GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA
Monday, 14 May 2018 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

The GSA acknowledges that the University of Alberta is situated on Treaty Six territory and Métis homelands.

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 Joshuha Connauton in the Chair

A pizza dinner will be served at 5:15 pm.

OPEN SESSION	**Attached Numbered Pages**

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of the 14 May 2018 Agenda

3. Approval of the Minutes from the 16 April 2018 GSA Council Meeting
   Attachment:
      i.   Minutes from the 16 April 2018 GSA Council Meeting   **3.0 - 3.5**

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*)

Councillor Announcements

5. Councillor Announcements

Presentation:

6. Student Services: Office of the Dean of Students
   Sasha van der Klein (GSA President) will present the item and introduce the guest.

   Guest: André Costopoulos (Vice-Provost and Dean of Students)

Action Items:

7. Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and Introduction of GSA Bylaw and Policy on Collective Bargaining
   Sasha van der Klein (GSA President) will present the item.

   Attachments:
      i.   Outline of Issue   **7.0**
      ii.   Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and Introduction of GSA Bylaw and Policy on Collective Bargaining: Double Column   **7.1 - 7.10**

Prepared by C Thomas, L Hareuther and J Tanguay for GSA Council 14 May 2018

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8. Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Bylaw, Section B: Membership
   Sasha van der Klein (GSA President) will present the item.

   Attachments:
i.	Outline of Issue	**8.0**
ii.	Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Bylaw, Section B: Membership: Double Column	**8.1**

Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates

9. GSA Council Elections
   Kenzie Gordon (GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair) will present the item

   GSA Councillor-at-Large Positions (1 vacancy)
   Attachment:
i.	Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large (1 vacancy)	**9.0 - 9.5**

   GSA Senator (1 vacancy)
   Attachment:
i.	Nominees for GSA Senator (1 vacancy)	**9.6 - 9.9**

For Discussion: None at this time.

Reports

10. President **(Sasha van der Klein, GSA President)**
i.	President's Report		
	a.	2017-2018 President	**10.0 - 10.1**
	b.	2018-2019 President	**10.2 - 10.3**
i.	GSA Board		**10.4**
ii.	GSA Budget and Finance Committee **(no meetings this reporting period)**		
iii.	GSA Governance Committee		**10.5**

11. Vice-President Academic **(Masoud Aliramezani, GSA Vice-President Academic)**
i.	Vice-President Academic's Report		
	a.	2017-2018 Vice-President Academic	**11.0 - 11.1**
	b.	2018-2019 Vice-President Academic	**11.2 - 11.3**

12. Vice-President External **(Zhihong Pan, GSA Vice-President External)**
i.	Vice-President External's Report		
	a.	2017-2018 Vice-President External	**12.0 - 12.1**
	b.	2018-2019 Vice-President External	**12.2**
ii.	GSA Awards Selection Committee **(no meetings this reporting period)**		

13. Vice-President Labour **(Beth Richardson, GSA Vice-President Labour)**
i.	Vice-President Labour's Report		
	a.	2017-2018 Vice-President Labour	**13.0**
	b.	2018-2019 Vice-President Labour	**13.1 - 13.2**
ii.	GSA Negotiating Committee **(no meetings this reporting period)**		
iii.	GSA Labour Relations Committee **(no meetings this reporting period)**		

14. Vice-President Student Services **(Fahed Elian, GSA Vice-President Student Services)**
i.	Vice-President Student Services' Report		
	a.	2017-2018 Vice-President Student Services **(no written report submitted)**	
	b.	2018-2019 Vice-President Student Services	**14.0 - 14.1**

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15. Senator **(Trent Nabe, GSA Senator)**
     i.   Senator's Report **(no written report at this time)**

16. Speaker **(Joshuha Connauton, GSA Speaker)**
     i.   Speaker's Report **(no written report at this time)**

17. Chief Returning Officer **(Darcy Bemister, GSA Chief Returning Officer)**
     i.   Chief Returning Officer's Report **(no written report at this time)**

18. GSA Nominating Committee **(Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair)**
     i.   GSA Nominating Committee Report   **18.0 - 18.1**

19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee **(Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)**
     i.   GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report   **19.0**

20. GSA Management **(Courtney Thomas, GSA Executive Director)**
     i.   Executive Director's Report   **20.0 - 20.3**

Question Period

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

22. Oral Questions

Adjournment

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GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 16 April 2018 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

IN ATTENDANCE:

Babak Soltannia (President)	Talisha Chaput; Megan Paranich (Anthropology)	Areej Alshammiry (Educational Policy Studies)	Corinne Story (Nursing)
Firouz Khodayari (VP Academic)	Vicki Kwon (Art & Design)	Chantal Labonté (Ed Psych)	Jaclyn Hutchinson (Occupational Therapy)
Masoud Khademi (VP External)	Swai Mon Khaing; Brianna Greenwood (Biochemistry)	Golam Kibria Chowdhury; Saleh Alheejawi (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Braden Chow (Oncology)
Sasha van der Klein (VP Labour)	Francesca Jean; Ruhul Amin	Nicole Jamison (Elementary Education)	Brittany Matenchuk (Paediatrics
Royle Feng (VP Student Services)	Kevin Solar (Biomedical Engineering)	Miriam Mabrouk (English & Film Studies)	Andrew Woodman (Pharmacology)
Josh Connauton (Speaker)	Rongrong Zhang (Business PhD)	Adrian Christ (History & Classics)	Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Teddy Carter (Deputy Speaker)	Karl Roesner (Cell Biology)	Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)	Scott Karbashewski (Physics)
Darcy Bemister (Chief Returning Officer)	Anika Benozir Asha (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Kenzie Gordon (Humanities Computing)	Daniela Gomez (Psychiatry)
Michele DuVal (Deputy Returning Officer)	Michael Armstrong (Chemistry)	Khushmit Kaur (Internetworking)	William Service (Psychology)
Trent Nabe (Senator; Business MBA)	Pedro Mateo (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Evelyn Asiedu (Lab Med & Pathology)	Iain Miller (Public Health)
Spencer Balay (Councillor-at-Large)	Dylan Ashley; Sara Soltaninejad (Computing Science)	Michelle Michelle (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Alesha Reed (Rehabilitation Science)
Syed Hussain (Councillor-at-Large)	Julie Piche (Dentistry)	Milad Nazarahari (Mechanical Engineering)	Owain Bamforth (Religious Studies)
Kim Nguyen-Phuoc (Councillor-at-Large)	Dorian Lang (Drama)	Fahed Elian (Medical Genetics)	Jared Fath (Renewable Resources)
Nicole Noel (Councillor-at-Large)	Alison Thomas (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Brendan Todd (Medical Micribiology & Immunology)	Yangzhe Cao (Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Gabriel Ojakovo (Councillor-at-Large)	Stefana Vukadinovich (East Asian Studies)	Derya Cinar (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies)	Jon Mora (Surgery)
Andrews Tawiah (Councillor-at-Large)	Danny Wallbank (Economics)	Hailey Pineau (Neuroscience)	

Guests: Ian Reade (Director of Athletic); Cheryl Harwartd (Director Campus and Community Recreation); Beth Richardson (Cell Biology and incoming Vice-President Labour); Masoud Aliramezani (Mechanical Engineering and incoming Vice-President Academic); Melissa Woghiren (Computing Science); Sparsh Patel (Paedistrics); Mahmud Rashedul Amin (Civil & Environmental Engineering).

Speaker Josh Connauton in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

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

Approval of Agenda
2. **Approval of the 16 April 2018 Consolidated Agenda**
Members had before them the 16 April 2018 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. K Gordon **MOVED**; J Fath **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes
3. **Minutes from the 19 March 2018 GSA Council Meeting**
Members had before them the 19 March 2018 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 6 April 2018. T Nabe **MOVED**; K Gordon **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously. F Khodayari abstained.

Changes in Council Membership
4. **Changes in GSA Council Membership**
    i. **Introduction of New Councillors**
This was the first meeting for a number of Councillors: D Ashley (Computing Science), M Mabrouk (English and Film Studies), B Greenwood (Biochemistry), J Fath (Renewable Resources).

    ii. **Farewell to Departing Councillors**
This was the last meeting for a number of Councillors: A Chabot (Anthropology), S Balay (CAL), K Nugyen-Phuoc (CAL), F Jean (Biological Sciences), F Elian (Medical Genetics), D Cinar (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies), G Ojakovo (CAL), R Zhang (Business PhD), S Hussain (CAL), S Mon Khaing (Biochemistry).

Councillor Announcements
5. **Councillor Announcements**
E Asiedu, GSA Councillor for Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, noted that the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades, and Technology (CCWESTT) was holding their bi-annual conference from 30 May to 2 June and invited members to volunteer for this event.

O Bamforth, GSA Councillor for Religious Studies, invited graduate students to attend the Religious Studies Graduate Student Symposium on heroism and villainy in religion on 27 April and 28 April. He noted that it was an interdisciplinary symposium and that all were welcome to attend.

Presentation
6. **Athletics and Recreation Presentation**
B Soltannia (GSA President) presented the item and introduced the guests, Dr. Ian Reade (Director of Athletics) and Cheryl Harwardt (Director of Campus and Community Recreation). He noted that Athletics and Recreation last attended GSA council in May 2016 to present on what they do and how they are funded. He added that athletics and recreation was committed to attending GSA Council about once a year to discuss their services and how student mandatory non-instructional fees were used in this area, for the purposes of transparency and accountability.

C Harwardt began by outlining the principles that guide Athletics and Recreation: transparency, accountability, partnership, collaboration, and consultation. She noted that students paid approximately $5.5 million in fees towards Athletics and Recreation, under the umbrella of Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs). She explained that Athletics and Recreation were separated into two branches: Athletics under Dr. Ian Reade and Campus & Community Recreation under Cheryl Harwardt.

C Harwardt noted that, for Campus & Community Recreation (CCR), the vision was to inspire and empower exceptional life experiences by facilitating and delivering leading-edge programs, events, and services. She also noted that CCR valued leadership, collaboration, kaizen, civility, and inclusiveness. She explained that they were funded by a U of A operating contribution of $1.2 million, revenue generated from rentals, memberships, and program fees totaling $3 million, and the Athletics and Recreation fees generated by the MNIFs paid by students totaling $4.2 million. She added that this revenue was then put towards facility and programming employees' wages and general operating costs. She highlighted a few statistics of use of the different services they offered noting that, between January and December 2017, the fitness centre was used

490,870 times, the locker rooms were used 1,024,754 times, the climbing centre was used 25,000 times, the yoga mats were rolled out 29,187 times, and 1,000 individuals participated in kick-boxing every week.

