

GSA Council Meeting - List of Reports Circulated
Monday, 10 December 2018
Cancelled

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1. Minutes from the 19 November 2018 GSA Council Meeting <i>Attachments:</i> i. Minutes from the 19 November 2018 GSA Council Meeting	1.0 - 1.7
2. President (Sasha van der Klein, GSA President) i. President's Report ii. GSA Board iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee iv. GSA Governance Committee	2.0 - 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4
3. Vice-President Academic (Masoud Aliremezani, GSA Vice-President Academic) i. Vice-President Academic's Report	3.0 - 3.1
4. Vice-President External (Zhihong Pan, GSA Vice-President External) i. Vice-President External's Report ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee (no meetings this reporting period)	4.0 - 4.1
5. Vice-President Labour (Beth Richardson, GSA Vice-President Labour) i. Vice-President Labour's Report ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee	5.0 - 5.1 5.2
6. Vice-President Student Services (Fahed Elian, GSA Vice-President Student Services) i. Vice-President Student Services' Report	6.0 - 6.1
7. Senator (Ahsan Ahmed, Senator) i. Senator's Report (no written report at this time)	
8. Speaker (Pranidhi Baddam, Speaker) i. Speaker's Report (no written report at this time)	
9. Chief Returning Officer (Vahid Ayan, Chief Returning Officer) i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (no written report at this time)	
10. GSA Nominating Committee (Radim Barta, GSA Nominating Committee Chair) i. GSA Nominating Committee Report	10.0 - 10.1
11. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair) i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report	11.0
12. GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, Executive Director) i. Executive Director's Report	12.0 - 12.3

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 19 November 2018 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sasha van der Klein (President)	Ruhul Amin (Biological Sciences)	Bethany McMillan (History & Classics)	Nicolas Ruel (Pharmacology)
Masoud Aliramezani (VP Academic)	Kevin Solar (Biomedical Engineering)	Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)	Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Zhihong Pan (VP External)	Teddy Carter (Business MBA)	Kristoffer Angelo Soliveh (Internetworking)	Mattia Sorgon (Philosophy)
Beth Richardson (VP Labour)	Rongrong Zhang (Business PhD)	Janita Frantsi (Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation)	Kimberley Dice (Physical Therapy)
Fahed Elian (VP Student Services)	Brett Roughead (Cell Biology)	Tabatha Plesuk; Julia Guy (Library & Info Studies)	Scott Karbashewski (Physics)
Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker)	Hareen Shafi (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Lex Giesbrecht (Linguistics)	Yilun Wu (Physiology)
Raji Chokkalingam (Deputy Speaker)	Michael Armstrong (Chemistry)	Michelle Michelle (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Jason Zhang (Political Science)
Vahid Ayan (Chief Returning Officer)	Pedro Mateo (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Wasel-Ur Rahman (Mechanical Engineering)	Daniela Gomez (Psychiatry)
Ahsan Ahmed (Senator)	Lindsay Moore (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Brendan Todd (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Emily Maplethorpe (Public Health)
Mahmud Amin (Councillor-at-Large)	Dylan Ashley (Computing Science)	Nariman Sepehrvand (Medicine)	Alesha Reed (Rehab Science)
Radhika Chakraborty (Councillor-at-Large)	Deneh'Cho Thompson (Drama)	Shahnaz Shahtoosi (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies)	Lea Lavy (Religious Studies)
Nuanyi Liang (Councillor-at-Large)	Alex Sheen (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Rebecca Long; Andrew Schmaus (Neuroscience)	Yicong Luo (Resources Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Melissa Woghiren (Councillor-at-Large)	Zixuan Song (East Asian Studies)	Jennifer Stevenson (Nursing)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Hongbing Fan (Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science)	Areej Alshammiry (Educational Policy Studies)	Heather Capel (Occupational Therapy)	Jon Mora (Surgery)
Elizabeth Goldberg (Anthropology)	Chantal Labonté; Larissa Brosinsky (Educational Psychology)	Braden Chow (Oncology)	Samantha Wesch (Women's & Gender Studies)
Brianna Greenwood; Vineet Rathod (Biochemistry)	Krista Coté (English & Film Studies)	Khushmol Dhaliwal (Paediatrics)	

Guests: Dr. Steven Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic); Gitta Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration); Prerit Budhiraja (Mechanical Engineering, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate); Felipe Canavera (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences); Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal (AFNS, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate); Ashley Hynes (Renewable Resources); Peter Jun (Rehabilitation Science; GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate); Ronan Noble (Pediatrics, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate); Kanishk Patel (Mechanical Engineering, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate); Konstantin Tebenev (History & Classics); Britt Voaklander (School of Public Health); Kristine Wray (REES).

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 19 November 2018 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 19 November 2018 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. B Richardson **MOVED**; D Ashley **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes**3. Minutes from the 15 October 2018 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 15 October 2018 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 9 November 2018. F Elian **MOVED**; S van der Klein **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership**4. Changes in GSA Council Membership**

- i. **Introduction of GSA New Councillors:** N Sepehrvand (Medicine); L Moore (Communication Sciences & Disorders); L Lavy (Religious Studies); J Stevenson (Nursing); L Giesbrecht (Linguistics); H Shafi (Chemical & Materials Engineering).
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** None at this time.

Councillor Announcements**5. GSA Council Member Announcements**

None at this time.

GSA Speaker asked GSA Council members if they were comfortable with moving forward with the action items on the agenda first, as Dr. S Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic) and G Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration) were not able to arrive until 6:30 PM. GSA Council members agreed.

Action Items:**6. GSA 2018-2019 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report**

S van der Klein (GSA President) presented the item. Shirley Ball (Accountant) and Dorte Sheikh (Financial Manager) were present to answer questions.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2018-2019 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report.

S van der Klein reported that everything was on track and that the GSA was projecting a positive balance at the end of the fiscal year. She added that this positive balance was a smaller than in previous years, which indicated that the GSA had budgeted more effectively. She also noted that the majority of GSA revenue came from student fees, and so enrollment levels were closely monitored.

