

GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

Monday, 16 March 2020 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

The GSA respectfully acknowledges that the University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of First Nations and Métis people.

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. 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 Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair

Please note that in the face of public health concerns, the GSA has opted, as a precaution, to eliminate the dinner element of GSA Council. GSA Council members are encouraged to bring their own dinner. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

OPEN SESSION

**Attached
Numbered Pages**

1. Approval of the 16 March 2020 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 24 February 2020 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)
Attachment:
 - i. Minutes from the 24 February 2020 GSA Council Meeting
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership (*suggested time: 1 min*)
 - i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

2.0 - 2.4

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements (*suggested time: 5 min*)

Presentations

5. University Budget and Graduate Tuition Fees (*suggested time: 45 min*)
Fahed Elian (President) will present the item and introduce the guest(s).

Guest(s): Dr. Steven Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic) (possibly joined by Gitta Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration))

Action Items:

6. GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2020-2021 (*suggested time: 30 min*)
Chantal Labonté (Vice-President Student Services) will present the item and introduce the guests.

Guest: Robyn Paches (Program Manager, Studentcare)

Attachment:

Prepared by C Thomas for GSA Council 16 March 2020

- i. Outline of Issue 6.0

Reminder: A Health and Dental 101 session is scheduled for 13 March 2020 from 1-2 PM in 1-31 Triffo Hall.

- 7. 2020 GSA General Election Results: To Receive for Information for the Purposes of Transferring Banking Signing Authority (*suggested time: 5 min*)
Amritha Prasad (Chief Returning Officer) will present the item.

Attachment:

- i. Outline of Issue 7.0

- 8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios (*suggested time: 10 min*)
Fahed Elian (President) will present the item.

Attachments:

- i. Outline of Issue 8.0
- ii. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios: Track Changes Document 8.1

Elections

- 9. GSA Council Elections (*suggested time: 2 min*)
Damandeep Singh (GSA Nominating Committee Member) will present the item.

GSA Standing Committees

- a. Chair of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (1 vacancy)

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for the Chair of the GSA ACB (1 vacancy) 9.0 - 9.1

Reports (*suggested time: 15 min*)

- 10. President (**Fahed Elian, President**)
 - i. President's Report 10.0 - 10.1
 - ii. GSA Board Report 10.2
 - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
 - iv. GSA Governance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
- 11. Vice-President Academic (**Dylan Ashley, Vice-President Academic**)
 - i. Vice-President Academic's Report 11.0 - 11.1
- 12. Vice-President External (**Marc Waddingham, Vice-President External**)
 - i. Vice-President External's Report 12.0 - 12.1
 - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
- 13. Vice-President Labour (**Shanawaz Mohammad, Vice-President Labour**)
 - i. Vice-President Labour's Report 13.0
 - ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report 13.1
- 14. Vice-President Student Services (**Chantal Labonté, Vice-President Student Services**)
 - i. Vice-President Student Services' Report 14.0 - 14.1

- 15. Senator **(Alesha Reed, Senator)**
 - i. Senator’s Report **(no written report at this time)**
- 16. Speaker **(Pranidhi Baddam, Speaker)**
 - i. Speaker’s Report **(no written report at this time)**
- 17. Chief Returning Officer **(Amritha Prasad, Chief Returning Officer)**
 - i. Chief Returning Officer’s Report **17.0**
- 18. GSA Nominating Committee **(Damandeep Singh, GSA Nominating Committee Member)**
 - i. GSA Nominating Committee Report **18.0 - 18.1**
- 19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee **(Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)**
 - i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report **19.0**
- 20. GSA Management **(Courtney Thomas, Executive Director)**
 - i. Executive Director’s Report **20.0 - 20.3**

Question Period

- 21. Written Questions **(none at this time)**
- 22. Oral Questions

Adjournment

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 24 February 2020 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

IN ATTENDANCE:

Fahed Elian (President)	Allan Yarahmady (Biochemistry)	Reza Sadri (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Nicholas Ruel (Pharmacology)
Dylan Ashley (VP Academic)	Jessica Grenke (Biological Science)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Marc Waddingham (VP External)	Ashmita De (Biomedical Engineering)	Jane Allred (History & Classics)	Julian Chow (Philosophy)
Shanawaz Mohammad (VP Labour)	Damandeep Singh (Business MBA)	Jessica Kennedy (Human Ecology)	Kimberley Dice (Physical Therapy)
Chantal Labonté (VP Student Services)	Ke Feng (Business PhD)	Muhammad Idrees Afzal; Saurabh Jingade (Internetworking)	Clinton Potts (Physics)
Priyanka Maripuri (Deputy Speaker)	Calvin Chan (Cell Biology)	Noah Underwood (Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation)	Robert Reklow (Physiology)
Amritha Prasad (Chief Returning Officer)	Omnath Ekambaram (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Julia Guy (Library & Information Studies)	Elise Sammons (Political Science)
Reza Azadi (Deputy Returning Officer)	Alvaro Omaña (Chemistry)	Boniakou Theocharis (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Precious Amusan (Psychiatry)
Alesha Reed (Senator)	Moein Owhadi Karshk (Computing Science)	Shahed Taghian Dehaghani (Mechanical Engineering)	Lane Liddle, Connor Lambert (Psychology)
Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal (Councillor-at-Large)	Julie Piche (Dentistry)	Nathan Nadolski (Medical Genetics)	McKenzie Tilstra (Public Health)
Md Minhajul Islam (Councillor-at-Large)	Cate Peter (Digital Humanities)	Cole Delyea (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Noor Al-Zanoon (Rehabilitation Science)
Claudia Holody (Councillor-at-Large)	Xavia Publius (Drama)	Marcus Jackson (Medicine)	Lea Lavy (Religious Studies)
Armin Norouzi Yengeje (Councillor-at-Large)	Elvira Garcia (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)	Bart Romanek (Modern Languages & Cultural Studies)	Jared Fath (Renewable Resources)
Konstantin Tebenev (Councillor-at-Large)	Alexandra San Diego (East Asian Studies)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	Yicong Luo (Resources Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Zhiying Wang (AFNS)	Jasen Aussant (Economics)	Occupational Therapy (Valene Cheah)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Kyla Cangiano (Anthropology)	Jingyang Gao (Educational Psychology)	Shayla Mosley; Braden Chow (Oncology)	Prof-Collins Ifeonu (Sociology)

Guests: Mariam Mohamed (Occupational Therapy; GSA Appeals and Complaints Board Nominee); Nadia Daniel (Medicine; GSA Appeals and Complaints Board Nominee); Danielle Littlefair (Business; GSA Appeals and Complaints Board Nominee); Farnoosh Fatemi Pour (Computing Science).

