

**GSA Council Meeting AGENDA**  
Monday, 18 October 2021 at 6:00 pm  
Held online via Zoom

*The GSA and the University of Alberta reside on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway, Saulteaux, Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. In acknowledging this traditional territory and its significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived and continue to live upon it, we recognize its longer history that reaches beyond colonization and the establishment of European colonies and recognize the GSA's ongoing collective responsibility in working with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) peoples and what that means for the work of the GSA as it aims to practice the principles of being Good Relations with FNMI peoples, Nations, communities, and lands.*

**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 GSA Management are emailed the Friday before a Monday meeting so that the content is as current as possible.

**Speaker Lauren Hill in the Chair**

**OPEN SESSION**

**Attached  
Numbered Pages**

1. Approval of the 18 October 2021 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 20 September 2021 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 20 September 2021 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 - 2.6**

**GSA Council Member Announcements**

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

**Action Item**

5. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers (*suggested time: 5 min*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item.**

*Attachments:*

- i. Outline of Issue
- ii. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers – Track Changes Document

**5.0**

**5.1**

**Discussion Items**

6. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2021-2022: Update to GSA Council (*suggested time: 30 min*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item.**

*Attachment:*

- i. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2021-2022: Update to GSA Council

**6.0 - 6.3**

7. Academic Restructuring Update (*suggested time: 5 min*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item.**

**Elections** (*suggested time: 5 min*)

8. GSA Council Elections  
**Kenzie Gordon (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item.**

GSA Standing Committees

- a. GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) (3 Councillor vacancies)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominee for the GSA GC **8.0 - 8.1**

**Reports** (*suggested time: 15 min*)

9. President (**Anas Fassih, President**)
- i. President's Report **9.0 - 9.1**
  - ii. GSA Board Report **9.2**
  - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report **9.3**
  - iv. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusions Committee Report **9.4**
  - v. GSA Governance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
10. Vice-President Academic (**Kathy Haddadkar, Vice-President Academic**)
- i. Vice-President Academic's Report **10.0 - 10.2**
11. Vice-President External (**Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, Vice-President External**)
- i. Vice-President External's Report **11.0 - 11.1**
  - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report **11.2**
12. Vice-President Labour (**Jessica Grenke, Vice-President Labour**)
- i. Vice-President Labour's Report **12.0 - 12.1**
  - ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report **12.2**
13. Vice-President Student Services (**Pareesh Kumar, Vice-President Student Services**)
- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report **13.0 - 13.1**
14. Senator (**Peter Iselese, Senator**)
- iii. Senator's Report (**no written report at this time**)
15. Speaker (**Lauren Hill, Speaker**)
- i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
16. Chief Returning Officer (**Muneeb Mohiuddin, Chief Returning Officer**)
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**no written report at this time**)
17. GSA Nominating Committee (**Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report **17.0 - 17.1**
18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report **18.0**
19. GSA Management (**Courtney Thomas, Executive Director**)
- i. Executive Director's Report **19.0 - 19.8**

**Question Period**

20. Written Questions (**none received**)

Prepared by E Heiberg for GSA Council 18 October 2021

**21. Oral Questions**

**Adjournment**

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, 20 September 2021 at 6:00 pm  
Held online via Zoom

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Anas Fassih (President)	Saeed Siddik (Councillor-at-Large)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Braden Chow; Shayla Mosley; Angela Kong (Oncology)
Kathy Haddadkar (VP Academic)	Madeleine Fleming (Biochemistry)	Kirsten Mason; Janan Assaly (History, Classics & Religious Studies)	Alexia Maheux (Pharmacology)
Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa (VP External)	Andrew Cook (Biological Science)	Jessica Kennedy (Human Ecology)	Fadumo Isse (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Jessica Grenke (VP Labour)	Saveta Cartwright (Business MBA)	Matt Ormandy (KSR)	Spencer Hayden (Philosophy)
Paresh Kumar (VP Student Services)	Jennifer Sloan (Business PhD)	Teresa Kumblathan (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Zoe Frank (Physical Therapy)
Lauren Hill (Speaker)	Kazuki Ueda (Cell Biology)	Kim Jones (Library & Information Studies)	Telisa Courtney (Political Science)
Sana Amjad (Deputy Speaker)	Karen Hoy (Chemistry)	Matt Kelley (Linguistics)	Huda Al-Shamali (Psychiatry)
Muneeb Mohiuddin (CRO)	Michelle Gauthier (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Alain Gervais (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Angela Ma (Psychology)
Sophie Shi (DRO)	Nathalia Fernandes Fagundes (Dentistry)	David Gordon (Mechanical Engineering)	Naima Riaz (Public Health)
Peter Isesele (Senator)	Xavia Publius (Drama)	Luthfia Friskie (Media and Technology Studies)	Kathryn Lambert (Rehabilitation Science)
Laura Manerus (Councillor-at-Large)	Avni Patel (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Adrienne Watson (Medical Genetics)	Elena Schaefer (Renewable Resources)
Sanhita Pal (Councillor-at-Large)	Kasjan Koziak (Economics)	Asna Latif (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Hotaka Kobori (REES)
Janmejy Rao (Councillor-at-Large)	Nicole Patrie (Educational Policy Studies)	Billy Wang (Medicine)	Celine Beaulieu (Sociology)
Sabrina Rashid Sheonty (Councillor-at-Large)	Lauren Trafford (Educational Psychology)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	Lindy Schaffrick; Kasra Shayeganpour (Surgery)