GSA Council members asked a few questions including, but not limited to: how significant the reductions and positive balance would be (S van der Klein responded that, last year, the balance was significantly higher than what was projected and that, this year, we expected the positive balance to be closer to what had been budgeted), and why the GSA was underspent in telephone expenses (D Sheikh responded that they had increased that line by CPI in anticipation that the University at any point could increase their telephone bill, but that these costs had not increased, which resulted in savings).

MOTION: That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2018-2019 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report. F Elian **MOVED**; P Mateo **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

As the guests has not yet arrived, the GSA Speaker suggested that GSA Council members move on with Item 9 and delay Item 8 until after the presentation, as it might require a full discussion that should not be interrupted. GSA Council members agreed.

7. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Graduate Student Groups

S van der Klein (GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board) and Fahed Elian (GSA VP Student Services) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and the addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

S van der Klein noted that these recommended changes included the addition to GSA Bylaw and Policy of former GSA Board Policy, the renaming of “Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups” to “GSA Graduate Student Groups,” and a few editorial changes. There were no questions.

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and the addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. S Wesch **MOVED**; B Todd **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios

S van der Klein (GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

S van der Klein noted that the recommended changes were administrative and editorial in nature and incorporated former sections of GSA Board Policy into GSA Bylaw and Policy and that the changes also put into GSA Policy the current practice related to the appointment of the GSA’s third member to the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council. There were no questions.

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. Z Pan **MOVED**; M Aliramezani **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

GSA Council then moved on to Elections, Reports, and Question Period.

Elections

9. GSA Council Elections

D Ashley (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. D Ashley asked the following question of the candidates for GSA Councillor-at-Large and the candidates were given 45 seconds to respond: “Please tell GSA Council what motivated you to run for this position.”

Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large:

Prerit Budhiraja (Mechanical Engineering)
 Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal (Agriculture, Food, and Nutritional Sciences)
 Peter Jun (Rehabilitation Science)
 Ronan Noble (Pediatrics)
 Kanishk Patel (Mechanical Engineering)

GSA Standing Committees

- a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (4 vacancy)

Nominee for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board:

Ludwig Paul Cabling (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
 Ryan D’Orazio (Computing Science)

Marla Palakkamanil (Public Health)

- b. GSA Board (1 vacancy)

Nominee for GSA Board:

Milad Rezvani Rad (Mechanical Engineering)

- c. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (1 vacancy)

Nominee for GSA Budget and Finance Committee:

Tabatha Plesuk (Library and Information Studies)

David Tandio (Pharmacology)

Reports

10. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

ii. GSA Board Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

iv. GSA Governance Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

11. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition M Aliramezani stated that the supervisory committee meeting survey had closed and that the GSA office had worked on a summary report, which would be shared with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). He added that the participation rate was not high but it might be sufficient to start discussions with the FGSR.

12. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition Z Pan stated that the GSA Awards Selection Committee finalized the list of nominees for the Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award and forwarded the list to the provincial government.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

13. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report

No meetings this reporting period.

14. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

15. Senator

i. Senator's Report

No written report at this time.

16. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

17. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

No written report at this time.

18. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition D Ashley stated that there was a vacancy for a graduate student in the Faculty of Science on the Dean Selection for the Faculty of Science. He added that due to the tight timeline and the cancellation of the December meeting of GSA Council, GSA Council would be asked to vote electronically in early December to fill this vacancy. D Ashley encouraged graduate students in the Faculty of Science that had not yet heard about this opportunity to contact the GSA Nominating Committee. M Woghiren asked if GSA Council would have an opportunity to hear candidates speak if voting occurred outside of a GSA Council meeting (D Ashley confirmed that GSA Council would only vote on the Bio and Resume form submitted by the candidate and would not have the opportunity to hear the candidates speak). S van der Klein further added that usually with Dean Selection Committees there was a way for graduate students to share comments and feedback with the graduate student representative for them to take to the Committee.

19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

20. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition C Thomas stated that the Early Call process was mostly concluded and a coffee wrap-up would be held on 5 December for current officers and anyone interested in running. GSA Council members were reminded that, if they did not have a chance to participate and were still interested, individual sessions could be provided upon request.

Question Period

21. Written Questions

None at this time.

22. Oral Questions

None at this time.

At this time, guests, Dr. S Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic) and G Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration), arrived and GSA Council moved to their presentation.

Presentations:

23. University Budget and Graduate Tuition Fees

Svan der Klein (GSA President) presented the item and introduced the guests, Dr. S Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic) and G Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration). S Dew noted that they would be providing a formal presentation on the University's budget and discussing Bill 19, which was an important piece of legislation that would influence the U of A's tuition proposals for the upcoming years.

G Kulczycki provided a presentation on the University's budget. She noted that the operating budget was the area where the University could make decisions on how to allocate money, and that this was the area into which revenue from tuition and the Campus Alberta Grant went. She emphasized that the main revenue from the University came from student tuition and fees, and that the other major funding source was the provincial government. She highlighted that the operating budget was used to pay the vast majority of expenses related to staff, with the exception of those staff funded entirely through research grants. She then noted that the ancillary section of the budget related to food services, residences, parking, and the bookstore, and that the intention of these services was to break even, since no revenues from tuition, the Campus Alberta Grant, or research grants could be allocated to these areas of the budget. She emphasized that funding received through research grants was fully restricted and could only be used for the purpose the grant was intended for. She also noted that the University also received capital funding from the government for things such as infrastructure and maintenance. She also reviewed investment income, and the spending allocations related to endowments, noting that the money provided through an endowment could only be allocated towards the original purpose of the endowment, whether that was for research grants or scholarships for students.

