

**GSA Council Meeting AGENDA**  
Monday, January 18, 2016 at 6:00 pm  
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

**A pizza dinner will be served at 5:15 pm at 2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex.**

**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 Sulya Fenichel in the Chair**

**OPEN SESSION**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the 18 January 2016 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 23 November 2015 GSA Council Meeting  
*Attachments:*
  - Minutes from the 23 November 2015 GSA Council Meeting
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
  - i. Introduction of New Councillors (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
  - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

**Attached Numbered  
Pages**

**3.0-3.10**

**Presentations and Councillor Announcements**

5. Councillor Announcements
6. Health and Dental Update  
**Colin More (GSA President) and Ali Talaei (GSA Vice-President Student Services) will present the item**  
Guest: Kristin Foster, Director Partnerships & Development, Studentcare
7. Collective Agreement and Collective Bargaining Presentation  
**Sarah Ficko (GSA Vice-President Labour) will present the item**

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

8. GSA Professional Development Awards: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy, Grant Application Policy and Information  
**Ali Talaei (GSA Vice-President Student Services) will present the item**  
*Attachments:*
  - Cover Letter
  - Outline of Issue
  - GSA Professional Development Awards: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy, Grant Application Policy and Information

**8.0  
8.1  
8.2**

9. GSA Standing Committee Elections  
**Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) will present the item.**

*Attachments:*

- Nominees for GSA Awards and Selection Committee

**9.0 - 9.3**

**For Information**

10. GSA Board 2015-2016 Strategic Work Plan: Update  
**Colin More (GSA President) will present the item.**

*Attachments:*

- Letter from the GSA President

**10.0 - 10.1**

**Reports**

11. President (**Colin More, GSA President**)
- i. President's Report **11.0**
  - ii. GSA Board **11.1**
  - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (**no meetings this reporting period; meeting set for 26 2016**)
  - iv. GSA Governance Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
12. GSA Nominating Committee
- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report (**Michele DuVal, GSA Nominating Committee Administrative Chair**) **12.0**
13. Vice-President Academic (**Harsh Thaker, GSA Vice-President Academic**) **13.0**
- i. Vice-President Academic's Report
14. Vice-President External (**Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA Vice-President External**)
- i. Vice-President External's Report **14.0**
  - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee **14.1**
15. Vice-President Labour (**Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour**) **15.0**
- i. Vice-President Labour's Report
  - ii. GSA Negotiating Committee (**no meetings this reporting period; will be meeting shortly**)
  - iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
16. Vice-President Student Services (**Alireza Talaei, GSA Vice-President Student Services**) **16.0**
- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report
  - ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (Joint Chair: Vice-President External) (**no meetings this reporting period**)
17. Senator (**Leigh Spanner, GSA Senator**)
- i. Senator's Report (**no written report at this time**)
18. Speaker (**Sulya Fenichel, GSA Speaker**)
- i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
19. Chief Returning Officer (**Virginia Pimmett, GSA Chief Returning Officer**) **19.0**
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report
20. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair**)

- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report **(No meetings this reporting period; meeting set for 19 Jan 2016)**

21. GSA Management **(Ellen Schoeck, GSA Executive Director)**

- i. Executive Director's Report

**21.0 - 21.1**

**Question Period**

22. Written Questions **(none at this time)**

23. Oral Questions

**Adjournment**

**Meeting Minutes  
23 November 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:**

Colin More (President) [arrived at 7:35 pm]	Graham Little (Biomedical Engineering)	Eve Robidoux (Faculté Saint Jean)	Radim Barta (Oncology)
Harsh Thaker (VP Academic)	Dasha Smirnow (Business PhD)	Neil Prather (History & Classics)	Ashley Bahry (Paediatrics)
Sarah Ficko (VP Labour)	Beth Richardson (Cell Bio)	Sumit Mandal (Human Ecology)	Ines Zuna (Pharmacology)
Alphonse Ndem Ahola (VP External)	Sahar Saadat (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Muhammad Usama Arif (Internetworking)	Kathy Tang (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Ali Talaei (VP Student Services)	Joseph Cheramy (Chemistry)	Mahalakshmi Kumaran (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Sarah (Physical Ed & Recreation)
Sulya Fenichel (Speaker)	Firouz Khodayari (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Graham Feeny (Linguistics)	Ruijia Wang (Physics)
Virginia Pimmett (CRO)	Darian Brennekamp (Communication Science & Disorders)	Amir Nosrati (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Braydon Whitlock (Physiology)
Monty Bal (Councillor-at-Large)	Candy Pang (Computing Science)	Michele (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Joshua Yong (Psychology)
Susan Cake (Councillor-at-Large)	Samira Diar-Bakirly (Dentistry)	Hirad Soltani (Mechanical Engineering)	Colin Reynolds (Public Health)
Sarang Gumfekar (Councillor-at-Large)	Nicole Meyer (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Vanessa Carias (Medical Genetics)	Michael Gillingham (Religious Studies)
Jude Kong (Councillor-at-Large)	Jane Traynor (East Asian Studies)	Melissa Silva (Medicine)	Alison Murata (Renewable Resources)
Robert Recklaw (Councillor-at-Large)	Marcia East (Educational Policy Studies)	Alexandra Dittrich (Medicine)	Ryan Stanfield (Renewable Resources)
Heather Leier (Art & Design)	Amanda Radil (Educational Psychology)	Elli Dehnavi (Modern Language & Cultural Studies)	Stephen Bruce (Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Cameron Smithers (Biochemistry)	Joanne Farmer (Elementary Education)	Mary Obstfeld (Nursing)	Sarah Solvey (Secondary Ed)
Michele DuVal (Biological Sciences)	Sarah McRae (English & Film Studies)	Sheena Moodie (Occupational Therapy)	Antonio Bruni (Surgery)

**GUEST:** Gerald Beasley, Chief Librarian [left at 6:45 pm]  
Sarah Prescott, Vice-Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

Speaker Sulya Fenichel in the Chair.

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

**Roll Call**

Prepared by J Tanguay, L Hanon, and C Thomas for the GSA Council Meeting of 23 November 2015

## 1. Roll Call of Council Members in Attendance

### Approval of the Agenda

#### 2. Approval of the 23 November 2015 Consolidated Agenda

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

S Fenichel **MOVED**; R Barta **SECONDED**.

**Agenda approved by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

### Approval of the Minutes

#### 3. Minutes

##### i. Minutes from the 21 September 2015 GSA Council Meeting

Members had before them the 21 September 2015 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 9 October 2015.

S Fenichel **MOVED**; K Barkway and N Prather **SECONDED**.

**Minutes approved by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

### Changes in GSA Council Membership

#### 4. Changes in GSA Council Membership

##### i. Introduction of New Councillors

This was the first meeting for a number of Councillors: E Robidoux (Faculté Saint Jean); G Feeny (Linguistics); S Saadat (Chem & Materials Engineering)

##### ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors

They were no Councillors for whom this was a last meeting.

### Presentations and Councillor Announcements

#### 5. University of Alberta Chief Librarian

##### **Harsh Thaker introduced the guest, Gerald Beasley (University of Alberta Chief Librarian).**

G Beasley (Chief Librarian since 2013) explained that there were nine libraries and increases in annual usage. He informed members that library staff came up with the mission statement, "inspiring exploration, connection and discovery" and he felt that most important words to describe the library system were "open, sustainable and responsive."

G Beasley commented on the libraries' limited resources and spoke about how he was invested in systemic changes. He then described Open Access and noted that although it was still an unknown entity, there were a certain number of resources free to all users and that allowing Open Access resources was a responsibility that the University bore to the global economy. G Beasley then spoke of the Digital Assets Management System (DAMS) and the Education Research Archive (ERA), which was recently redesigned around open sources. The ERA is an electronic depository for resources and data that can be utilized by all academic disciplines; students access the ERA with their CCID. G Beasley also pointed out that thesis and dissertations are available in the ERA.

G Beasley commented that the most frequent criticism he hears is that once students graduate they can no longer access library resources – this is the product of costly licensing agreements. He then noted that, while attending the University, students are in a privileged position and should use the library system to its fullest potential.

N Prather (History and Classics) asked about the cost benefits of accessing the World Catalogue (WorldCat) and G Beasley noted that he did not know the hidden costs but advised students to use WorldCat if that is was their catalogue of choice.