Guests: Steven Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic, University of Alberta); Maria Bartoli (Business MBA; nominee for GSA BFC); Sabrin Bashir (Pediatrics; nominee for CAL, GSA BFC, GSA NoC); Hope Eze (English and Film Studies; nominee for CAL); Sabrina Foerstner (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology); Shing Kit Lao (Internetworking; nominee for GSA BFC); Devan Prithipaul (Political Science; nominee for Arts Dean Selection Committee); Solbee Seo (Mechanical Engineering; nominee for GSA BFC); Dweej Nimesh Shah (Mechanical Engineering; nominee for CAL); Qiuyu Sun (Pediatrics; nominee for GSA ERC, GSA NoC); Elisabeth Kezia Widjaja (AFNS; nominee for GSA ERC, GSA NoC).

Speaker Lauren Hill in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

**Approval of Agenda****1. Approval of the 20 September 2021 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 20 September 2021 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 17 September 2021. J Kennedy **MOVED**; A Cook **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Prepared by M Toghrai and F Robertson for GSA Council 20 September 2021

**Approval of Minutes****2. Minutes from the 19 July 2021 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 19 July 2021 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 10 September 2021. J Kennedy **MOVED**; K Haddadkar **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**Changes in GSA Council Membership****3. Changes in GSA Council Membership**

- i. **Introduction of New GSA Council Members:** A Ma (Psychology); A Kong (Oncology); C Beaulieu (Sociology); H Al-Shamali (Psychiatry); F Isse (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences); K Koziak (Economics); N Fernandes Fagundes (Dentistry); J Assaly (History, Classics & Religious Studies); A Latif (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** M Kelley (Linguistics); B Chow (Oncology); Z Franks (Physical Therapy).

**GSA Council Member Announcements**

4. **GSA Council Member Announcements:** None.

**Presentation****5. Exceptional Tuition Increase Proposals**

A Fassih (President) presented the item and introduced the guest, Dr. S Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic). Dr. Dew began by expressing his pleasure at joining GSA Council, and his regret that it was under less than ideal circumstances. Moving to the topic at hand, Dr. Dew noted that international tuition was not directly regulated, but with regards to domestic tuition at the University of Alberta, it may only ever increase at the same rate as inflation. The Minister of Advanced Education could overrule that, but the current provincial government—in accordance with the recommendations of the 2019 MacKinnon Report on Alberta's Finances—had shifted to a model where students carry more of the burden of the cost of post-secondary education. In February 2021, the Minister informed Albertan post-secondary institutions that it would entertain proposals for exceptional tuition increases. Previously, the Minister of Advanced Education had opened this call in 2014, though no exceptional increases were introduced due to the government changing, and before that in 2010. Normally, the government was able to give post-secondary institutions 8-12 months lead time to allow for plenty of consultation. This time, proposals were due for presentation to the Minister in June 2021, which called for an abbreviated process. The Minister then received some feedback from the University and various stakeholders, so in August he asked for further consultation and specifically, he asked the University of Alberta for a procedural change in our governance: that the proposal be submitted to the Board of Governors (BoG) prior to submitting them to the government. Traditionally, this process was reversed. Now, the BoG would be consulted at their meeting of 15 October 2021, and the deadline to submit our proposal to the government was amended to 29 October 2021.

Consultation had happened in a range of ways, including online surveys and townhalls, and the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC) had also been utilized in this fashion. TBAC has representatives from the GSA and the Students' Union (SU), as well as University administration. The 12 proposed exceptional increases, which were slated for implementation in Fall 2022, were all professional programs from a range of disciplines including Dentistry, Medicine, Engineering, and in the case of the graduate programs, the MBA program, MEng programs, and the MED program in Counselling Psychology (both course- and thesis-based streams). With these in particular, there was a question of increasing tuition and a commensurate increase in resources to bring us in line with other U-15 schools across the country.