Deputy Speaker Priyanka Maripuri in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Deputy Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

Approval of Agenda**1. Approval of the 24 February 2020 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 24 February 2020 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 14 February 2020. F Elian **MOVED**; D Singh **SECONDED**.

Prepared by F Robertson and M Toghrai for GSA Council 24 February 2020

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes from the 20 January 2020 GSA Council meeting

Members had before them the 20 January 2020 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 14 February 2020. D Singh **MOVED**; C Baaklini **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**. C Labonté Abstained.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

- i. New GSA Council members introduced themselves: M Idrees Afzal (Internetworking); N Underwood, (Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation).

- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members**

There were no departing GSA Council members.

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements

R Reklow noted that Neuro Nexus, a competition in which participants work on innovative solutions related to addressing challenges in neurological and mental health disorders and conditions is occurring between 2 May and 15 June 2020, culminating in an event to be hosted in Calgary. More information can be found at <https://www.neuro-nexus.ca/>.

F Elian reminded members that voting in the 2020 General Election opens on Tuesday, 25 February 2020 and runs until Thursday, 27 February 2020. He encouraged members to vote and to encourage their colleagues to vote as well.

M Waddingham noted that the Faculty of Science is hosting the Richard E Peter Biology Conference on 3-5 March 2020. More information can be found at <https://peter.biology.ualberta.ca/>.

J Allred noted that the History and Classics department was hosting their annual graduate student conference on 28-29 February 2020.

Action Items

5. Operating and Capital Budget (2020-2021) and Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2020-2021) AND Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2020-2023) and Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2020-2023)

Fahed Elian (President) presented the item and introduced the guests, Shirley Ball (Accountant) and Dorte Sheikh (Financial Manager).

MOTION 1 BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, having also been unanimously recommended by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, the Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2020-2021) (found on pages 5.5 to 5.13 in the attached material in the “2020-2021 Budget for Approval” column bordered in red on each page) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2020-2021) (found on page 5.25 to 5.26 in the attached material in the “2020-2021 Budget for Approval” column bordered in red).

MOTION 2 BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, having been reviewed and advised upon by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and recommended to GSA Council by the GSA Board, the Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2020-2023) and the Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2020-2023) (pages 5.5 to 5.113 and 5.25 to 5.22 in the attached material).

F Elian presented the GSA’s Operating and Capital Budget (2020-2021) and Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2020-2021), as well as an associated three-year budget/business plan, which had been previously recommended to GSA Council by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) and the GSA Board (GSAB) on 29 January 2020. He noted that the GSA remained in an excellent financial position and, with sustained, incremental decreases to the GSA membership fee over the next three years by 4%, 3%, and then 2% (all while enhancing financial support for an array of services for graduate students, including support for the Campus Food Bank, services provided by the Career Centre and the Academic Success Centre, and for GSA Graduate Student Groups, as well as creating new GSA Recognition Awards), the GSA was moving ever closer to a more balanced budget in which revenues did not routinely exceed expenses by a significant amount. Current surpluses, on the recommendation of the GSA BFC and the GSA’s auditor, are used to grow the Financial Stabilization and Legal Defence Funds.

Members briefly discussed the creation of a strike fund for academically-employed graduate students.

Prepared by F Robertson and M Toghrai for GSA Council 24 February 2020

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MOTION 1: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, having also been unanimously recommended by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, the Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2020-2021) (found on pages 5.5 to 5.13 in the attached material in the “2020-2021 Budget for Approval” column bordered in red on each page) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2020-2021) (found on page 5.25 to 5.26 in the attached material in the “2020-2021 Budget for Approval” column bordered in red). F Elian **MOVED**; J Fath **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

MOTION 2: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, having been reviewed and advised upon by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and recommended to GSA Council by the GSA Board, the Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2020-2023) and the Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2020-2023) (pages 5.5 to 5.113 and 5.25 to 5.22 in the attached material). F Elian **MOVED**; C Labonté **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

6. GSA 2019-2020 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report

Fahed Elian (President) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2019-2020 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report.

F Elian, presented the GSA 2019-2020 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report, which had been previously received for information by the GSA BFC and the GSA Board. It was noted that the GSA was on track overall and projecting a positive balance at the end of the fiscal year.

Members briefly discussed the GSA’s investment portfolio and it was noted that it was performing very well.

MOTION: That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2019-2020 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report. M Waddingham **MOVED**; J Fath **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

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

Fahed Elian (President) presented the item.

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

F Elian asked GSA Council to consider the Motion to approve recommended changes to GSA Policy, Section D: Officer Portfolios, as recommended by the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC). He noted that GSA Officer portfolios were reviewed annually to ensure the described duties associated with each position align with current practice and with any changes made to the compositions or mandates of both GSA Standing Committees and various University governance bodies. The results of that review, undertaken in the fall of 2019, generated several recommended changes to this section of GSA Bylaw and Policy.

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendations of the GSA Governance Committee, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officer Portfolios, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. M Waddingham **MOVED**; F Elian **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Elections

8. GSA Council Elections

Damandeep Singh (GSA Nominating Committee Member) presented the items.

Standing Committees

- a. Nominees for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (3 vacancies):
 Nadia Daniel (Medicine)
 Danielle Littlefair (MBA)
 Mariam Mohamed (Occupational Therapy)

D Singh asked the nominees the following question: "Taking 45 seconds, please tell us why you'd like to serve on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board." Each of the nominees was present and given a chance to respond in front of GSA Council members.

- b. Nominees for GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (1 vacancy):
Omanth Ekambaram (Chemical and Materials Engineering)

D Singh asked the nominee the following question: "Taking 45 seconds, please tell us why you'd like to serve on the GSA Budget and Finance Committee." The nominee was present and given the opportunity to respond to in front of GSA Council members.

Reports

9. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted. In addition F Elian noted that the University budget for Fall 2020 would be brought to the Board of Governors (BoG) on 13 March 2020 and that the proposal would put forth the following increases: 2.67% (the Academic Price Index (API)) increase for both international and domestic continuing thesis-based students (a 7% increase for incoming domestic thesis-based students, with the tuition for incoming international thesis-based students having previously been approved as part of a separate proposal), a 7% increase for domestic course-based students (for both incoming and continuing graduate students), and 4% increase for continuing international course-based students (with the tuition for incoming international course-based students having previously been approved as part of a separate proposal).