I Reade presented on the Golden Bears and Pandas Athletics. He noted that there were 20 varsity teams at the University, also noting that the golf program had been eliminated in response to budgetary restrictions. He specified that varsity teams had approximately 5-10 graduate student athletes each. He outlined the Athletics budget which broke down to $4.8 million in revenue generated through donors, sponsorships, event attendance, alumni, and U of A operating budget contribution, plus $3.2 million generated via Athletics and Recreation fees and he noted that this budget was then put towards staff salaries, supplies, rentals, and teams travel. He added that Athletics granted $1.5 million a year in scholarships to students. He concluded the presentation by inviting those present to the upcoming Sport Conference from May 31 to June 2. He specified that the conference was free for students with the use of promo code "ONECARD" when registering and explained that it was presented by U of A staff, students, and coaches, and would encompass discussions on the public good of the community, panel discussions, and more.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, among other issues, whether graduate student fees should be applied in larger part to CCR versus Athletics given that very few graduate students were involved in Athletics programs (I Reade noted the complexity of identifying the appropriate ratio in such a situation); whether the Athletics scholarships were only awarded to undergraduate students (I Reade responded that all students in Athletics programs were eligible, but inevitably more undergraduate students received them); how student fees supported facilities maintenance such as the floor getting replaced recently (C Harwardt noted that the flooring issue was primarily addressed by warranty and not standard operating budget lines); the plan for locker room renovations (C Harwardt outlined the plan which comprised multiple phases and was set to begin near the end of summer, the project was expected to take 18 months from start to finish and that the first phase was for the development of a gender neutral locker room, and then improvements to the men's and women's locker rooms would follow); whether the saunas in the locker room would be fix (C Harwardt responded that the saunas were to be taken out due to the high cost associated with their maintenance); and whether Athletics was projecting the elimination of more programs in the face of budget cuts (I Reade responded in the affirmative and noted that Athletics was hoping to work on increasing their alumni contributions prior to cutting additional programs; C Harwardt added that CCR would work to minimize their equipment maintenance costs in the face of budget cuts).

Action Items: None at this time.

Elections
7. GSA Council Elections

K Gordon (Vice-Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item and introduced the nominees, who were given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. K Gordon asked the following question of the candidates and the candidates were given 45 seconds to respond: "Please tell us why you would like to serve as a Councillor-at-Large."

> Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large:
> Mahmud Rashedul Amin (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
> Teddy Carter (MBA)
> Andrew Woodman (Pharacology)

GSA Standing Committees
   a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board Chair (1 vacancy)
K Gordon presented the item and introduced the nominee, who was given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. K Gordon asked the following question of the candidate and the candidate was given 45 seconds to respond: "Having served on the GSA ACB in your capacity as a member, can you speak to why you would like to serve as Chair for the remainder of your term?"

> Nominee for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board Chair:
> Sparsh Patel (Pediatrics)

For Discussion

8. GSA Board 2017-2018 Strategic Work Plan: Final Update

B Soltannia presented the item and noted that the letter circulated to GSA Council provided the final update regarding the work of the 2017-2018 Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) and the progress they had made on the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP), since their last update in January. He added that many of the goals in the SWP were long-term initiatives that spanned several years, so the 2018-2019 DEOs would consider these items when they began work on the next SWP. He noted that some key highlights updates and progress on their work to advocate for guaranteed minimum funding packages, conversations and advocacy related to tuition, continued work on collective agreement bargaining, submission of a proposal to allow scholarship holders to pay tuition in installments, the launching of a survey to collect data on the topic of the collection of Residence Association fees, continued participation in conversations about professional development opportunities and academic governance reforms, the hosting of a graduate student safety session, and participation in conversations regarding the development of University policies in response to the upcoming legalization of cannabis, and the future of Smart Fare for the City of Edmonton Transit System. Lastly, B Soltannia thanked his team and the GSA office staff for their hard work and support.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, among other matters, which initiatives the DEOs thought had not received sufficient attention and the emerging trends that they thought GSA Council and the next GSA Board should be aware of going forward (questions submitted via email) (DEOs highlighted their work on graduate supervision and conversations about the importance of establishing tools for evaluating faculty members as supervisors, the momentum created in the advocacy for minimum funding packages, the impact that University budget cuts may have on future projects, the initiation of the student parents housing research project, the introduction of new province-wide Occupational Health and Safety legislation which could create an opportunity for the establishment mandatory training for those who are supervising graduate students, the graduate student safety and security session that the GSA hosted in March, collective agreement bargaining, the recent joint statements with other University constituencies in response to the University's budget and increases to international tuition, and changes to academic governance such as the inclusion of more graduate students on University governance bodies and the importance of engaged graduate student representatives); a GSA Council member shared some issues they were currently facing in their graduate program (S van der Klein emphasized that the GSA was a safe space for graduate students who had any concerns or questions about a supervisor and noted that all questions, emails, and meetings were kept confidential and dealt with on a case-by-case basis; she also emphasized that this was also the case for graduate students who met with staff from the FGSR to discuss issues); whether the proposal to allow graduate students who received scholarships to pay their tuition in installments had been finalized (S van der Klein noted this had not been finalized yet and that the hope was that this model would parallel what was currently established for research and teaching assistants who can choose to have their tuition deducted from their salary in installments without interest or penalties); and the extensive security problems in the Fine Arts Building were discussed at length (including the gaps in communication from the Dean of Arts that occurred in some departments and the importance of communicating these concerns and taking a strong stance on these matters, the different situations in which University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) was unable to respond, miscommunication between 911 dispatch and UAPS during certain incidents, security models used at other universities, and an update was provided that the DEOs had continued to raise these issues with the Dean of Students and the Provost and that additional security guards and installation of more security cameras would be implemented in future months. It was also noted that a new Campuses and Facilities Safety and Security Working Group had been established in response to increased numbers of reports and incidents associated with safety and security issues).

Reports
9. **President**
    i. **President's Report:**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition B Soltannia congratulated the recipients of the GSA Recognition Awards and expressed his gratitude towards the other DEOs, GSA office staff, members of GSA Board and the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC), the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and the Dean of Students for their hard work over the course of the previous year.

    ii. **GSA Board**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted.

    iii. **GSA Budget and Finance Committee**
No meetings this reporting period.

    iv. **GSA Governance Committee**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition F Khodayari noted that this was his final meeting as GSA VP Academic and that he had a wonderful experience working with and for graduate students.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition M Khademi thanked everyone for providing him with the opportunity to serve as GSA VP External. He welcomed the incoming DEOs and wished them a great year ahead.

    ii. **GSA Awards Selection Committee**

No meetings this reporting period.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition S van der Klein stated that graduate students could contact her regarding the ongoing collective agreement negotiations and that after May 1, they would be reaching Beth Richardson. She noted that this was her last time at GSA Council as GSA VP Labour and she was looking forward to returning next month and for the upcoming year as GSA President.

    ii. **GSA Negotiating Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted.

    iii. **GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No meetings this reporting period.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition R Feng also noted that this was his last time attending GSA Council. He thanked the GSA office team and DEOs, and stated that that he was really happy of his involvement with the GSA.

14. **Senator**
    i. **Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

15. **Speaker**
    i. **Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

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

No written report at this time.

17. **GSA Nominating Committee**
    i. **GSA Nominating Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition K Gordon emphasized current vacancies on GSA standing committees for GSA Councillors, including one on the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) and two on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB), the latter of which has historically had minimal to no work. Lastly, she noted that there was a joint vacancy on the GSA Board (GSAB) and GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC).

18. **GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted.

    19. GSA Management
        i.   Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition C Thomas invited GSA Council to join her in wishing a fond farewell to GSA Director of Operations Heather Hogg.

Question Period

    20. Written Questions

None at this time.

    21. Oral Questions

None at this time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

<u>**Outline of Issue**</u>

Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and Introduction of GSA Bylaw and Policy on Collective Bargaining

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

> That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, **APPROVE** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and the introduction of GSA Bylaw and Policy on Collective Bargaining, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy.

<u>NOTE 1:</u> The proposed changes apply to Section A: Authority, GSA Bylaw, Authority; Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers and GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolio; and Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Standing Committees. This document also introduces the new Section Q: Collective Bargaining, GSA Bylaw, Collective Bargaining and GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Labour Relations Committee, and GSA Policy, GSA Negotiating Team.

<u>NOTE 2:</u> The is the first reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw, proposed changes to GSA Policy are presented for information. The second reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and approval of proposed changes to GSA Policy will be presented at the June GSA Council meeting.

Background:

With the introduction of Bill 7, the GSA is required to comply with the *Labour Relations Code*. Under the *Labour Relation Code*, the GSA is now recognized as a "trade union" and the "bargaining agent" for academically-employed graduate students (Graduate Teaching Assistants, Graduate Research Assistants, and Graduate Research Assistant Fellowships).

In order to comply with the *Labour Relations Code*, GSA Bylaw and Policy need to be amended to include a section on collective bargaining and to amend various section to clearly indicate that the GSA acts in the interests of academically-employed graduate students in their role as a trade union. The amended GSA Bylaw and Policy are required to be submitted for approval by the Labour Relations Board before 1 July 2018.

The proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and introduction of GSA Bylaw and Policy on collective bargaining have been reviewed by the GSA's lawyers. This proposal has also been reviewed by the legal counsel of the Labour Relations Board and they do not foresee any concerns with the Labour Relations Board's approval of the amended GSA Bylaw and Policy as drafted.

The GSA Governance Committee reviewed and recommended the proposal to GSA Council at its 20 April 2018 meeting. The GSA Board discussed and reviewed the proposal at its meeting of 18 April 2018 and made their own motion to recommend the proposal to GSA Council at their 2 May 2018 meeting.

Jurisdiction:

<u>Section F: Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.3.2.a</u>
"The GSAB is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by GSA Council."