In the ensuing discussion, members raised a number of questions including but not limited to: what sort of shifts exactly would graduate students see with these increases (to use the MBA for an example, the current tuition was approximately \$12,000, whereas at other U-15 schools it was around \$50,000 which enabled Western or Toronto to bring in world experts in marketing theory, or to bring in Ernst and Young boardroom executives); that students had the sense that a lot of transformations were happening and it has felt rushed, between the cut to funding, the subsequent restructuring, and now this and did the University share this view (the current government was one with a strong fiscal agenda and as a result, changes that have been happening in, say, Ontario over the past decade were happening here in two years); how were these programs specifically chosen to be the subject of exceptional tuition increases (the need for additional resources and the subsequent exceptional tuition increase was generated at the faculty level and brought to the office of the Provost); and how did the University justify its equity, diversity, and inclusion priorities with making post-secondary education more inaccessible (the University was increasing its

financial aid for domestic students so the reality was that with this higher tuition, only students for whom financial cost was not a barrier were being affected). A Fassih thanked Dr. Dew for his time.

### Action Items

#### **6. Changes to Coverage Under the GSA Health and Dental Plan**

P Kumar (Vice-President Student Services) presented the item and noted that the guest, Robyn Paches (Program Manager, Studentcare) was unexpectedly unable to be in attendance.

P Kumar reminded GSA Council that during the summer, members requested additional psychological services added to the Health and Dental Plan, and to expand accepted practitioners. A quote from Studentcare to add Canadian Clinical Counsellors included no additional cost. As such, Clinical Counsellor would be added as an eligible practitioner for psychological benefits at no additional cost to the existing plan starting 1 September 2021.

GSA Council members asked if a referral would be required for access (Studentcare would be asked and specific details then shared) and if there was a reason this category was not previously included (issue had not been raised previously; once it was raised, we were able to resolve this oversight).

**MOTION:** That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Board, that coverage under the GSA Health and Dental Plan be amended to add Canadian Clinical Counsellors as eligible practitioners to the GSA Health and Dental Plan's Psychology benefit, beginning 1 September 2021 and with the fee associated with the Plan to remain at \$500.36 per Plan member for 2021-2022. A Ma **MOVED**; L Friskie **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

#### **7. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers**

A Fassih (President) presented the item and noted that the changes were editorial in nature and were brought to GSA Council due to the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) being currently unable to function due to inadequate membership despite many efforts to replenish it. There were no questions or comments.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Board, **APPROVE** recommended changes recommended changes to GSA Bylaw, Section D: GSA Officers, as shown in the attached track changes document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council. A Gervais **MOVED**; L Trafford **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

#### **8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers**

A Fassih (President) presented the item and noted the changes were editorial in nature due. There were no questions or comments.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Board, **APPROVE** recommended changes to GSA Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, as shown in the attached track changes document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. A Gervais **MOVED**; L Trafford **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

### Discussion Items

#### **9. Academic Restructuring Update**

A Fassih (President) presented the item and noted that the purpose of the new college model was to streamline administration and leadership; specific details were still being debated. The GSA was advocating to keep the current structure between graduate students, graduate chairs, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). Graduate Chairs played a major role in the graduate student experience, especially in terms of conflict resolution and supervisor relationships. A Fassih noted that the Student Service Centre (SSC) was now up and running; it was meant to serve as a single-entry point for all student issues. Services previously provided by different offices (Office of the Dean of Students, Registrar, FGSR, Field Research Office) could now all be accessed through SSC. SSC was meant to act as a service hub, not to decrease specialized service.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions including, but not limited to: noting a drop in services due to restructuring and the negative impacts already felt, including lack of office space, changes to employment, fewer award notifications; loss of staff resulting in overloaded administrative staff (the loss of a Graduate Chair could have significant negative impacts on graduate students; short notice changes to employment was concerning as these should be under contract, these should be referred to the GSA); to provide clarity around how SSC was supposed to work, and if there was still advising specifically for

graduate students (hub for service delivery; specialized services were still available and graduate students were encouraged to still rely on their existing connections, either within department or FGSR); Associate Graduate Chair positions and the loss of these positions with the move toward de-departmentalized model with fewer administrative positions; Faculty of Education would be moving from four graduate chairs down to one which would negatively impact graduate students (reduction of academic leaders would have an impact on graduate students but since the conversation was ongoing the GSA would continue to advocate for keeping them in place); also within Education, this had already negatively impacted RA and TA appointments, which were significantly delayed; a vote was put forward to move toward non-departmentalized model in Education, which passed in favour of no departments at all, but graduate student representative votes were discarded on a technicality; vote seemed to be conducted in bad faith to disenfranchise graduate student representatives (this was deeply concerning and we look forward to discussing it further; we might need to work directly with the Dean of the Faculty of Education); and the danger of assuming that departments were going to do the right thing.

## Elections

### **10. GSA Council Elections**

Kenzie Gordon (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) presented the item.

- a. Faculty of Arts Dean Selection Committee (1 vacancy)  
Devan Prithipaul (Political Science)

K Gordon asked the nominee the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve on the Faculty of Arts Dean Selection Committee.”