D Smirnow (Business PhD) asked how publishers felt about Open Access and G Beasley responded that material available is usually five years old and outdated, especially in the sciences. He explained that the five big publishers, including Blackwell and Springer have enormous profit margins. The University pays by the bundle or package and it sometimes costs over a million dollars. The publishers' rates of inflation are extremely high. G Beasley encouraged graduate students to deposit post-peer reviewed material, such as a thesis and dissertations, in the ERA for Open Access this material would have at least

the same degree of access as material published in peer-reviewed journals, although not the same status. He then discussed the “symbolic value” of the material compared to the material being published in a high-name journal and noted that his long-term goals was to shift “symbolic value” to “value.”

B Richardson (Cell Bio) asked about the author’s rights once work was deposited to the ERA, specifically if a graduate student was depositing a thesis and expressed concerns about others being able to alter the author’s work after a specified time. G Beasley clarified that the licensing stipulated that material could be used after a specified time as long as it was “credited” to the author but not as “non-credited.” G Beasley also commented on the distinction between “for profit” and “not-for-profit” and the issue of whether the open access nature of the license entailed that content could be altered.

C Pang asked about the ePLGO branch that was in operation in 2014 on campus and G Beasley responded that since there had been a 7% budget cut the U of A Libraries could no longer subsidize the program in 2015 and it had been cut.

V Pimmett (CRO) mentioned that she sat on the John W. Scott Library Committee and spoke about bundled journal subscriptions being purchased in US dollars. She asked if there were any strategies for mitigating the US costs other than waiting for oil prices to change? G Beasley responded that the Library submitted a fiscal estimate to ask for more money because 80% of the Library’s purchases are in US dollars. The Library asked for money equaling the loss due to the exchange rate and the University responded favourably to the request. He then stated that the Library was not currently in a sustainable situation and that academic research resources continue to increase annually. He elaborated that the Library must become more selective and will be forced to cut journals if funds are not found. G Beasley said that monographs and journals in the humanities were in the most danger.

## 6. Councillor Announcements: None at this time

### Information Items

#### 7. GSA 2015-2016 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report

**Sarah Ficko (GSA Vice-President Labour and Vice-Chair of GSA BFC presented the item.**

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2015-2016 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report.

S Ficko introduced the item and turned the discussion over to E Schoeck, Financial Team lead, who introduced S Ball, D Sheikh, H Hogg, and C Thomas as members of the Financial Team. E Schoeck directed Councillors to page 7.0 of the GSA 2015-2016 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report and informed them that instead of the estimated \$49,000 loss due to projected declining enrollment, the loss totalled approximately \$35,000. E Schoeck explained that money previously invested by the University on the GSA’s behalf in the Unitized Endowment Fund (after the sale of the equipment due to the bankruptcy of Dewey’s) has been returned to the GSA and an investment group had been chosen to invest these funds. In addition, E Schoeck explained that the GSA is now in business with the SU and receives money from the lease of space to Chopped Leaf in the PAW Centre. The GSA has yet to finalize the sub-lease. E Schoeck discussed a number of organizations that have given money to the GSA this year such as FGSR, Alumni, Studentcare and Unwind your Mind, and explained that the fees for the new provincial group ab-GPAC has already been collected over the previous few years. She further explained that the GSA had hired R Sawh as a consultant to complete some IT work.

S Cake asked about the budget line for “Council Security” and E Schoeck responded that the GSA used to have to hire Campus Security to open the building for GSA Council Meetings and, since that was no longer the case, this line would not appear in future budgets.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2015-2016 Budget and Expenditure (Quarterly) Report. S Fenichel **MOVED**. A Ndem Ahola **SECONDED**.

**Motion PASSED unanimously.**

### Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates

#### 8. GSA Standing Committee Elections

**Michele DuVal (Administrative Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item.**

Prepared by J Tanguay, L Hanon, and C Thomas for the GSA Council Meeting of 23 November 2015

a) Vote for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board

M Duval presented the election for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB). She specified that both nominees are already members of the GSA ACB, their bios and resumes were included in the GSA Council package.

J Kong asked how the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) determined to recommend these nominees to GSA Council for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair and M Duval explained that the GSA NoC approached two people with the most experience for GSA ACB, with one candidate having extensive experience in general elections, and they performed very well in their interviews. She noted that the process was detailed in GSA Policy but the GSA NoC was open to discussions with respect to how these seats were filled in the future.

R Barta noted that if the intention was for GSA Council to delegate authority to the GSA NoC to make recommendations with regard to Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB, then it was a courtesy to GSA Council to present the nominees that the GSA NoC thinks are appropriate to fill these positions. M DuVal added that the issues that the GSA ACB would deal with were complaints against a Directly-Elected-Officers and appeals of a CRO decision; these are important issues and the GSA NoC took it very seriously that the people who serve on the GSA ACB be neutral and independent thinkers.

A Talaei asked if there was a second interview before making the recommendation for the Chair and Vice-Chair and M DuVal answered that nominees were interviewed once and top candidates were then approached to see if they would be willing to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair the GSA ACB.

J Traynor suggested it could be easier to vote if GSA Council had the minutes of the interview or the criteria on which GSA NoC based their decision instead of just bios.

D Smirnow asked if it was safe to assume that these two people stood out as superior. M DuVal replied in the affirmative and stated that they stood out because of experience. She also specified that GSA Council was electing the Chair and Vice-Chair of GSA ACB not the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Hearing Committees.

S Fenichel noted that the GSA ACB Policy was accessible on the GSA website.

b) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.

M DuVal presented the item and noted that the GSA NoC received two (2) nominations before the deadline and approached two (2) graduate students to fill the four (4) vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.

The four graduate students elected to serve on GSA Elections and Referenda Committee were:

1. Jennifer Bertrand (Physical Education and Recreation)
2. Kurtis Broda (Mechanical Engineering)
3. Maison Elchames (Dentistry)
4. Carolyn Gibson (Renewable Resources)

**MOTION:** That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the newly-elected members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee. M Duval **MOVED**. J Yong **SECONDED**.

**Motion PASSED unanimously**

c) Vote for the GSA Awards Selection Committee

M Duval presented the item and specified that the GSA NoC received three (3) nominations and bios and resumes were included in the GSA Council package.

Discussion Items

**9. University of Alberta Next Institutional Strategic Plan**

Prepared by J Tanguay, L Hanon, and C Thomas for the GSA Council Meeting of 23 November 2015

Harsh Thaker (GSA Vice-President Academic) presented the item and explained that he wanted feedback from GSA Council on the University of Alberta's Institutional Strategic Work Plan Discussion Paper. H Thaker listed the major themes of the discussion paper and their sub-themes (in brackets): The Public Good (Leadership and Service; Excellence; Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Economic Diversification; Reputation and Advocacy), Empowering the Whole Person (Students; Faculty; Academic and Non-Academic Staff; Campus Cohesion), and Engaging the Whole People (Diversity; Community Engagement; National and International Leadership). H Thaker added that he participated in a retreat with the Board of Governors, the Senate, and General Faculties Council members. He invited GSA Council to also share their thoughts about the Discussion Paper either on the University of Alberta website, or via email to the University or himself.

R Barta asked what kind of feedback or suggestions were relevant and H Thaker replied that, at this stage, the University was looking for comments from a variety of individuals for a draft that will be sent out to the University community in February or March of 2016.

S Fenichel asked H Thaker if he had more information to help GSA Council in their comments. H Thaker replied that there were three things to consider: (1) What are our shared values? (2) How do we want to measure engagement?; and (3) What are we most concerned about?

R Barta noted that, for him, Open Access should be a priority; we need to focus on things that can have a direct impact rather than on world rankings.

H Thaker closed the discussion by informing GSA Council that Steven Dew, University of Alberta Provost and Vice-President (Academic) would be coming to GSA Council early in 2016 to further discuss the topic.

#### **Action Items**

**10. GSA Recognition Awards and Adjudication Criteria: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy  
Alphonse Ndem Ahola (Chair of the GSA Awards Selection Committee) presented the item.**

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Board and effective immediately, proposed changes to GSA Policy, GSA Recognition Awards and Adjudication Criteria, as shown in the attached double column document.