<u>Section F: Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.a</u>
The GSA GC will *"advise GSA Council on GSA Bylaw, matters of GSA Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governing issues and provide a report on recommended changes at the next scheduled GSA Council meeting."*

Prepared by C Thomas, L Hareuther, and J Tanguay for GSA Council 14 May 2018

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Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and Introduction of GSA Bylaw and Policy on Collective Bargaining	
Current GSA Bylaw and Policy (*deletions noted by a strikethrough*) and **Proposed Changes** (*additions underlined*)	**Rationale/Background**
Section A: Authority	*No change.*
GSA Bylaw: Authority	*No change.*
A.BYL.1 General	*No change.*
A.BYL.1.1 – A.BYL.1.3.b …	*No change.*
A.BYL.1.4 For the purpose of activities related to collective bargaining, the GSA must also comply with the relevant sections of the *Labour Relations Code*.	*To comply with Bill 7.*
A.BYL.2 – A.BYL.3.2 …	*No change.*
Section D: GSA Officers	*No change.*
GSA Bylaw: GSA Officers	
D.BYL.1 – D.BYL.2.2.c …	*No change.*
D.BYL.2.2.d The VPL is responsible for labour-related matters concerning academically-employed graduate students (including collective bargaining) and other issues as assigned.	*Editorial.*
D.BYL.2.2.e – D.BYL.3.3.f …	*No change.*
GSA Policy: GSA Officer Portfolios	*No change.*
D.POL.4.1 – D.POL.4.12 …	*No change.*
D.POL.4.9 – D.POL.4.12 …	*No change.*
D. POL.5 President	*No change.*

Prepared by J Tanguay, L Hareuther, and C Thomas for GSA Council 14 May 2018

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D.POL.5.1 Duties	*No change.*
D.POL.5.1.a ~~As President and CEO of the GSA, t~~The President has overall responsibility for ensuring the long-term effectiveness of the GSA at all levels, and serves as a signatory of all major contracts and agreements.	*Editorial.*
D.POL.5.1.b – D.POL.5.1.d …	*No change.*
D.POL.5.1.e The President leads development of a strategic work plan for the GSA, ~~and works~~ in concert with the Vice-Presidents, ~~Labour (VPL) to craft the GSA's bargaining position and to strategize concerning tuition and other crucial, "big ticket"~~ and maintains involvement in all major issues ~~facing~~ related to graduate students.	*Editorial and to reflect current practice.*
D.POL.5.1.f – D.POL.5.3.a …	*No change.*
D.POL.6 Vice-President Academic	*No change.*
D.POL.6.1 – D.POL.6.1.e …	*No change.*
D.POL.6.2 Committees	*No change.*
~~D.POL.6.2.a The VPA is a member if the GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC) (as Vice-Chair).~~	*Removal of the GSA Negotiating Committee to facilitate the creation of a negotiating team.*
~~D.POL.6.2.b – D.POL.6.2.c.xv~~ D.POL.6.2.a – D.POL.6.2.b.xiv …	*Renumbering.*
D.POL.6.3 – D.POL.6.3.a …	*No change.*
D.POL.7 Vice-President External	*No change.*
D.POL.7.1 – D.POL.7.1.d …	*No change.*
D.POL.7.2 Committees	*No change*
D.POL.7.2.a …	*No change.*
~~D.POL.7.2.b The VPE is a member of the GSA LRC (as Vice-Chair).~~	*Removal of the VPE as Vice-Chair and member of the GSA LRC, as the GSA LRC will now be composed of academically-employed graduate students and the Vice-Chair will be elected from amongst the members.*

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~~D.POL.7.2.c – D.POL.7.2.c.vi~~ <u>D.POL.7.2.b – D.POL.7.2.b.vi</u> …	*Renumbering.*
D.POL.7.3 – D.POL.7.3.b …	*No change.*
D.POL.8 Vice-President Labour	*No change.*
D.POL.8.1 Duties	*No change.*
D.POL.8.1.a The VPL is the chief negotiator of the Collective Agreement (CA) with the University covering all <u>academically-employed</u> graduate student<u>s</u> ~~assistantships~~.	*Clarification to align with Bill 7 language.*
D.POL.8.1.b The VPL also negotiates other matters with the University related to <u>academically-employed</u> graduate student<u>s,</u> ~~assistantships and~~ <u>including</u> issues regarding interpretation of the CA.	*Editorial and clarification to align with Bill 7 language.*
D.POL.8.1.c The VPL ~~receives and seeks resolution of complaints and concerns~~ <u>advises academically-employed graduate students and answers questions from them related to compliance with and interpretation of the CA,</u> ~~from graduate students~~ <u>as well as works towards informal resolution of disputes where appropriate</u> ~~about assistantship matters, working in concert with the ED (or delegate) and other offices as required~~.	*Editorial and to reflect current practice.*
<u>D.POL.8.1.d The VPL seeks resolution of grievances in accordance with the process outlined in the CA, in consultation with the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) and the ED (or delegate) as needed.</u>	*To comply with Bill 7.*
~~D.POL.8.1.d~~ <u>D.POL.8.1.e</u> …	*Renumbering*
~~D.POL.8.1.e~~ <u>D.POL.8.1.f</u> The VPL <u>collaborates with</u> ~~may be assigned by~~ the <u>GSA LRC</u> ~~President to take~~ on specific labour-related projects ~~(eg reviewing departmental graduate studies policies for CA compliance to ensure compliance with the CA and other efforts with respect to education and compliance with the CA)~~.	*Removal of specific examples of projects allows for the VPL and the GSA LRC to engage with a broader array of issues.*
<u>D.POL.8.1.g The VPL, in consultation with the VPSS, negotiates the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) and the Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) with the University.</u>	*To articulate the role of the VPL in negotiating services that benefits all graduate students.*
~~D.POL.8.1.f – D.POL.8.1.g~~ <u>D.POL.8.1.h – D.POL.8.1.i</u> …	*Renumbering.*

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D.POL.8.2 Committees	*No change.*
D.POL.8.2.a The VPL chairs the ~~GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) and the GSA NC~~ and leads the GSA Negotiating Team.	*Editorial based on previously proposed change and note that the VPL leads the GSA Negotiating Team.*
D.POL.8.2.b – D.POL.8.3.a …	*No change.*
D.POL.8.3.b Previous experience on the GSA LRC or <u>with collective bargaining</u> ~~the GSA NC would be~~ <u>is</u> both desirable and advantageous.	*Editorial and removal of reference to the GSA Negotiating Committee.*
D.POL.9 Vice-President Student Services	*No change.*
D.POL.9.1 Duties	*No change.*
<u>D.POL.9.1.a Assists the VPL in negotiations of the GSAP and the GSSF with the University.</u>	*Clarify that, in negotiations for services offered to all graduate students, the VPL will work with the VPSS.*
~~D.POL.9.1.a – D.POL.9.1.j~~ <u>D.POL.9.1.b – D.POL.9.1.k</u>	*Renumbering.*
D.POL.9.2 – D.POL.12.4.a	*No change.*
Section F: GSA Standing Committees	*No change.*
GSA Bylaw: GSA Standing Committees	*No change.*
F.BYL.1 General	*No change.*
F.BYL.1.1 GSA Council may delegate its powers to GSA Standing Committees through committee mandates. ~~GSA Standing Committees must report regularly back to GSA Council on the proper exercise of their delegated powers.~~	*Moved to new F.BYL.1.2 below.*
<u>F.BYL.1.2 GSA Standing Committees will report regularly to GSA Council on the proper exercise of their delegated powers. The GSA LRC will report to GSA Council for information.</u>	*Moved from old F.BYL.1.1.*
~~F.BYL.1.2 – F.BYL.1.3.d~~ <u>F.BYL.1.3 – F.BYL.1.4.d</u> …	*Renumbering*
~~F.BYL.1.3.e GSA Negotiating Committee~~	*Removal of the GSA Negotiating Committee and the creation of a bargaining team to comply with the Labour Relations Code.*

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F.BYL.1.3.f F.BYL.1.4.e GSA ~~Labour Relations Committee~~ LRC	*Editorial.*
~~F.BYL.1.3.g – F.BYL.1.4.a~~ F.BYL.1.4.g – F.BYL.1.5.a	*Renumbering.*
GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees	*No change.*
F.POL.2 – F.POL.5 …	*No change.*
~~F.POL.6 GSA Negotiating Committee~~	*Removal of the GSA Negotiating Committee and the creation of a bargaining team to comply with the* Labour Relations Code.
~~F.POL.6.1 Composition~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.1.a The VPL as Chair.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.1.b The Vice-President Academic as Vice-Chair.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.1.c At least two (2) but no more than three (3) additional graduate student members named by the GSAB as voting members. In naming these graduate student members, the GSAB may consult with the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC).~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.1.d The ED (or delegate) as a non-voting member.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.2 Mandate~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.2.a The GSA NC will review the Collective Agreement (CA) between the GSA and the University of Alberta for clarity of language and meaning, and will identify areas where interpretation or clarification is required.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.2.b The GSA NC will prepare the Opening Position to be taken to the CA negotiations between the GSA and the University of Alberta.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.2.c The GSA NC will report to the GSAB, the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC), GSA Council and the GSA membership on the negotiation process and changes to the CA.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.2.d The GSA NC will present the Opening Position to the University Administration Negotiating Team by the date set within the CA.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.2.e The GSA NC will negotiate the CA, including salary, benefits, policy, and regulations governing graduate student assistantships.~~	*See above rationale.*

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~~F.POL.6.2.f The GSA NC will finalize the CA with the University.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.2.g The GSA NC will submit the final CA reached during negotiations to the next meeting of GSA Council for ratification.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.3 Meetings~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.6.3.a Quorum is three (3) voting members including either the Chair or Vice-Chair.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.7~~ <u>F.POL.6</u> GSA Awards Selection Committee	*Renumbering.*
~~F.POL.8~~ <u>F.POL.7</u> GSA Labour Relations Committee	*Renumbering.*
See Section Q: Collective Bargaining, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Labour Relations Committee.	*Move to Section Q: Collective Bargaining.*
~~F.POL.8.1 Composition~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.8.1.a The VPL as Chair.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.8.1.b The Vice-President External (VPE) as Vice-Chair.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.8.1.c A minimum of four (4) and up to eight (8) graduate student members, elected by GSA Council, as voting members. The GSA LRC Chair, in consultation with the GSA LRC Vice-Chair and the Chair of the GSA NoC, can decide to increase the number of graduate student members on the GSA LRC.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.8.2 Mandate~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.8.2.a Advise the VPL and the GSA NC with respect to the development of the Opening Position for CA negotiations and other issues related to negotiations as requested by the VPL.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.8.2.b Advise the VPL as requested with respect to educating graduate students on the CA.~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.8.3 Meetings~~	*See above rationale.*
~~F.POL.8.3.a Quorum is four (4) voting members including either the Chair or Vice-Chair.~~	*See above rationale.*

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~~F.POL.9 – F.POL.12~~ F.POL.8 – F.POL.11 …	*Renumbering.*
Section Q: Collective Bargaining	*Creation of a stand alone section on collective bargaining to accord with the provisions of Bill 7.*
GSA Bylaw: Collective Bargaining	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.1 General	
Q.BYL.1.1 As per the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, section 95(2)(f.1), the GSA will act upon the wishes of academically-employed graduate students in collective bargaining.	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.1.2 In preparation for collective bargaining, the Vice-President Labour (VPL) will hold consultation sessions with academically-employed graduate students to solicit feedback on priorities to consider in the development of a bargaining mandate.	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.1.3 Academically-employed graduate students will vote electronically on a proposed bargaining mandate as drafted by the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC). The vote will be decided by a simple majority of those who voted.	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.2 Ratification Vote	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.2.1 Academically-employed graduate students will vote electronically on the provisions of any negotiated collective agreement. The vote will be decided by a simple majority of those who voted.	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.2.2 Given that the majority of graduate students are not employed under the Collective Agreement in the Spring or Summer terms, a ratification vote will not occur between April 30 and September 15. If a settlement is negotiated after April 30, the ratification vote will be postponed until after September 15. The voting period will last at least forty-eight (48) hours and no more than five (5) days.	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.3 Strike Vote	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.3.1 Academically-employed graduate students falling within the definition of section 76(5)(a) of the *Labour Relations Code* will vote electronically on any strike action, subject to Labour Relations Board approval of the voting process. The vote	*Language proposed by the Alberta Labour Relations Board.*