- b. GSA Councillor-at-Large (GSA CAL) (1 Member vacancy)  
Sabrin Bashar (Pediatrics)  
Hope Eze (English and Film Studies)  
Dweej Nimesh Shah (Mechanical Engineering)

K Gordon asked the nominees the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve as a GSA Councillor-at-Large.” GSA Council members then posed questions and the nominees were given the opportunity to respond.

GSA Standing Committees

- c. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (2 Member vacancies)  
Maria Bartoli (Business)  
Sabrin Bashar (Pediatrics)  
Shing Kit Lao (Internetworking)  
Solbee Seo (Mechanical Engineering)
- d. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (1 Member vacancy)  
Nora Alsafi (Biological Sciences)  
Elisabeth Kezia Widjaja (AFNS)  
Qiuyu Sun (Pediatrics)

K Gordon asked the nominees the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve in this GSA position.”

- e. GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (1 Member vacancy)  
Sabrin Bashar (Pediatrics)  
Rose Marie Charuvil Elizabeth (Chemical and Materials Engineering)  
Elisabeth Kezia Widjaja (AFNS)  
Qiuyu Sun (Pediatrics)

Speaker asked the nominees the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve in this GSA position.”

## Reports

### **11. President**

#### **i. President’s Report:**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 September 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Fassih stated that starting November 1, students must provide verification of vaccine or

accommodation (faith or health) or would not be permitted on campus. The GSA had worked hard to support the vaccine mandate, partnering with SU and Alumni to organize a vaccine lottery. A Fassih invited everyone to engage in work that focuses on education campaigns and workshops about the importance of vaccines for safe communities and safe return to campus.

A Fassih also noted that the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, which directed GSA advocacy priorities for the year, would be brought forward for a progress update at the next meeting of GSA Council and the Supervisory Initiative passed at General Faculties Council (GFC) on 20 September with lots of vocal support and would now go forward to the Board of Governors. A Fassih thanked University President Bill Flanagan for his support and especially FGSR Dean Brooke Milne for all of her hard work on this initiative. This was coming to fruition after years of work from previous GSA executives.

Concerning government advocacy, A Fassih noted that the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) and U15 were working on a Memorandum of Understanding and sending letters to the federal government about priority areas – increasing Tri-Council funding, supporting student caregivers, loan forgiveness, and immigration – as many issues affecting graduate students fall under federal rather than provincial jurisdiction. A Fassih also noted work concerning the University's enrolment growth strategy, indicating that while undergraduates were often targeted for growth strategies because they generate revenue, graduate students were excluded and work was ongoing to shift this.

T Courtney expressed concern regarding the recent sexual assault allegation against Ricardo Acuña (A Fassih stated that the GSA was deeply concerned with the allegations and released a statement calling for his resignation, conversations with the University were ongoing).

**ii. GSA Board**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 September 2021. The report stood as submitted.

**iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee**

No written report at this time.

**iv. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report**

No written report at this time.

**v. GSA Governance Committee**

No written report at this time.

**12. Vice-President Academic**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 September 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, K Haddadkar asked that everyone get their vaccine if they had not already and reminded members of the proof of vaccine requirement after November 1. K Haddadkar also expressed her excitement that the Supervisory Initiative passed at GFC and acknowledged the work of the GSA executives that preceded the current team.

**13. Vice-President External**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 September 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M T Bin Mostafa provided highlights about the Edmonton Student Alliance (submitted questions to Mayoral forum to be held at MacEwan); ab-GPAC (priorities for the year had been identified: tuition and funding, childcare and caregiving, AB 20/30, mental health, and eliminating barriers for Indigenous people); and the Residence Advisory Committee (committee agreed to prioritize couples housing given the recent sale of Newton Place).

**ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee**

No written report at this time.

**iii. Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Update to Member Organizations**

No written report at this time.

**14. Vice-President Labour**

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



Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 September 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, J Grenke reported that the GSA was continuing negotiations around service agreements with an outside union. J Grenke also noted ongoing work to engage with graduate student groups; over 40 groups were contacted with 10 responding. Members were encouraged, if affiliated with a graduate student group, to consider inviting the Vice-President Labour to present, or any of the other executives depending on the specific nature of departmental concerns. Email [gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca).

C Baaklini reminded J Grenke of the discussion in his department about GSA Services available within the Student Service Centre; J Grenke responded that the GSA would continue to move those concerns around confidentiality forward and also further explore this issue.

**ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No written report at this time.

**15. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 September 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, P Kumar stated that there was a new state of Public Health Emergency in Alberta and reminded GSA Council members of the Restrictions Exemption Program for businesses starting today. P Kumar also noted that U-Pass ARC card distribution had started and was going well after some hiccups and that Desjardins (insurer under Studentcare for Health and Dental Plan) had changed its carrier code and users would have to update their information at their pharmacy or care provider. T Courtney asked if the GSA could send an email blast, specifically targeting returning students using older cards with the old information and P Kumar noted this would be done.

