSA GC | **12.1** |
| • Vote-for-One: Double Column of Proposed Changes to GSA Policy | **12.2-12.3** |
| • Vote-for-One: "New" Ballot | **12.4** |
| • Vote-for-One: "Old" Ballot | **12.5-12.6** |

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

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**Reports**

14. President **(Colin More, GSA President)**
    - i. President's Report
      - a) 2014-2015 President — **14.0**
      - b) 2015-2016 President — **14.1**
    - ii. GSA Board — **14.2 - 14.3**
    - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee — **14.4**
    - iv. GSA Governance Committee — **14.5**

    a) GSA Nominating Committee
    - i. GSA Nominating Committee Report **(Michele DuVal, Administrative Chair, GSA Nominating Committee)** — **14.6 - 14.8**

15. Vice-President Academic **(Harsh Thaker, GSA Vice-President Academic)**
    - i. Vice-President Academic's Report
      - a) 2014-2105 Vice-President Academic — **15.0**
      - b) 2015- 2016 Vice-President Academic — **15.1 - 15.2**

16. Vice-President External **(Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA Vice-President External)**
    - i. Vice-President External's Report
      - a) 2014-2105 Vice-President External — **16.0**
      - b) 2015- 2016 Vice-President External — **16.1**
    - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee **(no meetings this reporting period; will resume meeting Fall 2015)**

17. Vice-President Labour **(Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour)**
    - i. Vice-President Labour's Report
      - a) 2014-2105 Vice-President Labour — **17.0**
      - b) 2015- 2016 Vice-President Labour — **17.1 - 17.2**
    - ii. GSA Negotiating Committee **(no meetings this reporting period; will resume meeting Fall 2015)**
    - iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee **(no meetings this reporting period)**

18. Vice-President Student Services **(Alireza Talaei, GSA Vice-President Student Services)**
    - i. Vice-President Student Services' Report
      - a) 2014-2105 Vice-President Student Services — **18.0 - 18.1**
      - b) 2015- 2016 Vice-President Student Services — **18.2**
    - ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (Joint Chair: Vice-President External) **(no meetings this reporting period)**

19. Senator **(Gary Barron, GSA Senator)**
    - i. Senator's Report **(no written report at this time)**

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**

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22. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee **(Virginia Pimmett, Chair, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)**
    i.  GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report                                          **22.0**

23. GSA Management **(Ellen Schoeck, GSA Executive Director)**
    i.  Executive Director's Report                                                           **23.0 - 23.4**

**Question Period**

24. Written Questions                                                                         **24.0**

25. Oral Questions

**Adjournment**

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**Meeting Minutes**
**20 April, 2015**
**GSA Council Meeting**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nathan Andrews (President) | Harsh Thaker (Councillor-at-Large) | Shelby Sanders (Earth & Atmospheric Sci) | Stephanie Lunn (Pharmacology) |
| Colin More (VP Academic) | Alphonse Ndem Ahola (Anthropology) | Hasriadi Masalam (Ed Policy Studies) | Jay Worthy (Philosophy) |
| Monty Bal (VP Labour) | Aaron Veldstra (Art & Design) | Sulya Fenichel (Elementary Education) | Norbert Kanyo (Phys Ed & Rec) |
| Susan Cake (VP External) | Heather Leier (Art & Design) | Willow White (English & Film Studies) | Ruijia Wang (Physics) |
| Megha Bajaj (VP Student Services) | Michele DuVal (Bio Sci) | Sumit Mandal (Human Ecology) | Brayden Whitlock (Physiology) |
| Sarah Prescott (Speaker) | Patricia Leighton (Bio Sci) | Madhurima Kumar (Internetworking) | Ruijing Zhou (Psychology) |
| Roy Coulthard (Deputy Speaker) | Dasha Smirnow (Business PhD) | Qingqing Liu (Lab Med & Pathology) | Colin Reynolds (Public Health) |
| Gary Barron (Senator) | Virginia Pimmett (Cell Biology) | Jessica Peck (Library & Info Sciences) | Rick VanManen (Religious Studies) |
| Qendresa Beka (Councillor-at-Large) | Elaheh Davari (Chem & Materials Engineering) | Colleen Reid (Med Microbio & Immunology) | Alison Murata (Renewable Resources) |
| Jude Kong (Councillor-at-Large) | Chad Iverson (Chemistry) | Jennifer Bell (Nursing) | Angela Bentley (Res Econ & Enviro Sociology) |
| Kangyi Lou (Councillor-at-Large) | Jordan Bartlett (Comm Sciences & Disorders) | Chantel Lagimodiere (Occupational Therapy) | Kerry Rose (Secondary Education) |
| Saeed El Khair Nusri (Councillor-at-Large) | Neda Aslsabbaghpourhokmabadi (Computing Sci) | Jenilee Way (Oncology) | Tasha Jayatunge (Sociology) |
| Shahriar Rozen (Councillor-at-Large) | Candy Pang (Comp Sci) | Laura Lee (Oncology) | |

**GUESTS:** Ralph Young (Chancellor); Kristin Foster (Studentcare); Sarah Ficko (VP Labour-Elect); Isaac Odoom; Sarang Gumfekar (Councillor-at-Large Candidate and GSA Budget & Finance Committee Nominee); Sina Yansori (Councillor-at-Large Candidate)

Speaker Sarah Prescott in the Chair.

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

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

**Approval of Agenda**
2. **Approval of the 20 April, 2015 Consolidated Agenda**

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the GSA Council Meeting of 20 April 2015

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Members had before them the 20 April 2015 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015.  The Agenda was amended to include an item from the GSA Nominating Committee with respect to a vacancy on the GSA Board.

**Agenda as amended approved by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

**Approval of Minutes**
    **3. Minutes**
        i. **Minutes from the 16 March, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**
Members had before them the 16 March 2015 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 10 April 2015. C Iverson noted that the new Chemistry Alternate was only referred to by first name in the minutes and M Caldwell noted it would be changed.

**Minutes as amended 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: Chantel Lagimodiere (Occupational Therapy); Jay Worthy (Philosophy); Heather Leier (Art & Design).

        **ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors**
This was the last meeting for a number of Councillors: Rick VanManen (Religious Studies); Saeed El Khair Nusri (Councillor-at-Large); Jennifer Bell (Nursing).

**Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business**
    **5. University of Alberta Senate**

N Andrews introduced Chancellor Ralph Young. Chancellor Young spoke about the important ceremonial role of the Senate and its relationship to the Board of Governors and General Faculties Council. Chancellor Young also introduced Senator Jennifer Rees and GSA Senator Gary Barron. Chancellor Young explained that he was elected in 2012 and will serve until 2016. Senator Rees has served on the Senate for almost nine years. Gary Barron is the GSA representative on the Senate and represents the interests of all graduate students. Chancellor Young thanked the Directly-Elected Officers for working with him over the past year.

Chancellor Young noted that the Senate was the original governing body of the University. Over time, governance was split into three entities: the Board of Governors, General Faculties Council, and Senate (liaises with the community, is responsible for convocation, honourary degrees, and conducting inquiries into matters of importance to the University). The Senate is intended to be an honourary and representative body. The Ceremonial Mace represents the authority of the Senate to confer degrees. Senators are from all across Alberta and aim to bring diverse perspectives to University governance. The Chancellor is elected for a four-year term and is not eligible for re-election. Senate consists of 62 members – 30 representatives are elected by members of the Senate, 9 public members are appointed by the Minister. The remaining members are selected by virtue of the office they hold, such as the GSA representative or the University President.

The Senate is currently conducting a task force on connections with the community in order to increase Community Engagement. G Barron has reported on the Senate task force focused on community engagement to GSA Council over the course of the year. The Faculty of Extension has headed up focus groups across Alberta; after summarizing and analyzing the qualitative data they have developed high-level recommendations and strategies to implement. This task force came out of a concern that the Senate was not well connected with community in Alberta. The findings of the task force confirmed this but also included positive responses and interesting directions to take. At the end of this month, the report will be submitted to governance. Chancellor Young stated that the Senate can conduct inquiries, present their findings, and make recommendations, but they have no ability to influence the implementation of their recommendations.

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the GSA Council Meeting of 20 April 2015

Senator Rees spoke to GSA Council about the Senate's initiatives to engage with students. The Dinner on Us program involves senators partnering and hosting dinners for international or residence students, focusing on students experiencing isolation. The intention is to bring students into a home environment to have fun and create connections. This initiative has been highly successful. The Senate also welcomes groups to attend their meetings and share their activities. Chancellor Young introduced the Council to Senate's Aboriginal Initiatives, started by Carl Amrhein, in which a number of people with interests around Aboriginal learning and teaching come together. The Chancellor co-chairs these events with the Provost. The Senate also hosts the Chancellor's Cup Golf Tournament Fundraiser. Senator Rees discussed U School. The Senate began U School seven years ago with the intention of bringing young students from inner city or Aboriginal communities to have a one-week experience at the University. The age range is grades 5 – 9 and the intention is to plant the seed in young people whose parents or communities have never experienced university that it is an option for them. The goal is to show children that university is a welcoming place where they can learn. It has been very successful and the Senate takes great pride in it. Graduate and undergraduate students and professors donate their time to make a difference in the lives of these kids. U School provides the opportunity to volunteer as a role model for kids who may have never had one before. Donating your time does not have to be burdensome, could be one week each year. Volunteers can help change the mind of a kid who may not have positive influences in their lives to give them opportunities. U School is always looking for teachers and mentors.

Chancellor Young opened the floor for questions:

J Kong asked about the members appointed by the province. How can the Senate ensure the interests of the University come first when members are appointed by the Minister? Chancellor Young responded that the Chancellor is elected by the Senate as a whole and is not an existing Senator. The Minister does appoint nine members and it is a matter of opinion on what they represent but in the experience of the Chancellor these representatives have always kept the best interests of the University at heart. Some may have personal interests but Chancellor Young has not seen evidence of this.

C More asked about the selection process for U School and Dinners on Us. Senator Rees answered that for Dinners on Us the Senate administrator contacts iHouse who advertises with posters. Names are gathered by email according to those who respond. Strategic targets have included students living in residence, wherein each floor manager was asked to identify students who would want to attend and could benefit from such an event. For U School, there is a process through which schools apply. This process is similar to programs at Fort Edmonton. Schools apply and are then interviewed. Chancellor Young clarified that the program targets inner city schools or high needs schools. C More wondered if there is any follow-up with the children who attend. Senator Rees responded that this is one of the things the Senate would like to improve upon going forward and a means for U School to grow. They could maintain connections with students and connect them with other agencies. Chancellor Young added that the feedback they have received from teachers, kids, and parents has been enthusiastic. The Senate would like to establish a U School Scholarship geared to students attending U School.

H Thaker asked if there are Senate programs in place to help graduate students interact with the community and get the word out about their research? G Barron stated that graduate students should engage through their Senator and Senate committees. This year, the Senate asked for GSA representatives to sit on committees and report back on what is going on. Senator Rees added that the Senate might have opportunities for community engagement visits, to take professors or graduate students out into communities to speak. H Thaker suggested the Festival of Ideas might be a good place to speak. Senator Rees also suggested that graduate students speak to Alumni during the Homecoming Weekend.

R Coulthard asked who people should contact if they want to volunteer for U School. Senator Rees said to contact Derek Roy Brenneis in the Chancellor's office or look up U School on the University website.

Chancellor Young thanked GSA Council for the opportunity to present. The Senate, all unpaid volunteers, are very pleased to support the great work the University does.

6.  **GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election: Paper Ballot Election**

M DuVal presented the item and stated that not all Councillor-at-Large positions were filled in the general election. There were five nominees and six vacant seats. There will be a different voting system, which S Prescott will explain. S Prescott explained that votes were per candidate. There was an elimination option; if there are more No votes than Yes, the candidate is eliminated.

M DuVal explained that all candidates were invited to GSA Council to speak or make video if they could not attend. Two candidates were present and invited to speak to the questions put to them in advance. Two videos will be played for candidates unable to attend.

The first question put to the candidates was, what prompted you to run for the position of Councillor-at Large? J Kong answered that he had been a Councillor for a year and wanted to remain with the GSA. S Gumfekar answered the same question by saying that he has been a member of FGSR Council for two years, a member of the International Education Committee, and International Education Student Advisory.

The second question put to the candidates was, what are the critical issues facing graduate students today? J Kong spoke about graduate student concerns about the Permanent Residency process. S Gumfekar is concerned about communication between international and domestic students and that some departments are not adhering to the Collective Agreement.

GSA Council was shown videos for candidates P Sivananthajothy and L Spanner.

H Thaker asked that given that there are fewer candidates than positions, are we already through the elimination round. S Prescott responded that if a candidate has more No votes than Yes votes, they will be eliminated. D Smirnow asked if positions did not get filled will they be advertised all year. M DuVal answered that the policy is not clear so the GSA Nominating Committee will continue to advertise and come back to GSA Council when there are nominees. C Iverson asked if there were any candidates running that took part in the GSA general election and were not elected. M DuVal responded that yes, J Kong, S Gumfekar, and B Kelly ran in the general election. J Kong asked where the CRO was and why he was not in session. V Pimmett pointed out that these elections are brought forward by the GSA Nominating Committee, not the CRO.

*Elections results are described in Section 9 below, which was the point in the Meeting at which they were announced.*

7.  **GSA Committee Elections**
    i.  **GSA Budget and Finance Committee: Paper Ballot Election**

M DuVal explained that there was one position to fill on the GSA Budget and Finance Committee. The two nominees, S Gumfekar and S Yansori were invited to give short remarks.

S Yansori introduced himself as a second year PhD in Financial Mathematics, with some experience with investing and financial management. He would use his knowledge and experience to help the GSA. S Gumfekar informed GSA Council that during his Masters at another institution, he worked as the VP Finance for their GSA, playing a similar role to that of the Budget and Finance Committee. He also has experience identifying funding opportunities and grant writing.

*Elections results are described in Section 9 below, which was the point in the Meeting at which they were announced.*

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> ii.    **GSA Board: Receive for Information**

Members had before them the nominee for the GSA Board vacancy, previously distributed on 17 April 2015. M DuVal presented the item.

**MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL:** That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC), **RECIEVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected GSA Board member.

There were no questions.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council, acting on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC), **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected GSA Board member. M DuVal **MOVED**. S Nusri **SECONDED**.

**Motion PASSED. One abstention.**

> iii.    **GSA Elections and Referenda Committee: Receive for Information**

Members had before them the nominee for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, which had previously been distributed on 17 April 2015. M DuVal presented the item.

**MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL:** That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC), **RECIEVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected GSA Elections and Referenda Committee member.

There were no questions.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council, acting on the recommendation of the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC), **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected GSA Elections and Referenda Committee member. M DuVal **MOVED**. R Coulthard **SECONDED**.

**Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

> iv.    **GSA Governance Committee: No Councillor Nominations**

No nominees were received for the GSA Governance Committee. The GSA Nominating Committee will now begin a proactive search to fill the vacancy for one member of GSA Council. M DuVal presented the item.

M DuVal appealed to GSA Council to assist in filling this vacancy as it is a standing committee and requires someone enthusiastic. E Schoeck pointed out that the GSA Governance Committee considers changes that are not in the mandates of other standing committees. A Murata asked who else sits on the committee. M DuVal responded that S Cake, S Prescott, S Fenichel. N Andrews added that he is currently the Chair and M Bal is the Vice-Chair.

> 8.    **GSA Health and Dental Plan: Fee for 2015-2016 AND Payment from the HDPRF of the Difference Between the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee and the Actual Cost of the Plan for 2015-2016**

Members had before them an outline of issue and a cover letter from the GSA Vice-President Student Services, previously distributed on 10 April 2015. M Bajaj presented the item and thanked the Councillors who attended Health & Dental 101 the previous week and introduced Kristin Foster (Western and Pacific Director, Studentcare), on hand to answer specific questions about Health & Dental Plan fees. She explained that the cost of the Health & Dental Plan is driven by utilization rates, which have increased compared to last year. Health claims increased by 9% and dental claims increased by 5%. This shows that graduate students are using the plan and submitting claims. The current fee, $396.90, has not changed in three years; the fee was locked in for the first two years and the 4% increase last year was covered by the Health & Dental Plan Reserve Fund (HDPRF). Actual costs have been kept down artificially. This year, the GSA is projecting a cost of $440.37, which is an increase of 11% for students. With Management, the Financial Manager, and the Accountant, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee is presenting this proposal to GSA Council for consideration.

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the GSA Council Meeting of 20 April 2015

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The GSA Budget and Finance Committee proposes to cover 3% of the fee increase from the HDPRF. This will bring an 8% fee increase to students so their fee will be $428.65. The current HDPRF balance is $222,733; the 3% bridge proposed will use $62,545, leaving a healthy balance of $160,188. The projected 8% increase next year is an estimate and may change. M Bajaj explains that we are looking at fee increases in April that will not take effect until September so that the Office of the Registrar can prepare for the administrative changes. Speaker explained that there are two suggested motions, one on the actual fee and one on how the fee is paid. GSA Council was asked to ask questions now about the presented material and then consider each motion separately.

S Fenichel asked why we decided to bridge the fee using the HDPRF rather than simply swallowing the $40 increase at once. M Bajaj responded that this is why the HDPRF exists. Their recommendation is to use part of it rather than the entire fund. S Fenichel asked what amount will remain in the HDPRF after using the bridge funds. M Bajaj answered $160,188.

S Sanders asked what will happen if the projection is short and the cost is actually higher? Would we still use the 3% and ask students to pay more? K Foster explained that the premium is locked in as it is now. If there is an opportunity to get a lower premium, Studentcare will try to renegotiate but it will not increase.

C Iverson asked if it is a financial possibility to keep the plan limits the same but remove the limits for some practitioners. K Foster responded that anything that would increase the coverage would increase the cost. This could be explored in future years; we have already seen increases when vision benefits were added last year and Studentcare recommends letting the number of claims stabilize before increasing anything else. Studentcare does not recommend making changes every year.

D Smirnow asked what the chances are that we will be able to add back into the HDPRF in the future. M Bajaj answered that there is no plan to artificially increase fees to replenish the HDPRF but there are no plans to use it beyond this 3% bridge funding. Unless the fee turns out to be less than projected, the GSA does not anticipate putting money back into the fund.

**MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL: That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, APPROVE the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2015-2016 AND Payment from the HDPRF of the Difference Between the GSA health and Dental Plan Fee and the Actual Cost of the Plan for 2015-2016.**

J Kong suggested that considering what graduate students are facing next year – 1% increase in fees, no increase in TA amounts, and no option to opt out – GSA Council should set up a Committee to negotiate fee increases by countering that more people will be subscribing. M Bajaj responded that the opt-out is still an option for students who can demonstrate similar or greater coverage. J Kong stated that he is taking the side of graduate students who will not have an increase in TA salaries and will see a 1% fee increase. Speaker asked J Kong if he would like to suggest an amendment or vote against the motion. J Kong asked that GSA Council vote when they have considered the implications, not just because it is being presented here today. N Andrews responded that the first point we are speaking about is that students are using the plan and that is what Council and the GSA wants but there are repercussions in the form of an increase. The second point is that there is no guarantee that grad enrollment will increase to such a degree that you could make the case to our insurance providers that our enrollment in the plan will increase drastically. We are not projecting any more than a 1% enrollment increase so this is not a bargaining chip. Councillor Kong pointed out that TA and RA-ships are not increasing but they are; based on last year's Collective Agreement negotiations the rates are increasing by 1.5%, which is not substantial but it is an increase. We have the HDPRF and could have bridged the entire amount of the increase but for the purposes of financial stability, GSA Budget and Finance Committee is recommending this healthy balance. As Chair of GSA Budget and Finance Committee, N Andrews asked GSA Council to make a conscious and strategic decision to support this motion.

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the GSA Council Meeting of 20 April 2015

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M Bajaj pointed out that the cost of the plan is driven by use; graduate students are using the plan and therefore our premiums will increase. The data demonstrates the increase in utilization so this increase is not without justification. J Kong stated that instead of always pushing students to pay more, GSA Council should set a committee to talk with the insurance company. N Andrews points out that Council already has committees assigned to work on these issues and many people have put many hours of work into making these recommendations. These decisions were not made lightly and the GSA Budget and Finance Committee did not take it lightly in bringing these recommendations forward. The GSA Budget and Finance Committee considered every option.