A Ndem Ahola presented the item and noted that the Awards Selection Committee made suggestions for changes to this policy based on their 2015 adjudication of GSA Awards and the GSA Board also recommended the changes to GSA Council.

There was no questions or further comments.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Board and effective immediately, proposed changes to GSA Policy, GSA Recognition Awards and Adjudication Criteria, as shown in the attached double column document. S Fenichel **MOVED**. J Yong **SECONDED**.

**Motion PASSED unanimously.**

**GSA Appeals and Complaints Chair Election Results:** Christopher Chen received 39 "Yes" votes, 11 "No" votes, and there was 1 spoiled ballot. Christopher Chen was elected as the GSA ACB Chair.

**GSA Appeals and Complaints Vice-Chair Election Results:** Justin Leifso received 42 "Yes" votes, 8 "No" votes, and there was 1 spoiled ballot. Justin Leifso was elected as the GSA ACB Vice-Chair

**GSA Awards Selection Committee Election Results:** Krista McFadyen received 26 votes, Stephanie Le received 14 votes, Sarang Gumpfekar received 8 votes, "None of the Candidates" received 1 vote, and there was 2 spoiled ballots. Krista McFadyen was elected to serve on this committee.

**11. Councillor-at-Large Positions - Proposed Changes to the to GSA Bylaw (Parts III and VII) (First Reading) AND GSA Policy (Elections, Sections 2, 8, and 11) AND the Standing Orders of GSA Council (For information)**

Prepared by J Tanguay, L Hanon, and C Thomas for the GSA Council Meeting of 23 November 2015

GSA Council 18 Jan 2016 Item 3 - GSA Council 23 November 2015 Minutes



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

**NOTE #1:** If approved, the proposed changes would be in effect for the next General Election. No current Councillor-at-Large (CAL) would be affected.

**NOTE #2:** The proposed changes and current GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy are in the first column of the attached double column document. Changes to GSA Policy and the Standing Orders of GSA Council are presented here for information and will be considered for approval, along with the second reading of GSA Bylaw, at the GSA Council meeting of January 18, 2016.

Colin More (GSA President and GSA GC Chair) and Sarah Prescott (GSA ERC Vice-Chair) presented the item. S Prescott noted that the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) were both involved in the discussion and the formulation of this proposal. She noted that seats on GSA Council were originally determined by representation by population and then the GSA decided to move GSA Council composition to one seat per department. Councillors-at-Large (CAL) positions were added at that time so that big departments who used to have more than one representative could maintain that. S Prescott pointed out that, in practice, this was not how CAL positions were used. She added that former CRO, Hamman Samuel, recommended that CALs should not be elected during the General Election and this initiated a series of discussions regarding CAL positions that eventually resulted in the present proposal.

C More highlighted the four main changes of the proposal:

**1. Reducing the number from 10 CALs to 5:** C More noted that no one was sure why there were 10 originally and that historically 10 CALs do not run. C More added that the turnout at GSA Council meetings for CALs is lower than for Departmental Councillors (CALs come to 5.5 out of 11 meetings per year). C More also indicated that if all 10 CALs showed up, it meant that GSA Council was composed 10% of CALs, which may not be fair representation. C More noted that GSA GC and GSA ERC members reached a compromise of 5 CAL positions, which still provide ample opportunity for graduate students to be involved this way with the GSA.

**2. Decision to elect in May and/or October instead of in the General Election:** S Prescott noted that graduate students have more incentive to be invested in Directly-Elected Officer elections, and the GSA General Election is advertised as being an election for those positions and not for CALS. She added that this situation usually resulted in elections by GSA Council for the CAL positions (CALs were noted as having all graduate students as their constituents but, in practice, the majority of CALs have often been elected by GSA Council in By-Elections). Lastly she specified that this proposal allowed a refocusing of the GSA General Election on the Directly-Elected Officer positions. S Prescott indicated that CALs would be elected at the May GSA Council meeting, and there would be a second election at the October Council meeting if the 5 positions were not filled in May.

**3. Historically CALs have not had a mandate:** S Prescott noted that both committees talked extensively about the mandate (and current lack thereof) of CALs. Discussions included the idea of giving CALs specific portfolios (eg international students) and also gave consideration to the idea of having CALs serve as Faculty Councillors. S Prescott added that the first idea was discarded because portfolios could vary too much from year to year and there was a lack of resources to support such positions, the second idea was discarded because it would create a tiered system of Councillors. C More noted that members had also discussed removing the positions altogether but felt that CALs provide a valuable voice to GSA Council.

**4. Make CALs non-voting:** C More indicated that Departmental Councillors are accountable to graduates students in their department and they vote on GSA Council to represent their voices, in comparison CALs are currently accountable to all graduate students and are supposed to represent the voices of all graduate students on GSA Council which is impractical. C More added that a vote was often not as important as being able to make one's voice heard; CALs would still have a voice on GSA Council. S Prescott noted that the proposal introduced a recall mechanism for misconduct. Finally C More thanked everyone that worked to put this proposal together and everyone who shared their thoughts on these changes; all these voices helped make the proposal stronger.

B Whitlock asked why GSA Council composition was not proportional representation and C more answered that proportional representation is a great idea but it is not how GSA Council is composed at the moment. B Whitlock then commented that, in his opinion, it was redundant to have GSA Councillors vote for someone else to have a seat on GSA Council.

Prepared by J Tanguay, L Hanon, and C Thomas for the GSA Council Meeting of 23 November 2015

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M Bal stated that he appreciated the transition from 10 to 5 CALs but that, if the question was one of attendance, why not see if the introduction of the GSA Council Attendance policy would change things. C More replied that it was a valid point but attendance was just one part of the problem.

S Cake asked how the proposal proposed to hold CALs accountable; eg would CALs be removed from GSA Council if they did not speak at meetings. She added that it was easier to hold people accountable if they were voting. C More answered that the way it was currently made it impossible to hold anyone accountable; the entire student body (practically speaking) cannot hold a CAL accountable and often has no idea what CALs are actually doing as there was no reporting mechanism comparable to that for Directly-Elected Officers. He added the proposal ensured that CALs would be held accountable by the people who elected them, GSA Council, which was much more significant than being held accountable to the entire student body. S Cake also asked – in terms of accountability – how it would be possible to make sure that CALs “provide additional voices on GSA Council”.

C Reynolds stated that if the aim was to increase accountability for CALs, the proposed changes in front of GSA Council did not achieve this. He also added that being non-voting was a concern as possessing a vote enhanced accountability. C More answered the points made by C Reynolds and S Cake by stating that it was nice in theory to have someone representing the general voice of all graduate students but in reality it was meaningless; the mandate had to change. C More added that if CALs were voted in by GSA Council, there was a possibility for conflict of interest if they maintained a voting presence. C Reynolds noted that he disagreed that a mandate was meaningless simply because it was difficult to uphold; the same argument could be made for Directly-Elected Officer positions. He further added that CALs were beneficial positions and problems of accountability should be tackled in a different way.

M Silva asked if, in the past, the 10 CAL positions were filled. S Prescott replied that in 2015 4 CALs were elected in the GSA General Election (10 people ran), in 2014 10 were elected (11 people ran), in 2013, 5 were elected (5 people ran), in 2012, 2 were elected (2 people ran). For clarification, S Cake asked if that was during the General Election or an ensuing by-election or GSA Council election and S Prescott replied that those were statistics of CALs elected in the General Election. C More added that what the proposal was trying to do was redesign CAL positions to make the best use of their knowledge and voices on GSA Council.

S Cake mentioned that a short time ago GSA Council voted to approve the GSA Council Attendance policy and made changes to the way GSA members vote (vote-for-one instead of preferential voting). S Cake added that she would like to see how these new policies would play out before making any further changes. She also indicated that she would like to see a GSA report on accountability, representation, and good governance models before making substantial decisions. She further noted that it would be interesting to compare the composition of GSA Council with that of other GSAs in Canada. C More replied that GSAs function very differently from each other which makes meaningful comparisons difficult. S Prescott also noted that GSA policy on GSA Council attendance was directed to all Councilors and not specifically at CALs.