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will be decided by a simple majority of those who voted.	
Q.BYL.4 Union Dues	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.4.1 The GSA may collect union dues from academically-employed graduate students (distinct from the GSA membership fee) in an amount approved via electronic vote of academically-employed graduate students. The vote will be decided by a simple majority of those who voted.	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.4.2 Any changes to union dues must be approved as per the process outlined above in Section Q.BYL.4.1.	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.5 Reporting to Academically-Employed Graduate Students	*See above rationale.*
Q.BYL.5.1 Academically-employed graduate students will receive reports electronically on the progress of bargaining.	*See above rationale.*
GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Labour Relations Committee	*Moved from Section F: GSA Standing Committees*
Q.POL.6 GSA Labour Relations Committee	*See above rationale.*
Q.POL.6.1 Composition	*See above rationale.*
Q.POL.6.1.a The Vice-President Labour (VPL) as Chair.	*See above rationale.*
Q.POL.6.1.b One member will be elected by the GSA LRC to serve The Vice-President External (VPE) as Vice-Chair for the duration of their term on the GSA LRC or until they resign from their position.	*To comply with Bill 7.*
Q.POL.6.1.c A minimum of seven (7) four (4) and up to eight (8) nine (9) voting members who are academically-employed graduate students at the time of their election. To ensure a diversity of viewpoints, no more than one (1) member will be from a given department. Members of the GSA LRC will be elected electronically by a simple majority of academically-employed graduate students who voted. GSA Council, as voting members. The GSA LRC Chair, in consultation with the GSA LRC Vice-Chair and the Chair of the GSA NoC, can decide to increase the number of graduate student members on the GSA LRC.	*To comply with Bill 7.*
Q.POL.6.2 Mandate	*No change.*
Q.POL.6.2.a Advise the VPL and the GSA NC with respect to the development of the	*Included in various sections below.*

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~~Opening Position for CA negotiations and other issues related to negotiations as requested by the VPL.~~	
Q.POL.6.2.a Advise the VPL ~~as requested~~ with respect to educating <u>academically-employed</u> graduate students on the <u>Collective Agreement (CA)</u>.	*To comply with Bill 7.*
<u>Q.POL.6.2.b Review the CA based on feedback received from academically-employed graduate students and develop a proposed bargaining mandate.</u>	*Move from the GSA NC mandate.*
<u>Q.POL.6.2.c As a precursor to the commencement of collective bargaining, and upon the recommendation of the VPL, select members of the GSA Negotiating Team.</u>	*To comply with Bill 7.*
<u>Q.POL.6.2.d Make any recommendations on the Collective Bargaining Bylaw and Policy, following consultation with academically-employed graduate students.</u>	*To include in the mandate of the GSA LRC the review of the Section Q of GSA Bylaw and Policy.*
Q.POL.6.3 Meetings	*No change.*
Q.POL.6.3.a Quorum is <u>five (5)</u> ~~four (4)~~ voting members including either the Chair or Vice-Chair.	*To align with a bigger membership.*
<u>Q.POL.6.3.b The GSA LRC will meet at least twice a year and will report electronically on these meetings to academically-employed graduate students, and to GSA Council for information.</u>	*To align with other GSA Standing Committees' mandates.*
<u>GSA Policy: GSA Negotiating Team</u>	*Creation of the new Negotiating Team.*
<u>Q.POL.7 GSA Negotiating Team</u>	*Creation of the new Negotiating Team.*
<u>Q.POL.7.1 Composition</u>	*Creation of the new Negotiating Team.*
<u>Q.POL.7.1.a The Vice-President Labour (VPL) as chief negotiator.</u>	*Creation of the new Negotiating Team.*
<u>Q.POL.7.1.b Upon the recommendation of the VPL, and as a precursor to the commencement of collective bargaining, the GSA LRC will select members of the GSA Negotiating Team (GSA NT).</u>	*To comply with Bill 7.*
<u>Q.POL.7.1.c The GSA NT will be supported by the GSA Executive Director (or delegate).</u>	
<u>Q.POL.7.2 Mandate</u>	*Creation of the new Negotiating Team.*
<u>Q.POL.7.2.a The GSA NT will prepare the Opening Position to be submitted to the University.</u>	*See above rationale.*

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Q.POL.7.2.a.i In formulating the Opening Position, the GSA NT will include the proposed bargaining mandate previously voted on by academically-employed graduate students.	*To comply with Bill 7.*
Q.POL.7.2.b The GSA NT will report to the GSAB and the GSA LRC, ~~GSA Council and the GSA membership~~ and electronically to academically-employed graduate students on the bargaining process.	*To comply with Bill 7.*
Q.POL.7.2.c The GSA NT will negotiate and regularly review an Essential Services Agreement with the University.	*To comply with Bill 7, Division 15.1 Labour Relations Code*

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<u>Outline of Issue</u>

Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Bylaw, Section B: Membership

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, **APPROVE** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Bylaw, Section B: Membership, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council.

NOTE 1: The is the first reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw; the second reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw will be presented at the June GSA Council meeting.

Background:

The University Calendar (both current and from previous years) offers a series of conflicting statements about the graduate student status of postgraduate medical education (PGME) trainees, including:

2000/01 Calendar: "All postgraduate medical trainees are registered as graduate students in the Division of Postgraduate Medical Education if the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and pay a program registration fee" and "for classification purposes, postgraduate medical students are considered graduate students. As such, they have the option of paying fees to the Graduate Students' Association."

2006/07 Calendar: "Postgraduate medical students: For classification purposes postgraduate medical students are considered to be graduate students and they have the option of paying fees to the Graduate Students' Association."

2017/18 Calendar: "Postgraduate medical education (PGME) students have the option of paying fees to the Graduate Students' Association" and "all postgraduate medical trainees are registered as graduate students in the Division of Postgraduate Medical Education of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and pay a program registration fee."

While they are only occasionally differentiated as a separate program, postgraduate dental education (PGDE) trainees are also included in the PGME category

Notwithstanding this, and however the University elects to define PGME/PDGEs for "classification purposes," they are not admitted to and registered in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) and are not pursuing a graduate program (indeed, the Undergraduate Enrollment Report for 2017-2018 clearly indicates that PGME/PGDE registrations, reporting, etc are overseen by the Office of the Registrar, rather than FGSR). Likewise, both University and GSA administrative practice, since the U-Pass program was created in 2007, has been to permit PGMEs and PGDEs access to the U-Pass only (and not to other GSA services) if they elected to pay the GSA membership fee (as a point of reference, in 2015-2016 there were 994 PGMEs registered and 77 of them elected to pay the GSA membership fee in order to access the U-Pass program; in 2017-2018 there were 1,100 PGMEs and PGDEs combined).

The proposed amendment to GSA Bylaw detailed in the attached double column document aligns the GSA's governing documents with this practice in order to provide greater clarity surrounding this category of GSA "membership," while also clarifying that GSA members are students admitted to and registered in FGSR (again, to align with well-established GSA practice). The GSA had previously secured a legal opinion on this matter and the proposed changes are in line with the provision detailed in that legal opinion that it is within the GSA's statutory authority under the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* to determine and the rights and privileges of its own members.

The GSA Governance Committee reviewed and recommended the proposal to GSA Council at its 20 April 2018 meeting. The GSA Board discussed and reviewed the proposal at its meeting of 18 April 2018 and made their own motion to recommend the proposal to GSA Council at their 2 May 2018 meeting.

Jurisdiction:

<u>Section F: Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.3.2.a</u>
"The GSAB is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by GSA Council."

<u>Section F: Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.a</u>
The GSA GC will *"advise GSA Council on GSA Bylaw, matters of GSA Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governing issues and provide a report on recommended changes at the next scheduled GSA Council meeting."*

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Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Bylaw, Section B: Membership	
Current GSA Bylaw and Policy (*deletions noted by a strikethrough*) and **Proposed Changes** (*additions underlined*)	**Rationale/Background**
GSA Bylaw: Members	*No change.*
B.BYL.1 Members	*No change.*
B.BYL.1.1 Membership in the GSA consists of:	*No change.*
B.BYL.1.1.a All full-time graduate students while they are registered at the University <u>after being admitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)</u>,	*To align with language in the University Calendar and the* PSLA *concerning the definition of graduate students.*
B.BYL.1.1.b All part-time graduate students while they are registered at the University <u>after being admitted to the FGSR</u>,	*See above rationale.*
B.BYL.1.1.c All associate members, and	*No change.*
B.BYL.1.1.d All honorary members.	*No change.*
B.BYL.1.2 GSA Council (Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council) may elect to associate membership of the GSA to any member(s) or class of members of the University community it considers appropriate.	*No change.*
B.BYL.1.3 GSA Council (Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council) may confer an honorary membership of the GSA upon any person(s) deemed worthy of the honour.	*No change.*
B.BYL.1.4 <u>Postgraduate medical/dental education trainees have the option of paying fees to the GSA solely for the purpose of accessing the U-Pass service.</u>	*To align with University and GSA administrative practice (dating back to at least 2001) that allows PGMEs and PGDEs access to the U-Pass by paying the GSA membership fee.*

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GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election (1 POSITION):
3 NOMINEES

There is one (1) GSA Councillor-at-Large vacancy remaining for a graduate student. As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Council fills any remaining positions from nominations forwarded by the GSA NoC (Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.16.3). This position was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 27 April and 4 May 2018 with a nomination deadline of 9 May 2018. Three (3) nominations were received.

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 14 May 2018 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 14 May 2018 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 14 May 2018 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. 'None of the Candidates' will also be considered a nominee.

1. **Marc Waddingham (Biological Sciences)**
2. **Rory Waisman (Business PhD)**
3. **Melissa Woghiren (Computer Science)**

Jurisdiction:

Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.16.3
"In the event that any CAL positions are not filled by the end of the GSA General Election, or a CAL position is vacated prior to December 1 (or the next working day) 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 specifies that all vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement. If the matter is urgent, GSA Council can hold this election electronically."