R Coulthard provided background for the edification of Council. The intention of the plan from day one in 1994 was to provide good coverage outside of traditional care – prescriptions, paramedical – at a rate that would cost less than a personal plan such as Blue Cross. Students are now using the plan heavily; better health care and healthier students was what Council wanted. We cannot get away from the fact that the costs are driven by use. Studentcare is independent of the insurance company and pushes back on behalf of graduate students to get the best deal. In the 2013 survey, students stated that they wanted more coverage, not less, even if it costs more. Fees have been held back to strike a balance. The HDPRF only exists for the plan and those funds cannot be spent elsewhere.

S Fenichel introduced another perspective in that she uses the plan frequently and does not make a lot of money but believes students should be swallowing the whole amount of the increase so the HDPRF can be held for future use. The increase amounts to about $.12 - $.15 per day. She cannot support using the bridge funding now when the increase is so small in the large scheme of things.

J Kong disagreed with the survey results mentioned by R Coulthard and asked which students were interviewed who said they do not care how much they pay as this is not the case in his personal experience. R Coulthard asked Speaker to have Councillor Kong not address his questions to him personally and that it is a point of personal privilege that he not be personally called out in statements to GSA Council. J Kong asked if this means his statement was not true. Speaker clarifies that the statements made by J Kong are being perceived as a personal attack on R Coulthard and could he reframe his comments in a different tone. J Kong then asked R Coulthard directly to clarify which students told him they did not care about the amount they pay. R Coulthard addressed the Speaker and stated that the survey was done by Studentcare on GSA Council's behalf in 2013. K Foster can better speak to the specifics of how it was conducted but in his opinion as a member of GSA Board at the time it was conducted with utmost care and attention to ethics and a plurality or majority in the survey want the same coverage or increase coverage even if it costs more. If J Kong has an issue with the survey he should challenge the survey and not R Coulthard's word about it. Speaker expressed that she understands the concern and it is on record. N Andrews pointed out that the survey is not the point of discussion today and in reference to the earlier point by S Fenichel, the GSA Board and Finance Committee considered increasing the fees by the full amount and not using the bridge funding. Some students can absorb the full amount, some might find it difficult.

**MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, APPROVE the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2015-2016 AND Payment from the HDPRF of the Difference Between the GSA health and Dental Plan Fee and the Actual Cost of the Plan for 2015-2016. M Bajaj MOVED. A Ndem Ahola SECONDED.**

**Motion PASSED. 2 Opposed. 5 Abstentions.**

9. GSA Board 2014-2015 Strategic Work Plan: Update **(For Information)**
   **Presented by Nathan Andrews (GSA President)**

Members had before them and update on the Strategic Work Plan Progress Checklist, previously distributed on 10 April 2015. N Andrews presented the item and raised the following points.

N Andrews stated that most of GSA Council has seen updates on the Work Plan and that many yellow items have moved to orange or green. We know the funds have been increased and we know by how much. The PAW Centre

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the GSA Council Meeting of 20 April 2015

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is officially open and N Andrews and M Bajaj participated in the opening events. It is much more than a gym. The Grad Lounge is available for use and M Bajaj has mentioned the procedures for booking the space for departmental activities. The GSA can help you with this. The Prayer and Meditation Space (PaMS) MOU has been signed. This initiative began a couple of years ago and this year we have made strides. The MOU represents what each party has agreed upon and what space will be designated for future PaMS use. The Dean of Students and Don Hickey, the SU President, and the Interfaith Chaplains Association (represented by R VanManen) were all involved. The space could be available by next year (2016). We worked with FGSR to identify graduate students' needs in terms of Professional Development. The goal was to achieve institution-wide opportunities. The funds have been allotted - $6.4 million from the Provincial Government over three years. We want to demand more work and implementation of what has been put on paper. The GSA held and event to connect graduate students with the outside professional world; many graduate students will not work in academia so we wanted to connect them with non-academic professionals. We had lots of good feedback and it will be even better next time. We recognized that there are many opportunities for Councillors to engage but not the entire graduate student body so we organized the Mix & Mingle. About 50% of those that RSVP'd actually attended which is not bad for the first event. We have the budget for this so the new team can continue this if they choose. N Andrews opened the floor for questions.

J Kong wondered what is required for the proposed Professional Development program. N Andrews responded that it will be required for all departments that do not already have a Professional Development component built in to their programs. If a department can demonstrate that their students already achieve at least 8 hours of Professional Development, they can opt out. C More expanded by outlining the few programs that already contain appropriate Professional Development. N Andrews explained that there will be a number of courses available when the University joins mygradskills.ca. Internships would also be applicable. C More pointed out that the required 8 hours is a minimum and an attempt to strike a balance between a useful amount and an amount that is not unduly burdensome. Mentorship is also highly recommended. The IDP can provide students with some agency over their choices.

C Iverson inquired about an updated timeline for implementation and whether or not current students will be grandfathered. C More replied that there will be grandfathering and if you do concurrent degrees, you are only required to do Professional Development once. The plan is going to FGSR for approval next week and will hopefully be implemented in the 2016-2017 calendar. G Barron pointed out that the benefit of the mandatory 8 hours is that it forces students to think consider the different options. Graduate students who are successful have mentors; your mentor does not have to be your supervisor. Look elsewhere in your community and think broadly.

S Fenichel stated that Professional Development is important, as is the conversation about the scope of graduate education. She still opposes the mandatory aspect. Is this just one more expectation on graduate students? N Andrews responded that no, we don't want to burden graduate students and there were many debates on this point. This is a balance between gaining some skills that could help graduate students get jobs and the time required to gain those skills. Not everyone will be happy with the proposal. Overall, this is something worth doing. S Fenichel asked if there was consultation with anyone in Education, where these programs have been in place for ten years and have not always been effective. This feels like a compromise rather than real engagement in Professional Development. N Andrews advises that this conversation needs to be had again after the program is implemented so we can review its progress. S Cake responded that this was also one of her concerns. We cannot just keep adding on to what is required of graduate students. R Coulthard pointed out that this process took four years to get to this point, it was on the Strategic Work Plan in 2010. To have reached this point is a win. C More explained that one aspect of the proposal going to FGSR next week addresses what supervisors should discuss with their students from the beginning of their relationship, such as pay rates and publishing. The mandatory aspect of the program is intended to give students agency in the case that supervisors do not provide the support they need. H Thaker points out that the 8-hour minimum could change in other iterations and that it is not a set number. We may find that it is not sufficient.

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N Andrews informed GSA Council that the advocacy Council – abGPAC – is official! The application was approved and they are a legal group.

*At this time the results of the GSA Councillor-at-Large and GSA Budget and Finance Committee Elections were presented.*

**GSA Councillor-at-Large Election Results:** L Spanner received 40 votes; P Sivananthajothy received 40 votes; J Kong received 33 votes; B Kelly received 23 votes; S Gumfekar received 33 votes; and all candidates were elected as Councillors-at-Large.

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee Election Results:** S Yansori received 32 votes; S Gumfekar received 8 votes; 1 ballot was spoiled. S Yansori was elected to the Committee.

10. **Councillor Announcements**
    None

11. 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 17 April 2015. The reports stood as submitted. In addition, N Andrews stated that this is his last GSA Council meeting and serving has been a pleasure. It has been a lot of work and a big time commitment but it was great to be part of it. He thanked the Staff and Management for being a great support system.

    ii. **GSA Board**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015. The report stood as submitted.

    iii. **GSA Budget and Finance Committee**
No written report was required at this time.

    iv. **GSA Governance Committee**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015. The report stood as submitted.

    a) **GSA Nominating Committee**
    i. **GSA Nominating Committee Report**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M DuVal stated that the GSA NoC was still looking for someone for the GSA Governance Committee. As the Chancellor mentioned, we are also looking for a Senator; nominations will open on the 3rd of next month. If anyone is interested, they should speak to G Barron. G Barron stated that serving was a great opportunity and if anyone is interested they should email him. S Sanders asked how long the terms are. M DuVal replied that for Senator, the term is one year and for the GSA Governance Committee, the term is indefinite.

13. **Vice-President Academic**
    i. **Vice-President Academic's Report**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C More stated that it was fun to work with this team and he hopes he will be half the president N Andrews has been. Everyone was awesome. The next year will be an interesting one.

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the GSA Council Meeting of 20 April 2015

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Bajaj stated that one change to the Health & Dental administration is that January students were not able to automatically enroll but they now will be. Opting out is still possible. This was also her last GSA Council and she thanked members for all the lively discussions over the past two years and noted that the GSA had been a good learning experience and very exciting. She also thanked Management and Staff for making life easier and R Coulthard for his advice on Health & Dental.

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

No meetings this reporting period.

15. **Vice-President External**
    i. **Vice-President External's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition S Cake stated that she would like to thank the Councillors who came out to the Arts Humanities PhD event about ways to change for the better. It seems that some did not get the invite so the turnout was not as good as she had hoped.

There have been developments in some social science departments. The GSA understands that some departments are collecting metrics data about publications and Professional Development related to research. Data will align with metrics from department and faculty. These may be used to inform cuts as they come from government. We are committed to advocating that resource allocations should be equitable. Across the board cuts or differential cuts is a bigger conversation and graduate students need to be fully engaged. If this happens in your department, we are aware and will push for graduate students to be more involved.

S Cake added that she was happy to have served as VP External and commended the DEOs, staff, and management for their dedication and enthusiasm.

    ii. **Awards Selection Committee**

No written report was required at this time; committee will resume meeting in Fall 2015.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition M Bal stated that he was a bit out of it due to his medication (broken arm) and thanked everyone for their work with GSA Council.

    ii. **Negotiating Committee**

No meetings this reporting period; committee will resume meeting in Fall 2015.

    iii. **Labour Relations Committee**

No meetings this reporting period.

17. **Senator**
    i. **Senator's Report**

No written report at this time. G Barron thanked everyone for the past year and noted it had been worthwhile, intellectually engaging, and stimulating.

18. **Speaker**
    i. **Speaker's Report**

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the GSA Council Meeting of 20 April 2015

No report for this meeting.

### 19. Chief Returning Officer
#### i. Chief Returning Officer's Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015. The report stood as submitted.

### 20. Elections and Referenda Committee
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition V Pimmett stated that there was not a lot at this moment, there was a meeting later this week to discuss new measures, especially concerning Councillors-at-Large. The GSA ERC hoped to implement new changes. V Pimmett thanked the DEOs and GSA Council on behalf of the GSA ERC.

J Kong asked if there are plans for the GSA ERC to address "None of the Above" as a candidate. V Pimmett said "yes" but noted she could not provide further specifics at that time. This issue will come back to GSA Council and will not be ignored.

### 21. GSA Management
#### i. Executive Director's Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 April 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, E Schoeck stated that she kept a binder that contained GSA Policies and Bylaws, things we have been working on for the past 4 years. We took Health & Dental Bylaw and Policy and put them beside each other, rather than as separate items. The hope is structure all of Bylaw and Policy in this manner. There will be no changes to the content, just putting them together and reorganizing the document. E Schoeck also noted that she and the management team were proud to have served the DEOs in the past year.

**Question Period**
### 22. Written Questions
Speaker noted that I Odoom had submitted a written question and read the question aloud. It was noted that a response would be circulated to GSA Council.

### 23. Oral Questions
There were no oral questions.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Prepared by M Caldwell and F Robertson for the GSA Council Meeting of 20 April 2015

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GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)
**GSA SENATOR**
**NOMINEES**

The GSA NoC advertised this position to all graduate students in the GSA Newsletter on April 3, 2015 and received **two** nominations, including bios and brief resumes by the deadline of Thursday April 30, 2015 at 12:00 PM (noon). GSA Council was invited to make additional nominations. **No additional nominations were received by the deadline of Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 12:00 PM (noon).**

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GSA Bylaws (Part IV, Section 3.2.3) state "The Senator shall be elected by a **simple majority vote** of Council, normally for a one-year term, **at the May meeting of Council**."

**There will be an anonymous paper ballot vote held at the May 25, 2014 GSA Council meeting to elect the GSA Senator for 2015-2016.**

*If you are unable to attend the May 25, 2015, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, May 25, 2015, in order to cast your vote in advance of the Council meeting.*

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The biographies and brief resumes of all nominees are listed below in alphabetical order.  *Nominees shall be listed on the ballot in reverse alphabetical order.*

**Qualifications as set out in GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios Policy, Section 9)**
9.2.b "The Senator should have prior experience acting as a representative for the GSA and/or as a liaison with bodies external to the University."

**Duties of Senator (GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Board):**
2.d "All Council-Elected Officers (GSA Bylaws, Part IV, Officers, Section 3) are non-voting members of the GSAB."

**Duties in Bylaw (Part IV Officers, Section 3 Council-Elected Officers and Officer Portfolios Policy, Section 9)**
3.3.3 "The Senator is the GSA's representative to the University of Alberta Senate."

GSA Policy governing the NoC states "the NoC will provide Council with nominations for the (…) Senator" (GSA Policy, Nominating, Section 6.6).  **Biographies and brief resumes of the GSA Senator nominees (2) are <u>ATTACHED on pages 6.1 - 6.2.</u>  Biographies and brief resumes have been attached as <u>received</u> (i.e. not edited).**

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**Nominees are listed in alphabetical order and will be presented in reverse alphabetical order on the ballot:**

1.       **Sirina Hamilton (MA Program, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)**
2.       **Leigh Spanner (PhD Program, Political Science)**

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**Biographies and Resumes of Nominees in the Order in Which They Were Received:**

**1. Leigh Spanner**

**Leigh Spanner's Bio:**

I was born and raised in Ottawa and stayed there to do my undergraduate degree in Political Science, as well as to work in the Parliament of Canada as a Page. Following my undergraduate degree I worked full time in the Senate of Canada, in its Finance Directorate and later in the Interparliamentary Affairs Directorate. I went on to pursue a Masters degree, in Political Science, at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. I am currently in my third year of the PhD program in political science, focusing on Feminist International Relations.

**Leigh Spanner's Resume:**

I have extensive experience in student politics, within University Administration and politics generally, which position me to serve as the GSA Senator. First, I have just finished serving as the GSA Representative for the Advisory Search Committee: VP Advancement. I have previously served as the GSA Representative on an Advisory Search Committee: Vice-Provost and University Registrar (2012-2013). My experience advocating for graduate students, as well as working with Senior Administration, was furthered by my position on the Facilitated Learning and Coaching Process for the University of Alberta Office of Student Services (2013-2014). I have also been the Graduate Representative on the Search Committee for the University of Alberta's Political Science Department Chair and Memorial University of Newfoundland's Search Committee for the Deputy Provost (Students) and Associate Vice-President (Academic) Undergraduate Studies (2010).

What's more, for the second year in a row I am serving as the VP Finance for the Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA). The previous year I was VP General for the PSGSA. Within the Department of Political Science I sit on Department Council (current), and previously sat on the Department's Graduate Council (2013-2014). Within the GSA, I am currently a member of the Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC) and am one of the Councilor's-at-large for the GSA's Council. I previously sat on GSA Council (2013-2014) and was a member of the GSA's Award Selection Committee from (2012 – 2014). At the University level I am a member of the Student Group Granting Committee (2013-present). During my Masters degree I was the Vice-President Communications and Research for Memorial's Graduate Student Union, where I sat on numerous university committees, and chaired numerous graduate student committees.

My schedule is fairly flexible, as I am in the proposal stage of the PhD program, and have an RAship – both of which are mostly self-directed. I thank you for your consideration.

**Leigh Spanner currently serves on the following committees:**

GSA's ERC, GSA Councilor at Large

**2. Sirina Hamilton**

I wish to express my interest in the position of Senator as described in GSA Bylaw and Policy and advertised in the GSA weekly e-newsletter. I am interested in a position with the Senate as a way to stay connected with and give back to the campus community. I am well qualified for the position of Senator, with extensive experience liaising and working with organizations external to the University of Alberta. I describe my selected work and volunteer experiences below.

Sirina Hamilton's Resume:

*Consultation on Strengthening Financial Literacy Strategy for Young Canadians and Adults, Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (November 2014)*

- Invited by Federal Minister of State (Finance), Hon. Kevin Sorenson to sit on the panel of experts and provide feedback and expertise on the Government of Canada's financial literacy strategy for young Canadians and adults.

*Manager, Student Financial Aid Information Centre, University of Alberta Students' Union (2010 2014)*

- Detailed knowledge of student funding policy and an in depth understanding of how those policies interact with issues facing post-secondary students.
- Liaised with Canadian federal government, governments from all 13 provincial jurisdictions and within the US Department of Education.

*Vice-President Executive, Alberta Student Awards Personnel Association (*ASAPA) *(2010- 2014)*
- Collaborated with Alberta's Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education, members of the Alberta Students' Finance Board and ministry staff to advocate for positive change in Alberta's Student Aid system.
- Authored ASAPA's position paper "Plight of the Married Student" highlighting the inequitable treatment of married students and advocated for changes to Student Aid Alberta's assessment policy. This issue disproportionately impacts graduate students. Student Aid Alberta has announced the removal of spousal income from assessment policy as a direct result of the position paper and advocacy efforts.

*Graduate Student Councilor, Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers (2009-2011)*
- Presented Western Division student concerns and issues to national executive*.*

*Board Member, Campus Food Bank (2009)*
- Provide feedback and direction to Executive Director with respect to overarching financial trends observed among campus community.

*Founding member and President, Human Geography Student Society (2004-2007)*
- Liaised with faculty and professional groups to organize field trips, guest speakers, and conferences.

I am pursuing my Master of Arts Degree, focused on the perceptions and uses of the 124th Street commercial corridor by residents of the Westmount neighbourhood. I anticipate that I will complete my degree in April 2016. I have experience as a TA in one of the University's first blended learning courses- HGP 100.

I am available year round, with the exception of May 23rd to June 4th, 2015.

I look forward to this opportunity and thank you for considering me for this position

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GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)
**GSA Councillors-at-Large (ONE POSITION)**
**NOMINEES**

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On May 1, 2015, the GSA Nominating Committee advertised the last remaining Councillor-at-Large position for 2015-2016 to all graduate students through the GSA Newsletter, and on the GSA website. The deadline to receive nominations was May 8, 2015, at 12:00 PM (Noon). The GSA received **three** nominations by the deadline. GSA Council was invited to make additional nominations. **No additional nominations were received by the deadline of Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at 12:00 PM (noon).**

As set out in GSA Policy, Elections, By-Elections, Section 13.3 :

"In the event that any **CAL positions** are not filled by the end of the General Election, [...] GSA Council will be responsible for electing any remaining CALs. When electing any remaining CALs, the GSA Council will aim to elect graduate students from as broad a range of disciplines as possible. The GSA NoC will decide on procedures and then provide one or more names to GSA Council for consideration, except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process allows for Councillors to make additional nominations. If the matter is urgent, GSA Council can hold this election electronically."

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**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the May 25, 2015 GSA Council meeting for the last GSA Councillor-at-Large position.**

*If you are unable to attend the May 25, 2015, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday May 25, 2015, in order to cast your vote in advance of the Council meeting.*

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**Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name and will be presented in *reverse* alphabetical order on the ballot.  'None of the Candidates' will also be considered a nominee for the purpose of each ballot.**

1. **Megha Bajaj (PhD program, Biological Sciences)**
2. **Syed Bukhari (PhD Program, Chemical Engineering)**
3. **Firouz Khodayari (PhD program, Mining Engineering)**

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The names and biographies received (three nominees) are <u>ATTACHED on page 7.1-7.2.</u>  Biographies are presented as <u>received</u> (i.e. not edited).

**THREE PAGES**

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**Biographies and Resumes of Nominees in the Order in Which They Were Received**

**1. Megha Bajaj**
**Megha Bajaj's Bio:**
I was born and raised in India, where I completed my M.Sc. in microbiology and worked with a Biopharmaceutical company for two years. Before moving to Edmonton to pursue my PhD, I lived in the United States, where I worked as a Teaching Assistant at the Biology Department at University of Texas, Arlington. I am currently in the fifth year of my PhD program in the Biological Sciences Department at the U of A. My research focuses on proteins that regulate the cell division process. I also teach undergraduate molecular biology labs in the Biological sciences department.