M Bal asked if the GSA Council Attendance policy came because the attendance for CALs was so low. C More replied that it was not a single event, that CAL attendance was low but so was Departmental Councillors’ attendance. E Schoeck specified that the GSA Council Attendance policy came from the discussion surrounding the creation of the GSA ACB and the removal of the GSA Judicial Committee from GSA Policy. S Prescott reaffirmed that the GSA Council Attendance policy did not solve all the other issues addressed in the proposal regarding CAL positions.

R Barta asked if this proposal was a gateway to eliminating CAL positions completely and added that, in his opinion, these positions added value to GSA Council and he would not want to get rid of them. C More replied that when the discussions surrounding CALs started he was of the opinion that CALs should be removed from the composition of GSA Council but now he was happy the positions were maintained as the proposal struck a nice balance between having Departmental Councillors make decisions but not without different point of views being heard.

H Thaker asked if the GSA had acted upon other CRO recommendations and it was noted that GSA Council had acted upon other recommendations.

J Traynor asked how CALs represented the whole graduate student body, or advocated for all graduate students and C More noted that functionally they did not but that their personal experiences as graduate students were of value in GSA Council.

I Zuna asked if it would be possible to expand the roles of CALs by having them participate to committees in order to facilitate accountability. S Prescott specified that any graduate students can participate in a wide range of committees and it was not desirable to limit such participation solely to CALs.

D Smirnow thanked members of the GSA GC and the GSA ERC for the proposal and noted that she felt having a vote was important and encouraged enhanced participation. She then asked if there was a recall mechanism for Departmental Councillors and S Prescott responded that it was the responsibility of Departments to recall their Councillors. C More added that it was usually the same people that elected in the first place who then recall the people they elected.

V Pimmett indicated that, as CRO, she was a non-voting member of GSA Council and it did not affect her participation. M Bal specified that the CRO position was a paid position. V Pimmett expressed surprise at this and mentioned that she did not know she was receiving an honorarium. E Schoeck clarified that the CRO received a one-time honorarium of \$1000 solely for their work on the GSA General Election and not for participating in GSA Council. She further noted that an honorarium for the CRO for running elections was a component of past GSA Council approved budgets and was made part of GSA Policy, Officers Portfolio, Chief Returning Officer, following approval by GSA Council in December 2014.

M Bal indicated that many CALs want to get involved but may not have the departmental apparatus to do so as departmental representatives and that he would not show up if he could not vote. S Prescott replied that he had a strong voice on GSA Council regardless of his ability to vote.

H Thaker asked if, by removing CALs from the GSA General Election, there were any concerns about voter turnout. C More asked H Thaker to clarify his question; turnout in terms of voters or candidates. H Thaker replied voter turnout. C More replied that very few CALs go out and campaign so he would not expect a significant impact on voter turnout.

C Smithers mentioned that there was no way of enforcing accountability. He asked what happened if a polarizing topic was discussed and some CALs stated a point of view that was not accepted by the majority, what would happen to that CAL? C More replied that any complaints about behavior (not simply speaking an opinion but doing so in an inflammatory way) would be addressed to the Speaker. S Fenichel emphasized that her role was to make sure that there were no racist remarks or other forms of inappropriate behaviour; that it is Speaker's job to make sure the environment stays collegial. C More added that, in the event of a complaint about behavior, Speaker would initiate a discussion with GSA Council as the body that had elected CALs.

B Rusk noted that if CAL positions were originally created to facilitate bigger departments having more representation, and asked if there was any discussion to return to that intent and C More explained that it could become unfair very quickly, hard to determine where to draw the line in terms of which groups deserved more representation.

D Smirnow asked if it would be possible to, instead of voting on the whole proposal, vote on the individual elements. S Fenichel replied that it would mean breaking the proposal apart and the proposal was not built thematically. S Prescott explained that it was possible to bring a Motion to that effect. S. Fenichel offered some explanation of how this additional motion would work and the motion proceeded:

**MOTION:** That GSA Council break the existing document into four sections as outlined in p.11.0 and vote individually on each section. D Smirnow **MOVED**. H Thaker **SECONDED**.

S Cake asked if it was possible to specify what was GSA Bylaw and what was GSA Policy. C More replied that some elements were both. J Traynor expressed her concern of ending up with a really broken proposal.

In Favor: 7; Opposed: 25; Abstentions: 1 (M DuVal). **MOTION NOT CARRIED.**

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

S Prescott **MOVED**. S Ficko **SECONDED**. 14 in favour; 18 against; 3 abstentions (J Farmer (Elem Education); M DuVal (Bio Sciences); D Brennekamp (Communication Sci & Disorders). **MOTION NOT CARRIED.**

## **Reports**

Prepared by J Tanguay, L Hanon, and C Thomas for the GSA Council Meeting of 23 November 2015

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## **12. President**

### **i. President's Report:**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 November 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C More stated that, at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies meeting, there was some professional development discussion, and compared to other universities the U of A was doing well. He also noted that the Conference Board of Canada was an opportunity to influence those who make policies. At the ab-GPAC Annual General Assembly, there was discussion about strategic planning. C More also indicated that he had taken part in a discussion with the government concerning the right to strike for university employees, including academically-employed graduate students.

### **ii. GSA Board**

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

### **iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee**

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

### **iv. GSA Governance Committee**

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

## **13. GSA Nominating Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 November 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M DuVal thanked Councillors for voting and specified that there would be a follow-up on the questions asked with respect to the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB.

## **14. Vice-President Academic**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 November 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Thaker stated that the Students' Union asked the GSA to support a proposal to use gender-neutral pronouns in University official documents and asked if GSA Council had any concerns. S Cake asked what language was proposed to be used. H Thaker answered "they, the individual, the student"

## **15. Vice-President External**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 November 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Ndem Ahola stated that last summer there was a tuition freeze, and that freeze excluded international students for whom tuition will increase by CPI. ab-GPAC was working on a document to government that would include a suggestion that international tuition fees be regulated.

### **ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 November 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Ndem Ahola stated 123 applications for the Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award were received and 20 applications were forwarded to government for final approval. Names of recipients would be reported following confirmation from government.

## **16. Vice-President Labour**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 November 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S Ficko stated negotiations for the Collective Agreement will begin soon; C More and she made a presentation to the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee, which is the committee that set the mandate for the University's negotiating team. In January, there will be another *Let's Talk* mental health event. She specified that she was sitting on the planning committee. S Ficko then responded to a question from the October GSA Council meeting concerning counselling services in languages other than English and noted that services offered by the University were not offered in a languages other than English but they can get translation services. She further noted that GSAP offers services in languages others than English.

Prepared by J Tanguay, L Hanon, and C Thomas for the GSA Council Meeting of 23 November 2015

**ii. GSA Negotiating Committee**

No meetings this reporting period.

**iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No meetings this reporting period.

**17. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 November 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Talaei stated that some students living in Michener Park complained that it takes too long to get to the University and that they would like a more direct route. Different options are available, including targeting the City to change some of the bus routes or advocating for a shuttle to be provided by the University. He also reported that he is involved in discussions related to the upcoming renegotiation of the U-Pass.

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

No meetings this reporting period.

**18. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

**19. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**20. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.

**21. Elections and Referenda Committee**

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

**22. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 20 November 2015. The report stood as submitted. In addition, E Schoeck stated that 12 students came forward for the Early Call Training and that training for GSA ACB members will start soon. She also asked if GSA Departmental Councillors have access to a mailing list to all the graduate students in their department.

**Question Period**

**23. Written Questions**

None at this time.

**24. Oral Questions**

None at this time.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.



Dear Council Colleagues,

January 8, 2016

Since the original naming of the GSA Professional Development Award, the term “professional development” had taken on an array of different connotations related primarily to non-academic and alt-academic career development. Given this reality, the proposal before you at the January 18 meeting of GSA Council recommends that the name of this Award be changed to the GSA Academic Travel Award in order to provide more clarity as to its nature and associated eligibility requirements, etc. It also recommends that wording be added to reflect that the funding may be used for local conference participation, research trips, and conferences which require travel.

I look forward to discussing the proposal with you at the next GSA Council meeting and welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Talaei'.

Ali Talaei, GSA Vice-President Student Services

## Outline of Issue (GSA Council)

### **GSA Professional Development Awards: Proposed Changes to GSA Policy, Grant Application Policy and Information**

#### **Suggested Motion for the GSA Council:**

That GSA Council **APPROVE** changes to GSA Policy, GSA Grant Application Policy and Information, as shown in the attached double column document and effective immediately.