G Kulczycki indicated that the University had started a three-year budget planning process, which had been introduced for the first time in fall 2017. She outlined that the University last year had set reduction targets of -4%, -2.5%, and -2.5% for the next three years. She then reviewed the University's expenses, noting that a large portion of the budget went towards salaries, given the nature of the work at the University. She further highlighted that last year they had made a conservative assumption that they would not receive backfill funding for the freeze in domestic tuition fees, and that they wouldn't receive an increase to the Campus Alberta Grant. G Kulczycki reported that the provincial government ended up increasing the base Campus Alberta Grant by 2% and giving backfill funding for domestic tuition, which had added \$16.9 million to the 2018-2019 budget. She reported that the University still had a structural deficit, given that their ongoing expenses exceeded revenues, and that there had been a number of important allocations made from the \$16.9 million received, following feedback from Deans and senior administration. She noted that these allocations had been made to various initiatives including campus safety and security, initiatives related to *For the Public Good*, signature programs, benefit increases, and one-time funding for mental health services.

G Kulczycki reported that they were now in their next budget planning cycle, which began in August 2018, and that they had issued planning guidelines, along with targets to faculties and support units outlining what assumptions to make in terms of revenue increases or decreases for the next three years. She added that, when developing their budget, all faculties and support units were asked to develop their budget in alignment with their mission and the University's strategic plan. She indicated that, following budget planning meetings in November and December, they would be presenting the final budget starting in February. She added that, with the 2% increase to the Campus Alberta Grant and the backfill funding received for 2018-2019, the University could avoid the original -2.5% reduction they had projected last year for 2019-2020. She highlighted some of the uncertainties they were facing in developing the 2019-2020 budget including the upcoming provincial election and the influence of the oil prices on the provincial government's budget. She stated that they were focused on conservative planning for 0% next year, and then -2.5% reduction each year for the following two years. She indicated that every percentage increase the University didn't receive from the provincial government equaled to \$6.4 million, that every percentage increase for domestic tuition equated to \$2 million, and every percentage increase for international tuition equated to \$1 million.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, but not limited to: what the specifics were related to allocating \$3.5 million from the backfill funding to benefits, and who received those benefits (G Kulczycki responded that they were short by \$7.4 million in this budget area, so the allocation of \$3.5 million alleviated part of the deficit and S Dew noted that this referred to the benefits provided for all faculty and staff paid under the operating budget); what assumptions were made about projected increases to tuition revenue (G Kulczycki responded that it was a combination of a number of factors, including the mix of students, as there were different tuition rates in different programs, the increases to international tuition, and increases in enrolment numbers); whether they had made assumptions that there would be another freeze on domestic tuition (G Kulczycki responded that the government had already confirmed a freeze on domestic tuition for 2019-2020); the specific benefits that were included in the University budget (G Kulczycki responded that these benefits were not associated with those related to graduate students, but rather the benefit plans that University employees were provided including health coverage and pension plans); whether the additional funding for mental health services would be sustained (G Kulczycki responded that this funding was only meant to be one-time funding for the current year, but that they would be adding the allocated amount to their base budget during the planning process moving forward; it was also noted that this one-time injection supported additional programming through the Dean of Students Office); the assumptions made when projecting a decrease in earnings through investment income in the three-year budget projection (G Kulczycki responded that this was an intentional decision, as they were trying to move away from funding ongoing expenses in the operating budget through investment income and that moving forward investment income would be used to set-up a strategic investment fund to support strategic initiatives); and given that such a large amount of the operating budget went towards salaries, whether there had been discussions about salary freezes (G Kulczycki responded that, most University employees were paid according to their Collective Agreement either under

the Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (AASUA) or the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA), and that discussion of salary freezes occurred during collective bargaining, which was currently ongoing with both unions; S Dew confirmed that staff not within bargaining units (mostly senior administration) had had their salaries frozen for the past four years).

S Dew then provided a brief overview on graduate tuition. He noted that normally they would come to GSA Council in the fall with a specific proposal, given that the government was expected to introduce a new bill providing clarity around tuition fee increases. He added that the Bill was titled Bill 19 and was awaiting the approval of the third reading. He noted that there were a number of elements within Bill 19 that affected post-secondary institutions, the biggest of which was tuition. S Dew outlined that Bill 19, starting in fall 2020, required that tuition increase for domestic students be no more than the rate of the Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) and that, for international students, Bill 19 required predictability for their tuition rates for the duration of their program. He added that, while this legislation had been tabled and would likely be passed, there were still further details that the Ministry of Advanced Education would need to set in further regulations including the length of a program. S Dew noted that the process to determine the future increases for the duration of a graduate program would have to be done through a combination of accurate forecasting but also having to estimate what increases would need to be for those future years. He indicated that two international students within the same classroom may be paying different tuition rates if they were admitted in different years. He added that these changes came as a result of hearing how important predictability was for international students. S Dew reported that the government had emphasized that international students have to pay the full cost of their education, which could not be subsidized through the Campus Alberta Grant, or domestic tuition. He further noted that to increase financial supports for international students, increases to international tuition would be necessary. He also indicated that the government had indicated that executive graduate programs, such as the executive MBA, would not be subject to these regulations, with a number of caveats from the government. He reported that while they worked on developing international tuition for 2019-2020, they would be working through the regular consultation process with graduate and undergraduate students, along with various U of A committees, and the U of A Board of Governors.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, including but not limited to: whether the Minister of Advanced Education had provided information regarding the standard length of a program for international students, and whether the University would be considering the actual average length of programs, or just four years (S Dew responded that he does not yet know the answer to this question, and that it would depend on the details included in the government's regulations, along with consultation from various stakeholders); what factors had been used to predict the potential increases to international tuition, and whether they were specific to the University, or whether these were province-wide factors (S Dew responded that there were a number of factors used, including a weighted estimate of increases in each area of the operating budget and that, while some elements increased by CPI, the most significant expense for the University was salaries and benefits, and these increased as a rate higher than CPI); whether the University had considered redirecting some funds to keep the University competitive, given that other universities, such as the University of Toronto, were decreasing international tuition (G Kulczycki indicated that the expectation from the provincial government was that international students would pay the full cost of their tuition, and so the increase to international tuition reflected the University's estimated cost increases and was not an extraordinary cost increase to deal with the University's budget pressures); the fact that last year the 3.14% increase to international tuition had been presented in the context that there would be a 4% budget reduction (G Kulczycki responded that last year the increase to international student tuition was to account for the increase in costs to deliver education (including increases salaries and benefits as well as inflationary costs) and the 4% budget reduction was to deal with the structural deficit; and the tuition backfill provided by the government was to cover the revenues not received due to the University not being able to increase tuition from domestic students); in terms of predictability, whether the University could tie international tuition to CPI increases (S Dew responded that international students would have to know what the cost of their tuition would be for the period of their program and that using CPI would be a challenge as CPI couldn't be known that long in advance); whether provincial opposition parties had made comments about Bill 19 (S Dew indicated that, in reading some of the transcripts of the debate in the legislature, he would characterize most of the opposition's conversations as supportive, and that the few concerns expressed were about the Bill's impact on the University's ability to manage its finances); given that the main source of revenue came from the provincial government, why was the University's budget cycle three years and how was the budget related to the provincial election (G Kulczycki responded that they were trying to look ahead to provide better long-term planning and that elections could bring a new government with very different priorities, which could affect the University's revenues); why the University didn't put its budget on a four-year cycle, which was what the City of Edmonton did with its budget (G Kulczycki responded that there were a variety of different ways to budget, but the idea was to always look a few years out); and whether the consultation process for the 2019 tuition proposal would be limited to faculty, or whether it would be open to students and student representatives (S Dew responded that their consultation process around tuition was well-defined, and utilized a number of committee, including the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee, which had representatives from both the GSA and the Students' Union; he added that the consultation started with students, and that students served on