He also noted that the initial proposal was for a 7% across the board increase but that he and Vice-President Academic, D Ashley, lobbied over several months for the rate for thesis-based students to be decreased and for additional financial support (a 15% increase) to be set aside for course-based students in light of the 7% increase which would be applied to their tuition. He noted that this was the most favourable rate secured by graduate students among all Alberta institutions. F Elian also noted that, after several years of being frozen by government, MNIFs would increase by API in 2020-2021 and the additional funds, approximately \$20/student, would be directed to the units most in need.

F Elian, with input from M Waddingham, also touched upon the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Advocacy Week which was held in Ottawa. As a federal group, CASA members participated in over 130 meetings with Members of Parliament, offices of Ministries, and other stakeholders. Current advocacy priorities for CASA, of which the GSA is currently only an Observer, include implementing changes to permanent residency requirements to make such pathways easier for graduate students, enhanced financial supports for students in the form of student loans and longer interest-free periods prior to repayment commencing, particularly for student parents, and for student seats on Tri-Council governing boards.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted.

iv. GSA Governance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 February 2020. 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 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted.

11. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted.

iii. Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Report

No written report at this time.

12. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No written report at this time, the next meeting was scheduled for 5 March 2020.

13. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted.

17. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted.

18. 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 21 February 2020. 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 21 February 2020. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas encouraged members to vote in the 2020 GSA General Election, and asked that they encourage their constituencies to do so as well.

Question Period

20. Written Questions: None

21. Oral Questions: None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Outline of Issue

GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2020-2021

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, that the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee be set at \$500.36/annum, effective 1 September 2020, with collection from graduate students to begin 1 September 2020.

Note: Based on projections provided by Studentcare (and taking into consideration that premiums are locked in for a two-year period as a result of the GSA's ongoing agreement renegotiation with Studentcare), setting the GSA Health and Dental Plan (the "Plan") fee for 2020-2021 at \$500.36/per Plan member would still enable the GSA to direct approximately \$30 per Plan member into the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund (GSA HDPRF), which currently sits at in excess of \$300,000 and is thus very healthy. Accordingly, this additional approximately \$30 per Plan member could be utilized to expand coverage (taking into consideration that expansions in coverage will result in increases to the cost of Plan, thus necessitating either a drawdown of the GSA HDPRF or an increase in the cost paid by Plan members in future years); or expand coverage in a more limited fashion and while directing a lower amount into the GSA HDPRF. Discussions concerning possible expansions in coverage under the Plan are ongoing with Studentcare, and will be presented to the GSA Board and GSA Council in the near future.

Background:

While the key driver for cost increases to the Plan is usage, as a result of the GSA's ongoing agreement renegotiation with Studentcare premiums are locked in for a two-year period, meaning there are no projected cost increases for the coming year. Should GSA Council approve the proposed fee, the fee paid by graduate students for the Plan would be \$500.36/year for 2020-2021 (remaining the same as the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 fee). Additional information can be found in the attached document provided by Studentcare. Additionally, Kristin Foster (Director of Partnership & Development, Studentcare) and Robyn Paches (Program Manager, Studentcare) will be in attendance at the meeting to provide information on the Plan and answer questions.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section M: GSA Health and Dental, GSA Policy, GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, Section M.POL.6.1:

"The amount of the Plan fee includes both Plan premiums and administrative overhead. The Plan fee may include an amount for the replenishment of the Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section M: GSA Health and Dental, GSA Policy, GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, Section M.POL.9.1:

"The GSA Board (GSAB) is mandated to oversee the implementation, administration, and performance of the GSA Health and Dental Plan, reporting regularly to GSA Council regarding the Plan, and to make recommendations to GSA Council concerning the coverage and fees associated with the Plan."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section M: GSA Health and Dental, GSA Policy, GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, Section M.POL.10.1:

"GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSAB, approves the annual Plan fee. Any increase in the Plan fee exceeding 15% of the previous year's Plan fee must also be put to a referendum."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section M: GSA Health and Dental, GSA Policy, GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, Section M.POL.10.2:

"GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSAB, approves modification of Plan coverage."

Outline of Issue

2020 GSA General Election Results: To Receive For Information For Purposes of Transferring Banking Signing Authority

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the results of the 2020 GSA General Election wherein the following graduate students were duly elected as President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Labour, and Vice-President Student Services:

President	Marc Waddingham
Vice-President Academic	Sachiketha Reddy
Vice-President External	Anas Fassih
Vice-President Labour	Umesh Nimmathi
Vice-President Student Services	Sridhar Parasharamatham

Background:

The 2020 GSA General Election official results were announced to all graduate students by the Chief Returning Officer on Friday, 28 February 2020.

GSA Council is now asked to receive these results for information as the GSA's bank requires that the names of the newly Directly-Elected Officers appear in the Minutes in order to transfer signing authority on 1 May 2020.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, Section D.POL.10.1.e.iii:

"The CRO reports to GSA Council, in writing, the names of all elected GSA DEOs, following the release of the official results for a GSA General Election or by-election, for the purposes of transferring bank signing authority."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles and Procedures, Section K.POL.3.7.a:

"Financial documents requiring signature, including but not limited to cheques and investment instructions, require two (2) signatures: either any two (2) Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs), or any one (1) DEO and one (1) Director."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles and Procedures, Section K.POL.3.7.b:

"The President, at least two (2) Vice-Presidents, and at least two (2) Directors, renewed annually, will each as individuals have authority as signing officers for the GSA."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles and Procedures, Section K.POL.3.7.c:

"Wherever possible, it is preferable for the signatories to be the President and the ED (or delegate)."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.13.1:

"Upon completion of the ballot count, the CRO will announce provisional results. Results will be made official only after the deadline to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy has expired and none have been received or when the GSA's process of dealing with alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy on elections and any appeals within that process are exhausted."

Outline of Issue
Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That the GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee, **APPROVE** recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, as shown in track changes in the attached document and effective upon approval by GSA Council following the second reading.

NOTE: This is the first reading of recommended changes to GSA Bylaw. The second reading will occur at the April GSA Council meeting.

Background:

In a previous election for GSA Council-Elected Officer positions, one candidate put their name forward to run for a GSA Council-Elected Officer position while concurrently seeking election to several GSA Standing Committees. Several of the relevant GSA Standing Committees' terms of reference stipulated that those holding GSA Council-Elected Officer positions were ineligible to serve on them (for example, an individual cannot hold the position of the Deputy Returning Officer while also serving as a voting member of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) but because the elections for both positions were happening in the same GSA Council meeting, a situation arose in which the person elected would immediately have to resign from one of the positions they were elected to. Given the importance of ensuring that GSA Council-Elected Officer positions are filled in order for the business of the GSA to continue with efficiency, this recommended clarification to GSA Bylaw is aimed at closing this "loophole."