**16. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

**17. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**18. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.

**19. GSA Nominating Committee**

**i. GSA Nominating Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 September 2021. The report stood as submitted.

**20. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

**ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report**

No written report at this time.

**21. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 September 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas reminded GSA Council members of the number of vacancies currently on several GSA standing committees that were only available for GSA Council members, not the general membership. These would be advertised over email; please consider applying. These positions could only be filled by representatives from GSA Council.

**Question Period**

**22. Written Questions:** None.

**23. Oral Questions**

A Cook expressed concern around the new COVID restrictions and what was allowed or not allowed in terms of TA or lab positions. Many seem to be in-person and many students didn't know their rights or what was expected of them. J Grenke agreed that there was a broad lack of awareness in this regard. Safety in the workplace was a tricky issue and continued to develop but Article 22 in the Collective Agreement did give graduate student workers the right to refuse work they felt was unsafe. The GSA conducted a survey in August to gauge the perception of safety around the return to campus. All of these concerns were well received and work was ongoing. A Fassih added that he met with President Flanagan on 20 September and they discussed mandatory vaccination and strategies for minimizing the burden of enforcement on graduate students and that the GSA was deeply committed to this, especially J Grenke, as the head of the union. A Cook expressed an active lack of enforcement from Deans and Chairs regarding unmasked students and noted that graduate students should not be expected to enforce rules where senior administration did not.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

### Outline of Issue

#### Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw, Section D: GSA Officers

#### **Suggested Motion:**

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

**NOTE:** This is the second reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw. The first reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw were presented at the September 2021 GSA Council meeting.

#### **Background:**

All of these recommended changes are editorial in nature and reflect that the term of office for the GSA Senator has shifted from 1 June-31 May to 1 July-30 June, in alignment with other GSA Council-Elected Officer positions. Normally, the GSA Governance Committee would approve these changes via email vote but, as long-standing vacancies prevent the committee from doing business, these recommended changes must now appear twice before GSA Council, having been recommended to GSA Council by the GSA Board on 1 September 2021.

#### **Jurisdiction:**

##### GSA Bylaw and Policy, 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."*

##### GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.2.2

*"GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council."*

##### GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.POL.3.2.a

*"The GSAB [GSA Board] is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by GSA Council."*

**GSA Bylaw: GSA Officers<sup>1</sup>**

**D.BYL.1 General**

D.BYL.1.1 - D.BYL.1.2.e ... no changes.

D.BYL.1.3 The GSA has the following GSA Council-Elected Officers:

D.BYL.1.3.a The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO),

D.BYL.1.3.b The Senator, and

D.BYL.1.3.c The Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

D.BYL.1.4 - D.BYL.1.4.b ... no changes.

**D.BYL.2 Directly-Elected Officers**

D.BYL.2.1 - D.BYL.2.2.f ... no changes.

**D.BYL.3 GSA Council-Elected Officers**

D.BYL.3.1 Election of CRO, DRO, Senator, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker.

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 GSA Council-Elected Officers on or about 1 May of every year by email to every GSA member.

D.BYL.3.1.c 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.d GSA Council-Elected Officers 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.

No further changes to Section D.BYL.3.1 aside from renumbering.

D.BYL.3.3 - D.BYL.3.3.c ... no changes.

D.BYL.3.3.d Duties of the DRO and Deputy Speaker are to assist the CRO and Speaker as needed.

No further changes.

Provided these changes to GSA Bylaws are approved, GSA Policy, Section D.POL.12.2.a, will be editorially amended as it directly cites the amended sections of GSA Bylaw.

**Commented [CT1]:** All changes are editorial, to reflect that the term of office for the GSA Senator has shifted from 1 June-31 May to 1 July-30 June, in alignment with other GSA Council-Elected Officer positions.

**Commented [CT2]:** Editorial, both the DRO and Deputy Speaker should be listed as Council-Elected Officer positions.

**Commented [CT3]:** Editorial, both the DRO and Deputy Speaker should be listed as Council-Elected Officer positions.

**Deleted:** , CRO, and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)

**Deleted:** Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO

**Deleted:** D.BYL.3.1.c

**Deleted:** → 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.<sup>¶</sup>

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**Deleted:** The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO

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**Deleted:** D.BYL.3.2 → Election of Senator

**Deleted:** <sup>¶</sup>  
D.BYL.3.2.a → GSA Council-Elected Officers will be GSA members.<sup>¶</sup>  
D.BYL.3.2.b → Nominations for Senator will open on or about 1 April of every year. The nomination period will normally be one (1) month.<sup>¶</sup>  
D.BYL.3.2.c → 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. <sup>¶</sup>  
D.BYL.3.2.d → The Senator will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council, for a term lasting from 1 June to 31 May of the following year. <sup>¶</sup>  
D.BYL.3.2.e → In the case of a resignation or other vacancy in the Senator position, 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. <sup>¶</sup>

**Deleted:** and DRO

**Deleted:** and CRO

<sup>1</sup> Amended by the Annual General Meeting on 28 March 2011. Amended by GSA Council on 14 March 2011, 11 June 2012, 20 January 2014, 18 June 2018, and 20 April 2020. Editorial revisions made by the GSA Governance Committee on 12 July 2015, 3 April 2017, and 6 October 2017.