The names and biographies received for the three (3) nominees are <u>BELOW on pages 9.1-9.5.</u> **Biographies and resumes are presented as** <u>received</u> **(ie not edited).**

Nominations for GSA Councillor-at-Large (GSA CAL) (1 Vacancy for a Graduate Student)
Three (3) Nominees

1. Marc Waddingham

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	n/a

Statement of Interest
While running my campaign for VP-External of the GSA under the United Graduate Students' slate, I developed a strong sense of the issues affecting the graduate student population at the University of Alberta. This experience, combined with my work in community recreation for the City of Edmonton alongside my undergraduate education at UAlberta, would allow for me to represent the needs of students as a Councillor-At-Large. I also have a strong interest in provincial and national politics, which may be useful given the current political climate at the U of A.
Bio
Being born and raised in Edmonton, it may be unsurprising that I earned my BSc at the University of Alberta in 2017, specializing in microbiology and biotechnology. While completing my undergrad, I also worked steadily on my extracurricular athletics as a competitive cheerleader and have attended the Cheerleading Worlds Championship for four consecutive years (2014-2018). Currently, I am working towards my MSc in microbiology studying methane bioconversions, in addition to marking piles of my students' reports.
Summary Resume
2009-2014: Lifesaving Swimming Instructor/First Aid and CPR Instructor with the City of St. Albert Aquatics and Recreation

2014 - Current: Provisional Lifeguard with the City of Edmonton Recreation and Community Services

January 2015 - August 2017: Undergraduate research project(s) with Dr. Lisa Stein

September 2017 - Current: MSc candidate studying methane bioconversions utilizing bacterial catalysts, specializing in genetic manipulation and metabolic engineering under the direction of Dr. Lisa Stein and Dr. Dominic Sauvageau

2018 - Current: Director with Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council - UAlberta |

Delegation

2. Rory Waisman

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	N/A

Statement of Interest
I will be pleased to apply my extensive committee and business experience, my rigorous attention to detail, and my proven leadership skills in service to the Graduate Students of the University of Alberta by serving as a GSA Councillor-at-Large. As I am early in my graduate studies adventure, serving in this position will enable me to gain a solid understanding of GSA operations and UofA issues so that I may better serve the graduate student body in the next several years should the opportunity arise to serve in other positions.
Bio
Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, I started a business at age 17. Throughout my career I pursued opportunities in industries as diverse as advertising, security, public safety, and construction. After retiring at age 36, I completed an undergraduate degree in psychology and became a foster parent. I recently moved to Edmonton to pursue my second career in academia. I am currently a PhD student at the Alberta School of Business, majoring in marketing. I stay active in the community as a volunteer and enjoy finding new opportunities to be of service.
Summary Resume
I have served on committees in academic, business, and not-for-profit contexts for over 25 years, starting at the age of 16 when I represented my family's business on the local Business Improvement Zone Board of Directors. More recently, I served as undergraduate student representative on the psychology department council at the University of Manitoba for two years, and for one year on the department executive committee. In addition to academic service, I am also committed to sharing my passion for learning through tutoring and research dissemination to the public. Here at the University of Alberta, I am conducting research on consumer decision-making with a focus on the governance and policy implications of how marketing messages and consumers' choices are constructed and framed. In the community, I am a volunteer with the Correctional Service of Canada where I bring addictions recovery programming into the Edmonton Maximum Security Institution. It is immensly rewarding to share with offenders the choice of findng a new way to live.

3. Melissa Woghiren

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	N/A

Statement of Interest
I have always had a special interest in student groups and governance. At my undergrad institution, I started an organization chapter that focused on culture improvement with the goal of retention in Computer Science. When I came to this university, I quickly got involved in similar efforts in the Computing Science department, eventually becoming the Vice President of Outreach for Ada's Team for the 2017/2018 year. I have used this role to foster relationships with industry partners and create events not only to provide a more inclusive space within the Computing Science department and the tech community at large, but also to encourage interest in technical fields. My main accomplishment as the Computing Science Councillor was to have the CS department reevaluate and in turn change the professional development requirements so that they are better suited for the realities of Computing Science graduates. I care greatly about the well-being of students and how this affects performance and future success. I intend to transfer my skills gained from working in the tech space to serve the greater graduate student body.
Bio
I am originally from Windsor, Ontario where I completed my BSc in Biological Sciences and BCS in Computer Science. While at my old institution, I was a Faculty of Science advisor and mentor for new students, a member of the university-wide Academic Integrity committee, and a very active member of Let's Talk Science who contributed to the organization of on-campus Science Olympiads for high school students. After coming to the UofA, I have become immersed in the vibrant Edmonton tech community by taking part in events such as the recent Alberta Girls Engineering & Technology Summit. My personal interests include bouldering, painting, and completing competitive programming challenges
Summary Resume
I am a second-year master's student who intends to continue into PhD studies in the department of Computing Science. In my undergrad, my research focused on machine learning optimization as it applies to the evaluation of biomedical datasets. This work led me here, where I have looked at the use of artificial intelligence in medical imaging annotation and artificial intelligence for disease diagnosis and prognosis. I also have a personal interest in representation learning and graphical modelling for data analytics. I

am co-supervised by PIs from the Advanced Man-Machine Interfaces and Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute and work on a project in collaboration with the Department of Medicine and Dentistry. As my terms on Ada's Team and the Computer Science Graduate Student Association have come to an end, I am more than confident I will be able to commit to this role and leverage my experience with the GSA over the past academic year to be an impactful Councillor-at-Large.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA SENATOR (1 POSITION):
1 NOMINEE

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, "nominations for Senator will open on or about April 1 of every year or on another date set by the GSA NoC in order to ensure that the position of Senator is continuously filled. The nomination period will normally be one (1) month." (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Council-Elected Officers, Section D.BYL.3.2.a). This position was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 6 and 13 April with a nomination deadline of 9 May 2018. One (1) nomination was received.

Qualifications as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officers, Section D.POL.11.2.a
"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 as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.3.b
"The Senator is the GSA's representative to the University of Alberta Senate."

Duties as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.3.e
"All Council-Elected Officers and Deputies are non-voting members of GSA Council."

There will be an anonymous paper ballot vote held at the 14 May 2018 GSA Council meeting to elect the GSA Senator for 2018-2019.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 14 May 2018 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 14 May 2018 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. 'None of the Candidates' will also be considered a nominee.

1. **Ahsan Ahmed (Civil and Environmental Engineering)**

Jurisdiction:

Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.1.d
"The GSA NoC will follow its legislated process in forwarding one or more nominations to GSA Council except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process specifies that all vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline."

Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.2.c
"The Senator will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council, normally for a one (1) year term, at the May meeting of GSA Council."

The names and biographies received for the (1) nominee is **BELOW on pages 9.7 - 9.9**. Biographies and resumes are presented as **received (ie not edited).**

Nominations for GSA Senator (1 Vacancy for a Graduate Student)
One (1) Nominee

1. **Ahsan Ahmed**

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	Please refer to Summary Resume

Statement of Interest
I am currently enrolled in Master of Engineering in Construction Engineering & Management at the University of Alberta. My 10 years of professional experience with combination of academic qualifications is reflection of core values of respect, accountability, integrity and excellence.

As member of the University of Alberta's Senate I am committed to be a positive ambassador and leader by supporting the University in management and implementation of substantive academic, governance and operational reforms by:

- Fostering long-term, productive relationships between University Senate andGraduate students; identifying and responding to academic developmentopportunities.
- Actively seeking input in determining student issues, gathering student opinion, andcommunicating with Graduate students so they can be better represented at theSenate table.
- Applying my abilities to develop, manage and deliver analytical work for the Senate.
- Adhering to Senate values of Integrity, Leadership, Community, Collaboration,Teamwork and Focus on Results;
- Taking personal ownership to achieve Senate mission *'To inquire into any matter that might benefit the University and enhance its position in the community.'* |

Bio
Born in Pakistan and moved to Canada in 2012, since then Canada is my country of choice and future. I have Bachelor's in Civil Engineering and currently enrolled in Graduate program at the University of Alberta. I have more than 10 years of progressively responsible experience in project management at Canadian and international level including in Pakistan and the Middle East.

Over the number of years I have developed unique capabilities to:
- Develop clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies |

- Identify priority activities and adjusts priorities as required
- Allocate appropriate amount of time and resources for completing assignments
- Foresee risks and allows for contingencies when planning
- Monitor and adjust plans as necessary; use time efficiently and effectively.

I am confident that my qualifications and abilities will be vital to identify potential opportunities for academic collaboration and enhancement; for partnership building between different stakeholders; providing concrete recommendations and proposals to strengthen the University of Alberta's ability to implement agreed initiatives.

Summary Resume:

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION
- The University of Alberta
    - Master of Engineering in Construction Engineering & Management – In progress
    - Management & Leadership Development Program, 2016
    - Certification in Project Management, 2014
- McMaster University
    - Certified Associate in Project Management
- NED University of Engineering and Technology, Pakistan
    - Bachelor's in Civil Engineering, 2006

PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
I have a diverse resume, particularly when it comes to developing communities and institutions. I have served as a member and volunteer for various committees, boards and associations which include but may not be limited to the following:

The University of Alberta:
- Member Dean of Students' Advisory Committee, University of Alberta
- Member Graduate Student Association, Appeals and Complaints Board, University of Alberta
- Member Graduate Student Association, Nominating Committee, University of Alberta
- Member Community Helpers, University of Alberta
- Member MentorUP Edmonton, University of Alberta
- Senior Peer for International Students, University of Alberta

The City of Edmonton:
- Member Energy Transition Advisory Committee
- Member Edmonton Insight Community Panel, City of Edmonton
- Volunteer Edmonton Public Library, City of Edmonton

- Volunteer Edmonton Waste Management Service, City of Edmonton
- Worker City of Edmonton Elections and Census Office, City of Edmonton
- Member Edmonton Water Community Advisory Panel 2015-2017, EPCOR

The Government of Alberta:
- Member Greening Government Initiative Committee, Government of Alberta

Others:
- Member of Disaster Response Team, Canadian Red Cross
- Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity Edmonton
- Volunteer, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.
- Volunteer, HIV Edmonton.
- Volunteer, United Nations Association, Edmonton Chapter

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS
The Government of Alberta
- 2017 Stars of Government of Alberta Volunteer Award Certificate of Recognition

The City of Edmonton
- Mayor of City of Edmonton Recognition Certificate for "100 hours of Volunteer Service" – 2015
- Community Leader in Waste Reduction – 2015
- Citizens Police Academy Certification- Edmonton Police Service
- Planning Academy Certification

The University of Alberta
- Recipient of University of Alberta, Graduate Student Association Travel Award – 2017

GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Babak Soltannia
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear Valued Graduate Students, Fellow Councillors and Colleagues,

I hope you had a chance to enjoy the spring weather and sunshine after a successful exam period and that you are also ready to start a new semester full of energy and enthusiasm!

Following the approval of the 2018-2019 GSA budget at the February 2018 GSA Council meeting, I presented an item on the GSA's membership fees collection for 2018-2019 during the Board, Finance, and Property Committee (BFPC) meeting in mid-April. The Board of Governor's approval of collection of these fees, beginning in September 2018, will occur at their meeting in early May.

In late April (23 April), the Ministry of Advanced Education issued a letter to the University related to 2018-2019 funding, which confirmed a 2% increase to the Campus Alberta grant for the U of A, as well as providing for further funding to support the extension of the domestic tuition freeze. We hope this information provides enough certainty to allow the Board of Governors to revisit their decision about the budget.

In late April, I signed the four-year U-Pass contract, which was approved by graduate student referendum in March 2017. As you know, this agreement is a good deal for graduate students since it continues to save them money for accessing transit.

Regarding external advocacy, Masoud and I, as the ab-GPAC Vice-Chair, had the opportunity to participate in a lunch meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education, Honorable Marlin Schmidt, during which we continued to ask the government to act on their promises to support students, faculty, and staff. We emphasized our stance in a blog post with respect to our advocacy work against the fee increases. Additionally, as Sasha and Masoud Khademi outlined in their reports, ab-GPAC held its transition meeting on April 27-28 at the University of Alberta. Sasha, Zhihong, Masoud and I attended and it was an intensive, compact, and very informative meeting. During this meeting, Sasha was elected to serve as ab-GPAC Chair for the upcoming year. Based on the level of enthusiasm and the quality of questions the new representatives asked, I believe the organization is in good hands.