#### **Background:**

Since the original naming of the GSA Professional Development Award, the term “professional development” had taken on an array of different connotations related primarily to non-academic and alt-academic career development. Given this, it is recommended that the GSA change the name of this award to provide more clarity as to its nature and associated eligibility requirements, etc. It is also recommended that wording be added to reflect that the funding may be used for local conference participation, research trips, and conferences which require travel.

At their meeting of December 9, 2015, the GSA Board members recommended to GSA Council the proposed changes to GSA Policy, GSA Grant Application Policy and Information.

#### **Jurisdiction:**

GSA Policy, GSA Grant Application Policy and Information, Section 1.10, Changes to PDA Policy

*“PDA policy is subject to GSA Council approval and cannot be changed without Council’s approval — excluding editorial revisions/clarifications.”*

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.”*

**GSA Professional Development Awards**

Proposed Changes to GSA Policy, Grant Application Policy and Information

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
Grant Application Policy and Information	
<b>Purpose, Scope, Related Policies and Bylaw, Related Forms</b>	<i>No change.</i>
1. <del>Professional Development Awards</del> <u>Academic Travel Awards</u>	Since the original naming of the GSA Professional Development Award, the term “professional development” had taken on an array of different connotations related primarily to non-academic and alt-academic career development. <i>Name change to more accurately reflect the nature of the award.</i>
1.1 Sponsor/Purpose	<i>No change.</i>
1.1.a The Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) is a benefit to all graduate students, provided by the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) through negotiations of the Collective Agreement covering the Academic Employment of Graduate Students. <del>The Professional Development Award (PDA)</del> <u>The Academic Travel Award (ATA)</u> , provided through the GSSF, <del>allows graduate students to travel to participate</del> <u>helps offset the cost of participation</u> in academic activities such as conferences <u>and research trips</u> that are directly related to their current academic programs.	Since the original naming of the GSA Professional Development Award, the term “professional development” had taken on an array of different connotations related primarily to non-academic and alt-academic career development. <i>Name change to more accurately reflect the nature of the award.</i>  <i>Align language (“helps offset...”)</i> with that used in policy on <i>Child Care Grants</i> .
1.2 Eligibility Criteria	<i>No change.</i>
1.2.a. ...	<i>No change.</i>
1.2.b <del>Travel must involve</del> <u>The award must be used to offset the cost of</u> participation in academic activities such as conferences <u>and research trips</u> that are directly related to their current academic programs with confirmation by either the Supervisor or designate (for thesis-based students) or the Advisor or Department Chair or designate (for course-based students) supporting the academic <del>travel event</del> . 1.2.c <u>The award can be used to offset the cost of participation in both local opportunities and those necessitating long distance travel.</u>	<i>Align language (“helps offset...”)</i> with that used in policy on <i>Child Care Grants</i> .  <i>Proposed change to clarify that the funding may be used for local conference participation as well as research trips and conferences which require travel.</i>
1.3-1.10 ...  <b>NOTE:</b> In addition to the changes noted above, all instances of the acronym “PDA” (of which there are 13 in GSA Policy) will be changed to “ATA.” Likewise, the term “Professional Development Awards” also appears in the Vice-President Student Services’ Officer Portfolio in GSA Policy and this will also be amended.	<i>No change.</i>  <i>Editorial.</i>

Prepared by C Thomas, H Hogg, and E Schoeck for GSA Council 18 January 2016

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**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
GSA Awards Selection Committee (1 POSITION)  
NOMINEES**

The GSA NoC advertised this position to all graduate students through the GSA Newsletter on December 4, 2015. The deadline to receive nominations was Friday, December 11, 2015, at 12:00 PM (Noon). Four (4) nominations were received by the deadline. These four (4) nominations were forwarded to GSA Council along with a call for additional nominations on December 15, 2015. The deadline for additional nominations was Monday, January 4, 2016 at 9:00 AM. No additional nominations were received.

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the Monday, January 18, 2016 GSA Council meeting. "None of the Candidates" will also appear on the ballot.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday, January 18, 2016, 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](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, January 18, 2016, in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

**Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name and will be presented in reverse alphabetical order on the ballot.**

- 1. Stephanie Le (Agricultural and Resource Economics)**
- 2. Yingzhou Li (Earth and Atmospheric Science)**
- 3. Hadi Nazariipoor (Mechanical Engineering)**
- 4. Leticia Cristina Radin Pereira (Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science)**

**GSA Member Leaving the GSA Awards Selection Committee:** Sulyn Chow (Political Science).

**GSA Council Members Staying on the GSA Awards Selection Committee:** Alphonse Ndem Ahola (GSA VP External and Chair of the GSA ASC; Anthropology), Sarah Ficko (GSA VP Labour; Renewable Resources).

**GSA Members Staying on the GSA Awards Selection Committee:** Nafisa Abdulhamid (Political Science); Afshan Amjad (Elementary Education); Margot Challborn (Political Science); Maikel Farhan (Medicine); Carolyn Gibson (Renewable Resources); Rebecca Horne (Human Ecology); Firouz Khodayari (Civil and Environmental Engineering); Krista McFadyen (Law; Educational Policy Studies); Grant Norman (Neuroscience); Kimberly Quach (Public Health); Karen Vera Lyn Turpin (Public Health).

**The names and biographies received (four (4) nominees) are BELOW on pages 9.1 – 9.3. Biographies are presented as received (i.e. not edited).**

**Biographies and Resumes of Nominees**  
**(Nominees will be listed in reverse alphabetical order on the ballot)**

**1. Stephanie Le**

**Stephanie Le's Bio:**

I am passionate about the University of Alberta and being involved on campus, especially as a born and raised Edmontonian. There is so much more to campus life than academics and I strive to enrich my university career with student groups and volunteering; for example, Poultry Club, Sustain SU, Portfolio Management Club, Pre-vet/Animal Health Club, Open House, Department Events, and volunteering for professors' research. In addition, I find volunteering in the community equally or more rewarding. I volunteered for the animal rescue group PAWS for Life and for St. Francis Pet Hospital. I completed my undergraduate degree in Animal Health, maj. Food Animals (2013) at the University of Alberta and I am fluent in English and three dialects of Chinese. In my spare time, I enjoy lifting at the gym, cooking, and playing the guitar.

**Stephanie Le's Resume:**

Currently, I am in my first year of MSc. Agricultural and Resource Economics in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology. My thesis, under the supervision of Dr. Scott Jeffrey, is on the productive efficiency of Alberta dairy farms and the profitability of greenhouse gas mitigation practices for farmers. Spending my summers as agricultural research assistants— one studying dairy nutrition and the other the economics of meat production— has given me a taste for research and a passion for agriculture. I am interested in serving on the Awards Selection Committee because I would love to learn more about effective award applications and proposals, and be inspired by the amazing candidates who are able to juggle stellar grades and multiple campus and community commitments. My schedule is fairly flexible because I will be taking my final 3 courses in Winter 2016 and due to a scholarship, I do not have TA or RA duties to fulfill.

Thank you for considering my application!

**Stephanie Le currently serves on the following committees:** None

**2. Yingzhou Li**

**Yingzhou Li's Bio:**

I was born and raised in China. My families and I immigrate to Canada in 2010, and live in Vancouver thereafter. I am fluent in both Chinese and English. I did my undergraduate studies here in University of Alberta. During both of my undergraduate and graduate life, I have been actively seeking volunteer opportunities. I have served as a notes taker and volunteer recruiter for the Specialized Support and Disability office (SSDS), a community volunteer for Newton Place Community Center and a kitchen helper for France tent at Heritage Festivals.

**Yingzhou Li's Resume:**

I am about to enter my second year master study in the department of Earth and Atmospheric Science. I work in Dr. Li's stable isotope lab and my main focus is the behavior of nitrogen isotope in minerals. During my undergraduate study, I have worked as a summer research assistant in EAS department with the support from NSERC. I joined the graduate team and began my master project here since January 2015. I am currently also a Student Union tutor for basic EAS courses. I am very interested in learning about the topics this committee will discuss as I have applied and gained several scholarships during both undergraduate and graduate studies. I will have considerable amount of time to allocate because someone else from my group is taking my TA responsibilities next year, and I will be on RA duties starting next term.