committees at all levels of approval for these proposals, including the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, the General Faculties Council, the Board Finance and Property Committee, and the Board of Governors).

Following this item, GSA Council then moved on to the final action items.

Action Items:

24. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council and GSA Standing committees

S van der Klein (GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C: GSA Council and GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, 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.

S van der Klein explained that the first part of the recommended proposal was to integrate the Standing Orders of GSA Council into GSA Policy and Bylaw. She noted that the second aspect of the proposal was to introduce a seat on GSA Council aimed at representing Indigenous graduate students. S van der Klein explained that this was the right thing to do as, in advocating toward more indigenous representation across the University, it was key for the GSA to start with itself. She added that one part of this year's Strategic Work Plan was to support indigenous students and she noted that she had worked on this proposal with the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA), who also provided some background for the cover letter, and solicited support from the Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies (included in the meeting material). S van der Klein noted that she was proud to be bringing forward this proposal.

GSA Councillors brought up a number of questions and comments, including but not limited to: their appreciation for the initiative and while increasing indigenous representation was positive, some GSA Council members expressed concern about creating ethnic quotas within the GSA (it was noted that the role of indigenous peoples in Canadian history was specific to the Canadian context, and that, not only was the proposal aimed at increasing the representation of a underrepresented demographic, but was also geared at giving a voice where before there was none, both of which were important).

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C: GSA Council and GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, 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. L Giesbrecht **MOVED**; Z Pan **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 7 December 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy holidays! After this snowy weekend I really felt that I should have stayed inside, got cozy, and drank hot chocolate. Yet, I did the opposite, I bundled up, put on my snow boots, and went for a 2h walk through the river valley. It was beautiful! For those of you who stay in Edmonton, I would strongly recommend you get outside this winter break. For those of you traveling home, safe travels!

External

Ab-GPAC – We had a very productive meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education, Hon. Marlin Schmidt. We discussed the implications of Bill 19, but also brought forward our other two advocacy priorities (post-graduate employment and access to graduate school for Indigenous learners). We continue to plan our MLA meetings and are looking at dates for a party leader coffee/lunch for the get-out-the vote campaign in 2019, in partnership with other student advocacy groups in Alberta.

Field Law Post-Secondary Summit – Field Law is the law firm of the University of Alberta and they organize an annual post-secondary summit to update legal counsels and administrators of universities and colleges on legislation changes and their legal implications. This year I was invited to speak on a panel about university Board of Governors relationships. There were also important updates on labour cases, which is especially important as the GSA is also the bargaining agent for our academically-employed graduate students.

Development of Life Sciences HQP Study – I attended this consultation session to provide the graduate student perspective on the transition from post-secondary education into the work force, specifically related to the life sciences. This aligned well with our advocacy items around financial support for internships and professional development training.

Internal

U of A Board of Governors – I met with the Chair of the Board Finance and Property Committee, Owen Tobert. We discussed guaranteed minimum funding packages and supervision, and we also discussed tuition and changes brought forward by Bill 19. I also met with Mary Pat Barry, chair of the Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee, to discuss in more details what guaranteed minimum funding packages are, and how they work at other institutions. We also discussed what they can mean for the reputation for the U of A, and its internal reputation among graduate students.

Social – We organized for the first time a coffee break for graduate student departmental leaders. I'm looking forward to the next one, as it was really nice to socialize with my departmental peers!

Convocation – I attended two convocations, one as a representative of the Board of Governors. The latter meant I was sitting in the middle chair on the podium and shook all the graduates' hands. A very cheery and special occasion!

Don't feel afraid to shoot me an email, or knock on my door in Triffo Hall, I always like to hear from you!