This recommended change to GSA Bylaw and Policy was discussed with the GSA Nominating Committee at a meeting on 22 January 2020 and the GSA Governance Committee unanimously recommended this item to GSA Council for approval via email vote on 7 February 2020. The GSA Board reviewed the recommended changes for information and onward transmission to GSA Council at its 26 February 2020 meeting.

Jurisdiction:

Section F: Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.a

The GSA GC will *"advise GSA Council on matters of GSA Bylaw and Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governance issues, and recommend changes to GSA Council."*

Section A: Authority, GSA Bylaw, Authority, Section A.BYL.1.2

"These Bylaws ... may be amended by two (2) two-thirds majority votes of GSA Council held on seven (7) calendar days' notice of Motion and no less than one (1) week apart."

Section D: GSA Officers

... No change

GSA Bylaw: GSA Officers¹

D.BYL.1 General

... No change

D.BYL.2 Directly-Elected Officers

... No change

D.BYL.3 GSA Council-Elected Officers

D.BYL.3.1 Election of Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)

- D.BYL.3.1.a GSA Council-Elected Officers will be GSA members.
- D.BYL.3.1.b The GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) will open nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO on or about 1 May of every year by email to every GSA member.
- D.BYL.3.1.c Nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO and DRO will be submitted in writing to the GSA NoC by 30 May or the next working day.
- D.BYL.3.1.d The GSA NoC will follow its legislated process in forwarding one (1) 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.
- D.BYL.3.1.e The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council, for a term lasting from 1 July to 30 June of the following year.
- D.BYL.3.1.f In the case of a resignation or other vacancy in the Speaker or CRO positions, as determined by the GSA NoC, the GSA NoC will advertise the position and arrange for election by GSA Council in the most expedient way possible.

D.BYL.3.1.g Candidates are not allowed to run for other positions within the GSA while standing for election to a GSA Council-Elected Officer position and, if elected, may not hold other GSA Council-Elected Officer positions.

... No further changes

Deleted: multiple

Comment [Office1]: Rationale: Clarification in response to an issue that arose in a previous election of Council-Elected Officers.

¹ Amended by the Annual General Meeting on 28 March 2011. Amended by GSA Council on 14 March 2011, 11 June 2012, 20 January 2014, and 18 June 2018. Editorial revisions made by the GSA Governance Committee on 12 July 2015, 3 April 2017, and 6 October 2017.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
CHAIR OF THE GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (GSA ACB)
ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA ACB MEMBER: ONE (1) NOMINEE

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA ACB Member to serve as Chair was circulated via the GSA email to current GSA ACB members on 25 February 2020 and 6 March 2020 with a nomination deadline of 10 March 2020. One (1) nomination was received for the one (1) position of Chair of the GSA ACB. As set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.7.4:

“GSA Council will elect one (1) member of the GSA ACB as Chair and one (1) member of the GSA ACB as Vice-Chair on the recommendation of the GSA NoC, for a term of office, also recommended by the GSA NoC, not to exceed two (2) years. Members may stand for re-election as Chair or Vice-Chair.”

In recommending this nominee, the GSA NoC considered their previously conducted interview (as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.9.5), their experience relevant to the position of Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB, and their knowledge of fair process.

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.6.1, the jurisdiction of the GSA ACB is as follows:

“The GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) is responsible for hearing and deciding appeals of GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO) decisions and complaints about GSA Officers and Councillors-at-Large (CALs) as allowed by Section 94(3) of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.”

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 16 March 2020 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 16 March 2020, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator (gstanomco@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 16 March 2020 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

Nominee for Chair of the GSA ACB (One (1) nominee for one (1) position):

- 1. Nicholas Ruel (Pharmacology) for the duration of their term on the GSA ACB**

Current GSA ACB membership can be found [here](#).

The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee are **BELOW on page 10.1**. The biography and brief resume is presented as **received** (ie not edited).

**Nominations for GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (GSA ACB)
(THREE (3) VACANCIES FOR GSA MEMBERS)
Three (3) Nominees**

1. Nicholas Ruel

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	GSA ACB, GSA Council, PGSA, UAB
Statement of Interest	
<p>I have the necessary skills and temperament to serve as the chair of the ACB. From a young age I became a soccer referee that put me in the position of a fair and impartial source. I have furthered this at the University of Alberta by serving on the University Appeals Board, a position that has taught me the importance of impartiality and fairness, even under stressful circumstances. I have taken training in procedural fairness on several occasions for these roles and am familiar with the Code of Student Behaviour as well as GSA policy. I believe these experiences provide me the necessary experience and skill to serve as the GSA ACB chair.</p>	
Bio	
<p>I was born and raised in Alberta, graduating from high school in the small town of Cold Lake, Alberta. I came to the U of A in September of 2013 and received my Specialization in Pharmacology in June of 2016. Following this, I became a Masters' student in pharmacology conducting research on a novel nucleobase transporter in relation to childhood leukemia. I have since switched to my PhD program and continue my research on this novel transporter. I have always involved myself with several leadership opportunities throughout my time at the university serving on GSA ACB, GSA Council, University Appeals Board, and president of my graduate students association. I hope to bring my experience from this to serve the GSA.</p>	
Summary Resume	
<p>I am involved with the GSA ACB, GSA Council, PGSA, and the University Appeals Board. These positions have provided me with the training and insight on procedural and academic fairness in stressful circumstances. It has also taught me how to assume and be in a leadership position, a key asset for this committee and the position as chair. My program of study as a PhD in Pharmacology makes me free for time the committee is needed, especially when elections are ongoing. I believe strongly in the integrity of elections and the officers elected that represent us as graduate students. I also firmly believe in the fairness and impartiality that comes with decisions potentially made by the ACB. I will uphold these values as chair of the GSA ACB.</p>	

GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Fahed Elian
Date: 13 March 2020

Dear Council Colleagues,

Let me start my report by respectfully acknowledging that we are on Treaty 6 territory, the traditional lands of First Nations and Métis people.

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease to be pandemic. To date, 23 cases has been identified in Alberta (and this number will likely increase between the writing of this report and Monday's meeting). Please make sure to keep yourself and people around you safe, for more information please check [here](#).

Find below, some highlights of my work over the last month.

Space for the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA)

- The IGSA has been trying to secure a space on campus for the last 2 years. It's critical for the IGSA to have a space where they can meet, run social events, and be visible for their members. In that regard, I made this issue as one of the priorities on my Strategic Work Plan for my term. Working closely with Andrew Sharman, VP Facilities and Operations, I am happy to announce that a space for the IGSA has been located in Hub Mall. The IGSA will set a tour up to check the Hub Mall space in the next couple weeks. This space is temporary until a permanent space is located.