**Yingzhou Li currently serves on the following committees:** None

### 3. Hadi Nazariipoor

#### **Hadi Nazariipoor's Bio:**

I was born in Roodsar, small town in the north side of Iran, and have lived in different cities because of my dad's job. I am married and have two and half years old son. I dreamed to be an engineer and design aircrafts in my childhood. Now, I am a mechanical engineer but what I am boast about is being an expert learner which makes me ready to face the day to day challenges. I love camping and cooking and used to play indoor succor professionally when I was doing my undergraduate. I spend most of my afternoons playing game and exploring unknown world with my son.

#### **Hadi Nazariipoor's Resume:**

I am PhD candidate in the mechanical engineering department; working on making novel antifouling membranes for the oilsands produced water treatment. I have been involved in teaching and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students during my M.Sc. and PhD. I have completed four teaching assistantship in Mechanical engineering at university of Alberta so far. I was also awarded University of Alberta Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship in January 2012, Sadler Graduate Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering in September 2014 and 2015, Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship and Prairie Mines & Royalty Ltd Graduate Scholarship in Environmental Engineering in September 2015 at University of Alberta. I have been active in leadership roles since I have come to Alberta. These include: co-organizing the 19th international symposium on surfactants in solution in 2012 (SIS 2012). I have also been involved with Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Association in Vice-President Event, Vice-President Administration and Vice-President Academic since 2012. I am interested in the GSA award selection committee as I can use my past experience to benefit committee in selecting deserved candidates. I have a schedule that is flexible enough to accommodate sitting on a busy committee.

**Hadi Nazariipoor currently serves on the following committees:** None

### 4. Leticia Cristina Radin Pereira

#### **Leticia Cristina Radin Pereira's Bio:**

I completed a nutrition degree and internship in Brazil. In addition to being a Research Assistant for 3 years, I had the privilege to engage in a much broader university experience. I participated in conferences, student organizations, committees, research projects, and especially volunteer opportunities to serve the University and greater community. I received several awards, and my outstanding academic performance was recognized by an honors degree. I worked for four years as a consulting dietitian, establishing my professional credentials and increasing my experience and competence in the field. In 2012, I obtained a Master's degree in Human Nutrition at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil. After that, I moved to Canada to continue my career in academia as a PhD student at the University of Alberta. Here at the University of Alberta, I have served the International Student Advisory Committee and, Graduate Professional Development Committee, and FGSR Council.

#### **Leticia Cristina Radin Pereira's Resume:**

I am a third-year PhD student in the Department of Agricultural Food and Nutrition Science studying the energy metabolism of postpartum women. My research will further advance our understanding of energy metabolism among contemporary postpartum women, and will increase our knowledge of factors contributing to postpartum weight retention. I work in Dr. Carla Prado's lab with an international team. Between my undergraduate degree and my MSc, I worked as a consulting dietitian for four years, and after I moved to Canada to begin my PhD. I am currently TA'ing the Nutr100 course. I am interested in the Awards Selection Committee because I am interested in learning about the topics this committee will discuss, specially regarding to the adjudication process to select final award recipients,

and also to learn how to review the GSA Bylaw and Policy related to the adjudication process. I have a schedule that is flexible enough to accommodate sitting on a busy committee.

**Leticia Cristina Radin Pereira currently serves on the following committees:**

- International Student Advisory Committee
- Graduate Professional Development Committee
- FGSR Council



Dear Councillors,

January 8, 2016

Those of you who have been on GSA Council since May will remember receiving the 2015-2016 Graduate Students' Association Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP); others will recall that myself and the GSA Vice-Presidents offered an update on our progress with respect to the SWP at the September meeting of GSA Council. As you know, this Plan was prepared by the current team of Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs), the out-going team, and GSA Management to direct our efforts and identify areas where we can work with others in the University community. The complete SWP is available for your review on the GSA website at <http://www.gsa.ualberta.ca/O3SWP.aspx>.

As we near the end of our terms, I would like to offer you an update concerning the GSA's progress in pursuing the strategic goals outlined in the SWP. A final update will also come to GSA Council in April, but I encourage you to ask questions about the status of SWP goals at any time throughout the year.

Highlights from our past eight months in office include:

- **Professional Development:** Vice-President Academic Harsh Thaker, Vice-President Labour Sarah Ficko, and I remain involved FGSR's ongoing work to develop innovative, meaningful professional development opportunities for graduate students, including the mentorship opportunities that now exist. All the DEOs worked together to host the Fall Mix and Mingle Professional Development event (generously sponsored by FGSR) and we are currently working on planning a similar event, generously sponsored by the Alumni Association, for February.
- **Mental Health Services and Residences:** In addition to her labour portfolio, Sarah continues her work on mental health services on campus – this is an important issue for graduate students and she meets regularly with an array of stakeholders and partners. Vice-President External Alphonse Ndem Ahola likewise remains closely involved in issues concerning graduate residences; I encourage you to speak to him if you hear of any problems concerning residences.
- **Winter Orientation and Awards:** Under the leadership of Alphonse and myself, the GSA hosted a Winter Orientation event in January. Alphonse, as Chair of the GSA Awards Selection Committee, was also engaged in the fall in the adjudication on behalf of the province of the Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award. Applications for this award were up this year (123 in 2015 compared to 87 in 2014). Alphonse will also be overseeing the adjudication of GSA Recognition Awards and the planning process for our annual Awards Night to honor recipients.
- **ab-GPAC:** After a lengthy building process, the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) is meeting regularly to discuss issues of importance to graduate students at Alberta's four CARI institutions and to advocate on their behalf. Our GSA is represented by Alphonse, Councillor-at-Large Monty Bal, and myself. We attended an AGM for the group in Lethbridge this past November and continue to meet via conference call. As a group we have had several important discussions with the provincial government and also submitted feedback to government as part of a consultative process on potential amendments to the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* and a position statement on the provincial budget.
- **PAW Centre:** Vice-President Student Services Ali Talaei remains engaged with discussions concerning the PAW Centre graduate student lounge. After resolving an issue in the fall with the room being overly hot, he is involved with the development of the outside patio space as well as some improvements to the lounge space itself. The GSA has also begun to collect revenue from Chopped Leaf and we are working on a sub-lease agreement with the SU in connection with this.



- **GSA Finances:** Sarah and I (as Vice-Chair and Chair, respectively, of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee) have been working closely with that committee on both the GSA's quarterly financial statements and the forthcoming 2016-2017 GSA budget, which will be presented to GSA Council shortly. The GSA is in excellent financial shape and together with the Financial Team we are also working with ATB Investment Management to ensure the prudent administration of our various funds.
- **U-Pass:** The current U-Pass agreement between the University and the City of Edmonton (the SU and GSA then negotiate a separate agreement with the University) expires in 2017. Ali has already begun to meet with stakeholders to discuss tactics for the upcoming negotiation and we are pleased to inform you that the University will continue to offer a subsidy for the service (the amount has yet to be determined).
- **GSA Events:** Throughout the fall all the DEOs hosted a series of GSA Coffee Breaks. These informal events were made possible through an Unwind Your Grant secured by the GSA and were hosted in Triffo Hall and the PAW lounge space and served to get students out of their labs and offices, and into a space where they can interact with other graduate students from across campus, enjoy refreshments, and learn more about the GSA. We also received a Gold Level Green Spaces Certification from the Office of Sustainability for these events and will make similar applications for all future GSA events.
- **Collective Agreement:** Under the leadership of Sarah as Vice-President Labour, the GSA's Opening Position for Collective Agreement negotiations was submitted to the Board of Governors in October and Sarah and I presented jointly to the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee in November with respect to the Opening Position. Sarah will report regularly to GSA Council as the GSA Negotiating Committee negotiates the agreement. Compliance with the Collective Agreement likewise remains a priority for the GSA.
- **Strategic Institutional Plan:** The GSA DEOs played leading roles in the installation of President Turpin and are currently engaged in the consultative process surrounding the development of the next Strategic Institutional Plan. I also presented the SWP to General Faculties Council in November.
- **GSA Services:** Finally, under the leadership of Ali, we surveyed all graduate students throughout October and November regarding GSA services. We are currently working to analyze the results and will report on this further, but I am happy to say that levels of satisfaction are generally high (but we definitely need to be more pro-active in advertising our services and in educating the graduate student community about them).