Thanks,

Sasha van der Klein, GSA President

2.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 November 2018 and 7 December 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

20 November	Meeting with W Anderson, MLA
20 November	Killam Trust Awards Ceremony and Luncheon
20 November	Brenda McLean, Honorary Degree Recipient, Welcome Luncheon
20 November	Fall Convocation
21 November	GSA Negotiating Team (GSA NT) Meeting
21 November	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
21 November	Fall Convocation
21 November	Honorary Doctoral and PhD Recipient Reception
22 November	Meeting with R Larsen, Students' Union (SU) President
22 November	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
22 November	Meeting with N Krogman regarding Supervisory Training
23 November	GSA Coffee Break with Graduate Student Group Executives
23 November	Meeting with Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA)
23 November	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Committee
26 November	BioAlberta Highly Qualified Personnel Study
26 November	Meeting with O Tobert, Board of Governors (BoG) Member
26 November	General Faculties Council (GFC)
26 November	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas
27 November	Presentation to the Board Human Resources Committee (BHRC)
27 November	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
27 November	Open Minds Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Celebration
27 November	Eid Al-Adha Ceremony at the Alberta Legislature
28 November	Meeting with M Schmidt, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education
28 November	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
28 November	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
28 November	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
28 November	Field Law Reception
29 November	Field Law Post-Secondary Summit
30 November	Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee (BRPAC)
30 November	Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC)
3 December	Meeting with N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
3 December	Meeting with A Bourgeois, Students' Union (SU) Vice-President Student Life
3 December	Physical Activity and Wellness Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)
4 December	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
4 December	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Open House
4 December	Meeting with GSA Speaker
5 December	Restorative Initiative Review with Student Conduct and Accountability
5 December	GSA Early Call Coffee Wrap-Up
6 December	Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) Event
6 December	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Parent Link Holiday Send Off Event
7 December	University of Alberta International (UAI) Winter Party

GSA Board (GSAB)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
 From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director; Julie Tanguay, Associate Director; and Lisa Hareuther, Assistant Director
 Date: 7 December 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. GSA Council members are always able to ask questions about items that were discussed in closed session. 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 12 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 12.1 - 12.3.

21 November 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Actual Expenses for Attendance at the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Conference, 21-24 October 2018, in Montreal, QC: Business Travel Expenses; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

The GSA Board is asked to **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary of actual expenses incurred through attendance at the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Conference, 21-24 October 2018, in Montreal, QC. SvK **MOVED**. BR Seconded. **CARRIED** (FE abstained).

Members **AGREED** to move in **CLOSED SESSION**.

Members discussed **ab-GPAC**.

Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

Members **AGREED** to move in **CLOSED SESSION**.

Members discussed **meeting with D Burshtyn**.

Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

28 November 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Graduate Student Assistance Program: Annual Statistical Report, 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Graduate Student Assistance Program Annual Statistical Report, 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018. ZP **MOVED**. MA Seconded. **CARRIED**

5 December 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

International Graduate Student Tuition Increase for 2019-2020; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

Members **AGREED** to move in **CLOSED SESSION**.

Members discussed **GSA BFC**.

Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 7 December 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

On 28 November, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) met to discuss the 2019-2020 GSA operating budget and engaged in a high level discussion of the anticipated features of the budget.

The GSA BFC meeting will meet again in January to review the proposed budget in advance of its presentation for approval at the February meeting of GSA Council.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Sasha van der Klein, GSA President and Chair of the GSA BFC

**GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 7 December 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

As per the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)'s terms of reference, the GSA GC can "make any editorial changes (such as factual inaccuracies and other editorial issues) to the GSA governing documents as deemed necessary by the GSA GC" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.b).

Accordingly, and as outlined in the previous GSA GC reports to GSA Council in October and November, the GSA GC unanimously approved a series of editorial changes to the entirety of GSA Bylaw and Policy. This comprehensive review included creating tables for each numbered section of the GSA's governing documents that define the scope and purpose of each regulation, provide associated definitions, and include cross-references to other directly relevant sections. Other editorial changes included consolidating footnotes, renumbering Bylaw and Policy where necessary as a result of moving content into the definitions sections of the tables, a comprehensive editorial review of punctuation, spelling, proper usage of Latin terms, ensuring the composition of each GSA Standing Committee was similarly organized without changing any wording, and shifting the order (but not changing any wording) of items within various sections to ensure standardization.

Additionally, these editorial changes included clarifying in the composition of each GSA Standing Committee that "Councillors" rather than "members of GSA Council" are elected to GSA Standing Committees, to clarify that these GSA Standing Committee positions are only intended for Councillors (including Departmental Councillors and Councillors-at-Large), given that technically Directly-Elected Officers and some staff members are members of GSA Council.

Sincerely,

Sasha van der Klein, 2018-2019 GSA President and Chair of the GSA GC

**GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Masoud Aliramezani
Date: 7 December 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy Holidays in advance! I wish you all the best in the upcoming year, and a year full of health, wealth, happiness and success.

In the past month, I have attended several meetings, and I am going to highlight some important ones in this report.

The first thing I would like to highlight are my efforts to explore more opportunities for graduate students to get more involved in undergraduate research programs to improve their professional development skills and to gain relevant experience. This past month, I attended the Undergraduate Research Initiative (URI) Advisory Committee Meeting. The URI has recently established a new undergraduate journal, [Spectrum](#). There are opportunities for graduate students to become [reviewers](#) for this journal. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, and working on your editorial skills, you can fill out this [google form](#). It is also possible for graduate students to serve on the editorial board of the Spectrum Journal. To get more information about the application process, please stop by the URI office (2-701 Students' Union Building).

During the recent Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC), I brought forward the monitoring of supervisory committee meetings issue. I shared the overall results of the recent survey we ran through the GSA newsletter and comments that I heard during the campaign period. The FGSR PRC decided to continue this discussion with FGSR Council at which a specific agenda item will be allocated to this topic. The goal will be to receive feedback from program coordinators regarding ways they monitor the occurrence of supervisory committee meetings. I will be pursuing these discussions with FGSR and I will update you with any progress in my next reports to GSA Council.

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

3.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 November 2018 and 7 December 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

22 November	GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
22 November	Meeting with Graduate Student Member of the General Faculties Council (GFC)
23 November	GSA Coffee Break with Graduate Student Group Executives
23 November	Signature Areas Development Panel
26 November	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
26 November	General Faculties Council (GFC)
27 November	Open Educational Resources Advocacy Group
27 November	Undergraduate Research Initiative (URI) Advisory Committee
28 November	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
28 November	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
4 December	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
5 December	General Faculties Council Negotiating Committee (GFC NC)
5 December	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC)
5 December	GSA Early Call Coffee Wrap-Up
14 November	GSA Early Call Info Session: Strategic Work Plan (SWP) and Active Issues
16 November	Meeting regarding Review and Feedback of University Calendar
19 November	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
19 November	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC Exec)

**GSA Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Zhihong Pan
Date: 7 December 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

How time flies! We are approaching the end of the semester. I wish you good luck on your finals. On the bright side, the holidays are just around the corner! I hope you all have the chance to take a good rest and enjoy the holidays. Below are highlights of meetings and events I have been involved with during the last month.