## 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 18 October 2021 Update to GSA Council

Each spring the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (hereafter referred to, informally, as the student executive team) work with the GSA Board to produce a Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The SWP is the document that steers and prioritizes the work and initiatives of the GSA, and is subject to revision as opportunities arise, shifting directions as needed. The SWP reflects the GSA's vision and mission to advocate for all graduate students to the University of Alberta and the Alberta Government for a safe, supportive, respectful, accessible, and inclusive community that fosters the multi-faceted roles played by graduate students.

This year, in order to develop a set of strategic priorities that reflect the changing needs of graduate students, the student executive team invited graduate students to participate in a townhall event on 17 May 2021 and circulated a feedback survey to graduate students during the period of 7-18 May 2021. These consultation initiatives yielded a significant amount of feedback and helped shape the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. The final document was approved by the GSA Board in late June and received by the GSA Council for information at their July meeting. It can now be viewed [on the GSA website](#).

The student executive team will continue to engage in ongoing conversation with the GSA Board and GSA Council, and other GSA standing committees, concerning the pursuit of the goals outlined in the SWP. Updates will be provided to GSA Council in October, January, and April; this document is the first of these three updates. A selection of ongoing work and new initiatives pursued and undertaken by the 2021-2022 student executive team (GSA President, Anas Fassih, GSA VP Academic, Kathy Haddadkar, GSA VP External, Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, GSA VP Labour, Jessica Grenke, and GSA VP Student Services, Paresh Kumar), in accordance with the 2021-2022 SWP, can be found below.

- 
- Recognizing that the foundation of effective advocacy involves building new and sustaining existing relationships and ties to stakeholders, the student executive team dedicated much of the Spring/Summer 2021 term to connecting with members of University Administration. These included, among others, President and Vice-Chancellor Bill Flanagan; Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Steven Dew; Vice-Provost and Dean of Students André Costopoulos; Vice-President (External Relations), Elan MacDonald; Vice-President (Facilities & Operations), Andrew Sharman; Vice-President (Research and Innovation), Aminah Robinson Fayek; Vice-President (University Services & Finance), Todd Gilchrist; Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Brooke Milne; Chancellor Peggy Garritty;
  - Similarly, the President is dedicated to bringing the graduate student perspective to University Administration through his work as the sole representative of the GSA on the Board of Governors (BoG) and a number of associated standing committees;
  - In the face of proposed exceptional tuition increases to a number of graduate programs, the GSA engaged in thorough consultation with graduate students and conveyed concerns to University Administration and the government (making a formal submission of concerns to the Ministry of Advanced Education). These concerns focused primarily on the abbreviated nature of the proposal process and the absence of adequate consultation with graduate students, particularly those in programs slated for increases, and were shared by our colleagues in the Students' Union (SU) as well as a number of pertinent student groups. This advocacy resulted in the government's decision to inform the University that it needed to do more consultation and to extend the deadline for submitting these proposals to allow for the in-depth consultation which the GSA believes is essential to the success of



# Graduate Students' Association

## University of Alberta

this process. In this vein, the GSA President invited Vice-President (Academic) and Provost, Steven Dew, to attend the 20 September 2021 meeting of GSA Council to inform graduate students of the context of these proposed increases and to answer questions;