At the end of April, Sasha, Zhihong, and I attended the ThinkGRAD conference in Vancouver as observers. ThinkGRAD has replaced the previous GU15 group, which consisted of GSAs from the U15 universities (15 research intensive universities) across the country. This conference was a wonderful opportunity to see how other institutions tackle similar issues, and to bring additional experience and knowledge home. Moreover, this conference was a good networking opportunity, and a great place to make new connections and friends!

Again, I would like to share my feelings about being so lucky and fortunate to work with and for such incredible people! I am speechless, and I really don't know how to thank everyone enough. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve my community, and I hope I and my team were able to ameliorate students' experiences on campus!

And once again, the number of people I'd like to thank for their advice, continuous support, and dedication, is immense and this list is not exhaustive. I would like to thank my team members (Sasha, Firouz, Royle, and Masoud), the GSA office team: (Courtney, Julie, Lisa, Heather, Laura, Fiona, Mahsa, Dorte, and Shirley), former GSA Presidents, the GSA Board, GSA standing committee members, GSA Councillors, FGSR staff, the Office of the Dean of Students, representatives of other associations (the SU, AASUA, NASA, and PDFA), the ab-GPAC Executive Director and representatives, my friends and family, and my supervisor. To everyone on this list, I always owe you debts of gratitude and my praise and appreciations always stay with you!

I congratulate and wish the incoming team the best of luck and I wish everyone a wonderful spring full of joy and bliss!

Warmest regards,

Babak
2017-2018 GSA President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 April 2018 and 30 April 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 April	Board Budget and Finance Committee (BFPC)
18 April	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
18 April	Dinner with the Students' Union (SU)
19 April	Lunch Meeting with Marlin Schmidt, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education
19 April	Killam Mentoring Final Adjudication Meeting
20 April	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
20 April	GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)
22-25 April	ThinkGRAD Conference
27 April	Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC)
27 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Dinner
28 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Transition Meeting
30 April	GSA Changeover Lunch
30 April	General Faculties Council (GFC)

GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

Spring is upon us! The sun is out, and the sunburns are a potential risk again. As I transitioned into my new role, I realized the shift in tasks is quite pronounced. However, I will keep the structure of my report the same and highlight the essential parts of my month.

External

ab-GPAC – At the transition meeting at the end of April, I was elected Chair of the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council. I'm eager to build the organization further and, jointly with the other members, advocate to our provincial government on behalf of graduate students.

ThinkGRAD – Although post-secondary education and labour is under the provincial government's purview, ThinkGRAD as a body brings graduate students' associations from across Canada together to share ideas and experiences about our organizations and with our different institutions and governments. This year, the ThinkGRAD conference was held at UBC in Vancouver. It was very valuable for the U of A GSA to attend this meeting, as an observer, to learn about trends and projects from other universities. For example, we learned about guaranteed minimum funding packages at other institutions, how their individual governance structures work, and how other associations negotiate their health and dental plans.

Internal

Team Building – Over the past few weeks, I have been meeting with my team members to get to know them better, and to guide their aspirations as leaders in our organization.

Strategic Planning – In the near future, my team and I will sit together and discuss our Strategic Work Plan for the upcoming year. In preparation for this project, I met with my team members individually to learn about their goals and the issues they see as key and I have also worked together with the office staff on a draft to be reviewed by myself and the Vice-President's later this month, followed by a town hall open to all graduate students and a GSA Council discussion in June. The Plan will then come back to GSA Council for information in July.

Guaranteed Minimum Funding Packages – Unfortunately, not much news on this front at this time but we continue discussions on this project with FGSR.

That was my first report from me as GSA President. As always, don't feel afraid to shoot me an email, or knock on my door in Triffo Hall, I would like to hear from you!

Thanks,

Sasha van der Klein, 2018-2019 GSA President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended 30 April 2018 and 14 May 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

3 May	Meeting with a Graduate Student
3 May	GSA Health and Dental Plan 101
3 May	Meeting with a Graduate Student
4 May	Meeting with Michael Phair, Board of Governors (BoG) Chair
7 May	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (GSA FGSR) Council Caucus
9 May	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
10 May	Meeting with Kevin Friese, Assistant Dean of Students, Health and Wellness
10 May	Meeting with Richard Kanyo, President of the Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA)
10 May	Meeting with Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) and Students' Union (SU)
10 May	Joint Board of Governors (BoG) and Senate Development Session
10 May	Joint Board of Governors (BoG) and Senate Dinner
11 May	Board of Governors (BoG)
11 May	GSA External Advocacy 101
14 May	Meeting with Nicole Van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
14 May	Meeting with Michener Park Residence Association (MPRA)

GSA Board (GSAB)
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director; Julie Tanguay, Associate Director; and Lisa Hareuther, Assistant Director
Date: 11 May 2018

The GSAB reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, Motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). 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, and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 20 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 20.1 – 20.3.

18 April 2018 GSA Board Meeting:
Main Agenda Items:
Survey on the Collection of Residence Association Fees: Results; Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and Introduction of GSA Bylaw and Policy on Collective Bargaining; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:
Members **AGREED** to move in **CLOSED SESSION.**
Members discussed **Survey on the Collection of Residence Association Fees.**
Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION.**
Members **AGREED** to move in **CLOSED SESSION.**
Members discussed **Board of Governors (BoG) Teleconference and the Meeting with the NASA, the SU, AASUA, and the PDFA re: Advocacy.** Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION.**

25 April 2018 GSA Board Meeting: Cancelled

2 May 2018 GSA Board Meeting:
Main Agenda Items:
GFC Academic Standards Committee Working Group on Course Outlines; Line of Succession for Chair of the GSA Board; Designation of Executive Vice-Presidents and Line of Succession for Acting President; Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and Introduction of GSA Bylaw and Policy on Collective Bargaining; and Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Bylaw, Section B: Membership.

Motions and Agreements:
That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the line of succession for Chair of the GSA Board as follows:
1) GSA Vice-President External,
2) GSA Vice-President Academic, and
3) GSA Vice-President Student Services. SvK **MOVED**. BR Seconded. **CARRIED**.
That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the designation of Executive Vice-President and the line of succession for Acting President as follows:
1) GSA Vice-President Labour, as Executive Vice-President, and
2) GSA Vice-President Student Services. SvK **MOVED**. MA Seconded. **CARRIED**.
That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and introduction of GSA Bylaw and Policy on Collective Bargaining, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. SvK **MOVED**. MA Seconded. **CARRIED**.
That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Bylaw, Section B: Membership, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. SvK **MOVED**. FE Seconded. **CARRIED**.

9 May 2018 GSA Board Meeting:
Main Agenda Items:
Post-Transition Debrief; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:
Members **AGREED** that broad information about DEO compensation should be noted on the GSA website.
Members **AGREED** to move in **CLOSED SESSION.**
Members discussed **the phone meeting with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Treasurer.**
Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION.**

GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA GC met on 20 April 2018 to review and recommend to GSA Council two separate proposals for changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy. The first proposal addresses the GSA's compliance with Bill 7 and the second proposal focuses on changes to Section B: Membership. Both these proposals are now before you.

Sincerely,

Sasha van der Klein, 2018-2019 GSA President and Chair of the GSA GC and 2017-2018 GSA VP Labour and Vice-Chair of the GSA GC

GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Firouz Khodayari
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope that you are having a wonderful time while enjoying the sunny days of spring. As the 2017-2018 Vice-President Academic, I attended several meetings and was involved with various discussions during the last few days of my term in late April; I share the highlights with you in this report.

Update on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Requirement Discussion
As I already mentioned in my March report, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) has been looking at different options to increase the IELTS requirement for graduate program admissions. The last time this item came to the FGSR Council, there were some concerns about increasing the minimum band from 5 to 6 for some departments, as they thought this might significantly decrease the number of international students that could be admitted. Next, FGSR worked to collect data in order to ensure the FGSR Council could carefully consider this decision. Based on the data that FGSR recently received, from the 1385 offers in the current academic year of 2017-18, 839 applicants had taken IELTS. This means an impact of 2% to 16% among different departments and of course the number of individuals who may have been impacted if a higher minimum IELTS score had been in place at the time of their application varies based on the size of the department. More research needs to be done before this item goes back to the FGSR Council for discussion and approval in the fall.

Update on the Re-Examination Discussion
As you might remember, we had this discussion at GSA Council last summer, as to whether it would be possible to allow graduate students to re-take course exams and projects. I had already talked to the Dean of FGSR about this topic during the past year and it was supposed to be discussed at the FGSR Council Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC). However, the FGSR PRC was unable to discuss matter due to other priorities on the committee's workplan. As a result, the incoming Interim FGSR Dean, Dr. Deborah Burshtyn, indicated that this item will be brought forward to the FGSR PRC in the fall.

Research Ethics
Just as a friendly reminder on research ethics for graduate students, we have seen students facing problems in their program due to not knowing the existing policies about research ethics. Students must familiarize themselves with these policies and the earlier this happens during their program, the less problems students may have along the way. You can learn more here.

I am happy to answer any questions or comments that you might have regarding this report.

Thanks,

Firouz Khodayari, 2017-2018 GSA Vice-President Academic

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 April 2018 and 30 April 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 April	Professional Development Advisory Board (PDAB) Meeting
18 April	Dinner with the Students' Union (SU)
19 April	General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee (GFC ASC)

19 April	Academic Integrity Council
24 April	Council on Student Affairs (COSA) Recommendations Working Group
24 April	General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
25 April	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC)
27 April	University Research Policy Committee (URPC)
27 April	GSA Coffee Break
30 April	GSA Changeover Lunch

GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Masoud Aliramezani
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

I am so excited that our new team is on board now! I am quite sure that we will do our best to serve graduate students in the upcoming term. I am also very excited that spring has finally come and I wish you a wonderful warm season! I hope you enjoy the weather, as summer is so beautiful, and too short! Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the May council meeting as I will be on an academic leave this week to attend a conference in Toronto. I am impatiently looking forward to seeing you at the next GSA Council meeting!

During the past month, I attended several meetings, including my job-shadowing meetings prior to May 1 and my official meetings as GSA VP Academic from May 1 onward. I will share the highlights with you in this report.

Let me start with the ongoing project of **Libraries' Accessibility,** managed by U of A Library Administration. The goal of this project is to assess the accessibility of library resources, which will lead to suggestions, recommendations, and proposals to improve accessibility to different library resources. This includes both electronic and hardcopy resources. Some highlights about this project are:
- Some emotional and physical barriers that are already impacting the accessibility of the libraries have been found;
- More detailed maps and directory information would be beneficial; and
- Staff awareness and training assessments are also ongoing.