University Budget

- Most recently (and as I touched on last meeting), the graduate student tuition fees increase proposal was passed at both the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the Board Finance and Property Committee; increases on tuition will be 2.67%, 4%, and 7% for current thesis-based students, international course-based students and domestic course-based students, respectively. I'm happy to report that University senior administration has addressed our concerns regarding financial support for students who are in financial need. In that regard, there has been an increase in the maximum amount available for graduate student Supplementary Bursaries. Effective immediately full-time applicants (full-time enrollment in both the fall and winter terms) are eligible for \$8,000 per student (increased from \$4,000) and part-time applicants (full-time enrollment in only one of either the fall or winter terms) are eligible for \$4,000 per student (increased from \$2,000).
- The provincial budget was announced on February 27 and it was bad news. The University of Alberta received a 11% reduction on the Campus Alberta Grant (CAG), in addition to the cuts the University received in 2019, the total cuts would add up to 17.9% in the span of six months. Senior administration and the Board of Governors' Chair were not expecting funding cuts to be that deep. In 2019 the government had communicated that cuts for budget 2020 would be around 5-6% and, as a result, senior administration planned the University budget for 2020-2021 based on 5% cuts. Then this budget was approved at the Board of Finance and Property Committee, alongside the tuition fees proposal mentioned above. However, due to the recent news regarding the CAG, the budget will be revisited and presented again for approval at the GFC Academic Planning Committee on March 18, the Board Finance and Property Committee on March 25, and the Board of Governors on March 26.

- In a meeting with President Dr. Turpin and Provost Dr. Dew they stated that the tuition fees proposal and the financial support proposal will not be revisited due to the recent cuts on the CAG.
- Provost Dr. Dew shared that the U of A received \$110 M less than in the last budget announcement. He anticipates another \$50-\$100 M will also be cut in the next two years.

Performance Based Funding (PBF) Model or Campus Alberta Grant

- The University of Alberta received their PBF agreement letter from the Government of Alberta. Four metrics were proposed by the government as performance measures: 1. expenditure (total expenditure); 2. admin expenses ratio; 3. enrolment (international, domestic, and indigenous students); and 4. federal research revenue (Tri-Council funding)

Meeting with D Nicolaides, Minister of Advanced Education

Student leaders were invited to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education to discuss Budget 2020 and the Alberta 2030 post-secondary education vision (a project the government is initializing) – I will keep GSA Council members posted.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns, ideas, suggestions, or just to grab a coffee and chat.

Warmly,

Fahed Elian, President 2019-2020

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 24 February and 16 March 2020 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

25 February	Meeting re Aboriginal Student Survey
25 February	Meeting re Human Resources Survey of Academically-Employed Graduate Students
26 February	Board of Governors Governance Committee (BGC)
26 February	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
27 February	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
28 February	President's Installation Committee
2 March	Meeting with D Turpin, President
2 March	Meeting with a Graduate Student
3 March	Meeting re Impact of Deferred Maintenance on Graduate Students
4 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board
5 March	Meeting with K McCluskey, Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Executive Director
5 March	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
5 March	Team Dinner with Studentcare
9 March	University Pride Parade
9 March	Meeting with C Swindlehurst, Office of the President
11 March	Meeting with D Nicolaides, Minister of Advanced Education
11 March	Students Not Silent
12 March	Budget Town Hall
12 March	Board of Governors Dinner
13 March	Meeting with D Nicolaides, Minister of Advanced Education, and L Kaumeyer, Special Advisor to the Minister

13 March	Board of Governors
13 March	Meeting with H Ostergaard and Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Graduate Student Representatives
16 March	Lunch with a Board of Governors Member

**GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Fahed Elian, President
Date: 13 March 2020

The GSA Board (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 20 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 20.1 – 20.3.

26 February 2020 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2020-2021; Recommended Changes to GSA Board Policy, Section 7: Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave; Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers; Attendance at an ab-GPAC Labour and Immigration Consultation with Minister Jason Copping, 13 March 2020 in Calgary, AB: Estimated Expense; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL** that the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee be set at \$500.36/annum, effective 1 September 2020, with collection from graduate students to begin 1 September 2020. CL **MOVED**. MW Seconded. **CARRIED**.

That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Board Policy, Section 7: Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave as noted in the attached "track changes" document, effective immediately. CL **MOVED**. MW Seconded. **CARRIED**.

That the GSA Board **REVIEW, FOR INFORMATION PRIOR TO ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO GSA COUNCIL**, recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, as shown in track changes in the attached document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. CL **MOVED**. DA Seconded. **CARRIED**.

That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the estimated expense for one (1) representative to attend an Alberta Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) consultation with Minister Jason Copping (Labour and Immigration), 13 March 2020 in Calgary, AB. CL **MOVED**. DA Seconded. **CARRIED**.

4 March 2020 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

3TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Annual Report for the Period Ending 31 December 2019; Provincial Budget 2020; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached annual participation report, as provided by TD Meloche Monnex Insurance. FE **MOVED**. CL Seconded. **CARRIED**.

Board Members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION**.

Board Members discussed the **Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee (BRPAC)**.

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

11 March 2020 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Response to COVID-19; GSA Statement on Tuition; University Budget Town Hall; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

Members **AGREED** to include the GSA statement on tuition in the GSA newsletter of Friday, 13 March 2020.

**GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Dylan Ashley
Date: 13 March 2020

Hi Fellow Grads,

A lot has happened in the past month while I've been working diligently in my role as your VP Academic, but here are a few highlights to give you a snapshot of what I've been up to:

- The Ombuds recently hosted the annual Student Advisors' Conference. It was Chantal's and my great honor to present there on the importance of mentorship of graduate students. The response from the audience was very positive. Like most of the times we present on this topic, a few members of the audience shared their experiences of either directly dealing with, or being in contact with, individuals facing problematic mentorship. When these kinds of stories come up at presentations, they help contribute to the consensus that we have a serious issue we need to deal with. This, in turn, allows us to work with FGSR to put in place measures to reduce instances of problematic mentorship.
- FGSR is looking into adding the ability for full-time graduate students to move to part-time status. This is meant to be a way that graduate students encountering difficulties in their programs can reduce their commitment temporarily. The exact regulations around this have yet to be approved, but will likely require minimum registration time and will not be flexible enough to allow a student to move between full-time and part-time multiple times during their program. It is expected that the regulations will be approved in the next week.
- I attended the Faculty of Arts Celebration of Research. It was really pleasing to see all of the great research happening in the Faculty of Arts. Being a faculty I don't interact with much, it was very eye opening for me to see the breadth and quality of that research.
- Alongside Fahed, Marc, and Chantal, I was privileged to march in the annual pride parade. It was heartwarming to see the level of support shown at this University for the LGBTQ2S+ community.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca.