**Megha Bajaj's Resume:**
I have served as the GSA Vice President, Student Services for the last two years (2013-14 and 2014-15). I was also the graduate student representative on the ONECard committee in 2012-2013 where I worked closely with Ancillary Services and the ONECard office to suggest improvements in the ONECard design and use. I have been recently selected by the GSA nominating committee to serve on this committee for another year. This year I am specifically interested in giving my feedback on the ONECard mobile application, which is currently in the designing stage and understanding how the ONECard office will be piloting the Smartfare program for UPass for UoA students by possible collaboration with ETS (Edmonton Transit Services) Smartfare team.
I also volunteer with ABCampus as a committee member and in the past have served as their VP-Communicatons for one year. I have also been involved with Newton Place Resident's Association (NPRA) as Floor Representative-Graduate and Professional Studies, where I was responsible for arranging career development seminars for students every month. I also volunteer with WISEST and Let's Talk Science conferences where I help young kids in learning simple science techniques and get them interested in science as a career. As part of Let's Talk Science I was also responsible for advocating for better science education for high school children. I have recently also started volunteering with University of Alberta International Centre as a Senior Peer Advisor for new incoming international students. I also volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club-Big Brothers Big Sisters (BCGBigs) of Edmonton & Area. This is a not-for-profit organization that provides safe places and positive mentoring for children and youth of the Edmonton community. I volunteer with their clubs program and I am responsible for setting up activities and programs that help foster the academic, physical, emotional and overall wellness of kids and youth; many of these kids come from unstable family environments and are a part of the Youth- In Care program.

**Megha Bajaj currently serves on the following committees**: None

**2. Syed Bukhari**
**Syed Bukhari's Bio:**
I was born and raised in State of Jammu & Kashmir in Pakistan. I moved to Islamabad with my family where I got a chance to complete my Bachelors and Masters degrees in Physics from Quaid-I-Azam University. I moved to U of A in Sep 2010 and finished another Master degree in Condense Matter Physics in 2013. I served as a Social director of graduate physics student association (GPSA) during 2011-2012 where I took the lead in arranging potluck dinners, movie nights, social skating and BBQs. I worked as a peer leader with international centre during fall-2011 and worked as a Science peer with FGSR Outreach at U of A.

**Syed Bukhari's Resume:**
I am a first year PhD student in department of Chemical & Materials engineering where I study the real time online monitoring of steam quality in SAGD operations for in situ bitumen extraction. I work jointly with Prof. Thomas Thundat and Ingenuity lab. I have a Masters Degree in Experimental Condense Matter Physics with specialization in piezoelectric sensors and actuators from University of Alberta with 5 years of teaching experience of College and University level Physics Courses and Labs. I Taught PHYS 124, 126, 130, 131, 144, 146, 230, and 292 Undergraduate labs to Students from various disciplines at University of Alberta. Duties also included preparing and editing course materials, assign homework, marked lab reports, evaluate student's performance, distributed marks for Grading, and provided feedback.
I was a social director at Graduate Physics Student Association (2011-2012) where I arranged BBQs, social hockey and skating, Potluck dinners, movie nights and other social activities I also attended regular meetings about Faculty of graduate studies and research policies, University of Alberta budget updates, Department of Physics Council meetings, etc. I also worked as a Science volunteer; Outreach at the University of Alberta (2010) where I answered high school student's questions about space physics, low temperature physics, nanotechnology, materials etc.

I got an opportunity to work as a Peer leader with international centre during fall 2011. It was amazing experience as I was responsible for five students all from different countries. I took them to a tour to city and University, helped them getting residence and their social insurance/heath IDs. Most of them are still in contact with me.

Working with GSA as a councillor in large will give another opportunity to serve graduate under GSA platform. I want to be part of discussion and responsibilities where I can put my efforts and contributions in Grad student's issues like funding, health and GSA strategy for future plans.

**Syed Bukhari currently serves on the following committees:** None

### 3. Firouz Khodayari

**Firouz Khodayari's Bio:**

I was born in Iran, in a professional family who all cared about leadership and teamwork skills. I have been involved in extracurricular activities such as outdoor club, event staff, and student associations since the beginning of my secondary school. I was the head of student association during my high school in which I had to organize so many meetings with the teachers and parents during each semester. I started my undergraduate studies at the Isfahan University of Technology, where I was elected as vice-president academic for the student union of the university. I was also the president for the "Mining Engineering Scientific Association" at the department of mining engineering. My team and I were in charge of the 5th national conference in mining engineering which was held at the Isfahan University of Technology. I did my master degree at Tarbiat Modares University where just offers graduate studies. I was involved with many volunteer activities during my master including student union and scientific association for faculty of engineering. After finishing my master, I started working in one of well-known engineering consultant companies in mining engineering. I started as a specialist in production scheduling and then after one year I was promoted to server as the head of the mine planning department. This position helped me to improve my leadership skills in a new non-academic environment. Continuing my graduate studies at U of A was one of the best decisions I have made during my professional life, a university full of opportunities. Being part of so many volunteer activities such as week of welcome, student union, and heritage festival with U of A students have improved my teamwork skills.

**Firouz Khodayari's Resume:**

I am currently PhD candidate in Mining Engineering at the University of Alberta. I obtained my bachelor degree in Mining Engineering from Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran. I hold my M.Sc. in Mining Engineering from Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran. I was the head of mine planning and optimization department at Kusha Madan Consulting Engineers, Iran from 2011 to 2013. I have been involved in many volunteer activities since my secondary school; week of welcome, heritage festival and student union are some of the volunteering activities in which I have been involved at U of A.

**Firouz Khodayari currently serves on the following committees:** None

**THREE PAGES**

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GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)
**FOR INFORMATION: GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (ONE POSITION)**

As advertised through the GSA Newsletter on May 8, 2015, there was one vacancy on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee. The GSA NoC advertised the position and received one (1) nomination by the deadline of May 15, 2015, at 12:00 PM (Noon). The GSA NoC sent a call for additional nominations to GSA Council on May 19, 2015, and received no additional nominations by the deadline of May 22, 2015, at 12:00 PM (Noon). Therefore, **the position has been filled by the GSA NoC (GSA Policy, Nominating, Section 6.6).**

**Recommended Motion**

>   That the GSA Council receive the report of the GSA Nominating Committee and **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected member of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.

**Newly-elected GSA Member on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee:**
   1. **Anmol Shahid (PhD program, Medicine)**

**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.**"**

## GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE: Vacancy: ONE MEMBER OF COUNCIL (GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 3.1.4)

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Role (GSA Policy, Standing Committee, Section 9.3.a)**:
"The GSA ERC shall advise the CRO on all matters pertaining to elections, referenda, and by-elections (…)."

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Eligibility (GSA Policy, Standing Committee, Section 9.2.a):**
"All members of the GSA are eligible to serve on the GSA ERC unless they intend to run in the General Election or By-Election, intend to support a position in an upcoming referendum, or they have run in the previous General Election or By-Election or supported a position in the last referendum. If standing for election to the GSA ERC, GSA ERC candidates agree not to campaign for or endorse any individual running in the General Election or By-Election and not to campaign for or endorse any referendum campaign. 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 Member Leaving the GSA Election and Referenda Committee:** Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane (Educational Policy Studies)

**GSA Members Staying on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee:** Christohper Chen (Public Health) Zhendong Li (Chemistry), Justin Leifso (Political Sciences), Leigh Spanner (Vice-Chair, Political Sciences)

**GSA Council Members Staying on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee:** Virginia Pimmett (Chair, Cell Biology), Jennifer Bell (Nursing), Axel Perez Trujillo (Modern Language and Cultural Studies).

## Outline of Issue **(GSA Council)**

**GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan**

**Suggested Motion for GSA Council:**

That GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Board, **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan (pages 9.3 - 9.12 in the attached material).

**Background:**

The GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan builds upon the GSA Board 2014-2015 Strategic Work Plan. The GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan was prepared by the GSA President and GSA Vice-Presidents, along with the outgoing Directly-Elected Officers, and GSA Management as a guide for decisions and actions for the upcoming year.

At the May 6, 2015, meeting of the GSA Board, members **APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO GSA COUNCIL** the GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan.

**Jurisdiction:**

*Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA) 94(3):
"*The graduate students association of a university shall provide for the administration of graduate student affairs at the university, including ... the promotion of the general welfare of the graduate students consistent with the purposes of the university.*"

GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 2.2.a:
"*The GSAB is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by Council.*"

Prepared by C Thomas and E Schoeck for GSA Council 25 May 2015

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# Graduate Students' Association
## University of Alberta

May 14, 2015

Dear GSA Council Members,

Please find **the 2015-2016 Graduate Students' Association Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP)** attached for your review. This Plan was prepared by me along with the GSA Vice-Presidents, the out-going team of DEOs, and GSA Management to direct our efforts and identify areas where we can work with others in the University community. The Board SWP both includes the platform and strategic goals of your new team of Directly-Elected Officers and was based upon the previous Board's SWP, which ensures continuity in terms of strategic goals, planning, and advocacy. **Important GSA initiatives, including enhanced professional development opportunities for graduate students and increased services for international graduate students are developed in this Plan.**

Alongside many continuing GSA initiatives, developed in the 2014-2015 Board SWP, this version outlines several strategic goals. **In brief, the key priorities that the GSA Vice-Presidents and I have identified for 2015-2016 are**:

- Intensive, integrated advocacy for and representation of graduate student issues. Advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide predictable and sustainable funding through the new Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council. **The GSA supports tuition increases directly tied to the Alberta Consumer Price Index,** and opposes across-the-board graduate student tuition increases and increases to the international student tuition differential beyond that. **The GSA opposes the introduction of new market modifiers** that are not part of an agreed upon regulatory framework and meaningful consultation. **The GSA opposes the introduction of new Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees or increases to any existing Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees beyond the Alberta Consumer Price Index** that do not result from an agreed upon regulatory framework and meaningful consultation.

- Advocate to ensure the fair and **equitable distribution of funding** that supports the excellence of currently enrolled graduate students and **support structures that facilitate the recruitment of top-tier graduate students**.

- Continue to work with the University (including the Office of the Provost and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research) on **education, compliance, and dispute resolution** associated with the Collective Agreement governing Academically Employed Graduate Students. Negotiate for **increased Teaching Assistantship and Research Assistantship funding** in Collective Agreement negotiations.

- Continue to participate vigorously in all discussions with respect to supervision. Collaborate with individual faculties, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and Administration and **pursue the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research's current initiatives with respect to supervision**.

- Continue to lobby both the University and government for assistance and **support for international graduate students who are seeking Canadian Permanent Residence**. Advocate for the opening of existing scholarships, awards, and bursaries to international graduate student applicants.

- Finalize plans for **consistently accessible and suitable multi-faith prayer and meditation space** for all students.

- Further enhance **opportunities for social interaction and networking for and amongst graduate students** (*eg* social engagement and professional development events).

www.gsa.ualberta.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Room 1-37, Killam Centre for Advanced Studies
Triffo Hall, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E1
Tel: 780.492.2175 | Fax: 780.492.2999

- Continue to advocate for **increased and diversified professional development opportunities** in recognition of the diverse career paths of graduate students.

- Advocate for **quality graduate student housing**, and for the continued implementation of flexible and transparent residence rental contracts. Continue to build strong relationships with graduate students who reside in University residences and their representative organizations. Work with them to address concerns and ensure that Administration hears grievances and pursues resolutions promptly.

As was the case with previous GSA Board SWPs, in implementing this Plan, we will strive for transparency, accountability, and reputation-building through regular updates to GSA Council and other stakeholders. Through this process, we hope to gain valuable feedback on how we can best achieve what we have set out to accomplish. We look forward to working with our many partners on the implementation of this Plan.

The GSA Board is interested in hearing your thoughts on the Strategic Work Plan. I look forward to our discussion on May 25.

Sincerely,

Colin More
2015-2016 GSA President

www.gsa.ualberta.ca

**Graduate Students' Association**
**Room 1-37, Killam Centre for Advanced Studies**
**Triffo Hall, University of Alberta**
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**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (GSA) BOARD STRATEGIC WORK PLAN: 2015-2016**

The GSA sees this as a living document, shifting directions as needed as the provincial budget, the federal government's post-secondary education strategy, and the University of Alberta landscape all unfold and change. It is developed by both the previous and current teams of Directly-Elected Officers and provides a planning document for this year and into the future.

**VISION:** The GSA envisions an engaging environment that is supportive, healthy, accessible, and inclusive. This empowers graduate students to be agents of change in all endeavours, academic and otherwise, during their time here and beyond. The GSA believes that a healthy organization is nurtured through effective relationships with various stakeholders[1] and constituent groups of the academy.[2] Nonetheless, an organization that evolves over time must be prepared to take steps at critical junctures that may or may not be endorsed by all of its stakeholders.

**MISSION:**

- **Advocate for comprehensive, timely, and excellent supports for all graduate students as provided by both the University and government**.

- **Negotiate a Collective Agreement that equitably supports graduate students who are employed by the University, and ensure compliance with the Collective Agreement.**

- **Foster student engagement.**

- **Support the academic endeavours of graduate students.**

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[1] Stakeholders are defined in this document as individuals, groups, and offices that can affect or are directly affected by the GSA and its initiatives.
[2] Constituent groups of the academy are defined in this document as faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, and non-academic staff – all of which are represented on General Faculties Council – for our internal purposes within the GSA, the Post Doctoral Fellows' Association is also viewed as a group empowered to "communicate with the U of A on all issues of general importance to the Postdoctoral Fellow Community" (Memorandum of Understanding between the Post Doctoral Fellows' Association and the U of A).

| STRATEGIC GOALS/FOCUS | STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES |
|---|---|
| **1. REPUTATION AND LONG-TERM HEALTH OF THE GSA** | |
| Ensure that the GSA maintains an **excellent reputation over time**.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>**Aim for the U of A GSA to be the best managed** in Canada. | Maintain a **culture of respect and tolerance** in the GSA office and in all dealings with the University community, and ensure excellence over time:<br><br>• All Directly-Elected Officers, management, and staff of the GSA will **maintain a high level of professionalism**.<br><br>• Ongoing commitment to **the process of strategic planning**, regular follow through on goals and tasks, and regular reporting to GSA Council.<br><br>• **Proactive search for talent (***eg* **Directly-Elected Officers, committee members)** will be ongoing. Develop strategies and supports in collaboration with outgoing and incoming Directly-Elected Officers. Continue to regularly review Directly-Elected Officer portfolios, workloads, and responsibilities.<br><br>• **Enhance the public face of the GSA** through engagement activities and the utilization of social media.<br><br>• **Survey the graduate student population** on issues of importance.<br><br>Retain a commitment to **vigilance in maintaining excellence** in the administration of the GSA:<br><br>• **Work closely with the Executive Director and her management team** to ensure **viable staffing infrastructure to support both our corporate responsibilities** (*eg* staff Collective Agreement, insurance, audit, budget planning, fiscal prudence) **and the need for cross-training and succession planning**. |
| **2. INTERFACE AND ADVOCATE WITH UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE AND GOVERNMENT** | |
| Intensive, integrated **advocacy for and representation of** graduate student issues. Advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide **predictable and sustainable funding**. | Maintain relationships** with various stakeholders and **engage with University Administration and the provincial government**:<br><br>• Advocacy requires **strong relationships with our partner associations – the Students' Union, the Academic Staff Association, the Post Doctoral Fellows' Association, and the Non-Academic Staff Association**. It is key to reinforce these relationships, especially with the Students' Union, and identify shared priorities in building a common vision of post-secondary education.<br><br>• **Create strong and collaborative relationships with the incoming President and Provost**. Maintain relationships with the **Deputy Provost, Vice-Presidents, members of the Board of Governors, Governance, Senate, Alumni Association, service providers, and other key partners (such as Faculty Deans).**<br><br>• Continue to work with the University (including the Office of the Provost and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research) on **education, compliance, and dispute resolution** associated with the Collective Agreement governing Academically Employed Graduate Students.<br><br>• **Lobby the provincial government** through the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council to provide **predictable and sustainable funding that can uphold a high standard of accessible, world-class education in this province**, and on other issues of importance to graduate |

| STRATEGIC GOALS/FOCUS | STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES |
|---|---|
| | students. Maintain an overall strong **advocacy presence**. |
| **3. TUITION, FEES, AND FUNDING** | |
| | **Engage and advocate meaningfully** on issues of graduate student tuition and fees:<br><br>• **The GSA supports tuition increases directly tied to the Alberta Consumer Price Index,** and opposes across-the-board graduate student tuition increases and increases to the international student tuition differential beyond that.<br><br>• **The GSA opposes the introduction of new market modifiers** that are not part of an agreed upon regulatory framework and meaningful consultation**.**<br><br>• **The GSA opposes the introduction of new Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees or increases to any existing Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees beyond the Alberta Consumer Price Index** that do not result from an agreed upon regulatory framework and meaningful consultation.<br><br>**Teaching Assistantship and Research Assistantship funding and access to other forms of funding are vital for graduate student success** and enrich the U of A campus community as a whole:<br><br>• Negotiate for **increased Teaching Assistantship and Research Assistantship funding** in Collective Agreement negotiations.<br><br>• Advocate to **ensure the fair and equitable distribution of funding that supports the excellence of currently enrolled graduate students** and support structures that **facilitate the recruitment of top-tier graduate students**.<br><br>• Advocate for the **opening of existing scholarships, awards, and bursaries to international graduate student applicants**.<br><br>• **Negotiate for increases to the Graduate Student Support Fund** to support GSA Professional Development Awards, Child Care Grants, Emergency Bursaries, and Recognition Awards. |
| **4. SUPPORTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS** | |
| Advocate for **a strong FGSR**.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Advocate on issues associated with | **Support a strong Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and maintain a strong graduate student voice in any proposed reforms** to graduate studies or the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research:<br><br>• Engage vigorously with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and other groups (such as Faculty Deans with respect to the implementation of a 'responsibility centered management' budget model) to **develop quality measures and an ambitious vision of graduate education** at the U of A.<br><br>• Advocate for **graduate student representation on the Graduate Enrolment and Funding Advisory Committee**. |

| STRATEGIC GOALS/FOCUS | STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES |
|---|---|
| **graduate student supervision**. | **Quality graduate student supervision is instrumental to graduate students' success** and should be an institutional priority: |
| | • The GSA will **continue to participate vigorously in all discussions with respect to supervision**. This will involve ongoing collaboration with individual faculties, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and Administration in **pursuit of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research's current supervision initiatives**. |
| **Ensure that top quality supports and infrastructure are in place** with respect to graduate students. | As new graduate students (particularly international students) join the U of A, **the right supports and infrastructure must be in place before admission**: |
| | • Continue to lobby both the University and government for **assistance and support for international graduate students who are seeking Canadian Permanent Residence**. |
| | • Work with University of Alberta International and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to create **a welcoming and supportive environment for international graduate students**. |
| | • Finalize plans for **consistently accessible and suitable multi-faith prayer and meditation space for all students.** |
| Strive for **an equitable and welcoming campus community**. | **A campus where all students feel encouraged to learn and participate actively** in campus life enriches the University: |
| | • Continue to work closely with other constituency groups and stakeholders in pursuit of a campus free from discrimination and bullying. |
| **5.    STUDENT EXPERIENCE** | |
| Continue to deliver the **Departmental Liaison Initiative**. | Delivery of the **Department Liaison Initiative**: |
| | • The Department Liaison Initiative focuses on **seven key points**: |
| |    o Compliance with the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (*eg* election of a Departmental Councillor). |
| |    o Risk assessment and reduction related to graduate student groups affiliated with the GSA. |
| |    o Education about and compliance with the Collective Agreement (the GSA is committed to providing information sessions and hardcopy and electronic briefings to graduate students and departments). |
| |    o Tailoring GSA department orientations to the needs of departments and graduate students. |
| |    o Representation on Faculty Councils. |
| |    o Linking established departmental GSAs with new ones. |
| |    o Linking with the "proactive search" for graduate student talent as per the GSA Nominating Committee's terms of reference. |
| Maintain a focus on **orientation, social engagement, and social spaces**. | **Engage meaningfully and effectively** with graduate students: |
| | • **Proactively** plan fall and winter term GSA orientations for all departments (coordinated with the Department Liaison Initiative) and connect/collaborate with respect to **International Centre Orientations**. Partner with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research with respect to **universal orientations for new graduate students** in September and January. |

| STRATEGIC GOALS/FOCUS | STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES |
|---|---|
| | • **Further enhance opportunities for social interaction and networking** for and amongst graduate students (*eg* social engagement and professional development events).<br><br>• Explore the programming of **social engagement activities in the PAW graduate student lounge** and maintain **meaningful participation in the PAW Strategic Operating Committee**.<br><br>• Discuss the use of former GSA offices with Facilities and Operations and **lobby for other space in the North Power Plant to be used by graduate students and others for the purpose of collaborating, sharing ideas and meeting informally**. Continue collaboration with the Students' Union, Facilities and Operations and other potential partners (*eg* the Alumni Association) for a renovated Dewey's/North Power Plant within the framework of Memorandums of Understanding related to the former GSA offices.<br><br>• Continue work on **graduate student groups and departmental GSAs**. Review the Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Dean of Students. **Collaborate with Student Group Services to develop goals and strategies** for Graduate Student Group support and interaction. |
| **6.   SERVICES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** | |
| **Health and wellness, professional development, and GSA services**. | **Ensure robust services are in place** for graduate students:<br><br>• Participate in campus-wide **ongoing health and wellness initiatives**, including maintaining the satellite psychologist in Triffo Hall and **leveraging resources to improve other health and wellness services**.<br><br>• The GSA will **continue to advocate for increased and diversified professional development opportunities** in recognition of the diverse career paths of graduate students.<br><br>• **Continue to subsidize Writing Resources Centre courses and Career and Placement Services, which receive excellent reviews from graduate students**. Lobby to augment services such as the courses and one-on-one support offered by the Writing Resources Centre for international students.<br><br>• **Regularly review, monitor, and negotiate all GSA services** to ensure that students are getting the highest value possible. |
| **7.   HOUSING** | |
| Focus on **graduate student housing**. | Maintain a focus on issues and initiatives relating to **graduate student residences** and **ensure that meaningful consultation** with the University on housing issues is achieved:<br><br>• **Advocate for quality graduate student housing**, and for the continued implementation of flexible and transparent residence rental contracts.<br><br>• **Improve housing opportunities, maintenance, and services for graduate students living in University residences**. |

| STRATEGIC GOALS/FOCUS | STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES |
|---|---|
|  | • **Continue to build strong relationships with graduate students who reside in University residences and their representative organizations. Work with them to address concerns** and ensure that Administration hears grievances and pursues resolutions promptly. |