- Joining the SU in calling on the University to take action against Ricardo Acuña in the face of a disclosure of misconduct on his part (full statement can be found [here](#));
- Participating in collaboration and discussion—in support of the initiative proposed by the Black Graduate Students' Association—with University External Relations regarding a dedicated scholarship for Black students;
- Awarding an external grant to the University of Alberta's Black, Indigenous, People of Colour Association in support of their establishment and programming;
- The President and VP Student Services are currently engaging in conversations surrounding the establishment of bursaries dedicated to support graduate students with the often-prohibitive cost of technologies essential to learning at the post-secondary level. Discussions are ongoing with the office of the Registrar and the office of the Dean of Students;
- The GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee has decided to consult with the graduate student population on dimensions of EDI that they find most pressing, and what initiatives students would most benefit from in the short term. Work to develop a consultation survey in this regard is ongoing;
- Collaborating alongside the SU and University Administration in supporting the vaccine prize lottery, aimed at renewing the flagging vaccination rates in Edmonton and within the University community. Two graduate students received a tuition waiver, and 100 GSA swag prize packs were also awarded. Further to this, an education campaign will be rolling out soon to help the community make informed choices with regards to vaccination;
- The GSA office returned to offering in-person student services in Triffo Hall, while continuing Virtual Front Desk hours and virtual governance meetings to maintain a high standard of care with regards to public health, as well as accommodate the segment of graduate students unable to return to campus;
- In continuing its slate of virtual events and programming, this year the GSA is launching a series of peer panels to connect new graduate students with experienced ones and to fortify the graduate student community;
- The GSA Labour Relations Committee, with significant input from the VP Labour, has continued efforts to bolster the bargaining power of the Academically-Employed Graduate Students' union through the development of a stewardship network. The logistics of this network, including training, responsibilities, and recruitment, are part of the current priorities;
- The VP Labour has also initiated an engagement project to connect directly with student groups situated within departments or non-departmentalized units who employ graduate students, in order to strengthen connections with union members and empower them as workers;
- In addition to work on the steward network, the GSA began collecting dues from union members effective 1 September 2021, in accordance with the union membership's vote to collect dues and establish a dedicated labour fund to support union activities and strengthen the GSA's bargaining position; and

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# Graduate Students' Association

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- The VP Labour, recognizing the scope of union administration and organization, has engaged in a series of conversations concerning a possible service agreement with a third-party union organization to carry on this work;
- GSA student leadership has dedicated significant energy to the pursuit of positive, collaborative, and fruitful student-supervisor relationships over the past decade. This goal was mirrored by Dr. Brooke Milne (Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean), who began her tenure at the University of Alberta by launching a multi-faceted initiative aimed at standardizing expectations and rate of advancement through graduate programs. The President, along with the VP Academic, have worked with Dr. Milne to support this initiative and to ensure its successful passage through the governing process. After years of work, this initiative was approved by the General Faculties Council at their meeting of 20 September 2021 and will be recommended to the BoG for implementation in January 2022. The GSA will continue to work closely with FGSR on the implementation of these initiatives;
- The President and VP External attended the annual Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Retreat held on 6-8 August 2021, in continued work to strengthen alliance with other graduate student associations across the province, and to chart this year's course;
- In this vein, the GSA is currently engaging in lobbying support for a dedicated immigration stream for international students in Alberta, similar to what currently exists for international students in Ontario. A formal submission for the government's consideration has been submitted;
- The Graduate Student Societies of Canada, a national student association advocacy group, is in the process of formalizing after operating informally for the past year, with the President as a member and staunch supporter of a formal national coalition. Among other priorities, immigration support for international students has been identified as an area worthy of advocacy and the group is developing a submission to government to ask for increased Tri-Council funding and student loan subsidies, as financial barriers are a prominent barrier in education accessibility;
- The GSA President is also engaging in discussions with University Administration to encourage further recognition of graduate students as valuable to the University and its reputation, much in the way that undergraduate students are valued. This recognition would accompany subsequent recruitment efforts;
- The VP External continues to work to sustain and grow the GSA's close ties with Ancillary Services, and engages in frequent discussions about the need for new family-oriented student housing;
- The VP Student Services has dedicated significant time to the U-Pass this year: A new agreement to continue with the U-Pass until 2025 was signed in August 2021, and additionally, Edmonton Transit Service began rollout of the new touchless transit pass, Arc, which warranted additional discussion pertaining to distribution as well as functionality as this new system was launched;
- The GSA Health and Dental Plan received an upgrade at no additional cost to graduate students: coverage now includes Canadian Clinical Counsellors, effective 1 September 2021;
- With mental health being of utmost importance, arguably more than ever before, the GSA continues to advocate for additional supports and increasing accessibility to existing supports in conversations with the office of the Dean of Students, as well as those with the Alberta government. These conversations supplement ongoing work by the VP Student Services as a member of the Days of Action planning committee and the Mental Health Commission of Canada Standard Network; and

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# Graduate Students' Association

University of Alberta

- The student executive team has continued to prioritize its relationships with other University stakeholder associations. These include each student executive's relationship and collaboration with their respective counterpart at the SU; the President's relationship and collaboration with the Non-Academic Staff Association, the Association of Academic Staff of University of Alberta, and the Post-Doctoral Fellows' Association; and the VP External's relationship and collaboration with the Alumni Association, which includes membership on Alumni Council.

The student executive team will continue to move these initiatives forward, as well as pursue other, new initiatives for the fulfilment of the goals outlined in the 2021-2022 SWP. The next update on the SWP will be brought forward to GSA Council in January 2022.



GSA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (GSA GC)  
**GSA GC (THREE (3) POSITIONS FOR GSA COUNCILLORS): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

Information regarding the positions for three (3) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 1 and 7 October 2021 with a nomination deadline of 13 October 2021. One (1) nomination was received. The remaining positions will be readvertised.