Sincerely,

Dylan Ashley

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 24 February and 16 March (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

28 February	University Research Policy Committee (URPC)
4 March	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC)
5 March	Student Advisors' Conference

5 March	Celebration of Research Event
5 March	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
5 March	Team Dinners with Studentcare
6 March	Meeting with a Graduate Student
9 March	University Pride Parade
16 March	Meeting with M Padfield, F Halbert and A Dambrowitz re Financial Support for Graduate Students
16 March	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (GSA FGSR) Council Caucus
16 March	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)

**GSA Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Marc Waddingham
Date: 13 March 2020

Greetings to Council,

You are all likely to be very much aware of the current COVID-19 pandemic and its recent arrival into the Edmonton area; insofar, we are in a low-risk situation and both University and regional authorities are preparing for a variety of future scenarios. While calm heads will ultimately prevail, precautions are being taken and may be extended with short notice, so please pay close attention to official channels as the situation develops. You are all likely aware of the personal precautions you can take, including frequent handwashing, avoiding touching your face, and maintaining social distance, so ensure you're heeding the advice of healthcare experts and assisting in educating those who may not be aware. Better yet, if you're able to assist those in your community who may need to isolate due to being part of a high-risk group, please consider reaching out to help. If you are part of an at-risk group, I'd encourage you to do quite the opposite and locate supports where possible.

My first portfolio-related update is regarding the GSA Councillor onboarding/outreach project. Details are still being finalized, but the broad idea is to have more regular touch-points between the executive and Councillors to help guide our strategic priorities, identify areas of concern/opportunity, and to learn about how Councillors interact with their respective student groups. This last piece is of particular interest to me, as I am keen to learn about how we can best communicate our activities at Council to promote initiatives and developments most relevant to our members. I believe that in a time of increasing division, our best tool is to deepen connections whenever possible. Keep an eye on your inboxes for more detailed updates upcoming.

For graduate students in residence, I was informed of an exciting new initiative proposed by the Students' Union Vice-President Student Life, Jared Larsen, regarding the formation of a system-wide Graduate Student Residence Association to represent the interests of those living in Graduate Residence and Newton Place. We will be hashing out the details later this month, but I think this is a wonderful idea for our members living in residence on campus.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the planners of the University of Alberta Pride Week, of which we attended the kick-off parade this past Monday. These events are very heartening in trying times, and the show of solidarity for the diverse nature of our campus is incredibly encouraging. Love is love and everyone deserves the right to be themselves with dignity, and events that reinforce these ideals will forever be welcomed by us at the GSA.

As always, I look forward to your questions and comments.

Cheers,
Marc Waddingham

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 24 February and 16 March (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

24 February	Phone Meeting with C Bell (Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
25 February	Throne Speech
27 February	March for What Matters
28 February	Meeting with K Huising, Associate Vice-President Ancillary Services
2 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Meeting re: Labour Relations
2 March	Students Not Silent Demonstration Planning Meeting
4 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Meeting
5 March	Coffee with M P Barry, Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee (BRPAC) Chair
5 March	Meeting with K McCluskey, Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Executive Director
5 March	Team Dinner with Studentcare
6 March	Student Not Silent Budget Townhall and Demonstration Planning Meeting
9 March	University Pride Parade
10 March	Joint Residence Oversight Committee (JROC)
10 March	Meeting with C Bell, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
11 March	Clean Air Working Group
11 March	Students Not Silent Meeting
12 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Transitions Roundtable
12 March	Residency Advisory Committee (RAC)

**GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Shanawaz Mohammad
Date: 13 March 2020

Dear Council Colleagues,

I would like to summarize the list of meetings I have attended:

Meeting re: Campus Safety

I met with the Associate Vice President, Facilities and Operations team and Marcel Roth, Director of University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) to discuss some of the key safety measures regarding the break-ins happening on campus. Some of the measures discussed during the meeting were to increase safety communications and awareness for students. Marcel Roth mentioned that patrolling has increased throughout the buildings, particularly during night hours. Measures discussed during this meeting will be discussed at the upcoming Campus Safety and Security meeting.

Labour Town Hall

I encourage all the academically-employed graduate students to attend the town hall on March 19 scheduled at 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the FGSR Boardroom (1-16 Triffo Hall). Information about this town hall has been circulated to all academically-employed graduate students, including a link to a form to provide feedback electronically if they are unable to attend the town hall. Additionally, we are hosting a Labour 101 session for all interested graduates, whether currently academically-employed or not, on March 24 from 10 am to 11 am – information about that is in the GSA newsletter and on social media and you are all welcome to attend.

As always, I kindly request that every Councillor ensures that graduate students who are under the Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement (CA) are aware of this agreement and inform them that I am happy to provide information sessions on the CA to their individual departments. Moreover, if any graduate student comes to you regarding collective agreement issues, harassment, or safety and security issues, please have them email me and I would be very happy to meet with them.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the current CA, please contact me at gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 24 February and 16 March (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

2 March	Meeting with Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) re: Labour Relations
2 March	Meeting with a Graduate Student
4 March	Meeting re: Campus Security
5 March	GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC)
5 March	Meeting with a Graduate Student
5 March	Team Dinner with Studentcare
9 March	University Pride Parade
16 March	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (GSA FGSR) Council Caucus

**GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC)
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Shanawaz Mohammad
Date: 13 March 2020

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA LRC met on 5 March 2020. At this meeting, the members of the GSA Negotiating Team in the upcoming collective agreement bargaining process with the University that will be commencing over the summer were selected. Alongside my successor as Vice-President Labour, legal counsel from Chivers Carpenter (a firm specializing in labour union matters) and Kirsten Hawson, GSA LRC member and an MFA student in Drama were selected to serve. The next step will be the hosting of a town hall on 19 March from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm to hear from academically-employed graduate students about what bargaining priorities they would like to see reflected in the opening position that is sent to the University to commence negotiations. Please encourage your academically-employed colleagues to attend or to submit feedback to me if they cannot attend in person. After the opening position is developed by the GSA LRC based on the received feedback it will be circulated to all academically-employed graduate students for approval. The GSA LRC will meet next in early April to begin the development of the opening position.

Additionally, at the meeting of 5 March, GSA LRC members selected Nayiar Shahid (Pharmacology) from amongst the members to serve as Vice-Chair. They also reviewed a projected timeline associated with the upcoming collective agreement negotiations and discussed means to advance education about and awareness of the collective agreement.