## APPENDIX: EXTENDED MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC GOALS

**MISSION:**

- **The GSA is a vigilant voice for stewardship of the graduate student experience** with regard to funding, housing, and services. As graduate enrolment, and international graduate enrolment, increases **we believe key infrastructure pieces must be in place before new graduate students register**. **Attention must be paid to the career opportunities and professional development of graduate students who plan to enter either the academy or pursue careers outside academia. We advocate for "sustainable funding"**: that, through strategic investments and reallocation of central funding, **all graduate students who are otherwise without funding will have access to enriching graduate student employment** to the benefit of the graduate student and the University.

- We **ensure that employed graduate students are fairly compensated for their work**, while also working to safeguard that such work does not place graduate students at a disadvantage during their studies. We ensure that employed graduate students' work environments are safe, free from harassment, discrimination and bullying, and foster a culture of workplace wellness.

- **The GSA defines engagement as intellectual, personal and professional involvements that are enriching, rewarding, milestones in maturity, and marked by learning, testing, personal development, success, and sometimes failure**. The GSA believes student engagement occurs from the time an individual asks for information about applying for graduate studies through the end-point of convocation, flowing through to alumni engagement. **We support continuing student engagement** through involvement in governance, networks anchored in residence life, professional development, networking opportunities, and opportunities for the development of "soft"/management skills, and in social settings where friendships and research collaboration can occur.

- The GSA **supports and encourages an empowering environment for graduate students to thrive in their various academic, professional programs, and research endeavours**. This entails creating avenues for graduate students to present their research to the larger academic community in and out of the U of A, ensuring a good relationship between graduate students and their supervisor(s), rewarding deserving students for excellence in teaching, research, and leadership, and encouraging the continued progress of professional development programs for graduate students.

**REPUTATION AND LONG-TERM HEALTH OF THE GSA**

As reflected in GSA Policy, the GSA Nominating Committee "leads an annual initiative each October called the Early Call for Talent and Training. During this "Early Call" any graduate student interested in running for elected office is invited to a get-to-know dinner and is encouraged to participate in a series of training sessions on such topics as

University governance, GSA 101, budget and audit basics, collective bargaining, major GSA services, and more ... these sessions provide a basic set of information that the GSA sees as essential for the effective leadership of its corporation and for the carrying out of its fiduciary duties."

The GSA aims to **optimize workloads for Directly-Elected Officers**. The GSA will also continue to realign the most **optimal division of labour** between Directly-Elected Officers and management/staff so Directly-Elected Officers are well supported in a graduate student-led and professionally managed environment where, over the past five years, all of the Directly-Elected Officers have been successful in their academic programs while holding office.

In 2014-2015 the GSA brought in **external consultants to review our safety protocols and procedures, staff collective agreement, communications strategies, and IT operations**. The GSA is at a stage in its evolution as an organization where such reviews are beneficial as we move forward with new initiatives. The GSA will also continue to move forward on 2010 recommendations of the GSA consultant, *eg* **itemize areas that need review with respect to the continuous improvement of infrastructure, and continue to meet goals for bylaw and policy review**.

**The GSA will negotiate the GSA's business relationship with the Students' Union** with respect to the PAW food service area and continue to approach the process with a no-risk stance, while remaining open to revenue generation.


**INTERFACE AND ADVOCATE WITH UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE AND GOVERNMENT**

The GSA Board revived constituency meetings with the Post Doctoral Fellows' Association, the Academic Staff Association, the Non-Academic Staff Association, and the Students' Union in 2012. The GSA will continue to meet regularly with the **Provost, the Dean of Students, Deputy Provost, and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and establish regular meetings with other key partners.**


**TUITION, FEES, AND FUNDING**

Post-secondary education plays an important role in any prosperous society, and the Government of Alberta should be investing in post-secondary education to ensure a positive socio-economic future for the province. **The Government of Alberta should consider new forms of revenue generation that are reliable; both in the short-term, to ensure predictable revenue from which to establish a balanced annual budget that is not dependent on funding cuts, and in the long-term, to ensure that the Government of Alberta can continue to support high quality and accessible post-secondary education.**

The GSA is **committed to working with the Office of the Provost and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to educate** graduate coordinators and the professoriate about the Collective Agreement.

**Following the dissolution of the Alberta Graduate Council in 2013, the GSA and partner provincial GSAs worked diligently to establish the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council** and ensured it had well-developed bylaws and financial reporting structures that would enable it to remain functional and effective over time. **The GSA will continue to advocate consistently and effectively for graduate student interests to the Government of Alberta through this new group** and meet with representatives from other provincial GSAs. In 2013-2014, the GSA greatly enhanced its external lobbying and advocacy presence at the provincial and national levels. In 2015-2016 the GSA will maintain its external presence and aim to **attend the Western Deans conference, various local political events, Canadian Association for Graduate Studies, and any other advocacy and lobbying opportunities that may arise. The GSA will also participate in GU15 (which has become an effective venue for information exchange on critical issues)**.

In developing its position on graduate market modifiers, Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees, and graduate student tuition increases, the GSA Board will consult with GSA Council and the broader graduate student community. **The GSA believes that there should be sustainable public funding to support excellence at the University of Alberta. To that end, we do not think that an increase to tuition and fees is a solution to the challenges this institution faces**. **The GSA will lobby for affordable graduate student tuition and fees.**

The GSA will strive to **make certain that any new quality measures, funding models, and any graduate student management plans do not disproportionately favour some faculties or departments over others in future resource allocation** and that graduate students are involved in reform discussions at the department, faculty, and university levels.

Key members of the U of A, including Board of Governors Chair Doug Goss, have noted that graduate students are the lifeblood of the institution. We want to see this statement translated into **increased funding attached to Teaching Assistantship and Research Assistantship appointments**. The GSA will continue to lobby for **increased funds for GSA Professional Development Awards and Emergency Bursaries**, as well as **increased funding for graduate students with children in the form of GSA Child Care Grants.**

**Access to more scholarships, bursaries, and other funding opportunities for international graduate students (administered through the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research) is a key priority** of the GSA. International graduate students face off-campus work restrictions and have to compete with domestic students for on campus jobs. Most major awards are not open to international graduate student applicants.


**SUPPORTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**The GSA sees the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research as a key partner in the delivery of quality graduate education and just treatment of graduate students**. A robust Faculty – one with adequate resources to execute its mandate – links closely with our own organizational efficacy. The GSA will advocate for increased resources for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and continue to foster a **collaborative working relationship with the Faculty.**

As stated in a 2014 report on graduate student supervision at the U of A, "high quality supervision and mentorship is central to an institution committed to seeing their graduate students flourish in their careers and in the contributions they make to the public good."[3] The GSA will advocate for several of the recommendations made in this report.


**STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

The GSA will continue to work to **actively engage with graduate students** (*eg* through the Department Liaison Initiative, departmental orientations, social and professional development events, and education on the Collective Agreement).


**SERVICES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The GSA will maintain its involvement with Administration, Students' Union, and the Office of the Dean of Students on **issues and initiatives related to improving health and wellness on campus**. The GSA applauds the recent mental health review on campus and the decision to establish a satellite office for counselling in Triffo Hall for graduate student use. The GSA will continue to work with the Dean of Students' Office, collaborating in the implementation stage to improve health and wellness services and tackle the associated challenges that sometimes act as a barrier to graduate student success.

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[3] N. Krogman, 2014. *The Quality of Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Supervision at the University of Alberta*, p. 34.

The GSA will **work closely with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Career and Placement Services, the Office of Advancement, and the Alumni Association to develop a new mentorship program and participating vigorously and collaboratively in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research initiatives to establish the best professional development programs in Canada.**

As current agreements with service providers expire (*eg* TD Insurance Meloche Monnex), **the GSA will undertake focused reviews before renewal**.

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

**GSA Council Attendance AND Responsibilities and Attendance at GSA Committees and University Governing Bodies and Committees: Proposed Changes and Additions to GSA Policy**

**Suggested Motion for GSA Council:**

That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and effective immediately, the proposed changes and additions to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document.

<u>NOTE #1:</u> The proposed changes and current GSA Policy are in the first column of the attached double column.

<u>NOTE #2:</u> Should GSA Council approve the proposed changes and additions, **any other relevant sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy that intersect and/or are contradictory or superfluous will be amended accordingly by the GSA Governance Committee and reported to GSA Council** (eg if GSA Council approves this proposal, editorial changes will need to be made to GSA Bylaw, Part II, Members, Section 3.4, which contains a reference to GSA Policy titled "Performance of GSA Committee Members, and Representatives on University Governing Bodies and Committees").

**Background:**

*PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED COVER LETTER TO GSA COUNCIL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.*

**The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) has been engaged in extensive discussions of this issue since October of 2014.** The proposed changes were a **part of the large proposal that was put forward but not voted on** at the November meeting of GSA Council. That proposal has been **broken down into its constituent parts and significantly strengthened following an intensive review by both the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) and the GSA ERC** in meetings (including two joint meetings) held in April and May, 2015.

At its meeting of April 24, 2015, the GSA ERC suggested the attached proposed changes and additions to the GSA GC and, on April 27, 2015, the GSA GC voted to recommend the proposed changes and additions to GSA Council. The proposed changes were subsequently reviewed again by the GSA GC on May 7 and minor amendments were made. The GSA Board received the proposed changes for information and onward transmission to GSA Council at its meeting of May 13, 2015.

**Jurisdiction**:

<u>GSA Governance Committee Mandate</u> – GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 3.2.1.i and 3.2.1.ii
*"The GSA GC will advise Council on the GSA Bylaws, matters of policy not in the purview of any other Standing Committee, or other governing issues and provide a report on recommended changes at the next scheduled Council meeting"* <u>and</u> *"The GSA GC will make any routine or editorial changes to the governance documents as deemed necessary by the Committee."*

<u>Changes to GSA Policy Require One Reading</u> – GSA Bylaw, Part I, Section 2.2
*"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."*

Prepared by C Thomas and E Schoeck for GSA Council 25 May 2015

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**The Graduate Students' Association
of the University of Alberta**

**To:**     GSA Council                                                                                      May 14, 2015

**From:**   Colin More, Chair, GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) and GSA President
           Virginia Pimmett, Chair, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)

**Re:**     GSA Council Attendance AND Responsibilities and Attendance at GSA Committees and University Governing Bodies and
           Committees

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

We are writing to you jointly following up on the November 2014 Council meeting where the GSA ERC and GSA GC put forward a
large package of proposals to reform several intersecting sets of GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning elections and related matters. This
is the first of several proposals that have been extracted from the large proposal that GSA Council declined to vote on last
November.

Since November, the 14 members of these committees have held many hours of intense discussion on the proposals before you.  As
Chairs of the GSA GC and the GSA ERC we acknowledge their work on your behalf.

The proposal before you has the following main elements:

- Proposed addition to GSA Policy to govern GSA Council Attendance
- Proposed addition to GSA Policy to provide the Speaker with the ability to declare GSA Council positions vacant and seek to
  have them refilled
- Proposed addition to GSA Policy to remove non-attendance at GSA Council from the purview of the GSA Judicial Committee
- Proposed changes to clarify expectations of responsibilities and attendance with respect to GSA Committees and University
  Governing Bodies and Committees, and to remove non-attendance issues from the purview of the GSA Judicial Committee

Main points:

- We do not have attendance policies and believe we need them. That said, attendance at GSA Council, governing bodies and
  GSA committees has been very high.
- Instead of removing people from GSA Council or committees, positions become vacant. This is the way university councils
  and committees deal with non-attendance.

Please contact us if you have questions!

Sincerely,

Colin More, Chair of the GSA GC and GSA President, 2015-2016

Virginia Pimmett, Chair of the GSA ERC

cc: Members of the GSA GC and GSA ERC

www.gsa.ualberta.ca

**Graduate Students' Association
Room 1-37, Killam Centre for Advanced Studies
Triffo Hall, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E1
Tel: 780.492.2175 | Fax: 780.492.2999**

# GSA Council Attendance
GSA Policy

| Current Policy *(deletions noted by a strikethrough)* and **Proposed Changes** *(additions underlined)* | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| **GSA Council Attendance** | |
| <u>Purpose:</u> To outline policies and procedures related to GSA Council attendance. | |
| <u>Scope:</u> This policy governs attendance at GSA Council. | |
| **1. Attendance** | *Currently there is no comprehensive Council attendance policy. It is proposed that there be an attendance policy that allows for a Councillor or Councillor-at-Large position to be deemed vacant by the Speaker, and for Council to decide on action related to Directly-Elected Officers or Council-Elected Officers.*<br><br>*Note that this attendance policy means that non-attendance by Councillors and Councillors-at-Large will not result in a Judicial Committee meeting.*<br><br>*It will be proposed in June or July that the Judicial Committee be replaced by an Appeals and Complaints Board.* |
| <u>1.1 Directly-Elected Officers</u> | |
| <u>1.1.a Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) are expected to attend all GSA Council meetings and do not have alternates.</u> | |
| <u>1.1.b If a Vice-President cannot attend a meeting, they shall provide an advance written reason to the President and Speaker. If a Vice-President misses two (2) consecutive GSA Council meetings or a total of three (3) GSA Council meetings during their term, without an advance written reason acceptable to the President and Speaker, the Speaker will initiate discussion with GSA Council on the action to be taken.</u> | *In the past five years it has been rare for a DEO to miss GSA Council. This proposal is thus important housekeeping.* |
| <u>1.1.c If the President cannot attend a meeting, they shall provide an advance written reason to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. If the President misses two (2) consecutive GSA Council meetings or a total of three (3) GSA Council meetings</u> | |

| Current Policy *(deletions noted by a strikethrough)* and **Proposed Changes** *(additions underlined)* | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| **GSA Council Attendance** | |
| during their term, without an advance written reason acceptable to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the Speaker will initiate discussion with GSA Council on the action to be taken. | |
| 1.2 Council-Elected Officers | |
| 1.2.a The Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO), and Senator are expected to attend all GSA Council meetings. | |
| 1.2.b If the Speaker cannot attend a meeting, they shall provide an advance written reason to the President. If the Speaker misses two (2) consecutive GSA Council meetings or a total of three (3) GSA Council meetings during their term, without an advance written reason acceptable to the President, the President will initiate discussion with GSA Council on the action to be taken. | |
| 1.2.c If the CRO or Senator cannot attend a meeting, they shall provide an advance written reason to the Speaker. If the CRO or Senator miss two (2) consecutive GSA Council meetings or a total of three (3) GSA Council meetings during their term, without an advance written reason acceptable to the Speaker, the Speaker will initiate discussion with GSA Council on the action to be taken. | |
| 1.2.d If the Deputy Speaker or DRO cannot attend a meeting, they shall provide an advance written reason to the Speaker. If the Deputy Speaker or DRO miss two (2) consecutive GSA Council meetings or a total of three (3) GSA Council meetings during their term, without an advance written reason acceptable to the Speaker, the Speaker will initiate discussion with GSA Council on the action to be taken. | |
| 1.3 Departmental Councillors | |
| 1.3.a It is a duty of a Departmental Councillor "To attend all meetings of GSA Council or, if they are unable to attend, to ensure their alternate can attend in their place…" (GSA Bylaw, Part III, Section 2.2.3.2). If both the Departmental Councillor and the alternate cannot attend a meeting, they shall provide an | *When a Departmental Councillor misses a meeting, an email will be sent to remind them of this GSA Policy.* |

| Current Policy *(deletions noted by a strikethrough)* and **Proposed Changes** *(additions underlined)* | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| **GSA Council Attendance** | |
| advance written reason to the Speaker. If a Departmental Councillor or alternate misses two (2) consecutive GSA Council meetings or a total of three (3) GSA Council meetings within a year, without an advance written reason acceptable to the Speaker, the Speaker will declare the position vacant and seek to have the position filled (see GSA Bylaw, Part III, Section 2.2.1). | |
| 1.4 Councillors-at-Large | |
| 1.4.a Councillors-at-Large (CALs) are expected to attend all GSA Council meetings. CALs do not have alternates. If a CAL cannot attend a meeting, they shall provide an advance written reason to the Speaker. If a CAL misses two (2) consecutive GSA Council meetings or a total of three (3) GSA Council meetings during their term, without an advance written reason acceptable to the Speaker, the Speaker will declare the position vacant and seek to have the position filled (see GSA Policy, Elections, Section 13.3). | *When a CAL misses a meeting, an email will be sent to remind them of this GSA Policy.* |