Another highlight includes an update on the **Libraries' Digital Scholarship Centre**. In case you don't know, the Centre will be located on the 2nd level of Cameron Library (2-10). A visualization wall, 3D printing/scanning, a carving virtual reality (VR) studio, tech-enabled collaboration areas, digital publishing, research data management and advanced desktop computing are services that will be provided in this Centre. The structure is supposed to be finalized by October 2018 and open by January 2019. **Please note that, some employment and internship opportunities will be available for graduate students**. Interestingly, there are not many similar centers in Canada, with only McMaster University and the University of Victoria having similar resources.

An update on the Student Success Centre is that its name has be changed to the **Academic Success Centre**. Individual consultation services and workshops will still be offered.

Another meeting I attended was the General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC) in which we went through all applications to GFC committees from academic staff, non-academic staff, and students. The positions need to be filled by June 30. GFC NC and the GFC Replenishment Committee will have a joint meeting on June 4 for the replenishment of the 2018-19 GFC Executive and GFC Nominating Committees. Please **note** that the Council on Student Affairs (COSA) has one vacancy for one of the graduate members serving on the General Faculties Council for 2018-2019. There is a transition taking place in terms of COSA's mandate and future work which makes this position much more important.

Should you have any questions or comments about this report, please let me know and I will be more than happy to answer. Please do not hesitate to share your suggestions or concerns regarding any academic-related issue you or anyone from your department may have.

Warm Regards,
Masoud Aliramezani, GSA Vice-President Academic

Please find below a list of meetings I attended 30 April 2018 and 14 May 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

2 May	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
4 May	GSA 101
7 May	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (GSA FGSR) Council Caucus
7 May	GSA Budget 101
7 May	General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC)
9 May	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
10 May	GSA Governance 101
10 May	Meeting with Richard Kanyo, President of the Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA)
10 May	Provost's Digital Learning Committee
14 May	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC Exec)

GSA Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Masoud Khademi
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well in every aspect of your lives and are enjoying the warm weather we have had in the past few days. Since this is my last report to GSA Council, I will try to keep it short and sweet.

One of the important meetings that Sasha, Zhihong, Babak, and I attended in the final days of my term was the ab-GPAC transition meeting (as others report). This year, the U of A GSA hosted this day long meeting, where outgoing and newly elected representatives from the member institutions came together at Triffo Hall to discuss the future direction of this organization. The outgoing ab-GPAC Chair, Willem Klumpenhouwer, also explained the role and mandate of this advocacy group to the new members. We also had a chance to discuss the importance of graduate students' representation in the decision-making process in Alberta. Finally, at the end of this meeting, we held the election for 2018-2019 executive roles. As Sasha has noted in her report, she was elected to serve as the ab-GPAC Chair for the upcoming year.

The other significant meeting that I attended in April was with Katherine Huising, Associate Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), Ancillary Services, and Janice Johnson, Assistant Dean of Students, Residences, where we discussed the results of the Michener Park transit survey that nursing students completing their practicum conducted earlier this year, in consultation with the GSA. We also talked about the results of a residence association fee collection survey that the GSA Board designed and ran in April in order to hear directly from graduate students living in residence about participation in residence association events and payment of associated fees. As background on this survey, in 2016, the University of Alberta stopped collecting fees on behalf of residence associations. As a result of the University no longer collecting these fees, the SU started collecting residence association fees from undergraduates on behalf of the residence associations that they are members of. The GSA was interested in hearing directly from graduate students about their participation in residence association events and payment of these fees. The results of the survey indicated that graduate students living in residences did not support the automatic collection of residence association fees.

At the end, as always, if you need more information or have any question regarding the meetings that I have attended in last two weeks of my term, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Masoud Khademi, 2017-2018 GSA Vice-President External

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 April 2018 and 30 April 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 April	Dinner with the Students' Union (SU)
19 April	Lunch Meeting with Marlin Schmidt, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education
24 April	Campuses and Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Working Group
25 April	Alumni Council
27 April	Michener Park Transit Survey Meeting
27 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Dinner
28 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Transition Meeting
30 April	GSA Changeover Lunch

GSA Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Zhihong Pan
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

This is my first term as the new GSA Vice-President External, and I feel extremely excited to write my first Council report. I would like to thank you for putting your trust in me during the election. This opportunity is really a true honour for me, and I promise that I will try my best to serve you truthfully and to the best of my abilities and knowledge. Meanwhile, I feel so lucky to have great support not only from the current and previous GSA Directly-Elected Officers, but also from the GSA management team and staff who helped me to learn about ongoing issues during our job shadowing and transition period.

During the last two weeks, I have attended several meetings and I will share the highlights with you in this report.

First, I have been participating in various training sessions as part of the transition process to learn about GSA governance and the GSA's budget. Additionally, I attended the Community Connection Awards on May 7. The award is held annually by the University to award those who have embodied the U of A's promise to "uplift the whole people" by volunteering to share their expertise, time, and energy for the benefit of the public good. This year the Community Connections Awards honoured Michael Frishkopf, the AlbertaSat team, and Michael Aherne for their exceptional service to the University of Alberta through their community involvement. This event was really amazing.

On May 9, I attended the Housing for Students Who Parent (HSWP) Working Group Meeting. The results of a recently completed survey regarding the needs of students who parent were discussed. The purpose of this project is to try to create a better living and study environment for our student parents. The issue of campus childcare was also addressed during the discussion. During this meeting, the Students' Union representative and I provided our input on this project. I would like to highlight that the HSWP is hosting three student consultation sessions for student parents to learn about their housing needs. Therefore, I encourage student parents to participate in this project and share your feedback and experiences. Currently, the project is still in its initial stages, and I will come back with more details in the future.

I wish you all a great summer in advance, see you next month.

Zhihong Pan, GSA 2018-2019 Vice-President External

Please find below a list of meetings I attended 30 April 2018 and 14 May 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

4 May	GSA 101
7 May	GSA Budget 101
7 May	Community Connections Awards
9 May	Housing for Students Who Parent (HSWP) Working Group Meeting
11 May	GSA External Advocacy 101
14 May	Meeting with Michener Park Residence Association (MPRA)

GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

A short update on how I transitioned my tasks to the new GSA VP Labour and my last weeks as GSA VP Labour:

New

Negotiations – The negotiations about remuneration are still ongoing and an update was circulated to all academically-employed graduate students on May 4. I will continue on the Negotiating Committee, and the current GSA VP Academic, Masoud Aliramezani, will take the place of former GSA VP Academic Firouz on this committee.

Ongoing

Meetings with Graduate Students – I am continuing to support the students that I had been working with for the last period in my role as VP Labour, but I am transferring any new cases to Beth. As Heather Hogg, the GSA Director of Operations has retired, Julie Tanguay, Associate Director, is taking over her role in assisting with student cases. Please reach out to Beth if you have any labour related or supervisor related concerns!

That was my last meeting report from me as VP Labour. As I have transitioned into my role as President, please don't hesitate to continue to reach out to me!

Thanks,

Sasha van der Klein, 2017-2018 GSA Vice-President Labour

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 April 2018 and 30 April 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

17 April	Meeting with a Graduate Student
17 April	Suicide Prevention Implementation Committee
17 April	Meeting with a Graduate Student
17 April	Sexual Violence Response Advisory Council
18 April	Board Budget and Finance Committee (BFPC)
18 April	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
18 April	Dinner with the Students' Union (SU)
19 April	Meeting with a Graduate Student
19 April	Meeting with a Graduate Student
20 April	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
20 April	GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)
22-25 April	ThinkGRAD Conference
27 April	Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC)
27 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Dinner
28 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Transition Meeting
30 April	GSA Changeover Lunch
30 April	General Faculties Council (GFC)
30 April	Meeting with a Graduate Student

GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Beth Richardson
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope this report finds you all well and enjoying the beautiful weather. I'm so excited to officially be in my new position as VP Labour, and first of all I'd like to thank the office team, outgoing Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) and everyone who helped make the transition process as smooth as possible. There are three highlights of my work this month I would like to report on:

Campus Facilities Safety and Security Working Group
This specialist working group has been set up by the University Vice-President (Finance and Administration) and Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) in response to the safety and security issues reported on campus, and is headed by the Office of Risk Management. The group is meeting twice monthly and has members from all across campus, including representatives from facilities and parking services, the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA), the Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (AASUA), the Students' Union (SU), the GSA, and University administrators. The aim of the group is to deliver a report with recommendations on improving campus safety and security to senior University Administration by September 1, 2018.

The terms of reference for this new working group are in the process of being finalised, and I will communicate them to the GSA membership as soon as they become available to me. In the meantime, please contact me directly if you have any concerns, comments or questions you would like me to bring to this working group.

Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee and Steering Committee
In April, there was a meeting of the full Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee, which has numerous stakeholders from all aspects of campus life. In this meeting, we were asked to identify issues that the University should consider as priorities for sexual violence prevention, which were then brought forward to the Steering Committee. Once again, if anyone has any concerns, comments or questions they would like me to bring to this committee, please let me know.

Collective Agreement Negotiations
Negotiations for a new Collective Agreement are ongoing. As discussed in my email, circulated on May 4, to academically-employed graduate students, the language regarding the agreement has been largely finalised and the outstanding issue is stipends. We have asked the University to provide some data on stipends to facilitate this discussion, and are awaiting their response.

Best wishes,
Beth Richardson, Vice-President Labour

Please find below a list of meetings I attended 30 April 2018 and 14 May 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

3 May	Meeting with a Graduate Student
4 May	GSA 101
7 May	GSA Budget 101
7 May	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (GSA FGSR) Council Caucus
8 May	Sexual Violence Prevention Executive Steering Committee
8 May	Campus Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Meeting
7 May	Meeting with a Graduate Students
9 May	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
10 May	GSA Governance 101

GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Fahed Elian
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone is doing well, enjoying the spring and the warm weather. I am the new GSA Vice-President Student Services (VPSS), and I am fortunate and happy to start this new chapter in my life and serve as your VPSS and collaborate with you in the coming year. Before I start my report, I would like to take this chance to thank everyone who voted for me. I hope I meet your expectations and am looking forward hearing your comments, suggestions, concerns, and ideas so that I can serve the GSA and the graduate student body in the most effective way.

I started my term on May 1, 2018, and I was fortunate enough to have great support from the current and previous Directly-Elected Officers. Thank you, Royle Feng, for your help and assistance in making the transition smoother. I also want to thank the GSA management team and staff, who helped me learn about ongoing issues during the job shadowing period.

To learn more about my position before I officially started, I attended a few meetings during the job shadowing period:

Suicide Prevention Implementation Policy Subcommittee
I attended this meeting during job shadowing with Sasha, the previous GSA VP Labour and current GSA President. As one of my campaign goals is to increase mental health awareness and accessibility, sitting on this committee fits completely with my campaign goals. I am looking forward to being involved with this committee and will be working on other mental health projects and committees in the near future.