In closing, there are some vacancies on the GSA LRC that will be advertised shortly to academically-employed graduate students. I ask you all to encourage your academically-employed graduate student colleagues to consider applying to serve on the GSA LRC.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Shanawaz Mohammad, Vice-President Labour and Chair of the GSA LRC

**GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Chantal Labonté
Date: 13 March 2020

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope that this monthly report finds you well. As you are most likely aware, and as others report, the most recent Government of Alberta budget resulted in yet another cut, this time of 11%, to University funding. Many budget-related decisions that will impact graduate students (e.g., access to RAships, TAships, sessional teaching) will be made at the faculty level. As graduate student leaders, you each play an important role in advocating for consultation with graduate students within your respective faculties and departments, and in organizing your colleagues and peers to attend these consultations to share their concerns and ideas on how to best move forward. These faculty-level consultations have begun, if they have not already occurred. If you are in a faculty where it is not clear whether graduate students will be included in ongoing consultations, I encourage you to use your voice and reach out to faculty leadership.

I am pleased to provide you with highlights and updates on some of the areas and initiatives I focused on over the past three weeks. Please find a full list of the meetings I have attended attached to this report.

COVID-19

Since January, the University has been working to ensure that its pandemic plans are in place, focusing on preparedness on campus, preparedness in residence, and planning for the University Health Centre. The Office of the Dean of Students, among other stakeholders, has been in contact with Alberta Health Services and the Medical Officer of Health. As you may be aware, on March 7, 2020, the University called for all travel outside of Alberta not considered vital to the academic mission of the University to be suspended. As a result, I, alongside GSA staff, have decided to align our Academic Travel Grant to the recommendation of the University. At this time, we will only approve applications for travel within Alberta.

The situation around COVID-19 is changing rapidly. I encourage you to keep updated, as it relates to our University community, through the University website: <https://www.ualberta.ca/services/health-centre/coronavirus-info/index.html>

E-Scooters on Campus

The E-Scooters on Campus Working Group has released a survey to the University community. The survey will remain open until March 19, 2020. A link to the survey is available in our GSA newsletter. The survey results will guide the Working Group's recommendations as to whether the University should allow e-scooters to be used on campus.

I welcome any questions or concerns regarding this report. Please do not hesitate to share your suggestions and comments regarding any student service-related issue that you or anyone from your department may be experiencing.

Thank you,

Chantal Labonté
VP Student Services

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 24 February and 16 March (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

25 February	Welcoming Campus Community Working Group
26 February	Suicide Prevention Framework Communications Toolkit Working Group
26 February	Days of Action (DoA) Committee
26 February	Dean of Students' Advisory Committee (DAC)
27 February	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
27 February	World Social Justice Day
27 February	Meeting with K Friese, Associate Dean of Students
28 February	GSA Coffee Break
5 March	Student Advisors' Conference
5 March	Team Dinner with Studentcare
6 March	Suicide Prevention Framework (SPF) Postvention Session
9 March	University Pride Parade
10 March	E-Scooters on Campus Meeting
12 March	Campus Food Bank Board

**GSA Chief Returning Officer
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Amritha Prasad
Date: 13 March 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

The report below serves as the written report that GSA Policy (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, Officer Portfolios, Section D.POL.10.1.e.ii) stipulates the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) will provide following the GSA General Election. This report also serves as my procedural report, as required by GSA Policy (Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.14.1).

I am pleased to report that the 2020 GSA General Election ran smoothly. There were a few questions from candidates and from graduate students at large concerning the stipulations of GSA Bylaw and Policy and, as per those governing documents, the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) was consulted whenever an answer was not readily addressed in GSA Bylaw and Policy. No formal complaints were received, which allowed us to release the official results on Friday, 28 February 2020.

The GSA ERC will be meeting in the coming weeks to debrief but I am not anticipating that any significant amendments to GSA Bylaw and Policy, or procedures associated with the administration of the election will need to be brought forward.

The total voter turnout for the 2020 GSA General Election was 8.1%, which represents a decrease from voter turnout in both 2019 (12.7%) and 2018 (13.4%).

I would like to thank all of the members of the GSA ERC for their contributions and efforts.

Best,
Amritha Prasad, Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Nominating Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Radim Barta
Date: 13 March 2020

Dear Council Colleagues,

The report from the GSA Nominating Committee (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

Memorandum to GSA Councillors

There are a number of vacancies on GSA Standing Committees for GSA Councillors (Departmental Councillors and Councillors-at-Large). These positions play a pivotal role in the GSA's ongoing efforts to keep its processes transparent and itself accountable, since GSA Councillors on these committees help maintain clear and consistent connection between GSA Council and GSA Standing Committees. Long-term vacancies, such as the ones currently existing on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB), adversely impact these efforts.

It is important to note that the time commitment for each of these committees varies greatly. While the GSA ERC meets regularly throughout the year (every two (2) to three (3) months, with a busy period during October and March, where meetings may happen more frequently), the GSA ACB only meets in the case of a complaint made against a GSA Officer or an appeal made of a Chief Returning Officer's decision in the GSA General Election.

New members are provided with as much training as they require in addition to the ongoing support provided by GSA management and staff to the GSA Standing Committees and their members. **These commitments are also a great opportunity to add to your CV/resume.**

On behalf of the GSA NoC, GSA NoC Chair Radim Barta strongly encourages GSA Councillors to consider the next round of vacancies, which will be circulated to GSA Council via email in March 2020. Questions can be directed to GSA NoC Chair Radim Barta at radim@ualberta.ca or GSA Elections Coordinator Monica Brzak at gsanomco@ualberta.ca.

GSA Standing Committees

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 28 February 2020 and 6 March 2020 with a nomination deadline of 10 March 2020. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

2) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair (One (1) GSA ACB Member Position)

Information regarding the Chair position for one (1) GSA ACB Member was circulated via email to current GSA ACB members on 28 February 2020 and 6 March 2020 with a nomination deadline of 10 March 2020. **One (1) nomination was received. There will be a paper ballot vote. See Item 8 – Nominee for GSA ACB Chair.**

3) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (One (1) GSA Councillor Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 28 February 2020 and 6 March 2020 with a nomination deadline of 10 March 2020. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

External Committees

1) Faculty of Arts Health and Safety Committee (One (1) Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) Faculty of Arts graduate student was circulated via email to Faculty of Arts graduate students on 27 February 2020 and 6 March 2020 with a nomination deadline of 10 March 2020. **Three (3) nominations were received; the GSA NoC voted on the nominees on Thursday, 12 March 2020.**

2) General Faculties Council Standing Committee (Fourteen (14) Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the position for one (1) Faculty of Arts graduate student was circulated via the GSA Newsletter on 6 March 2020 and 13 March 2020 with a nomination deadline of 16 March 2020. **No nominations have been received. These vacancies will be advertised again.**

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Jennifer Bertrand
Date: 13 March 2020

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

Since the last GSA Council meeting the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) has been supporting the Chief Returning Officer (GSA CRO) and the Deputy Returning Officer in all matters pertaining to the 2020 GSA General Elections (as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, Section I.POL.18.1, “the GSA ERC will advise the CRO on all matters pertaining to GSA General Elections”). You can find more information about the 2020 GSA General Election in the GSA CRO’s report.