# Responsibilities and Attendance at GSA Committees and University Governing Bodies and Committees

GSA Policy

| Current Policy *(deletions noted by a strikethrough)* and Proposed Changes *(additions underlined)* | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| ~~Performance~~ **Responsibilities and Attendance** of GSA Committee Members, and Representatives on University Governing Bodies and Committees | |
| **Purpose:** To outline policies and procedures related to ~~performance~~ responsibilities and attendance of GSA committee members and representatives on University governing bodies and committees. | *Replace "performance" with "responsibilities and attendance".* |
| **Scope:** This policy governs the responsibilities of GSA ~~C~~committee ~~M~~members and representatives on University committees. | *Editorial.* |
| 1. ~~Performance of~~ Responsibilities and Attendance of GSA Committee Members | *Replace "performance" with "responsibilities and attendance".* |
| ~~1.1 Responsibilities of Committee Members~~ | |
| ~~1.1.a~~ 1.1 All GSA committee members shall perform their duties with a regard for the best interest of the GSA and its members and within the scope of the GSA Bylaw~~s~~, GSA Policy and GSA Council motions. | *GSA Policy and Council motions are added here.* |
| ~~1.1.b All committee members shall be responsible to attend all regularly scheduled meeting of specific committees unless prior notice is given.~~<br><br>1.2 All GSA committee members are expected to attend all meetings. If a GSA committee member cannot attend a meeting, they shall provide an advance written reason to the Chair. Lack of attendance and/or the submission of written reasons may result in the Chair declaring the position vacant. | *This revision reflects the expectations regarding attendance.*<br><br>*The attendance of GSA committee members is very high; this proposal is thus important housekeeping.* |
| ~~1.1.c~~ 1.3 All GSA ~~C~~committee members may be requested to sign and abide by confidentiality agreements regarding the information provided or matters discussed at the committee's meetings. | *Editorial.* |
| ~~1.2. Removal of Committee Members~~ | *Covered in the new 1.2 above. Instead of being removed from office, the GSA committee position is declared vacant and refilled.* |
| ~~1.2.a Any member of a committee who is absent from two (2) regularly scheduled meetings within a four (4) month period without giving prior notice for their absence~~ | |

| Current Policy *(deletions noted by a strikethrough)* and Proposed Changes *(additions underlined)* | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| ~~Performance~~ <u>Responsibilities and Attendance</u> of GSA Committee Members, and Representatives on University Governing Bodies and Committees | |
| ~~may be removed from that committee at the discretion of the Chair.~~ | |
| ~~1. 2.b. Any member of a committee who attends 25% or fewer of that committee's regularly scheduled meetings within a four (4) month period, even if prior notice for their absence is given, may be removed from that committee at the discretion of the Chair.~~ | |
| ~~1. 2.c Any member who is removed from a committee will be notified in writing by the Chair of that committee.~~ | |
| ~~1.2.d Removal of a committee member must be immediately reported to Council by the Chair of that committee.~~ | |
| 2. ~~Performance~~ <u>Responsibilities and Attendance</u> of Representatives on University Governing Bodies and Committees | *Replace "performance" with "responsibilities and attendance".* |
| ~~2.1 While holding office, representatives on University governing bodies and committees shall:~~ | |
| ~~2.1.a Attend all meetings required by their position, unless prevented by good reason, in which case they shall notify the appropriate members of the GSA Board;~~ | *Covered below in the new 2.2 -2.6, below.* |
| ~~2.1.b~~ <u>2.1</u> Representatives on University governing bodies and committees are <u>expected to</u> use their discretion to represent graduate students, or <u>to represent</u> the specific recommendation(s) of the GSA if so directed by <u>GSA</u> Council, ~~as they see fit on all matters of normal business. However, t~~<u>T</u>hey are obliged to present <u>GSA</u> Council's views as the official views of the GSA<u>, except as noted below (Sections 2.7 – 2.9)</u>. | *Editorial.* |
| ~~2.1.c Be directed in their participation and discussion in these bodies by relevant Council motions but should not in any way allow such motions to impede in possible compromises unless such compromises are detrimental to the interests of GSA as decided by Council. If time permits, the representative should consult with the appropriate members of the GSA Board on any possible compromises.~~ | *Covered in the new 2.1, above.* |
| ~~2.1.d Take a stand as GSA representatives on Council motions if such instructions are expressed or implied in such motions. In any case whenever the matter arises, Council shall decide what constitutes such instructions.~~ | *Covered in the new 2.1, above.* |

| Current Policy *(deletions noted by a strikethrough)* and Proposed Changes *(additions underlined)* | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| ~~Performance~~ Responsibilities and Attendance of GSA Committee Members, and Representatives on University Governing Bodies and Committees | |
| | |
| 2.2 Representatives on University governing bodies and committees are expected to attend all meetings. If they cannot attend a meeting, they shall provide an advance written reason to the Chair. | |
| ~~2.1.e~~ 2.3 Representatives on University governing bodies and committees are expected to inform the GSA Board of important matters or matters requiring urgent consideration. | *Editorial.* |
| ~~2.1.g~~ 2.4 Representatives on University governing bodies and committees uphold the wishes of their committees on all privileged or confidential information. | *Addition of a more general statement about reporting.*<br><br>*Note: These statements have been renumbered to parallel section 1 of this policy, which covers GSA committee members.* |
| ~~2.1.f Report regularly to the appropriate members of the GSA Board as to the proceedings of the University Governing Body or Committee to which they were appointed.~~<br><br>2.5 Representatives on University governing bodies and committees may be asked to submit a written report to the GSA Board or GSA Council. | *See above re numbering.* |
| ~~2.1.h Attend GSA Council meetings regularly.~~ | *Covered in proposed GSA Policy, Council, Section 1.* |
| ~~2.1.i Present written reports annually, or whenever requested by Council, on dates to be fixed by Council.~~ | *Covered under the new 2.5, above.* |
| ~~2.2~~ 2.6 Recall of appointment | *No changes except renumbering.* |
| ~~2.2.a~~ 2.6.a Should a GSA representative on a University ~~G~~governing ~~B~~body or ~~C~~committee fail to fulfil the duties of representing the GSA on that body, miss two (2) consecutive meetings or miss more than three (3) meetings of any University ~~G~~governing ~~B~~body or ~~C~~committee, for any reason, the GSA representative to that body may be replaced, except as noted below (Sections 2.7 – 2.9). | *Editorial and renumbering* |
| ~~2.2.b If a representative misses two (2) consecutive meetings, or more than three (3) meetings, the GSA representative to that body may be replaced.~~ | *Redundant: see 2.6.a.* |

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| Current Policy *(deletions noted by a strikethrough)* and Proposed Changes *(additions underlined)* | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| ~~Performance~~ Responsibilities and Attendance of GSA Committee Members, and Representatives on University Governing Bodies and Committees | |
| | |
| ~~2.2.c~~ 2.6.b Representatives may be recalled by GSA Council on the request of the University ~~G~~governing ~~B~~body or ~~C~~committee to which they are appointed~~, or by the Council at the request of either the GSA Board or five (5) Council members,~~ except as noted below (Sections 2.7 – 2.9). | |
| 2.7 Board of Governors<br>2.7.a GSA Policy states that the President is the statutory member on the Board of Governors (BoG) (GSA Policy, Officer Portfolios). The President represents any official position or policy of the GSA Board or GSA Council. | *See the old 2.1.c.* |
| 2.7.b The President also serves on up to three (3) BoG committees. | |
| 2.7.c The President is expected to attend all meetings and is not permitted by the BoG to send a delegate, except for the Board Safety, Health, and Environment Committee (BSHEC). If the President or delegate, in the case of BSHEC, cannot attend a meeting they shall provide an advance written reason to the Chair. | |
| 2.8 General Faculties Council<br><br>2.8.a General Faculties Council (GFC) has its own attendance policy which GFC representatives must observe. GFC Policy also states that no member is an "instructed delegate" (GFC Terms of Reference, Section 2, Attendance, and Section 4, Voting Procedures). | |
| 2.8.b GSA Policy states that the Vice-President Academic (VPA) is the statutory member and, as such, represents any official position or policy of the GSA Board or GSA Council and is expected to attend all meetings. The VPA is permitted to send a delegate if the VPA cannot attend a meeting. If the VPA or delegate cannot attend a meeting they shall provide an advance written reason to the Chair. | *See the old 2.1.c.* |
| 2.9 Senate<br><br>2.9.a The GSA elects a Senator annually. The Senator is expected to attend all Senate meetings and, if they must miss a meeting, they are expected to send their regrets and the reason for non-attendance to the Chancellor and the GSA President. | |

| Current Policy *(deletions noted by a strikethrough)* and Proposed Changes *(additions underlined)* | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| ~~Performance~~ <u>Responsibilities and Attendance</u> of GSA Committee Members, and Representatives on University Governing Bodies and Committees | |
| | |
| <u>2.9. b The Senator shall represent, as needed, any official position or policy of the GSA Board or GSA Council.</u> | |

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

**GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part III)**

**Suggested Motion for GSA Council:**

> That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of GSA Governance Committee and effective upon the second reading, the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw, as shown in the attached double column document.

**NOTE #1:** The proposed changes and current GSA Bylaw are in the first column of the attached double column.

**NOTE #2:** Should GSA Council approve the proposed changes and additions, **any other relevant sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy that intersect and/or are contradictory or superfluous will be amended accordingly by the GSA Governance Committee and reported to GSA Council**.

**NOTE #3:** The second reading will occur at the GSA Council meeting of June 22, 2015.

**Background:**

*PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED COVER LETTER TO GSA COUNCIL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.*

**The GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) met jointly with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) to discuss the attached material on May 1 and May 7, 2015.** The GSA GC then voted, via email, to recommend the attached proposed changes to GSA Council on May 11, 2015. The GSA Board received the proposed changes for information and onward transmission to GSA Council at its meeting of May 13, 2015. Minor revisions to the proposal were subsequently made by the GSA GC following additional discussion and review via email.

**Jurisdiction**:

<u>**GSA Governance Committee Mandate**</u> – GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 3.2.1.i and 3.2.1.ii
"*The GSA GC will advise Council on the GSA Bylaws, matters of policy not in the purview of any other Standing Committee, or other governing issues and provide a report on recommended changes at the next scheduled Council meeting*" <u>and</u> "*The GSA GC will make any routine or editorial changes to the governance documents as deemed necessary by the Committee.*"

<u>**Changes to GSA Bylaw Require Two Readings**</u> – GSA Bylaw, Part I, Section 1.2
"*These Bylaws … may be amended by two two-thirds majority votes of Council held on seven calendar days' notice of motion and no less than one week apart.*"

Prepared by C Thomas and E Schoeck for GSA Council 25 May 2015

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**The Graduate Students' Association
of the University of Alberta**

**To:**     GSA Council                                                                                          May 14, 2015

**From:**   Colin More, Chair, GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) and GSA President
           Virginia Pimmett, Chair, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)

**Re:**     GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The attached proposal comes to you from the GSA GC, which met in joint session with the GSA ERC twice in May on a number of proposals concerning Council and elections. Both committees support this proposal.

The attached proposal has two main elements: the voting membership of GSA Council is defined, and the calling of special meetings is refined.

Voting Membership of GSA Council: This issue arose when a Councillor questioned whether Directly-Elected Officers (President and VPs) were voting members (even though they have always voted). In addition, the proposal makes it clear the Councillors-at-Large are voting (they have always voted). With respect to Council-Elected Officers (Speaker and Deputy, CRO and Deputy, and Senator), GSA Council has already passed policy that the two Deputies are non-voting and that Speaker and CRO must be "neutral" and "not campaign." Senator is proposed as non-voting as this position does not represent graduate students on GSA Council but, rather, on the Senate.

Special Meetings of GSA Council: This issue arose last year when we had to hold a Special Meeting to ratify the Collective Agreement. The proposal allows for Special Meetings to be called when there are "important matters" that arise between scheduled monthly meetings.

This proposal comes with the support of both the GSA GC and GSA ERC (after much discussion), with the suggested Motion for GSA Council coming formally from the GSA GC. As with the previous proposals concerning attendance at Council and on Committees, this matter will be reviewed over the next year and any needed changes proposed to GSA Council.

Sincerely,

Colin More, Chair of the GSA GC and GSA President, 2015-2016

Virginia Pimmett, Chair of the GSA ERC

cc: Members of the GSA GC and GSA ERC

**Graduate Students' Association**
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## GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings
## Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part III, GSA Council)

| Current Bylaw (*deletions noted by a strikethrough*) and **Proposed Changes** (*additions underlined*) | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| Part III GSA Council | |
| **1. Mandate** | |
| 1.1 … | *No change.* |
| **2. ~~Membership~~ GSA Council Composition** | *"Composition" lists offices/positions as opposed to "membership", which lists actual people holding an office or position.* |
| 2.1 GSA Council is comprised of: | *No change.* |
| 2.1.1 ~~All Officers (See GSA Bylaw, Part IV, Officers)~~ All Directly-Elected Officers as voting members (see GSA Bylaw, Officers); | *Separate Directly-Elected Officers from Council-Elected Officers.* |
| 2.1.2 All Council-Elected Officers and Deputies as non-voting members (see GSA Bylaw, Officers); | *Council-Elected Officers are Speaker, Chief Returning Officer, Senator, Deputy Speaker, and Deputy Returning Officer.* <br><br> *The two deputies are already non-voting members as per GSA Bylaw, Part IV, Officers, Section 3.3). GSA Policy (Officer Portfolios) stipulates that Speaker and CRO are to be "neutral" and to "not campaign". The Senator is not elected to represent a particular constituency on GSA Council but, rather, to represent graduate students on the Senate.* |
| ~~2.1.2~~ 2.1.3 One ~~Councillor~~ (1) graduate student elected from each department, faculty, or extra-departmental unit at the University that offers a graduate program (Departmental Councillors) as voting members; | *Clarification that Departmental Councillors should be elected to their position per the Post-Secondary Learning Act Section 95(1)(a).* |
| ~~2.1.3~~ 2.1.4 Ten (10) Councillors-at-Large (CALs) as voting members; and | *CALs have always voted.* <br><br> *As per, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council, Section 2.3.1.1 "In the case of CALs, 'constituents' shall refer to all members of the GSA".* <br><br> *All numbers in this section will have the numeral added in parenthesis.* |
| ~~2.1.4~~ 2.1.5 The GSA Directors as non-voting members. | *No change except renumbering.* |
| 2.2 Departmental Councillors | |
| 2.2.1 Departmental Councillors and their alternates shall be elected (or, in the case of alternates, appointed) annually for a one (1)-year term by graduate | *All Departmental GSAs registered with the University and the GSA are required to have Constitutions which set out procedures for electing a Councillor.* |

| Current Bylaw (*deletions noted by a strikethrough*) and **Proposed Changes** (*additions underlined*) | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| **Part III GSA Council** | |
| students from their department ('constituents') according to their own procedures or <u>their group Constitution</u>; | *Note: The GSA Office can run elections in any graduate department.* |
| ~~2.2.2 Councillors-at-Large shall be elected annually (Part VIII), with their terms to run from May 1 until April 30 of the following year:~~ | *Moved to new section 2.3 on CALs to have a separate section that parallels section 2.2. on Departmental Councillors.* |
| ~~2.2.2.1 In the case of Councillors-at-Large, 'constituents' shall refer to all members of the GSA.~~ | *Moved to new section 2.3 on CALs to have a separate section that parallels section 2.2. on Departmental Councillors.* |
| ~~2.2.3~~ <u>2.2.2</u> The duties of ~~all~~ <u>Departmental</u> Councillors shall be: | *Separate information on Departmental Councillors from CALs.* |
| ~~2.2.3.1~~ <u>2.2.2.1</u> To act as the primary liaison between the GSA and their constituents, including <u>sending their constituents a brief report on GSA Council meetings and</u> soliciting feedback; ~~and opinions and, for departmental Councillors, presenting on behalf of the GSA to departmental orientations;~~ | *Departmental Councillors are now provided with a brief report on each Council meeting to use ~~or~~ and, and then to send to the constituents. Departmental Councillors would no longer be required to present at departmental orientations.* |
| ~~2.2.3.2~~ <u>2.2.2.2</u> To attend all meetings of GSA Council or, if they are unable to attend, to ensure their alternate can attend in their place; | *An attendance policy is proposed separately and will appear on the May 25, 2015 GSA Council agenda for consideration.* |
| ~~2.2.3.3~~ <u>2.2.2.3</u> To serve on the GSA Judicial Committee if selected to do so; and | *It will be proposed in June or July that the Judicial Committee become the Appeals and Complaints Board.* |
| ~~2.2.3.4~~ <u>2.2.2.4</u> To ensure that the Speaker and GSA office are kept up to date with their names, departmental addresses, and contact information. | *No change except renumbering.* |
| ~~2.2.4~~ <u>2.2.3</u> <u>Departmental graduate student groups, as represented by their Departmental</u> Councillors shall be eligible to receive a portion of the Council Remuneration budget as specified in GSA Board Policy. | *CALS are not eligible for Council Remuneration. Remuneration is given to the graduate student group.* |
| <u>2.3 CALs</u> | *This is a separate section on CALs.* |
| <u>2.3.1 CALs shall be elected annually (Part VIII), with their terms to run from May 1 until April 30 of the following year:</u> | *No change, moved here from section 2.2.2 to parallel section on departmental councillors.* |
| <u>2.3.1.1 In the case of CALs, 'constituents' shall refer to all members of the GSA.</u> | *No change, moved here from section 2.2.2 to parallel section on departmental councillors.* |
| **3. Meetings** | |

| Current Bylaw (*deletions noted by a strikethrough*) and **Proposed Changes** (*additions underlined*) | Rationale/Background |
|---|---|
| Part III GSA Council | |
| | |
| 3.1 … | *No change.* |
| ~~3.2 Special meetings of Council shall be called by any of the following, subject to at least one (1) week's notice:~~<br><br>3.2 Special meetings have specific and limited agendas and may be called when important matters arise for decision either between regular meetings or at a time when pressure of business would not allow them to be adequately disposed of at a scheduled meeting. Provisions governing scheduled meetings shall apply to special meetings. With reasonable notice (when possible five (5) working days ("Working Day" means a day the GSA office is open)), special meetings may be called by the Speaker following receipt of any of the following: | *Enhanced discussion of special meetings.*<br><br>*Except for CALs, the composition of GSA Council is based on that of FGSR Council.*<br><br>*This statement governing the calling and structure of special meetings governs FGSR Council.*<br><br>*For the "provisions governing scheduled meetings" see the Standing Orders of GSA Council, available at:*<br>*http://www.gsa.ualberta.ca/~/media/gsa/GoverningDocuments/StandingOrdersofCouncil.pdf.* |
| 3.2.1 A Motion of GSA Council at any GSA Council meeting; | *No change.* |
| 3.2.2 A Motion of the GSA Board; | *No change.* |
| 3.2.3 A petition signed by ten (10) or more members of GSA Council, to be received by the GSA Board; or | *No change.* |
| 3.2.4 A petition signed by at least one hundred (100) members of the GSA. | *No change.* |
| 3.3 Any request for a special meeting of Council as denoted in 3.2. shall specify the intended purpose of that meeting, and all business at the meeting must, unless otherwise mandated by GSA Bylaw, be restricted to the specified purpose of the meeting. | *Editorial.* |
| 3.4 Quorum for any GSA Council meeting shall consist of fourteen (14) voting Councillors. | *Clarification that Quorum requires Councillors who can vote (ie, not Council-Elected Officers and Deputies or GSA Directors).* |
| 3.5 – 3.5.1 ... | *No change.* |
| 4. Attendance | |
| | |
| 4.1 There will be a policy governing attendance at GSA Council (see GSA Policy, Council, Section 1). | *An attendance policy is proposed separately and will appear on the May 25, 2015 GSA Council agenda for consideration.* |

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

**Vote-for-One: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy (Elections, Section 10)**

**Suggested Motion for GSA Council:**

That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and effective upon approval, the proposed changes to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document.

**NOTE #1:** The proposed changes and current GSA Policy are in the first column of the attached double column.

**NOTE #2:** Should GSA Council approve the proposed changes, **any other relevant sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy that intersect and/or are contradictory or superfluous will be amended accordingly by the GSA Governance Committee and reported to GSA Council** (eg GSA Bylaw, Part VIII, Section 6.2 currently references "None of the Above" and will need a purely editorial change).

**Background:**

*PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED COVER LETTER TO GSA COUNCIL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. ALSO ATTACHED, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ARE A "NEW" BALLOT AND AN "OLD" BALLOT (pages 12.4-12.6).*

**The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) has been engaged in extensive discussions of this issue since October of 2014.** The proposed changes were a **part of the large proposal that was put forward but not voted on** at the November meeting of GSA Council. That proposal has been **broken down into its constituent parts and significantly strengthened following an intensive review by both the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) and the GSA ERC** in meetings (including two joint meetings) held in April and May, 2015.

The GSA ERC voted, via email, to recommend the attached proposed changes to GSA Council on May 11, 2015. The GSA Board received the proposed changes for information and onward transmission to GSA Council at its meeting of May 13, 2015.