Residence Related Meetings

Since the last GSA Council meeting, I attended one Residence Advisory Committee meeting. During this meeting, we talked about the University's residence occupancy and life experience in residences. A satisfaction survey and corresponding consultation regarding residence life will be conducted in the coming winter term. Another thing we discussed was the Campus Recreation and Enhancement Fund (CREF) 2019 application. Student groups who are interested in this fund can find more details [here](#).

GSA Events

As mentioned by my colleagues, the GSA has hosted several events for our graduate students. The first one was the GSA Coffee Break with Graduate Group Executives. We chatted with representatives from departmental GSAs, shared our priorities, and asked them for advice and feedback. As usual, we also held our monthly coffee break on 30 November. Additionally, we also attended the Early Call Coffee Wrap-Up event, during which we talked with those who are passionate about getting involved with the GSA, introduced our portfolios to them, and shared our experiences.

Provincial Advocacy Group Meeting

I attended an Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board meeting, where we discussed some internal and external policies. In addition, I have been involved in discussion with the Public Interest Alberta's (PIA) Post-Secondary Education Task Force on Bill 19, which relates to the cost of post-secondary education. Other business discussed at the PIA included increasing student and faculty representation on university Boards of Governors, and health care issues.

Other Meetings and Events

I've also attended a Fall Convocation and the Honorary Doctoral and PhD Recipient Reception. I hope those who just graduated will find their fortunes on their new journey.

GSA Recognition Awards

Finally, the GSA Recognition Awards opened on 30 November and we are now accepting nominations. I encourage you to visit the [GSA website](#) to learn more about these award opportunities.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the report.

Sincerely,

Zhihong Pan, GSA 2018-2019 Vice-President External

4.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 November 2018 and 7 December 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

21 November	Fall Convocation
21 November	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
21 November	Honorary Doctoral and PhD Recipient Reception
23 November	GSA Coffee Break with Graduate Student Group Executives
26 November	General Faculties Council (GFC)
28 November	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting
28 November	Dinner with Residence Advisory Committee (RAC) Members
29 November	Public Interest Alberta (PIA) Post-Secondary Education Task Force
30 November	GSA Coffee Break
3 December	United Way Committee Meeting
4 December	Joint Residence Oversight Committee (JROC) Meeting
4 December	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Open House
5 December	GSA Early Call Coffee Wrap-Up
5 December	Alumni Council Holiday Dinner
7 December	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategic Plan Information Session
7 December	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Governance Committee Meeting

**GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Beth Richardson
Date: 7 December 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you have somewhere warm to read this, as winter truly has come to Edmonton with a vengeance (and a foot of snow!). I'm going to be returning to England for a week to celebrate Christmas with my family, and wherever you happen to be I wish you all the best for the holiday season and hope it brings you 'tidings of comfort and joy'.

Campus Facilities Safety and Security Committee

The Campus Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Committee will be presenting its final report at the January GSA Council meeting. If you have any further questions regarding safety and security, and how security measures will be implemented in the future, please make sure you attend and ask questions! If you are not able to attend, I would like to emphasise that the security consultation process will be ongoing, and reviewed every year from now on so you will have a chance to make your voice heard.

Labour Negotiations

Last week, we emailed an update to our academically-employed graduate students regarding the progress of labour negotiations, which are nearing their conclusion. I welcome all of the feedback I received on this issue, and hope to be able to provide a further update on this in the coming weeks. If anyone is an academically-employed graduate student, or has any in their constituency who still have concerns or questions regarding these negotiations, please continue to direct them to me. I am happy to answer any questions related to these proceedings; this is the first time that our labour negotiations have been governed by provincial labour law, so the procedure is a little different!

As always, please get in touch with me if you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding your work at the U of A, and I can provide advice on workplace conflicts, supervisor conflicts, or any other issues which may be affecting your success as a graduate student.

Best wishes,

Beth Richardson, your Vice-President Labour

5.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 November 2018 and 7 December 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

20 November	Meeting with N Krogman
21 November	GSA Negotiating Team (GSA NT) Meeting
21 November	Joint Worksite Health and Safety Committee
22 November	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
22 November	Meeting with N Krogman regarding Supervisory Training
23 November	GSA Coffee Break with Graduate Student Group Executives
23 November	Research Data Management Institutional Strategy Update
27 November	Presentation to the Board Human Resources Committee (BHRC)
27 November	GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC)
28 November	Student Parent Project Committee Meeting
28 November	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
28 November	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
29 November	Meeting with a Graduate Student
29 November	Meeting with a Graduate Student
4 December	Campus Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Meeting
5 December	Restorative Initiative Review with Student Conduct and Accountability
5 December	GSA Early Call Coffee Wrap-Up
7 December	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategic Plan Information Session
7 December	University of Alberta International (UAI) Winter Party

**GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Beth Richardson
Date: 7 December 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) met for the first time under the new GSA Bylaw and Policy on Collective Bargaining on 27 November. As this was their first meeting, members introduced themselves, reviewed the mandate of the GSA LRC, and were given a presentation on the current Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement.

There are still some vacant positions on the GSA LRC and these will be advertised to academically-employed graduate students in the new year. If you will be an academically-employed graduate students in the winter term and are interested in serving on the GSA LRC, keep an eye out for an email in mid-January.

The GSA LRC will meet again in late February, early March to discuss matter such as the formation of a strike fund.

Sincerely,
Beth Richardson, GSA VP Labour and Chair of the GSA Labour Relations Committee

**GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Fahed Elian
Date: 7 December 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are all doing well. Happy holidays and happy new year! I hope you all have a chance for a little break. I am happy to share my activities and to give you a brief update of the meetings I attended in the last month.