U-Pass Advisory Committee Meeting
GSA Associate Director Julie Tanguay and I attended the meeting where stakeholders from the Edmonton Transit Service (ETS), other municipal transit providers, and other Edmonton student associations were present. The meeting was informative and different parties provided updates on issues with potential impacts to student transit use. The main point of the meeting was a discussion on ETS's work to make the transit system more efficient. Old routes will basically all be gone, and new routes will be implemented (although some will be very similar to what currently exists). It was noted that there are four major pieces to the re-design: 1) bus routes on main roads, 2) express bus routes (going from point A to point B without stopping), 3) ring bus routes (avoiding the downtown core), and 4) neighbouring bus routes (which will circulate in neighbourhoods and connect with the above listed bus routes). ETS has designed a survey to get feedback on all of these proposed new bus routes, and you can access this survey here. I highly encourage you to do the survey and give your opinions about the new bus routes.

U-Pass Administration Committee
GSA Associate Director Julie Tanguay and I attended this meeting. Julie shared the results of the transit usage survey that a group of nursing practicum students distributed to all Michener Park residents earlier this year. There was a small number of participants (12) but the data indicated that the average length of commuting time between Michener Park and U of A campus is 78 minutes/day. As outlined in Masoud Khademi's final report to GSA Council as the outgoing GSA VP External, he shared the results of this survey during his meeting with Katherine Huising, Associate Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), Ancillary Services, and Janice Johnson, Assistant Dean of Students, Residences.

Sincerely,
Fahed Elian, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President Student Services

Please find below a list of meetings I attended 30 April 2018 and 14 May 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

3 May	GSA Health and Dental Plan 101
4 May	GSA 101
7 May	GSA Budget 101
10 May	Meeting with Kevin Friese, Assistant Dean of Students, Health and Wellness
10 May	GSA Governance 101
10 May	Joint Board of Governors (BoG) and Senate Development Session
10 May	Joint Board of Governors (BoG) and Senate Dinner

GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Radim Barta
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The report from the GSA NoC this month is a summary of discussions/decisions the Committee has made since its last report, together with a list of all vacancies filled and those which will be filled shortly.

GSA Policy governing the GSA NoC is located in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating. As provided for in its Terms of Reference, the GSA NoC has been conducting business via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Radim Barta, Chair of the GSA NoC

GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election

1)   GSA Councillor-at-Large (1 Graduate Student Position)
There is one (1) GSA Councillor-at-Large vacancy remaining for a graduate student. As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Council fills any remaining positions from nominations forwarded by the GSA NoC (Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.16.3). This position was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 27 April and 4 May 2018 with a nomination deadline of 9 May 2018. Three (3) nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item 9 – Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large By-Election.**

GSA Council-Elected Officers

1)   GSA Senator (1 Graduate Student Position)
As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, "nominations for Senator will open on or about April 1 of every year or on another date set by the GSA NoC in order to ensure that the position of Senator is continuously filled. The nomination period will normally be one (1) month." (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Council-Elected Officers, Section D.BYL.3.2.a). This position was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 6 and 13 April with a nomination deadline of 9 May 2018. One (1) nomination was received. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item 9a – Nominees for GSA Senator.**

GSA Standing Committees

2)   GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) (1 GSA Council Member)
Information regarding this position was circulated on two instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 9 May 2018. No nominations were received, so this vacancy will be advertised again.

3)   GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (2 GSA Council Members)
Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Council members was circulated on two instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 8 May 2018. No nominations were received, so these vacancies will be advertised again.

4)   Joint Position on GSA Board (GSAB) and GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (2 GSA Council Members)
Information regarding these two (2) joint positions for GSA Council members was circulated on two instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 9 May 2018. No nominations were received, so this joint position will be advertised again.

External Committees

None to report at this time.

Current Vacancies

1) **GSA Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO), and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) (4 Graduate Student Positions in Total)**

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, "[the NoC] will open nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO on or about May 1 of every year by email to every graduate student" and "nominations […] will be submitted in writing to the GSA NoC by May 30 or the next following working day" (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Council-Elected Officers, Section D.BYL.3.2.a). This position was first advertised in the GSA newsletter of 27 April and will continue to be advertised weekly until the nomination deadline of 30 May 2018.

GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Leigh Spanner
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA ERC met on April 24 and May 9 to continue debriefing the 2018 GSA General Election. The main topics discussed during these meetings included CRO interpretation of Bylaw and Policy in the course of an election, keeping the General Election Forum video online following each election, the inclusion of campaign platforms in candidates' online bios and resumes, candidate expense plans, the creation of a formal complaint form, mandatory attendance at the General Election Forum, slates, resources allowed for the purposes of campaigning, and the use of moderated mailing lists. Following these conversations, proposed changes to GSA Election Bylaw and Policy will be drafted in the coming months and GSA ERC members will recommend them to GSA Council for consideration.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Leigh Spanner, Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the 14 May 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 11 May 2018

Dear GSA Council Members,

Below are some highlights of what the office support team has been engaged with over the past month. I, and the other members of the team, am happy to answer questions and, as usual, the detailed reports submitted to the GSA Board are also attached below.

Fiscal Year End and Annual Audit

Our Accountant and our Financial Manager have finished the annual process of reconciling all our accounts following the official end of the GSA's fiscal year on March 31. They are also working to prepare for our annual audit, as required by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (once the audit is completed we submit the GSA's audited financial statements to the Board of Governors). The auditors will be in the office at the beginning of June and the audit itself will come forward to GSA Council in July; our auditor, Tom Gee, will be in attendance.

Directly-Elected Officer Transition and Board Strategic Work Plan Development

Incoming Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) began job shadowing current team members in April and we also held a day-long transition session in April for current and incoming DEOs. This year we have added to our training package a series of 101 sessions for new DEOs (targeted by portfolio) and have delivered several of these sessions in May. We are also supporting the new team of DEOs as they begin the process of drafting the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

GSA Agenda/Handbook

While the printing of the GSA Agenda/Handbook does not occur until August, we begin the process of designing it and selling advertising space (the ad revenue generated, by and large, determines the final number of agenda/handbooks printed) in May and June.

Orientations for New Councillors-at-Large

Last year we developed some orientation sessions for new Councillors-at-Large (CALs) (consisting of a review of the Standing Orders of GSA Council, a GSA 101, and an overview of GSA Council's annual work plan). We have provided a few training sessions so far this April and May for newly elected CALs. I'd like to remind members of GSA Council that if they want, at any time, to arrange for a 101 session (Budget 101, Health and Dental 101, GSA Services 101, Governance 101, or GSA 101), they are welcome to contact the office.

ThinkGRAD

As Sasha and Zhihong report, the GSA participated as an observer in the recently held ThinkGRAD conference. ThinkGRAD is a national group geared at information sharing and discussion of best practices between Canadian graduate students' associations and the GSA is considering potential future membership in the group. The GSA's Associate Director, Julie, accompanied Sasha and Zhihong to the conference in a support role.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Courtney

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Management Report to the GSA Board, 18 April 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues in the past two weeks since the last GSA Board meeting on 4 April 2018:

<u>Strategic</u>
- **Main Issues:** Directly-Elected Officer transition and job shadowing; meeting with the Associate Vice-President of Ancillary Services to discuss residence matters, work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes; working with the incoming President to draft the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP); ongoing review of relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy following the 2018 GSA General Election and providing support for a meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee; first and second mailings of GSA Council material; strategic discussions surrounding the collection of fees for residence associations; ab-GPAC strategic planning discussions; researching international tuition policies and the provision of guaranteed funding packages at other institutions; researching elections processes at other Canadian post-secondary students' associations; preparing for the annual audit; office refurbishment; discussing the history of PGMEs and their membership in the GSA.

- **Bylaw and Policy Review**: Review of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy with respect to bargaining processes (submitted the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Board and beginning the GSA's internal governance approval process).

- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to residence associations (fee collection survey and discussion of next steps, etc).

<u>Grants and Office Operations</u>

- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (election of the chair of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, election of Councillors-at-Large; departmental GSA elections in RenR and ALES).

- Minor content repairs to the Sitecore 3 website.

- Facebook = 1,133 likes (up 2 from 4 April); Facebook posts reached 898 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 341. Twitter = 854 followers (up 10 from 4 April); our tweets earned 1,700 "impressions" over the last week.

- GSA Academic Travel Awards = new funding period started 1 April.

- GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April and closed later the same day.

- GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding period started 1 April.

- GSA Academically-Related Student Group Awards = new funding period started 1 April.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 2 May 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues in the past two weeks since the last GSA Board meeting on 18 April 2018:

Strategic

- Directly-Elected Officer transition, 101s, job shadowing, and planning the changeover lunch.

- Meeting with the Associate Vice-President of Ancillary Services to discuss the recent residence association fee collection survey and associated next steps, and preparing to meet with representatives of the Michener Park Residence Association.

- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

- Attendance at ThinkGRAD.

- Ongoing review of relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy following the 2018 GSA General Election and providing support for meetings of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.

- Researching international tuition policies and the provision of guaranteed funding packages at other institutions; researching elections processes at other Canadian post-secondary students' associations.

- Preparing for the annual audit.

Grants and Office Operations

- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, the GSA Governance Committee, the GSA Board, and the GSA Nominating Committee; election of a Councillor-at-Large, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, and the Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer; departmental GSA elections in ALES).

- Designing the 2018-2019 GSA Handbook and selling ad space.

- Preparing for the first mailing on GSA Council.

- Minor content repairs to the Sitecore 3 website.

- Facebook = 1,131 likes (down 2 from 18 April); Facebook posts reached 571 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 219. Twitter = 858 followers (up 4 from 18 April); our tweets earned 2,600 "impressions" over the last week.

- GSA Academic Travel Awards = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April and closed later the same day; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Academically-Related Student Group Awards = new funding period started 1 April.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 9 May 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues in the past week since the last GSA Board meeting on 2 May 2018:

Strategic
- 101 training sessions for new Directly-Elected Officers.

- First and second mailings of GSA Council meeting material.

- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

- Discussing future GSA participation in ThinkGRAD and strategic discussions about ab-GPAC.

- Ongoing review of relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy following the 2018 GSA General Election and providing support for meetings of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (the GSA ERC is meeting after GSA Board this afternoon).

- Reviewing the University's draft Comprehensive Institutional Plan and annual report to the Government of Alberta.

- Researching international tuition policies and the provision of guaranteed funding packages at other institutions.

- Researching elections processes at other Canadian post-secondary students' associations.

- Preparing for the annual audit.

Grants and Office Operations
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, the GSA Governance Committee, the GSA Board, and the GSA Nominating Committee; election of a Councillor-at-Large, Senator, Speaker and Deputy Speaker, and Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer; finalized a departmental GSA election in ALES).

- Updating the GSA website with information on the new Directly-Elected Officers.

- Designing the 2018-2019 GSA Handbook and selling ad space.

- File clean up and maintenance.

- Redesigning the weekly GSA newsletter.

- Facebook = 1,133 likes (up 2 from 2 May); Facebook posts reached 1056 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 819. Twitter = 863 followers (up 5 from 2 May); our tweets earned 2,600 "impressions" over the last week.

- GSA Academic Travel Awards = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April and closed later the same day; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Academically-Related Student Group Awards = new funding period started 1 April. New granting period opens on July 1.