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. I look forward to our discussion on January 18.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin More'.

Colin More 2015-2016 GSA President

**GSA President  
Report to GSA Council for the January 18, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Colin More  
Date: January 15, 2016

Happy January, everyone!

I hope you all had a good holiday with people you like and found a little time to recharge. We may now be the depths of winter, but there is hope! The days are once again growing longer!

Before leaving for my own holidays, I participated in the GSA's now-traditional "Early Call" process. As part of it, the VP's and I held meetings on a variety of subjects with graduate students interested in running for office next year. In my case, those subjects ranged from an in-depth discussion of our Strategic Work Plan, to how the GSA handles external advocacy, to a number of relatively random subjects lumped together under the heading of "hot topics." The students involved were very enthusiastic, and I personally am looking forward to the election!

Since the holidays, the GSA has held its annual winter orientation event. We had an excellent turnout of attentive students this year, and I would like to once again wish them all the best in the course of their studies!

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to shamelessly advertise our upcoming Winter Professional Development Mixer on February 11. As Harsh also reports, this event will be quite similar to the Fall edition, but this time there will be different mentors, it will be held in the Telus Atrium, and it will be sponsored by the Alumni Association. Not changing will be the delicious array of food -- I intend to personally ensure the quality by eating it extensively. Anyway, you should come, and bring your friends! We need to know how much food to get, so watch the GSA Newsletter for RSVP information and other details.

I believe that exhausts my supply of topics for this month. Best of luck to all of you in the coming semester as well, and as always, feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns!

Cheers,

Colin More, GSA President

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 15, 2015 and January 18, 2016. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. I was away on Research Leave from December 14, 2015 to December 18, 2015.*

6 Jan 2016	Medicine Orientation
7 Jan 2016	Dean of FGSR
7 Jan 2016	GSA Winter Orientation
11 Jan 2016	Chancellor Search Committee

13 Jan 2016

General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)



**GSA Board  
Report to GSA Council for the January 18, 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: 15 January, 2016

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. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSA Board in Item 21 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on page 21.1.

**13 January 2016 GSA Board Meeting**

**Main Agenda Items:**

Post-Secondary Education Funding and Budget Cuts at the University of Manitoba: Request for Support from the UMGSA; Public Interest Alberta and the GSA; Graduate Student Definition

**Motions and Agreements:**

Members **AGREED** to approve the Agenda of January 13, 2016, which had been previously distributed, after the addition of a Discussion Item on the definition of a graduate student and moving A Talaei's report to before C More's. HT **MOVED**. ANA Seconded. **CARRIED**.

Members **AGREED** to ask for an update before voting to support the letter on education funding and budget cuts.

Members **AGREED** that ANA should continue to attend meetings and see if PIA was interested in ab-GPAC attending as a member.

**GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)  
Report to GSA Council for the January 18, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Michele DuVal  
Date: January 15, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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 NoC has been conducting business via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Michele DuVal, Administrative Chair, GSA Nominating Committee

**GSA Standing Committees**

**1) GSA Board and Nominating Committee (1 GSA Councillor position)**

Syed Daniyal Israr has stepped down from his joint position on the GSA Board and the GSA NoC. This joint position was advertised via email to GSA Council on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 with a deadline of Friday, December 11, 2015. No nominations were received, and the GSA NoC began a directed search.

**2) GSA Awards Selection Committee (1 graduate student position)**

Following the resignation of one (1) GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) member, there is currently one (1) vacancy on the GSA ASC. This vacancy was advertised in the Friday, December 4, 2015 GSA Newsletter. The deadline to receive nominations was Friday, December 11, 2015 at 12:00 PM (Noon). The GSA NoC received four (4) nominations. On December 15, 2015 the GSA NoC forwarded these four (4) nominations to GSA Council with a call for additional nominations. No additional nominations were received. **See Item 8 for the list of nominees.**

**GSA Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the January 18, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Harsh Thaker  
Date: January 15, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful vacation or a productive couple of weeks for those of you working through the break. I took advantage of the break to focus on my research and also spend some time with family in Toronto. I don't have much to report in terms of meetings that I attended since last month, but I would like to provide a few updates.

FGSR has recently purchased access to MyGradSkills.ca, an online training portal developed by the Ontario Consortium for Graduate Professional Skills, which houses a set of short modules on topics such as converting a CV to a resume, conducting a job search, academic and professional communication for researchers, community engagement, entrepreneurship and many more. Simply login with your university email account and you can explore any of these topics at your own pace.

The GSA will be holding a Professional Development Mixer in the Telus Centre Atrium on Thursday Feb 11 at 5pm (sponsored by the Alumni Association). Stay tuned for details and a link to RSVP in the weekly GSA Newsletter. These events are in alignment with the Strategic Work Plan in providing graduate students with a variety of professional development opportunities. Please encourage your colleagues to register early as there is limited space available and I hope to see some of you there on the 11th.

The University's Institutional Strategic Plan is currently in the last few weeks of gathering feedback from members of the community and a committee has been tasked with circulating a draft document within the next couple months. There is still time to send your comments to [engage@ualberta.ca](mailto:engage@ualberta.ca) if you would like to do so.

As always, 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 Vice-President Academic

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 15, 2015 to January 18, 2016. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. I was away on Research Leave from December 17, 2015 to December 18, 2015 and from January 4, 2016 to January 8, 2016.*

11 Jan 2016	General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC)
11 Jan 2016	General Faculties Council Executive (GFC EXEC)

**GSA Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the January 18, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Alphonse Ndem Ahola  
Date: January 15, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you had a good holiday.

As you can imagine, we had few activities during the month of December due to the holidays. I was away on Personal Leave from December 14 to December 16, 2015. From December 18 to January 4, 2016, the GSA office was closed.

The winter semester began with the GSA winter Orientation. Along with Colin, Ali, Heather Zwicker (Dean of FGSR), and Robin Everall (Dean of students) I welcomed new graduate students and gave information on services that the GSA provides.

I also would like to mention the work that is being done by the Alumni New Program Development Committee. We are discussing ways to reach out to more students and to get them to be interested in what the Alumni Association can offer as opportunities of mentoring, coaching, and even job openings. I will keep you informed as we continue the discussion.

Looking forward to meeting you at the next Council.

Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA Vice-President External

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 15, 2015 and January 18, 2016. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. I was away on Personal Leave from December 14, 2015 to December 16, 2015.*

7 Jan 2016	GSA Winter Orientation
18 Jan 2016	Alumni New Program Development Committee

**GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)  
Report to GSA Council for the January 18, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Alphonse Ndem Ahola  
Date: January 15, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

**The GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) is responsible for selecting the recipients of the thirteen different GSA Recognition Awards.** The deadline for the GSA to receive nominations for the GSA Recognition Awards was January 13, 2016. The GSA received 109 nominations, on par with the 109 received in 2015.

**GSA ASC members met for adjudication training on January 14, 2016. GSA ASC members will be adjudicating the nominations until January 29, after which they will meet to determine the recipients in each category.** I will report the recipients to GSA Council in February.

Best,  
Alphonse Ndem Ahola, GSA Vice-President External and Chair of the GSA Awards Selection Committee

**GSA Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the January 18, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Alphonse Ndem Ahola  
Date: January 15, 2016

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new semester! I hope everyone had a relaxing, fun and enjoyable holiday here in Edmonton or elsewhere! I spent some time in Ontario with my family and got to play with my twelve nieces and nephews, which was fantastic. 😊

While I didn't attend many meetings this month as I was on leave for one week and then the University was closed, I have been working behind the scenes with Heather Hogg on revisions to the Collective Agreement as part of the Collective Bargaining negotiations. I have also been working on a presentation for GSA Council explaining the Collective Bargaining process as well as highlighting how the VPL and the GSA support and assist academically employed graduate students. I hope it will be informative and assist Councilors in understanding the diverse issues and questions that graduate students face. Finally, as it is the start of a new semester, we are busy answering questions and starting to meet with students who have questions about their current and past assistantships. I'm predicting the next few weeks will be quite hectic with Collective Bargaining negotiations, the UofA Let's Talk Day on January 27, and the Alberta Wellness Summit being held in Edmonton on January 29-30!