**Jurisdiction**:

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Mandate** – GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 3.9.3.c
"*The GSA ERC will review GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaws and Policies annually and make any recommendations to GSA Council through the GSA Board.*"

**Changes to GSA Policy Require One Reading** – GSA Bylaw, Part I, Section 2.2
"*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.*"

Prepared by C Thomas and E Schoeck for GSA Council 25 May 2015

Macintosh HD:Users:AssociateDirector:Google Drive:320 - Council:Meetings:May 2015:First Mailing:GSA Council 25 May 2015 Item 12 - Outline of Issue Vote For One.docx

**The Graduate Students' Association
of the University of Alberta**

**To:** GSA Council                                                                                                May 14, 2015

**From:** Virginia Pimmett, Chair, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Colin More, Chair, GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) and GSA President

**Re:** Vote-for-One

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The attached proposal comes to you from the GSA ERC. The GSA ERC has discussed this matter several times since last November, when GSA Council declined to vote on a large proposal from the GSA ERC concerning reform of elections Bylaw and Policy. Since the November meeting we have broken the large proposal into smaller parts with the assistance of GSA management and staff.

In May we held joint meetings with the GSA GC as our jurisdictions overlapped.

The proposal before you now comes with the support of both committees, with the recommendation coming formally from the GSA ERC. The proposal has two main parts: vote-for-one instead of preferential voting and a minor change in wording of our current "None of the Above," which would become "None of the Candidates."

Vote-for-One Instead of Preferential Voting:

- We had extensive discussion of this matter. In essence, we feel vote-for-one is simpler, and the best choice.
- We suggest that we retain current GSA Policy that if "None of the Candidates" has more votes that any live candidate in an election, the live candidate loses. In addition, if a live candidate loses in this way in the General Election, we do not feel that the individual should be allowed to run in a By-Election.

"None of the Candidates" Instead of "None of the Above":

- This is a minor change that eliminates what we call "absurd ballots" given that we require random order of candidates on ballots. If we have three live candidates running for one position and two candidates are first on the ballot, followed by "None of the Above," and then the third candidate is listed, it simply doesn't make sense since there is one candidate below. However, having "None of the Candidates" is any random order makes sense as the phrase would apply to all candidates no matter what their random order.

Both the GSA ERC and the GSA GC support this proposal, and the formal recommendation comes from the GSA ERC.

The GSA ERC will review this matter after the 2016 General Election and any needed changes will be proposed to GSA Council.


Sincerely,

Virginia Pimmett, Chair of the GSA ERC
Colin More, Chair of the GSA GC and GSA President, 2015-2016

cc: Members of the GSA ERC and GSA GC

**Graduate Students' Association
Room 1-37, Killam Centre for Advanced Studies
Triffo Hall, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E1
Tel: 780.492.2175 | Fax: 780.492.2999**

www.gsa.ualberta.ca

## Vote-for-One
Proposed Changes to GSA Policy (Elections, Sections 10)

| Current Policy *(deletions noted by a strikethrough)* and Proposed Changes *(additions underlined)* | |
|---|---|
| **Elections, Section 10** | |
| **10. Voting** | *No change.* |
| 1. "All voting in the General Election and By-Elections shall be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use" (GSA Bylaws, Part VIII, Elections, Section 3.1). | *No change.* |
| 2. The CRO shall communicate to graduate students the members of each slate and all individual candidates. | *No change.* |
| 3. Candidates shall be displayed in random order on a per-ballot basis. The election software determines the random order of candidates on a ballot. | *No change.* |
| 4. "None of the ~~Above~~ Candidates" ~~shall be considered a candidate for the purpose of an elections ballot, and~~ will ~~also~~ be displayed in random order on a per-ballot basis. | *Currently, as the candidates are displayed in random order on the ballot, "None of the Above" can create absurd ballots. Changing "None of the Above" to "None of the Candidates" will fix this issue.* |
| 5. On ballots, voters shall ~~rank candidates numerically, and may rank any number of candidates (including not ranking a candidate at all, the equivalent of a rank of zero)~~ mark their choice of candidate(s) for each race. Voters may abstain by signing in to vote but then not voting in a particular race. | *The GSA ERC in consultation with GSA GC proposed to go from a preferential voting system to a "vote-for-one" system.* |
| 6. Ballots shall be counted electronically according to the following procedures: | *No change.* |
| a. The number of ~~first-place~~ votes for each candidate shall be counted. | *There will be no more first place votes in a vote-for-one system.* |
| ~~c. Ballots for an eliminated candidate shall be distributed amongst remaining candidates in accord with the voter's most preferred choice.~~ | |
| ~~d. The above steps shall be repeated until the number of candidates remaining is equal to the number of positions available.~~ | |
| ~~e.~~ b. The candidate(s) ~~remaining~~ with the highest number(s) of votes shall be ~~considered the~~ successful, in accord with the number of positions available. ~~candidate, except~~ In ~~the~~ a case where "None of the ~~Above~~ Candidates" ~~has~~ received more votes | *To accord with proposed changes of "None of the Above" to "None of the Candidates".*<br><br>*Some of the candidates may have more votes than "None of the Candidates" and some* |

| Current Policy *(deletions noted by a strikethrough)* and Proposed Changes *(additions underlined)* | |
|---|---|
| **Elections, Section 10** | |
| than ~~some of the~~ other candidates, ~~in which case~~ only ~~the~~ candidate(s) receiving more votes than "None of the ~~Above~~ Candidates" shall be considered ~~the~~ successful ~~candidates~~. | *of them may not.* |
| ~~b.~~c. ~~The candidate with the lowest number of first-place votes shall be eliminated from the election. Where there is a tie for the lowest number, if one of the tied candidates had a lesser number of votes in a previous voting round, that candidate shall be eliminated.  If there has not been a previous round, the electronic voting software randomly eliminates one of the candidates tied for the lowest number of first-place votes.~~  In the event ~~that the electronic voting software fails~~ of a tied vote, the CRO will draw a name from a hat in the presence of two (2) neutral witnesses, and the name drawn from a hat will be the candidate that is eliminated. | |
| 7. Candidate(s) who receive(s) fewer votes than "None of the Candidates" in the General Election cannot run for the same position in any ensuing By-Elections (Section 13). | |
| ~~7.~~ 8.  Individuals have twenty-four (24) hours after the release of provisional results to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy. | *No change except renumbering.* |

# Vote-for-One: "New" Ballot

Your username (**gsanomco@ualberta.ca**) will be recorded when you submit this form. Not **gsanomco**? [Sign out](#)

1. **Vote-for-One: "New" Ballot - DEO Positions**

   *Mark only one oval.*

   ◯ Melanie

   ◯ None of the Candidates

   ◯ Ahmed

2. **Vote-for-One: "New" Ballot - CAL Positions**

   Mark up to ten (10) ovals.
   *Check all that apply.*

   ☐ Yuan

   ☐ Jiao

   ☐ Samiah

   ☐ Roberto

   ☐ Javadd

   ☐ Afrida

   ☐ Tim

   ☐ None of the Candidates

   ☐ Victoria

   ☐ David

   ☐ Syed

   ☐ Freida

☐ Send me a copy of my responses.

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# Vote-for-One: "Old" Ballot

To cast a valid ballot:

1. Rank candidates numerically.

2. The candidate marked "1" is your most-preferred candidate; the candidate marked "2" is your next most-preferred candidate, and so on.

3. Ranking "None of the Above" as option 1 means that you would rather see the position vacant than filled by any of the candidates running for that position.

4. You don't have to rank all candidates for a given position.

5. All ranking must be sequential. Accordingly, if you skip a rank, it will be ordered sequentially in the final tally. For instance, if you rank three candidates as "1," "3," and "5," their effective ranking will be recorded as "1," "2," and "3."

6. If you wish to withdraw your vote for a given candidate, you may refresh the page. NOTE: Refreshing the page will clear ALL fields in the ballot.

7. When you are finished voting, press "submit" to submit your ballot. If you do not press "submit" your ballot will not be received.

To abstain:

Leave all fields empty and press "submit" to submit your ballot. If you do not press "submit" your ballot will not be received.

NOTE: Your vote is anonymized in the final tally, and your CCID will not be tied to your vote. It is used to confirm that voters are currently registered University of Alberta graduate students.

If you have any questions, please email the CRO at gsa.elections@ualberta.ca and copy gsa.infotech@ualberta.ca.

Your username (**gsavotes@ualberta.ca**) will be recorded when you submit this form. Not **gsavotes**? Sign out

1. **"Old" Ballot - DEO Positions**
   *Mark only one oval per row.*

   |                   | 1 | 2 | 3 |
   |-------------------|---|---|---|
   | Melanie           | ⬭ | ⬭ | ⬭ |
   | None of the Above | ⬭ | ⬭ | ⬭ |
   | Ahmed             | ⬭ | ⬭ | ⬭ |

## 2. "Old" Ballot - CAL Positions (10 positions)

*Mark only one oval per row.*

12.6

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| David | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Victoria | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Syed | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yuan | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None of the Above | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jiao | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Samiah | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Javadd | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Afrida | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Roberto | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tim | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freida | | | | | | | | | | | | |

☐ Send me a copy of my responses.

**GSA President 2014-2015**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Nathan Andrews
Date: May 22, 2015

Dear Councillors,

It's really becoming beautiful outside so I'm hoping to spend more time outdoors to soak in as much sun and warmth before winter comes. Inasmuch as I enjoyed serving as the GSA President for the past year, it feels somewhat nice to have a relatively open and flexible calendar to focus on my dissertation this summer. A lot was covered at the last Council meeting, both in my report and the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan update. Thus, I will briefly highlight a couple of things.

Regarding the **Prayer and Meditation Space,** we met with representatives of various 'faith' or 'religious' groups and informed them about the progress made so far and how they can be of help once fundraising efforts for the remaining $200,000 begins. I trust that 2015-2016 GSA President Colin More and/or 2015-2016 GSA Vice-President External Alphonse Ndem Ahola will continue to update GSA Council on the progress of this important initiative.

As Colin, Alphonse, and Susan (now former GSA Vice-President External) report, on May 2-3, 2015, 2014-2015 we, along with GSA Associate Director Megan Caldwell, attended the transition meeting for the **Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council** (ab-GPAC) here in Edmonton. This two-day meeting covered a number of issues of interest to all member institutions (e.g. bylaws, budget, timelines, advocacy priorities, etc.) and we had Lisa Fox (Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education) come to speak about government relations. Colin and Alphonse provide more information in their reports, but one thing to note is that **the group is solid and now has the requisite foundation needed to operate in a sustainable and accountable manner.** The new teams from each school seem quite forward-minded as well so I believe the actual first year of the group's existence is in good hands. Yet, let's not leave anything to chance.

Let me conclude by saying that despite the freedom over my calendar, I'm already missing my time with the GSA. But I'm sure I will be seeing some of you every now and then.

Cheers,
Nathan Andrews, GSA 2014-2015 President

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 21, 2015 to April 30, 2015.*

| April 21 | Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC) |
|----------|---------------------------------------------|
| April 21 | Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) |
| April 22 | General Faculties Council Academic Planning Council (GFC APC) |
| April 23 | Director of Athletics, FPER, Ian Reade |
| April 23 | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) |
| April 23 | Dean of Students |
| April 23 | Vice-Provost & AVP Info Tech, Mike MacGregor |
| April 23 | SU/GSA Dinner |
| April 24 | Special Board of Governors Meeting |
| April 24 | Lunch with the Dean of FGSR and Associate Dean |
| April 27 | Board University Relations Committee (BURC) |
| April 28 | Killam Excellence in Mentorship |
| April 29 | FGSR Council |
| April 30 | Prayer and Meditation Space (PaMS) Information Session |

**GSA President 2015-2016**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Colin More
Date: May 22, 2015

Happy spring everyone, from your new GSA President!

Stepping into the big chair has been both smooth and jarring. Smooth, because after two years as Vice-President Academic, I largely knew what to expect. Jarring, because living the life is different than knowing the life -- there is definitely a learning curve!

I'd like to begin with an external focus. As Nathan, Susan, and Alphonse also report, the new provincial lobby group for graduate students, ab-GPAC (Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council), is composed of the GSAs from the four CARIs (Comprehensive Academic and Research Institutions) in Alberta. They held a transition for the executives at each school earlier this month where we had a chance to meet our counterparts from the University of Lethbridge, the University of Calgary, and Athabasca University. **Having observed provincial advocacy groups since before the old Alberta Graduate Council (AGC) dissolved two years ago, I have noticed that while short-term tactics change each year with the people involved, the long-term strategic goals tend to remain more or less stable.** This year appears to be no different, with each school having a degree of institutional memory that I think will serve us well as ab-GPAC orients itself over the summer and begins advocacy activities in the fall.

More internally, a major GSA objective was achieved last week (May 20) when the **FGSR Council approved a requirement that each department develop a list of topics to be discussed between student and supervisor in the first term of their relationship.** We hope that discussions about such things as academic practices, how many conferences a student can expect to attend, and the student's funding situation will prevent small misunderstandings from ballooning into huge problems. For me, the real power of the legislation (which will now go forward for approval through University governance) is in the knowledge it gives students. **With the requirement now written down, it will be easier for those new to graduate studies or to Canadian culture to know that (a) they *should* have such a conversation, and (b) they have the *right* to such a conversation.** The latter is particularly important in a relationship with such huge power imbalances.

So, I feel that the new team is off to a strong start. While summer is a quieter time for everything at the university, we'll spend it laying the groundwork for what should be a productive fall.

Until next time,

Colin More, GSA 2015-2016 President

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 1, 2015 to May 25, 2015.*

| | |
|---|---|
| May 1 | Graduate Admissions |
| May 1-3 | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Transition |
| May 5 | First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) Definition Working Group |
| May l 7 | Board of Governors' Dinner |
| May 8 | Board of Governors |
| May 9 | Campus Event for President Samaraskera |
| May 13 | General Faculties Council Facilities Development Committee (GFC APC) |
| May 15 | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) |
| May 20 | FGSR Council |
| May 21 | Teaching Awards Reception |

**GSA Board**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 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:    May 22, 2015

The GSA Board reports regularly to GSA 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 GSA Council meeting.

**22 April 2015 GSA Board Meeting**
Main Agenda Items:
Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave: Delegation of Authority to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee to Approve a GSA Board Policy

Motions and Agreements:
That the GSA Board **APPROVE** delegation of its authority to approve the GSA Board Policy on Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee. NA **MOVED**. MeB Seconded. **CARRIED.** SC **OPPOSED.**

**29 April 2015 GSA Board Meeting**
Main Agenda Items:
Nepal Fundraiser

Motions and Agreements:
None at this time

**6 May 2015 GSA Board Meeting**
Main Agenda Items:
GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan: Final Version; Line of Succession for Chair of the GSA Board; Designation of Executive Vice-President and Line of Succession for Acting President

Motions and Agreements:
Members agreed to **APPROVE AND FORWARD TO GSA COUNCIL FOR INFORMATON** the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2015-2016 (pages 3.1 - 3.9 in the attached material) with the agreed upon amendments noted above. HT **MOVED**. ANA Seconded. **CARRIED.**

GSA Board members **AGREED** upon the line of succession for Chair of the GSA Board:
1) Vice-President Labour
2) Vice-President Student Services
3) Vice-President Academic

**13 May 2015 GSA Board Meeting**
Main Agenda Items:
Attendance at Studentcare Stakeholder Meeting of Graduate Student Associations, June 17 to June 19, 2015, in Montreal, QC: Estimated Expense; GSA Council Attendance AND Responsibilities and Attendance at GSA Committees and University Governing Bodies and Committees: Proposed Changes and Additions to GSA Policy; GSA Council Composition and Special Meetings: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw (Part III); 7.   Vote-for-One: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy (Elections, Section 10)

Motions and Agreements:
That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the estimated expense for two (2) representatives of the GSA to attend the Studentcare Stakeholder Meeting of Graduate Student Associations, June 17 to June 19, 2015, in Montreal, QC. CM **MOVED**. SF Seconded. **CARRIED.** AT and HT abstained.

GSA Board Members **REVIEWED FOR INFORMATION and onward transmission to GSA Council**, the proposed changes and additions to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document.

GSA Board Members **REVIEWED FOR INFORMATION and onward transmission to GSA Council,** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw, as shown in the attached double column document.

GSA Board Members **REVIEWED FOR INFORMATION and onward transmission to GSA Council**, the proposed changes to GSA Policy, as shown in the attached double column document.

<u>**20 May 2015 GSA Board Meeting**</u>
<u>Main Agenda Items:</u>
Reports only

<u>Motions and Agreements:</u>
None at this time

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To:      GSA Council
From:   Nathan Andrews
Date:   May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

**While I am no longer in my position as GSA President and Chair of the GSA BFC (future reports to you regarding the work of the GSA BFC will come from current GSA President Colin More), I did chair one final meeting of this committee prior to the end of my term.**

**The GSA BFC met on April 27, 2015 to consider proposed changes to GSA Board Policy on Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave**. As "the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by GSA Council" (GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section 2.2.a), the GSA Board is the body responsible for the approval of GSA Board Policy. As noted in GSA Bylaw, "the GSA Board Policy Manual is under the jurisdiction of the GSA Board (GSA Policy, Standing Committees, 2) and may be amended by a simple majority vote of the GSA Board at any meeting of the GSA Board, with changes to be reported to Council" (GSA Bylaw, Part I, Section 3.2). The GSA Board approved a Board Policy on leaves (vacation, research, etc) for Directly-Elected Officers on September 15, 2013.

**Having been in effect for the past year and a half, it was felt that a review of the current Board Policy would be timely and, accordingly, the GSA Board reviewed and discussed the GSA Board Policy on Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave on March 25 and April 1, 2015**. In discussion, it was suggested that changes to this Board Policy should be approved by a body other than the GSA Board, to avoid conflicts of interest. **On the recommendation of the GSA Executive Director and the GSA Accountant, Nathan Andrews (GSA President) recommended that the GSA Board delegate its authority for approval of this individual GSA Board Policy on Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave to the GSA BFC**. This ensured a "one-over" approval process. Accordingly, at its meeting of April 22, 2015, the GSA Board approved "delegation of its authority to approve the GSA Board Policy on Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee."

**The GSA BFC approved, under delegated authority from the GSA Board, the proposed changes to this Board Policy, which took effect upon approval with the exception that vacation and leave for the 2015-2016 team of Directly-Elected Officers will be governed by the version of this Board Policy currently in effect**.

Respectfully,
Nathan Andrews, 2014-2015 GSA President and Chair, GSA Budget and Finance Committee

**GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To:     GSA Council
From:   Colin More
Date:   May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

**The GSA GC met on April 27, 2015 to consider proposed changes and additions to GSA Policy with respect to the responsibilities and attendance of GSA members on GSA Council and on University governing bodies and committees.** The GSA GC voted to recommend the proposed changes and additions to GSA Council and they are before you now for consideration. Past GSA President Nathan Andrews served as the Chair of this meeting.

Additionally, **the GSA GC met jointly with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) on May 1 and May 7 to discuss and consider proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy surrounding a vote-for-one system, the composition of and voting membership of GSA Council, the holding of special meetings, and others.** Acting under delegated authority from the GSA GC, Vice-President Labour Sarah Ficko and myself approved several purely editorial changes to the section of GSA Bylaw noted above prior to the GSA GC and the GSA ERC discussing the more substantive elements of the proposed changes.

The GSA GC voted via email to recommend these proposed changes to GSA Council (with the exception of changes with respect to a vote for one system, which were recommended solely by the GSA ERC). On May 13, the GSA Board received the proposed changes for information and onward transmission to GSA Council. **Minor revisions to the proposal were subsequently made by the GSA GC following additional discussion and review via email.** These proposed changes are before you now for consideration.

GSA Council members may recall that earlier versions of these proposals were part of the "omnibus" package of proposed changes presented to you in November, which was subsequently broken into smaller pieces and intensively reviewed by several GSA Standing Committees. **I wish to thank the members of both the GSA GC and the GSA ERC for their detailed and careful work with these proposals**.

**Finally, at the joint GSA ERC/GSA GC meeting of May 7, 2015, GSA GC members voted to approve the editorial removal of a reference to an "annual general meeting" from GSA Bylaw (Part VII, Conduct of Representatives).** This reference was factually inaccurate as the GSA does not hold annual general meetings.

I would be happy to report further orally.