The GSA ERC will meet in April to debrief the 2020 GSA General Election. As the CRO notes in her report, we are not anticipating any significant amendments to GSA Bylaw and Policy but will discuss possible future strategies to increase voter turnout. As the CRO notes, we saw a decrease in voter turnout this year, despite the best efforts of the GSA ERC to spread awareness about the election and encourage voting and this will be a topic that the GSA ERC will discuss further.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Bertrand, Chair of the GSA ERC

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the 16 March 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 13 March 2020

Dear GSA Council Members,

The office staff's main focus since the last meeting of GSA Council has been providing support for the Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee with respect to the administration of the 2020 GSA General Election. We have also begun planning for the beginning of the terms of the new team of Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) that will happen at the start of May. In order to facilitate this transition, the office prepares a transition manual for incoming DEOs, hosts a series of information sessions (similar to those offered during Early Call but more in-depth and tailored slightly to individual portfolios), arranges for job shadowing among DEOs, and coordinates a day long session with current and incoming DEOs to facilitate information sharing and strategic planning. This year's transition program will begin on 23 March and continue for the month of April. As always, we continue to provide support for the DEOs as they engage with University administration and government (especially important in the climate of large budget cuts to the institution) and pursue initiatives in their respective portfolios.

We are also engaged in the process of planning the GSA's annual Awards Night. This event, one of the largest and the most prestigious events held by the GSA, honours the recipients of the various GSA Recognition Awards. In addition to our award winners, we are looking forward to the attendance of various members of University administration.

Finally, we have recently welcomed Erika Heiberg into the position of Associate Director and this will be her first GSA Council. I hope you will all join me in welcoming Erika to the GSA office support team.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Best,

Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, 26 February 2020

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 19 February 2020:

Strategic

- Forward planning for transition in April-May 2020.
- Support for GSA Council and associated post-meeting follow up.
- Providing Budget 101 sessions.
- Circulation of a GSA special bulletin.
- Training of new members of the GSA Labour Relations Committee and preparing for an upcoming meeting of the GSA Labour Relations Committee.
- Ongoing discussions with the University concerning the negotiating process for the GSAP and GSSF.
- Support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the Chief Returning Officer as they administer the 2020 GSA General Election – voting opened on Tuesday.
- Human resources work.
- Reviewing meeting materials associated with various governance bodies.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes (discussion of next steps concerning the next round of collective bargaining and securing representation from the GSA’s legal firm as a professional negotiator) and contacting a consultant concerning best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, growth, and utilization (awaiting a response, will reach out to someone else shortly).

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning for GSA Awards Night.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (1 GSA Councillor) and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (1 GSA Councillor) and begin the annual General Faculties Council replenishment process).
- Facebook = 1,425 likes (up 0 from 19 February) and 1,512 followers (up 0 from 19 February); Facebook posts reached 348 users last week and our “post engagement” count was 27. Twitter = 1,006 followers (down 2 from 19 February); our tweets earned 1,100 “impressions” over the past week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 January. New granting periods open 1 April 2020.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 4 March 2020

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 26 February 2020:

Strategic

- Forward planning for transition in April-May 2020.
- Preparing for the first mailing of GSA Council meeting materials.
- Updating Health and Dental 101 materials in advance of hosting sessions.
- Drafting a statement concerning tuition increases for review by the President.
- Training of new members of the GSA Labour Relations Committee and preparing for an upcoming meeting of the GSA Labour Relations Committee (meeting scheduled for Thursday).
- Support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the Chief Returning Officer as they administer the 2020 GSA General Election – official results released on 28 February.
- Human resources work.
- Reviewing meeting materials associated with various governance bodies.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes (discussion of next steps concerning the next round of collective bargaining and securing representation from a legal firm as a professional negotiator) and contacting a consultant concerning best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, growth, and utilization (awaiting a response, will reach out to someone else shortly).

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning for GSA Awards Night.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (1 GSA Councillor), the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (1 GSA Councillor), and Councillors-at-Large (7 vacancies), and beginning the annual General Faculties Council replenishment process).
- Facebook = 1,428 likes (up 3 from 26 February) and 1,517 followers (up 5 from 26 February); Facebook posts reached 490 users last week and our “post engagement” count was 68. Twitter = 1,007 followers (up 1 from 26 February); our tweets earned “2,500 impressions” over the past week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = applications closed, \$10,891 disbursed and 14 applications funded. New granting periods open 1 April 2020.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 11 March 2020

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 4 March 2020:

Strategic

- Forward planning for transition (setting the transition event date, reviewing material for distribution, scheduling 101s for incoming DEOs, etc).
- Discussing the impact of COVID-19 on GSA Academic Travel Grants.
- Preparing for the second mailing of GSA Council meeting materials.
- Support for a meeting of the GSA Labour Relations Committee and associated follow up work.
- Updating Health and Dental 101 materials in advance of hosting sessions.
- Review of the draft agreement with Studentcare.
- Revising the statement concerning tuition increases and the University's budget based on feedback provided by GSA Board members.
- Support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the Chief Returning Officer as they administer the 2020 GSA General Election (scheduling a post-election debrief meeting, creating an official record, etc).
- Reviewing meeting materials associated with various governance bodies.
- Preparing an email vote for the GSA Governance Committee.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes (discussion of next steps concerning the next round of collective bargaining and securing representation from Chivers Carpenter as a professional negotiator) and contacting a consultant concerning best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, growth, and utilization (have received no responses so will reassess how best to move forward, ab-GPAC is currently doing some research so this could serve as a possible jumping off point).

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning for GSA Awards Night.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies for on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (1 GSA Councillor), the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (1 GSA Councillor), and Councillors-at-Large (7 vacancies), and filling 14 positions as part of the annual General Faculties Council replenishment process).
- Facebook = 1,429 likes (up 1 from 4 March) and 1,519 followers (up 2 from 4 March); Facebook posts reached 476 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 150. Twitter = 1,009 followers (up 2 from 4 March); our tweets earned "2,700 impressions" over the past week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = applications closed, \$10,891 disbursed and 14 applications funded. New granting periods open 1 April 2020.