As usual, please feel free to contact us with any new or ongoing issues related to your RA/TAs hip, so we can help you sort it out. We're also still collecting copies of letters of offers, contracts and assistantship appointment letters that have been received by graduate students over the last few years. Finally, if your departmental GSA would like a presentation on the Collective Agreement and assistantships, please let me know so we can arrange a time.

Happy Wintering,

Sarah Ficko, GSA Vice-President Labour

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 15, 2015 and January 18, 2016. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. I was away on Personal Leave from December 14, 2015 to December 18, 2015.*

9 Jan 2016	International Student Winter Transition Orientation
12 Jan 2016	Student Grievance Follow-up
12 Jan 2016	University of Alberta International (UAI) (T Santiago)
13 Jan 2016	Meeting with a Student
14 Jan 2016	Collective Agreement Meeting

**GSA Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the January 18, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Ali Talaei  
Date: January 15, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy new year!!!! I hope you have had an enjoyable and relaxing holidays. I myself stayed in Edmonton celebrating Christmas and the New Year with my family.

Talking about GSA work, since my last meeting, things have been slow (due to the holidays) but at the same time very productive. On Saturday December 12, the SU and I (as well as members of GSA management) had a meeting with the Campus Food Bank board. The meeting was very productive and the 3 organizations came to a mutual understanding and, if things go well, we will sign a new MoU soon.

Regarding the issue of Michener Park transit access, I have had meetings both with the graduate students living in MP and also with University Administration, who have agreed to support the MP residents. I discussed this with City representatives on January 13 and will provide more details orally to GSA Council.

Besides the GSA and UAI Winter Orientations (which I participated along with Colin and Alphonse), I have participated in 2 departmental orientations. They all went well and I am excited to have met new people starting their careers and studies here at U of A.

Finally the Dean of Students Selection process is approaching its final stages and we will get to know our new Dean in the next few months.

Sincerely,

Ali Talaei, GSA Vice-President Student Services

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between December 15, 2015 and January 18, 2016. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

12 Dec 2015	Food Bank
14 Dec 2015	Meeting with Michener Park Representatives
16 Dec 2015	Dean of Students Selection Committee
17 Dec 2015	U-Pass Admin Committee
5 Jan 2016	Chemical and Material Engineering Orientation
5 Jan 2016	Chemistry Orientating
7 Jan 2016	GSA Winter Orientation
9 Jan 2016	International Student Winter Transition Orientation
13 Jan 2016	Meeting about GSA Services
13 Jan 2016	U-Pass Advisory Committee

**GSA Chief Returning Officer  
Report to GSA Council for the January 18, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Virginia Pimmett  
Date: January 15, 2016

Election time is almost upon us!

**Nominations for all positions will be opening on January 25, 2016 at 1pm.** Nomination forms will be made available at the GSA office for pickup at that time, and completed forms must be returned to the office for verification by myself and Seah Rah, the GSA Deputy Returning Officer. The nomination period will close on February 8, 2016 at 1pm; this will be followed by the All Candidates' Meeting on February 8, 2016 at 2pm.

**The voting period will be February 23-25, 2016 at 10:00 AM.**

In the last few weeks, we have been focusing on the ramp-up to elections. In conjunction with the GSA ERC, I am currently working to finalize the ballot. The GSA ERC will be meeting on January 19 to discuss and hopefully finalize this. Once again we are working with Google Forms, and we are looking forward to implementing a new and robust system that utilizes a closed Google Group this year (we have been working with the U of A Information Services and Technology professionals on this).

Just as last month, I would like to ask all Councilors to please start thinking about ways **you can engage with your department members and encourage them to vote.** The GSA's actions are shaped by the wishes and concerns of the graduate student body, and this is a very important opportunity for students to make their voices heard! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [gsacroff@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsacroff@ualberta.ca), or DRO Sean Rah at [gsadroff@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsadroff@ualberta.ca).

Thank you,

Virginia Pimmett, GSA Chief Returning Officer



**GSA Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the January 18, 2016 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Ellen Schoeck  
Date: January 15, 2016

Dear Council Colleagues,

As reported last year, the GSA office went through a number of external reviews, including a review of our Information Technology (IT) by Rob Lake, the recent former IT staff person for U of A central administration. Acting on Rob's recommendations, I hired Robin Sawh, recently retired from his position in the Provost's Office as IT Supervisor.

When I came to the GSA in 2010 we had an IT staff person for only ten hours a week. We had no shared drive, very old servers, a mix of outdated computers (PCs and some personal Macs), and both email and a website which caused us problems. From 2011-2015 we had a patchwork of people dealing with our IT issues. Some progress was made; for instance, we were asked by the U of A to use their Google email and their website resources and did so.

Robin Sawh was hired on September 10, 2015 and will be finishing with us soon; we will then assess our IT needs. These are the areas where Robin has brought us up to minimum acceptable standards both for the purpose of running an efficient office with over 45,000 Google documents and for the purpose of audit:

- **Map our network and produce a schematic.**
- **Inventory our IT equipment.**
- **Review all devices used in the office or at home** (eg for speed, program updates).
- **Develop IT office procedures**, including revision to the staff confidentiality agreement.
- **Assess virus protection and ensure all programs are licensed.**
- **Work with Dell and Microservice** concerning the GSA piggybacking on the U of A buying agreement.
- **Arrange for backup.**
- **Assess whether certain devices need encryption.**
- **Assist us in our conversations with IST** regarding a customized Google form for the purpose of running our General Election and advise other election-related IT issues.
- **Advise on how the GSA CRO can keep an accurate running written record.**

Robin and I have worked with our staff, the CRO, the GSA ERC, the President, and others in all these matters.

I would be happy to answer any questions!

Ellen

### Management Report to the GSA Board, January 13, 2016

Dear All,

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on December 9, 2015:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Winter Orientation, training for GSA ACB members, investment strategies/budget building, preparing for GSA Council, PD event planning, departmental orientations, data requests to FGSR for the GSA newsletter and the General Election, migration of the GSA website to Sitecore 3 and associated training, preparing for a GSA Negotiating Committee meeting, Google Forms for the GSA General Election and setting up a mock election, review of IT, handbook for new GSA Councillors, vacancies on GSA committees.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** a review of all Bylaws and Policies for inconsistencies and errors, integration of the two (a draft is in development), and creating a "definitions" section.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** creation of an alcohol liability waiver (upcoming discussion with the new manager, Office of Insurance and Risk Assessment) and several other matters on the backburner – making contact with the Student Affairs Officer about upcoming reviews of Student Groups policies in UAPPOL.

#### Grants and Operations

- **Social Media:** Facebook = 730 likes (up 5 from December 9). Our Facebook posts reached 67 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 4. Twitter = 528 followers (up 14 from December 9).
- Submission of applications for **GSA Recognition Awards**.
- Forward thinking on **GSA Awards Night**.
- **Grants processing** (period runs January 1 to March 31, period is 12% completed). **NOTE:** As of December 31, 2015, \$31,674.98 remained in PDA funds; following consultation with the VPSS, this was moved to CCGs. As of the opening of Period 4 on January 1, 2016, funding for PDAs was the standard period opening amount (\$79,684.38) and the CCG was increased to \$85,176.60 from the standard period opening amount of \$47,039.41 (\$31,674.98 + \$6,462.22 remaining in the fund on December 31, 2015 + \$47,039.41).

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>PDA</b>	\$79,684.38	\$74,284.38	11	11 (7 pending processing)
<b>CCG</b>	\$85,176.60	\$4,176.6	55	55 (33 pending processing)
<b>ASGA</b>	\$6,142.50	\$4,510	2	2 (0 pending processing)
<b>EB</b>	\$147,351.87* (no periods)	\$44,055.37* (no periods)	0	32 (0 Pending processing)

#### Week in Review – Office Operations:

- Supporting the work of the GSA NoC (assisting the GSA NoC with filling vacancies on the Faculty of Arts Academic Affairs Committee, the GSA ASC, the GSA ACB, the GSA NoC, and the GSA Board), and support for Early Call.
- Assistance with event planning.
- Grants processing.
- Sending out GSA holiday cards – 150 e-cards and 42 hard copy cards, reduced from the approximate 300 hard copy cards sent the previous year in keeping with our Gold Level Green Spaces office certification.