Respectfully,
Colin More, GSA President and Chair, GSA Governance Committee

**GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To:      GSA Council
From:   Michele DuVal
Date:    May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,

Michele DuVal, Administrative Chair, GSA Nominating Committee

## GSA Council-Elected Officers

**1) 2015 GSA Senator Election**
Nominations for the GSA Senator position opened on Friday, April 3, 2015. The nomination period closed on Thursday, April 30, 2015, at 12:00 PM (noon). We received two (2) nominations. The GSA NoC forwarded these two (2) nominations to GSA Council on Thursday, May 7, 2015, with a call for additional nominations. Additional nominations were accepted until Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at 12:00 PM (noon). No additional nominations were received. **See Item 6 for the list of nominees.** A paper ballot election for GSA Senator will be held at GSA Council.

**2) 2015 GSA Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO Elections**
Nominations for the GSA Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) opened on Friday, May 1, 2015. The nomination period will last one month, with nominations closing on Monday, June 1, 2015, at 12:00 PM (noon). Contact the GSA NoC (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) if you are interested in and would like to learn more about these positions.

## Councillors-at-Large By-Election

As per GSA Policy (Elections, Section 13.3), GSA Council is responsible for electing unfilled Councillors-at-Large (CAL) positions following the GSA General Election.
Following the GSA General Election, four (4) CAL positions were filled. At the April GSA Council meeting, GSA Council filled five (5) of the six (6) remaining CAL positions. The last CAL position was advertised through the GSA Newsletter on Friday, May 1, 2015. The deadline for nominations was Friday, May 8, 2015. We received three (3) nominations. On Monday, May 11, 2015, the GSA NoC forwarded these three (3) nominations to GSA Council with a call for additional nominations. Additional nominations were accepted until Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at 12:00 PM (noon). No additional nominations were received. **See Item 7 for the list of nominees.** A paper ballot election for the Councillor-at-Large position will be held at GSA Council.

# GSA Standing Committees

**1) GSA Governance Committee**
This vacancy was first advertised via email to GSA Council on Monday, March 30, 2015, and a call for additional nominations was sent on Friday, April 10, 2015. No nominations were received. At the April GSA Council meeting, the GSA NoC mentioned this vacancy and prompted GSA Councillors to put their names forward to serve on this committee, and two (2) nominations were received. The GSA Council was asked to vote electronically for this position. GSA Council elected **Shelby Sanders (MSc program, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)**.

**2) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**
Due to the resignation of one of its members, there is currently one (1) vacancy on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee. The NoC advertised this vacancy through the GSA Newsletter on Friday, May 8, 2015, and the deadline for nominations was Friday, May 15, 2015, at 12:00 PM (noon). One (1) nomination was received. On Tuesday, May 19, 2015, the GSA NoC forwarded this nomination to GSA Council with a call for additional nominations. Additional nominations were accepted until Friday, May 22, 2015 at 12:00 PM (noon). No additional nominations were received, hence the nominee is declared elected: **Anmol Shahid (PhD program, Medicine)**.

**3) 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." Ahmad Adl (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Susan Cake (Sociology - CAL), Heather Leier (Art and Design), Dimitar Ourdev (Psychiatry), Leigh Spanner (Political Science - CAL), Jessica Peck (Library and Information Studies), Brayden Whitlock (Physiology) and Laura Zenith (Medicine) were selected at random to serve on the Judicial Committee for the 2015 Spring term.

# Bodies External to the GSA

GSA Council has delegated to the GSA 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 GSA NoC's view, it is urgent to fill a vacancy" (GSA Policy, Nominating, 5.2).

**1) University Cup Selection Committee (1 position)**
This committee requires a GSA Directly-Elected Officer or delegate to adjudicate applications for the University Cup, which is the highest honour of the U of A, granted to those individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction in each of the areas of scholarly research, teaching, service to the University and the community at large. In consultation with the GSA Vice-President Academic, **Michael Wang (MSc program, Electrical Engineering)** was elected to serve as the GSA's delegate on this committee (GSA Policy, Officer Portfolios, Section 2.1.h).

**2) Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee (1 position)**
This committee requires a GSA Directly-Elected Officer or delegate to adjudicate applications for the title of Distinguished University Professor and Distinguished University Professor Emeritus to those individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction and scholarship in each of the areas of research, teaching, and service to the academy and the community at large. In consultation with the GSA Vice-President Academic, **Amin Ghazanfari (PhD program, Electrical & Computer Engineering)** was elected to serve as the GSA's delegate on this committee (GSA Policy, Officer Portfolios, Section 2.1.h).

**3) Vargo Teaching Chair Selection Committee (1 position)**
This committee requires a GSA Directly-Elected Officer or delegate to adjudicate applications for the Vargo Teaching Chair. Vargo Teaching Chairs were created to foster excellence in teaching at the University. In consultation with the GSA Vice-President Academic, **Jasmin Hirschberg (PhD program, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies)** was elected for a second term to serve as the GSA's delegate on this committee (GSA Policy, Officer Portfolios, Section 2.1.h).

**4) ONEcard Advisory Group (1 position)**
This position was advertised to all graduate students through the GSA Newsletter on April 10, 2015, and three (3) nominations were received. The GSA NoC elected **Megha Bajaj (PhD program, Biological Sciences)** to serve on the ONEcard Advisory Group.

**5) Faculty (Arts) Academic and Grade Appeals Committee (1 position)**
This position for one (1) graduate student in the Faculty of Arts was advertised through the GSA Newsletter on April 17, 2015, and one (1) nomination was received. The GSA NoC approved **Alphonse Ndem Ahola (PhD program, Anthropology)** to serve for a second term on this committee.

**6) Faculty of Arts Research and McCalla Professorship Committees (1 position)**
The terms of reference of the McCalla Professorship Committee states that the graduate student representative on this committee will be the "one graduate student for the Arts Research Committee". This position for one (1) graduate student in the Faculty of Arts to serve on both of these committees was advertised through the GSA Newsletter on April 17, 2015, and two (2) nominations were received. The GSA NoC elected **Deborah Ramkhelawan (MA program, English and Film Studies)**.

**7) Residence Halls Association (1 position)**
This position was advertised through the GSA Newsletter on May 1, 2015, and one (1) nomination was received. The GSA NoC approved **Jiao Gao (PhD program, Chemistry)**.

**8) General Faculties Council (GFC) (14 positions)**
These positions were advertised through the GSA Newsletter on April 3, April 10, and April 24, 2015, and eight (8) nominations were received. The GSA NoC approved **Ahmad Al-Dabbagh (PhD program, Electrical & Computer Engineering), Kevin Arulmaran (MSc program, Chemical Engineering), Alicia Cappello (MA program, Humanities Computing), Michal Juhas (PhD program, Psychiatry), Cerina Lee (MPH program, Public Health), Justin Leifso (PhD program, Political Science), Ramin Rahmat Samii (PhD program, Electrical Engineering), Brayden Whitlock (MSc program, Physiology)** to serve on GFC. The GSA NoC is working to fill the remaining six (6) positions.

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**GSA Vice-President Academic 2014-2015**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**
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To: GSA Council
From: Colin More
Date: May 22, 2015

Happy spring everyone, from your old VP Academic!

There's really not much to report in this portfolio from the two-week period between the last GSA Council meeting and the end of my term. The most notable was probably the **FGSR Council meeting on May 29th, where the calendar language regarding mandatory professional development for all graduate students was finally approved.** I see this as quite a large win for students -- the requirements aren't very onerous on those uninterested in the program, but making it "mandatory" gives those with less-than-supportive supervisors or committees the leverage necessary to do what is best for their career goals.

Another meeting of some note was with Kim Campbell (Principal, Peter Lougheed Leadership College) and Martin Ferguson-Pell (Senior Advisor, President's Office), regarding the **Peter Lougheed Leadership College**. At the moment, it appears that **the only involvement of graduate students is to work as TAs.** Martin assured us that all contracts would fully align with our Collective Agreement, so it's good that the university recognizes it's a legal obligation.

Finally, we met with Mike MacGregor (Associate Vice-President, Information Technology), about the changes to **FGSR's electronic admissions system**. The changeover to this system from the traditional paper-based one has been rumoured for some time, but it seems to now be gaining some traction. There will be testing of the system over the summer and early fall by students, professors, and administrators, with a phased production rollout beginning in early December.

And with that, I shall conclude two years as Vice-President Academic, and sashay over to the big presidential chair. It has been a pleasure to serve you, and one of the best learning experiences I've ever had. Good luck with your studies!

Colin More, GSA 2014-2015 Vice-President Academic

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 21, 2015 to April 30, 2015.*

| April 21 | Advisory Search Committee for Provost and Vice-President (Academic) |
|---|---|
| April 22 | Advisory Search Committee for Provost and Vice-President (Academic) |
| April 23 | Director of Athletics, FPER, Ian Reade |
| April 23 | Dean of Students |
| April 23 | Vice-Provost & AVP Info Tech, Mike MacGregor |
| April 23 | Dean of Students |
| April 23 | SU/GSA Dinner |
| April 24 | Lunch with the Dean of FGSR and Associate Dean |
| April 27 | Board University Relations Committee (BURC) |
| April 24 | Lunch with the Dean of FGSR and Associate Dean |
| April 28 | FGSR Caucus |
| April 29 | FGSR Council |
| April 30 | Prayer and Meditation Space (PaMS) Information Session |

**GSA Vice-President Academic 2015-2016**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Harsh Thaker
Date: May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope that you have all had a chance to enjoy the extended hours of daylight we have been having over the last couple weeks. It seems like National Geographic has taken notice and added Edmonton to their list of top 11 summer trips for 2015.

I would just like to highlight a couple meetings I have attended since taking office on May 1.

**FGSR Council**
As Colin reports, FGSR has been developing **new calendar language around having each department develop a list of topics that should be discussed early on in the student/supervisor relationship.** By having this conversation between students and supervisors at the beginning of the relationship, the expectation is there will be fewer conflicts down the road. This motion was voted on at last week's FGSR Council and passed (hooray!), so it will now be going through the governance channels to be implemented in the 2016-2017 Calendar. Another item Council recently voted on was **clarification around "pass subject to revisions" for thesis-based master's programs and final doctoral examinations**. The timeline for the examining committee to submit their list of required revisions is five working days and now mirrors the language that already exists for a "conditional pass" in a doctoral candidacy exam.

**GF C Academic Standards Committee**
This past year, **two proposals for master's programs (MSc in Audiology and MSc in Urban & Regional Planning) have been making their way through their relevant faculties and FGSR, and now are headed off to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) with unanimous recommendation.** These new program proposals will then be in the hands of our new provincial government for system coordination review.

**Update on the Professional and Career Development Master Plan Developed by FGSR**
As has been discussed at previous GSA Council meetings, graduate students may or may not end up in working in academia after completing their degree. At GFC ASC last week, **the committee recommended to GFC APC to approve new Calendar language regarding the completion of a professional development (PD) requirement.** Graduate students will get a chance to think about career options and skills they wish to develop by completing an Individual Development Plan (IDP) early on in their graduate studies and will be required to take part in a minimum of 8 hours of PD (in the form of workshops, modules, internships, etc). I am looking forward to providing you more information as the professional development pilot program begins to be implemented in the upcoming year.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding these items or about any of the other meetings I attended this past month.

Thanks,

Harsh Thaker, GSA 2015-2016 Vice-President Academic

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 1, 2015 to May 25, 2015.*

| May 1 | Graduate Admissions |
|---|---|
| May 5 | First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) Definition Working Group |
| May 6 | General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE) |
| May 7 | General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee on Subcommittee on Standards (GFC ASC SOS) |
| May 11 | SU VP Academic |
| May 11 | General Faculties Council Executive (GFC Exec) |
| May 12 | Online Calendar Project |
| May 19 | CTL Director Advisory Selection Committee |
| May 19 | FGSR Caucus |
| May 19 | Undergraduate Research Initiative (URI) Advisory Committee |
| May 21 | General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee (GFC ASC) |
| May 25 | SU VP Academic |

**GSA Vice-President External 2014-2015**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Susan Cake
Date: May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and finding chances to take well-deserved breaks from their studies.

For the last part of April I was still busy with GSA work and a number of projects. One project that was completed before the end of my term was the **formation of the Edmonton Students' Association**. I'm looking forward to the work of this association, that includes all the student groups in Edmonton at the various institutions, which focuses on Edmonton and issues faced by students in our city.

As well, I'm excited to have participated in the orientation for the new student leaders to be part of the **Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)**, the provincial advocacy group. I believe there are some great students involved in this organization and the group can be effective in the next year. As well, I'm looking forward to seeing how advocacy in the province changes with a different provincial government. More on this meeting can be found in the reports from 2014-2015 GSA President Nathan Andrews, 2015-2016 GSA President Colin More, and 2015-2016 GSA Vice-President External Alphonse Ndem Ahola.

Although not mentioned in the meetings below, I'm currently representing the GSA at a conference in Montreal, Quebec, focusing on the PhD in Humanities and Social Sciences. I am sorry to miss May Council because of this commitment but I'm looking forward to bringing the discussion back to our university.

Lastly, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me over the past year. My team at the GSA was great. They were a truly supportive group of people who challenged me to think in different ways and who I trust will go on to amazing things. The staff at the GSA is also phenomenal and I'm not sure where we would be without them. Lastly, I want to thank GSA Council again. I think GSA Council is in a great position right now with engagement very high. I strongly believe that student leadership should provide opportunities for students to develop their skills in a safe and productive environment. I also believe that universities are prime places for people to develop their own agency and voice, and student politics is vital to this development. I am looking forward to see more opportunities for students to become involved and engaged over the coming years and making sure the GSA is serving students in many capacities.

Thank you everyone for a great year.

Susan Cake, GSA 2014-2015 Vice-President External

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 21, 2015 to April 30, 2015.*

| April 21 | NASA/AASUA CA Compliance and HR |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| April 21 | Edmonton Students' Association |
| April 21 | Alumni Council |
| April 23 | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) |
| April 24 | Lunch with the Dean of FGSR and Associate Dean |
| April 30 | Prayer and Meditation Space (PaMS) Information Session |

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**GSA Vice-President External 2015-2016**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Alphonse Ndem Ahola
Date: May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

As I am presenting my first Report to GSA Council, I would like to thank all those who contributed in one way or another to my election as GSA Vice-President External for 2015-2016. I thank also 2014-2015 GSA President Nathan Andrews and 2014-2015 GSA Vice-President External Susan Cake and the GSA staff for their support during the transition period. I am looking forward to an exciting year working with all of you.

Although I assumed my position on May 1, 2015, I attended some meetings in April as part of my introduction to my portfolio. The first meeting I attended was **GU15 in Calgary**. During three days, we went over governance procedures for each university and current issues with tuition and fees. We also discussed transitional practices since newly elected officers were to take over. Moving forward, we agreed to write jointly to the federal government to advocate for the restoration of Tri-Council funding to the 2006 level.

As Colin, Nathan, and Susan report, we had a meeting in Edmonton, in May, with the CARI GSAs (U of Calgary, Athabasca University, and U of Lethbridge) to discuss drafts policies for the **Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)** and how the organization should be funded. We will meet again on June 14, 2015, to sign the membership agreement and elect ab-GPAC directors for 2015-2016.

I look forward to meeting the new government of our province. I am excited to be part of the team that will be working with a different political party for the first time since 1971.

Have a great summer and see you next month.

Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA 2015-2016 Vice-President External

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 1, 2015 to May 25, 2015.*

| | |
|---|---|
| May 1-3 | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Transition |
| May 5 | Friends of the U of A |
| May 15 | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) |
| May 21 | Communication Advisory Meeting |
| May 22 | Alumni Council and Lecture |
| May 23 | Alumni Council Annual General Meeting |

**GSA Vice-President Labour 2014-2015**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Monty Bal
Date: May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

I am reporting on the meetings I attended between the April Council meeting and the end of my term in office.

**NASA/AASUA CA Compliance and HR:**
We met with Wayne Patterson, Susan Buschdruecker to discuss better mechanisms by which to track contracts which are posted by departments through listservs. These contracts are often problematic in that they are often for a rate at the NASA wage, which does not include the award component. We were notified that HR would work to run analysis to figure out how many of these contracts exists for graduate students and will work to ensure that there is more education provided to departments regarding the types of contracts which can be offered to graduate students.

2014-2015 GSA Vice-President Student Services Megha Bajaj provides details in her report on our meeting with **University of Alberta International regarding Permanent Residence support for international students**. We are confident that the new team will continue to advocate for these services to be offered by the U of A, and hope that the services will be implemented during their term.

Thank you for having me serve for two years as your Vice-President Labour.

Thanks,
Simarjit S. Bal (Monty), GSA 2014-2015 Vice-President Labour

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 21, 2015 to April 30, 2015.*

| | |
|---|---|
| April 21 | NASA/AASUA CA Compliance and HR |
| April 28 | UAI-GSA PR Services |
| April 29 | FGSR Council |

**GSA Vice-President Labour 2015-2016**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sarah Ficko
Date: May 22, 2015

Hello Everyone!

I hope everyone has been outside over the past few weeks enjoying the sunshine and beautiful spring flowers! I am heading up to the NWT for ten days to collect shrub cuttings for my research and will likely be back to snow pants and long johns while I'm there, so enjoy the warmth for me!

The past few weeks have continued the learning and transition that started back in April as I take over from former Vice-President Labour Monty Bal. As I start my term, I am excited about the prospect of representing and helping graduate students! This year will be a busy one as we will enter into collective bargaining in the fall to negotiate the terms for the 2016-2017 Collective Agreement. I will have more information to pass along to you throughout the summer as we select a negotiating team and the Labour Relations Committee begins to meet to discuss issues to bring forward in our opening position. Please feel free to email me with any thoughts or suggestions.

The past few weeks I've attended several meetings related to Mental Health initiatives on campus, continuing Monty's advocacy for this important topic.

**Transformational Research in Adolescent Mental Health Adolescent/young adult Connections to Community-driven, Early, Strengths-based and stigma-free, Services (TRAM ACCESS)**
I attended my second TRAM ACCESS meeting this month, and while it is still in its development phase,  more details have emerged about this project and how it might be implemented at the U of A. Rather than being a 'test' site, the U of A will likely be a demo site as it has more developed mental health resources already in place than any of the other 11 sites. Key areas of development at the U of A could include an online portal to make transition to university easier and more accessible, a self-assessment tool to help students recognize areas of weakness as they transition, and an inventory of current resources on campus and where and how to build capacity to support students. At present this project is targeting incoming undergrads but I am pushing for it to support all incoming students which would be more inclusive for incoming grad students and international students.

**Stepping Up – Preventing Dating Violence On Post-Secondary Campuses**
I attended a meeting by three Primary Investigators from Mount Royal University (Calgary) outlining how they have developed and implemented a peer-led program on campus called Stepping Up to facilitate discussion around dating violence. Peer Facilitators develop the topics, materials and activities to make it current and relevant (e.g. healthy relationships, bystander intervention, gender in media), and then spend a weekend presenting the material to ~60 participants. At the end of the weekend, participants are given $100 to develop a project to present back to the community at an information fair on campus. The PIs emphasized the flexibility of the program and the long term benefits for facilitators and participants in their knowledge, confidence and ability to discuss the topic and intervene safely. While Mount Royal only has undergrad students, if this program were to be implemented at the U of A there is lots of room for grad student participation.

The last meeting I will report on is the **President's Installation Committee**, which is the team designing the program for the installation of our new president, David Turpin, in November. All students and staff will be invited to the installation, which will be held at the Jubilee. This meeting focused specifically on the order and timing of events to keep it to 90 minutes, and the GSA may be involved in several welcome videos during the program.

Finally, please feel free to contact us with any issues related to your RA/TAship, so we can help you sort it out.

Thanks,

Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 1, 2015 to May 25, 2015. I am away on research leave from May 19 to May 28, 2015.*

| May 6 | Adolescent/young adult Connections to Community-driven, Early, Strengths-based and stigma-free Services (ACCESS) Project Working Group |
|---|---|
| May 7 | Labour Issue |
| May 12 | President's Installation Executive Planning Committee |
| May 15 | Dating Violence Prevention |

**GSA Vice-President Student Services 2014-2015**
**Report to Council for May 25, 2015 GSA Council Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Megha Bajaj
Date: May 22, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Hope you are well and I hope you voted in the Alberta Provincial Elections!

Below is an update from some of the meetings I attended since the last GSA Council meeting.