Studentcare Stakeholder Conference

I represented the GSA at the Studentcare Stakeholder Conference in Montreal on 28-30 November. Graduate students representing their graduate students' associations (GSAs) from across the country also attended this meeting. This meeting included discussions of communications with students, data and record management and privacy, social initiatives, social protection and legal protection. Regarding communications, Studentcare does not have any social media accounts and their electronic materials are distributed to GSAs based on request. Updates on their website reflect the recommendations of GSAs, along with information university students frequently access, such as claims information, what networks are available for students, and any updates on health and dental plans. Also, the Studentcare mobile app is under evaluation until the end of the year, in order to provide a better version next year. In terms of discussions about privacy at this meeting, I shared some of our students' concern regarding mental and physical health records. Studentcare confirmed that student information is always safe and is not shared with third parties. On this topic, we met with their IT and Data Engineer to review Studentcare's processes and technology that ensure data protection and security. Finally, Studentcare has started a campaign in Quebec that address sexual harassment and violence, known as "[Order an Angelot](#)". This campaign is now running in Quebec and perhaps will be extended to other provinces soon.

If you ever have any concerns, ideas, or suggestions about the GSA Health and Dental Plan, do not hesitate to share it with me, and I will make sure that your request is addressed and your voice is heard.

Physical Activity and Wellness Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)

Following a survey of students in the fall, the PAWSOC committee has confirmed that starting in the new year, there will be gender specific swim times. This step came after a group of graduate students shared their opinions with the GSA on having gender specific swim times to accommodate students' cultural and/or religious requirements. The GSA ensured that the students' opinions and concerns were heard, and directed towards the Dean of Students' Office.

Also, please reach out if you have any ideas, suggestions, concerns, or comments, for me. I would be more than happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,
Fahed Elian, GSA Vice-President Student Services

6.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 November 2018 and 7 December 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. Please note that I attended the Studentcare Stakeholder Conference 28-30 November 2018 and was on research leave on 22 November 2018 and 5 December 2018.

20 November	Suicide Prevention Implementation Policy Review Subcommittee
20 November	Meeting with S Flower re: Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)
23 November	GSA Coffee Break with Graduate Student Group Executives
26 November	Campus Food Bank (CFB) Annual General Meeting
27 November	Dean of Students' Advisory Council (DAC) World Café Debrief
28 – 30 November	Studentcare Stakeholder Conference
3 December	Meeting with Dean of Students re: Government of Alberta Mental Health Grant
3 December	Meeting with A Bourgeois, Students' Union (SU) Vice-President Student Life
3 December	Physical Activity and Wellness Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)

**GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Radim Barta
Date: 7 December 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

Early Call for Talent and Training

GSA Bylaw and Policy states that “GSA NoC will be proactive in seeking out potential candidates for all Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) and Council-Elected Officer positions” (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.1.5). It also states that:

“The GSA NoC leads an annual initiative each October called the Early Call for Talent and Training. During Early Call, graduate students interested in running for elected office are invited to a get-to-know event and are encouraged to participate in a series of training sessions on such topics as University governance, GSA 101, budget and audit basics, collective bargaining, major GSA services, and more. Information is provided about the DEO portfolios and the time commitments involved. These sessions provide a basic set of information that the GSA sees as essential for the effective leadership of the GSA as a corporate entity and for the carrying out of fiduciary duties.” (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.7.7)

As part of the 2018 GSA Early Call for Talent and Training, we invited interested students to join us for the Early Call Coffee Wrap-Up on 5 December 2018. This new event provided an opportunity for those who had participated in the 2018 GSA Early Call for Talent and Training sessions, as well as any graduate students still interested in learning more about the GSA Directly-Elected Officer positions, to meet with current and previous GSA Directly-Elected Officers. We have also offered to schedule additional sessions for anyone that was not able to attend the Early Call sessions that ran throughout November.

Though the 2018 GSA Early Call for Talent and Training has now concluded, graduate students who are still interested in attending any of the sessions offered are encouraged to contact us at gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca and we would be happy to make alternate arrangements.

GSA Standing Committees

None to report at this time.

External Committees

1) Faculty of Science Dean Selection Committee (One (1) Faculty of Science Graduate Student Position)

As was reported at the 19 November 2018 GSA Council meeting, the Office of the Provost has struck a Dean Selection Committee for the Faculty of Science. The mechanism for electing one (1) graduate student from the Faculty of Science to the Faculty of Science Dean Selection Committee is as follows:

“Each Departmental Graduate Student Association shall forward a name to the Graduate Students’ Association and the representative will be elected by the Graduate Students’ Association Council. If no Departmental Graduate Student Association exists or if no names are forwarded by the existing associations, the Graduate Students’ Association shall be responsible for forwarding a name to the Graduate Students’ Association Council for ratification” ([UAPPOL Faculty Deans Selection Procedure Appendix A: Dean Selection Committee for Individual Faculties](#)).

On 16 November 2018, the GSA emailed all departmental GSAs with a deadline of 20 November 2018 to inform the GSA Nominating Committee whether they would be using their own processes to elect their departmental nominee, or whether the GSA would be responsible for forwarding a name to the GSA Council. Of the four departments that did not indicate that they would facilitate the selection process (Department of Physics, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Department of Psychology, and Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences), all graduate students in these departments were invited to submit a nomination on 22 November 2018, with a second call being sent on 26 November 2018, with a deadline of 28 November 2018 at 12:00 PM. In consultation with the Faculty of Science, graduate students in the Masters in Internetworking Program (Computing Science) were also invited to submit a nomination, as this is a program offered by the Faculties of Engineering and Science through their Departments of Computing Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering. No nominations were received through this process. The GSA received two nominations (one from the Department of Biological Sciences and one from the Department of Computing Science). GSA Council was then sent an electronic vote to elect the representative for this committee. **Marc Waddingham (Biological Sciences)** was elected to serve on the Faculty of Science Dean Selection Committee.

Current Vacancies

1) GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (One (1) Graduate Student Position)

A position for one (1) graduate student on the GSA BFC has recently become available. This vacancy will be advertised in January 2019.

2) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (One (1) Departmental Councillor Position)

The position for one (1) Departmental Councillor on the GSA ACB was last circulated in advance of the November 2018 meeting of GSA Council but no nominations were received. This vacancy will be advertised again in January 2019.

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Leigh Spanner
Date: 7 December 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) met on 23 November and again on 30 November 2018 to continue planning the 2019 GSA General Election. At those meetings, the GSA ERC discussed the 2019 “Get Out the Vote” poster and social media strategies to remind graduate students of the GSA General Election, a series of communications which will ultimately be circulated by the CRO, and the questions to ask candidates at the election forum. The GSA ERC also reviewed the 2019 GSA General Election nomination forms, the 2019 ballot design and the voting instructions, and the All-Candidates Meeting Agenda and recommended them to the Chief Returning Officer.

At their next meeting in January, the GSA ERC will continue its work on the 2019 GSA General Election, and will review the “Get Out the Vote” posters and discuss the All-Candidates Meeting script.

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

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 10 December 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 7 December 2018

Dear GSA Council Members,

As I reported last month, the GSA Nominating Committee recently wrapped up its annual Early Call for Talent and Training. In previous years, the program ended when the last of the offered 101 training sessions concluded but, this year, we added a wrap up coffee break event in early December. This event was designed to give people who participated in the program a final opportunity to share information and network in a social setting. It also gave the GSA Nominating Committee an opportunity to reach out to graduate students who might have been thinking of participating but who were unable to attend the 101 training sessions offered. Anyone who has been unable to attend any of this year's Early Call events but who is interested in getting involved is encouraged to contact gsanomco@ualberta.ca.

As noted in the GSA Budget and Finance Committee report, that committee met in late November to begin high-level discussions about the 2019-2020 GSA operating budget. Members provided some great feedback and analysis with respect to the GSA's budget, as well as guidance on ways to develop it for the coming year. The committee will meet again in January, in advance of a recommended budget coming forward for GSA Council's consideration in February.

As always, the detailed weekly reports from the management team to the GSA Board are attached for your review.

We will be happy to answer any questions.

Best,
Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, 21 November 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 14 November 2018:

Strategic

- Wrapping up 101 sessions for Early Call participants – sessions can still be individually scheduled for interested parties who were unable to attend scheduled sessions.
- Preparing for an upcoming meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (reviewing the current GSA operating budget and thinking about elements of next year's budget).
- Reviewing the history of the establishment of GSAP and organizing records.
- Planning work flow within the office for over the holidays break – the office will be closed from 19 December to 3 January.
- Action associated with the recent GSA Council meeting.
- Circulation of an electronic vote to the GSA Governance Committee concerning editorial revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy and, the consolidation of footnotes, definitions, and information tables within the document.
- Planning for upcoming meetings of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and working on the timeline and associated work plan for the 2019 GSA General Election.
- Working on various in-progress proposals to amend GSA Bylaw and Policy and planning when they will go to GSA Council and work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

Grants and Office Operations

- Preparing for Winter Orientation (will be held in a new location this year as we have outgrown the space available in Triffo Hall).
- Preparing for the opening of the nomination period for GSA Recognition Awards and the associated adjudication process.
- Hosting a coffee break for GSA Graduate Student Group executive members and a GSA Recognition Awards 101 session.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (various GSA Council elections and now working on the Dean of Science Search and Selection Committee election).
- Facebook = 1,253 likes (up 1 from 14 November); Facebook posts reached 135 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 11. Twitter = 906 followers (down 5 from 14 November); our tweets earned 961 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 October; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started at 8 AM on 1 October and closed at 1:15 PM that same day; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 October.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 28 November 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 21 November 2018:

Strategic

- Preparing for an upcoming meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (reviewing the current GSA operating budget and thinking about elements of next year's budget).
- Planning work flow within the office for over the holidays break – the office will be closed from 19 December to 2 January.
- Meetings of the GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council Caucus, the GSA General Faculties Council Caucus, the GSA Labour Relations Committee, and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and associated work.
- Circulation of an electronic vote to the GSA Governance Committee concerning editorial revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy and, the consolidation of footnotes, definitions, and information tables within the document.
- Working on revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy, as well as sections of the GSA website that cite GSA Bylaw and Policy associated with the GSA Governance Committee vote noted above.
- Preparing for the 2019 GSA General Election.
- Working on various in-progress proposals to amend GSA Bylaw and Policy and planning when they will go to GSA Council.
- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

Grants and Office Operations

- Preparing for Winter Orientation.
- Preparing for the opening of the nomination period for GSA Recognition Awards and the associated adjudication process (hosting a GSA Recognition Awards 101 session in early December).
- Hosting a coffee break for GSA Graduate Student Group executive members.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (various GSA Council elections and now working on the Dean of Science Search and Selection Committee election).
- Facebook = 1,256 likes (up 3 from 21 November); Facebook posts reached 696 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 101. Twitter = 905 followers (down 1 from 21 November); our tweets earned 270 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 October; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started at 8 AM on 1 October and closed at 1:15 PM that same day; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 October.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 5 December 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 28 November 2018:

Strategic

- Developing the 2019-2020 operating budget following a meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (the committee will meet again in January).
- Meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and associated work.
- Preparing for the 2019 GSA General Election.
- Starting to work on the next Board SWP update to Council.
- Strategic discussions about a possible general survey of GSA Council members.
- Working on various in-progress proposals to amend GSA Bylaw and Policy and planning when they will go to GSA Council.
- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning Winter Orientation and the final GSA Coffee Break of the term..
- Opening of the nomination period for GSA Recognition Awards and the associated adjudication process (hosting a GSA Recognition Awards 101 session on 11 December).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (Dean of Science Search and Selection Committee election, Early Call for Talent and Training wrap up).
- Facebook = 1,258 likes (up 2 from 28 November); Facebook posts reached 604 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 235. Twitter = 904 followers (down 1 from 28 November); our tweets earned 3,300 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 October; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started at 8 AM on 1 October and closed at 1:15 PM that same day; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 October.