**University Research Policy Committee (URPC):**
Members discussed the Federal Budget- the budget for the **Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)** grant has increased considerably. However, the Tri-council grants have not gone up at the same rate and there are a lot of restrictions put up by the federal government on what kind of research is considered 'useful'. The U of A Vice-President Research also noted the discussion that happened at the U15 deans meeting on **indirect cost of research (ICR).** U of A collects the lowest ICR in Canada and this needs to change. At the U15 meeting, members also discussed that all the research universities in Canada would have to agree on a set percentage for ICR. More discussions will happen in the next U15 meeting.

**GFC-Facilities Development Committee (GFC-FDC):**
**ALES exterior building renewal**: This project is being undertaken as collaboration between F&O and Faculty of ALES. The ALES atrium glazing system has been damaged for some years now because of water leakage and the faculty is using this opportunity to renovate and repurpose this area. The designs for the new area were presented at the meeting; designs also included the use of photovoltaic glazing for exterior, which will also serve as an alternate energy resource for the building system. Once completed this area will be opened up for academic events and fundraising events as required. The construction will start in May 2015.

As a follow-up from the last Council meeting, the **St. Joseph's women's residences** will be ready for substantial completion by July 2015 and will be ready for move-in starting September 2015. Your 2015-2016 GSA Vice-President Student Services Alireza Talaei will be doing tours of the space to review the space during **substantial completion** to make sure it's on target for students to **move-in for the Fall 2015 semester**.

**PR Services Meeting with the Provost's Office and UAI:**
2014-2015 GSA Vice-President Labour Monty Bal and I attended this meeting along with our successors, 2015-2016 GSA Vice-President Labour Sarah Ficko and 2015-2016 GSA Vice-President Student Services Alireza Talaei. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the incoming VPs and to keep the pressure on the Provost's Office and UAI to move this project forward. UAI got some feedback on their proposal from the **University Legal Services and Risk Management department**. University Legal Services has suggested some edits to UAI's current proposal and have basically asked UAI to consider all pros and cons to the U of A in providing such services on campus to international students. It was decided in this meeting that **UAI would work towards improving the proposal and submit it to the University Legal Services for consideration**. Sarah and Ali will be **following up with UAI and the Provost's Office** on this in a couple of months and will report back to you.

I think we have been able to make some progress on this project in the last two years. The key for the GSA team will be to continue to be involved in these discussions and to actively follow up with UAI and the Provost's Office on this. It would be a big win for International students and the GSA if this program were implemented at the U of A!

I also attended a number of training sessions with the GSA Vice-President Student Services, Alireza Talaei to discuss projects in my portfolio. **I wish good luck to the new GSA team and I hope you all will continue to be actively involved in the discussions that affect graduate students at U of A.**

Good luck everyone and have a great summer!

Sincerely,
Megha Bajaj, 2014-2015 GSA Vice-President Student Services

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 21, 2015 to April 30, 2015.*

| April 21 | Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) |
|---|---|
| April 23 | General Faculties Council Facilities Development Committee (GFC FDC) |
| April 24 | University Research Policy Committee (URPC) |
| April 28 | UAI-GSA PR Services |

**GSA Vice-President Student Services 2015-2016**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Alireza Talaei
Date: May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Hope you are all well. I am the new GSA Vice-President Student Services, and I am unfortunately missing my first GSA Council meeting due to a conference in Montreal. However, I look forward to meeting all of you and collaborating with you in the coming year.

I started my term on May 1, 2015, and I was lucky to have great support not only from the current and previous DEOs (especially 2014-2015 GSA Vice-President Student Sevices Megha Bajaj), but also from the GSA management team and staff who helped me learn about ongoing issues during the job shadowing period and afterwards.

In the past few weeks, I was involved with the following activities:

**PSAC Meeting**
University of Alberta Protection Services (PSAC) hosted the meeting and the news is that Kevin Galvin is being appointed as the new director of PSAC. The new team has several interesting plans to implement on campus to make student and staff life more safe and secure. **There are plans for reducing the possibility of crimes occurring on and around campus, addressing mental health issues that students may face because of financial and academic stresses, and also the possibility of providing opportunity to students to become involved in activities relatively similar to peace officers.** The plans look comprehensive and the team has several years of experience both at the U of A and other campuses. I suggested to use more effective means of communications so that students become more familiar with the services that they are providing.

**U-Pass Advisory Meeting**
I and GSA Associate Director Megan Caldwell attended the meeting where stakeholders from City of Edmonton, ETS and other transit providers and universities were present. The meeting was informative and different parties had updates on issues with potential impacts to student use of transit. There are plans for conducting a survey about satisfaction of the students and their use of U-Pass in the fall, the results of which would be a good indicator of how successful the program is and **probably as the base for U-Pass fee negotiations in the future**. There is possibility for the new metro lines to open during the summer but not a fixed date yet. **The University of Alberta is hoping to include a U-Pass Sticker on a virtual card but there are no new updates on SmartFare.**

**PR for International Students**
The new express entry Permanent Residence application is not at all in favour of international graduate students. I have done some research on how the new system will affect international students and we will have a meeting with University of Alberta International to discuss how we can support international students in their PR applications.

Sincerely,
Ali Talaei, 2015-2016 GSA Vice-President Student Services

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 1, 2015 to May 25, 2015. I am away on research leave from May 25 to May 29, 2015.*

| | |
|---|---|
| May 15 | Protective Services Advisory Committee (PSAC) |
| May 20 | Joint U-Pass Advisory Group Meeting |
| May 21 | General Faculties Council Facilities Development Committee (GFC FDC) |

**GSA Chief Returning Officer**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Hamman Samuel
Date: May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

Since the April meeting of GSA Council I have been following the discussions of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee regarding various issues that are before GSA Council for consideration this month.

I have also consulted with the GSA Nominating Committee and GSA Executive Director Ellen Schoeck on the proactive search for talent for the next GSA Chief Returning Officer.

See the GSA ERC Report (Item 22) for more information. I am happy to answer any questions you have at GSA Council.

Sincerely,

Hamman Samuel, GSA Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To:     GSA Council
From:   Virginia Pimmett
Date:   May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

As you may know the GSA ERC has been meeting regularly to discuss improvements to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections.  To this end, the GSA ERC has met twice in the last month.

**The GSA ERC met jointly with the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) on May 1 and May 7 to discuss and consider proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy surrounding preferential voting, the composition of and voting membership of GSA Council, the holding of special meetings, and others.**

The GSA ERC voted via email to recommend to GSA Council changes regarding moving from preferential voting to vote-for-one. This proposed change is now before you for consideration.

GSA Council members may recall that earlier versions of this proposal was part of the "omnibus" package of proposed changes presented to you in November, which was subsequently broken into smaller pieces and intensively reviewed by several GSA Standing Committees**. I wish to thank the members of both the GSA ERC and the GSA GC for their detailed and careful work with this proposal**.

I would be happy to report further orally.

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

**GSA Executive Director**
**Report to GSA Council for the May 25, 2015 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Ellen Schoeck
Date: May 22, 2015

Dear Council Colleagues,

The issue I will focus on this month is Procedural Fairness 101.

Procedural fairness is required of bodies such as the GSA's current Judicial Committee, which has the power to remove elected officials from office. The Judicial Committee's current terms of reference and policies are lacking when it comes to procedural fairness, and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Governance Committee will consider a proposal for a new Appeals and Complaints Board in the summer or early fall.

**The two primary elements of procedural fairness are (1) the right to be heard and (2) the right to have an impartial body hear your case (no bias).**

A case can be heard *de novo* (anew) with parties physically present at a hearing, or "on paper" with parties represented through written submissions.

With respect to bias, this is normally ensured by giving the parties to a case the list of all members of the hearing body and providing a deadline for challenging a member or members because of bias.

There are other elements of procedural fairness including reasonable notice of the hearing date, and the right to have an adviser and witnesses, and written reasons for a hearing body's decision. The extent to which these are applied depends on a number of factors including the nature of the decision the hearing body makes and how this decision will impact the individual.

The proposal for an Appeals and Complaints Board will reflect procedural fairness and will be reviewed by the GSA's legal firm before coming to Council.

The detailed management reports submitted weekly to the GSA 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, April 22, 2015**

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on April 15, 2015:

**Strategic**

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Staff Collective Agreement, ab-GPAC, GSA Council preparation and action, election of CALs, replenishment of GSA committees, GSA agreement with the Campus Food Bank, forward planning for GSA Fall Orientation, forward thinking on GSA social engagement events and potential grants of funding, GSA report on cost of living for the Graduate Tuition and Funding Data Committee and associated work, HR, transition, GSA subsidies to CaPS and Writing Resources, GSA Board SWP cover letters, election of CRO, DRO, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker, PaMS, review of action from meeting reports, GU15 follow up.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial**: A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a "definitions" section; and **Substantive**: thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial, is planned.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to ramp up initiatives with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, alcohol liability waiver, ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, holistic thinking on all aspects of graduate student groups, **the next stage of the Department Liaison Initiative (getting into departments)** and **connecting effectively with constituents**.

**Grants and Operations**

- **Social Media**: Facebook = 561 likes (up 1 from April 15). **Our Facebook posts reached 359 users this week**, up 204 from April 15. Twitter = 377 followers (up 2 from April 15).

- **Grants processing**.

| | Total Amount Available This Period | Total Amount Remaining This Period | Number of New Applications | Total Number of Applications This Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PDA** | $91,406.13 | $61,606.98 | 26 | 61 (46 pending processing) |
| **CCG** | $54,640.28 | $640.28 | 0 | 32 (13 pending processing) |
| **ASGA** | $3,562.50 | 0 | 0 | 4 (4 pending processing) |
| **EB** | $158,528.99 *(no periods) | $158,528.99 | 0 | 0 (0 pending processing) |

**Week in Review – Office Operations:**

- Support for the **GSA ERC** and **supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees and for several positions** (CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Vargo Chair Selection Committee, University Cup Selection Committee, Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee, ONEcard Advisory Group, etc).

- Assistance with **GSA Council** and **support for ab-GPAC**.

- **Grants processing** and assisting with a grant application.

**Management Report to the GSA Board, April 29, 2015**

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on April 22, 2015:

**Strategic**

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Staff Collective Agreement, preparing for the ab-GPAC transition, GSA ERC meeting, GSA Governance Committee meeting, preparing for potential joint GSA ERC/GSA GC meetings, GSA Budget and Finance Committee meeting, replenishment of GSA committees, GSA agreement with the Campus Food Bank, GSA agreement with the SU with respect to the PAW food service area, forward thinking on GSA social engagement events and potential grants of funding, election of CRO, DRO, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker, review of action from meeting reports, drafting of SWP cover letters, election of a representative from AFNS, nominations for GSA Senator.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial**: A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a "definitions" section; and **Substantive**: thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial, is planned and several proposals are being reviewed for the GSA ERC and the GSA GC.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to ramp up initiatives with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, alcohol liability waiver, ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, holistic thinking on all aspects of graduate student groups, **the next stage of the Department Liaison Initiative (getting into departments)** and **connecting effectively with constituents**.

**Grants and Operations**

- **Social Media**: Facebook = 563 likes (up 2 from April 22). **Our Facebook posts reached 259 users this week**, down 100 from April 22. Twitter = 380 followers (up 3 from April 22).

- **Grants processing**.

| | Total Amount Available This period | Total Amount Remaining this period | Number of new applications | Total number of applications this period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PDA** | $91,406.13 | $39,587.12 | 45 | 106 (49 pending processing) |
| **CCG** | $54,640.28 | $640.28 | 0 | 32 (8 pending processing) |
| **ASGA** | $3,562.50 | 0 | 0 | 4 (0 pending processing) |
| **EB** | $158,528.99  *(no periods) | $152,464.49 | 1 | 38 (0 pending processing) |

**Week in Review – Office Operations:**

- Support for the **GSA ERC and the GSA GC,** and **supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees and for several positions** (CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, etc).

- Assistance with **GSA Council** and **support for ab-GPAC**.

- **Grants processing** and forward planning for GSA Fall Orientation.

**Management Report to the GSA Board, May 6, 2015**

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on April 29, 2015:

**Strategic**

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Transition, ab-GPAC transition, GSA ERC and GSA GC joint meeting, GSA agreement with the SU with respect to the PAW food service area, GSA reports to FGSR Council and Alumni Council, forward thinking on GSA social engagement events and potential grants of funding, issues facing international graduate students with respect to PR, election of CRO, DRO, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker, nominations for GSA Senator, AFNS election.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review** – **Editorial**: A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a "definitions" section; and **Substantive**: thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial, is planned and several proposals are being reviewed for the GSA ERC and the GSA GC.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to ramp up initiatives with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, alcohol liability waiver, ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, holistic thinking on all aspects of graduate student groups, **the next stage of the Department Liaison Initiative (getting into departments)** and **connecting effectively with constituents**.

**Grants and Operations**

- **Social Media**: Facebook = 564 likes (up 1 from April 29). **Our Facebook posts reached 790 users this week**, up 531 from April 29. Twitter = 381 followers (up 1 from April 29).

- **Grants processing**.

| | Total Amount Available This period | Total Amount Remaining this period | Number of new applications | Total number of applications this period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PDA** | $91,406.13 | $25,558.12 | 29 | 135 (36 pending processing) |
| **CCG** | $54,640.28 | $640.28 | 0 | 32 (5 pending processing) |
| **ASGA** | $3,562.50 | 0 | 0 | 4 (0 pending processing) |
| **EB** | $158,528.99 *(no periods) | $152,464.49 | 0 | 38 (0 pending processing) |

**Week in Review – Office Operations:**

- Support for the **GSA ERC and the GSA GC,** and **supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees and for several positions** (CALs, Senator, CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, etc).

- Assistance with preparing for **GSA Council** and **support for ab-GPAC**.

- **Grants processing** and forward planning for GSA Fall Orientation and departmental orientations.

**Management Report to the GSA Board, May 13, 2015**

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 6, 2015:

**Strategic**

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** ab-GPAC next steps, GSA ERC and GSA GC joint meeting and email votes, GSA agreement with the SU with respect to the PAW food service area, finalizing the GSA Board SWP 2015-2016, issues facing international graduate students with respect to PR, election of CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Senator, GSA ERC replenishment, AFNS election, GSA Bylaw and Policy review, forward thinking and planning for fall orientation and departmental orientations.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial**: A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a "definitions" section; and **Substantive**: thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial, is ongoing.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to ramp up initiatives with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, alcohol liability waiver, ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, holistic thinking on all aspects of graduate student groups, having a GSA staff member attend some of the SGS training sessions for student groups, **the next stage of the Department Liaison Initiative (getting into departments)** and **connecting effectively with constituents**.

**Grants and Operations**

- **Social Media**: Facebook = 565 likes (up 1 from May 6). Our Facebook posts reached 271 users this week, down 519 from May 6. Twitter = 387 followers (up 6 from May 6).

- **Grants processing**.

|  | Total Amount Available This Period (Period Ends June 30) | Total Amount Remaining This Period (Period Ends June 30) | Number of New Applications | Total Number of Applications This Period (Period Ends June 30) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PDA** | $91,406.13 | $8,558.12 | 34 | 169 (39 pending processing) |
| **CCG** | $54,640.28 | $640.28 | 0 | 32 (5 pending processing) |
| **ASGA** | $3,562.50 | 0 | 0 | 4 (0 pending processing) |
| **EB** | $158,528.99 **\*(no periods)** | $150,464.49 | 1 | 39 (1 pending processing) |

**Week in Review – Office Operations:**

- Support for the **GSA ERC and the GSA GC,** and **supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** (GSA ERC) **and for several positions** (CALs, Senator, CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, etc).

- Assistance with **ab-GPAC next steps**.

- **Grants processing** and forward planning for GSA Fall Orientation and departmental orientations.

- **GSA Agenda/Handbook preparation.**

**Management Report to the GSA Board, May 20, 2015**

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 13, 2015:

**Strategic**

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Preparing for GSA Council, office clean up and file organization, ab-GPAC next steps, GSA agreement with the SU with respect to the PAW food service area, FGSR Council Caucus, issues facing international graduate students with respect to PR, election of CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Senator, GSA ERC replenishment, GSA Bylaw and Policy review, forward thinking and planning for fall orientation and departmental orientations, AFNS election, Anthropology election.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review – Editorial**: A review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two, and creating a "definitions" section; and **Substantive**: thinking regarding a review of the Board Policy Manual. A targeted focus on some specific bylaws and policies, including judicial, is ongoing.

- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing work to ramp up initiatives with respect to renewing the MOU with the Dean of Students and Student Group Services, alcohol liability waiver, ability for the GSA to assist groups experiencing governance issues, holistic thinking on all aspects of graduate student groups, having a GSA staff member attend some of the SGS training sessions for student groups, **the next stage of the Department Liaison Initiative (getting into departments)** and **connecting effectively with constituents**.

**Grants and Operations**

- **Social Media**: Facebook = 566 likes (up 1 from May 13). Our Facebook posts reached 99 users this week, down 172 from May 13. Twitter = 391 followers (up 4 from May 13).

- **Grants processing** (period runs April 1 to June 30, period is < >% completed).

|  | Total Amount Available This Period | Total Amount Remaining This Period | Number of New Applications | Total Number of Applications This Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PDA** | $91,406.13 | $571.30 | 17 | 186 (19 pending processing) |
| **CCG** | $54,640.28 | $640.28 | 0 | 32 (1 pending processing) |
| **ASGA** | $3,562.50 | 0 | 0 | 4 (0 pending processing) |
| **EB** | $158,528.99 **\*(no periods)** | $150,464.49 | 1 | 39 (1 pending processing) |

**Week in Review – Office Operations:**

- Support for the **GSA ERC and the GSA GC,** and **supporting GSA NoC work filling vacancies on several committees** (GSA ERC) **and for several positions** (CALs, Senator, CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, etc).

- Assistance with **preparations for GSA Council**.

- Updating the **GSA website**.

- **Grants processing** and forward planning for GSA Fall Orientation and departmental orientations.

- **GSA Agenda/Handbook preparation.**

**Questions submitted by Isaac Odoom, Political Science**:

I am writing to seek information on last year's GSA general elections.
But first, let me again congratulate the CRO and ERC for conducting successful GSA general elections!

My attention has been drawn to a CRO report which was submitted to GSA Council at the March Council Meeting and captured in the minutes. The report states in part: "The voter turnout [GSA General Election 2015] was 5.83% with a total of 6,925 graduate students eligible to vote and a total of 404 eligible ballots cast". Further, it is reported that "**The voter turnout increased slightly from last year.** Overall, this was the 2nd highest voter turnout since 2011."

Let me say that i admired the 'get-out-the-vote' posters that were seen around campus this year. However, I am not sure whether the claim that voter turnout in this year's general elections is slightly higher than last year is entirely accurate. The current CRO has said in an email that IT staff gave him 5.55% voter turnout for 2014 elections. This appears contrary to the official results announced on March 6, 2014, where more than 500 people **validly** cast their ballot in the general elections and total eligible voters was around 7127.

Please can CRO kindly confirm details about voter turnout in last year's (2014) GSA General Elections? What is the Total valid vote cast and Total number of eligible voters in last year's General Elections?

**Response from Hamman Samuel, GSA Chief Returning Officer**:

Thank you for the observations regarding voter turnout statistics for this year and the previous year's elections. Regarding the voter turnout statistics that were reported, the turnout statistics would normally be based on the total number of ballots cast. However, we do not have the total number of ballots cast for previous years, including 2014, because the software system that was being used at the time apparently does not have this statistic. Our present election system allows us to have access to the total number of ballots cast for the 2015 General Election.

The statistics reported for the 2014 General Election were based on the average number of voters, where the average number was taken using the number of votes cast for each DEO position (5.55% for 2014). However, the statistics reported for the 2015 General Election were based on how many voters cast a ballot for any position, including CALs. If we look at the highest ballot count in an individual race in 2014 (533 for VP External, with 7,125 eligible voters), the voter turnout statistic can be reported as 7.48%. If we also look at the average votes cast in 2015, the voter turnout statistic would be 5.23%.

In view of the above review of our statistics, I retract my earlier statement to council that turnout slightly increased. I hope that next year's elections can overturn the decline in graduate student participation with the GSA.