The mandate of the GSA GC is “to 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” (GSA Policy, Section F.POL.4.2.a).

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 18 October 2021 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 18 October 2021 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 18 October 2021 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

**Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name. ‘None of the Candidates’ will also be considered a nominee.**

**1. Hope Eze (English and Film Studies)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.POL.4.1.c

*“Three (3) Councillors or recent former Councillors elected by GSA Council as voting members.”*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E.POL.3.1.a

*“The GSA NoC provides GSA Council with the names of nominees to fill vacancies on GSA Standing Committees, ad hoc committees, and subcommittees, unless otherwise noted. All vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement.”*

**The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee is BELOW on page 8.1. The biography and resume is presented as received (ie not edited).**

**NOMINATION FOR THE GSA GC  
(THREE (3) VACANCIES FOR GSA COUNCILLORS)  
One (1) Nominee**

1. **Hope Eze**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA Council (Councillor-at-Large)
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
I want to volunteer to serve on the GSA Governance Committee as a way of getting even more involved with the activities of the GSA. I want to bring innovative suggestions and work with other GSA leaders to continue improving the wellbeing of graduate students at the University of Alberta.	
<b>Bio</b>	
<p>I am Hope Eze, a first-year Ph.D. student at the U of A's Department of English and Film Studies. Prior to coming to the U of A, I had completed a master's program at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, where I served as a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights, Equity and Decolonization. At Brock, I also served as a member of the GSA's Marketing and Communications Committee. In addition to serving on committees at my former university, I also devoted much time to volunteering. I volunteered with the Human Rights and Equity task force to create awareness about human rights on the Brock campus and link survivors of sexual harassment to appropriate resources. I also joined the Brock University Volunteers Association (BUVA) to provide services on campus, which included waiting tables and ushering at events. My volunteerism was not limited to the Brock University campus but extended to the St. Catharines community and Niagara region at large. I joined Days for Girls, a not-for-profit organization devoted to sewing sanitary pads for less-privileged girls and women. I also volunteered with the organizers of Canada Games 2021 (which was later postponed due to COVID) to create awareness for the upcoming games.</p> <p>The skills I garnered from volunteerism as well as serving on different committees at Brock University are what I am bringing to the University of Alberta's GSA Governance Committee. I have also been recently elected as a GSA Councillor-at-Large, and becoming a member of the GSA Governance Committee will be an opportunity for me to serve the U of A graduate students more.</p>	

**President**  
**Report to GSA Council for 18 October 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope this report finds you well. As the University transitions to almost full in-person learning, a myriad of challenges have arisen over the past year, ranging from academic and administrative restructuring to the lasting impacts of the enduring global pandemic. Most graduate students are impacted in one way or another. I endeavor to lessen those challenges on GSA members by gearing my advocacy efforts toward ensuring that the graduate student voice is at the table in conversations on relevant committees.

Now that the University has founded the three new colleges, efforts concentrate on building college offices in alignment with the University's operating model, launched in Spring 2021, operationalizing the Student Service Centre (SSC) as part of the Service Excellence Transformation (SET), and wrapping up discussions with the Academic Leaders Task Group (ALTG). As previously indicated, the latter group was tasked with reducing the number of academic leaders (associate chairs, associate deans) in the new college model. The ALTG members have come up with a set of recommendations regarding the roles and responsibilities of academics in leadership positions that focus on the responsibilities assumed by academic leaders and proposing desired outcomes of the new model. An important topic of discussion included unraveling the thresholds and numbers that would determine the number of academic leaders in each unit (department, faculty, college) across the University. By late October, the group will release a report to the University community for consultation and feedback, which will be combined with the recommendations set by the group to determine the leadership structure of academics in the new college model. Further conversation will focus on how the new college deans set strategic plans about permanence metrics for the three colleges, especially the metric of interdisciplinarity.

As a result of restructuring coupled with another potential cut in the University's budget, the University has submitted proposals to government for Exceptional Tuition Increases (ETI), as I reported earlier. I have been preoccupied with discussions in relevant committees including the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC), Board of Governors Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC), and eventually the Board of Governors (BoG). In addition to voting against the proposals and conveying the frustration of grad students with tuition hikes in these committees, I have also had several meetings with fellow student leaders on the BoG and other sympathetic Board members to unify our advocacy approach to the matter. The ETI proposals passed at the BoG on 15 October 2021 and will be submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education for approval. I will update Council about the GSA's response to this development during our meeting.

I have also had a couple of meetings with key leaders in University Administration including President Bill Flanagan, Provost Steven Dew, and Registrar Melissa Padfield to discuss funding for graduate students. I asked for increasing funding for our Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP), which provides an important set of services using a cost sharing model that sees graduate students pay an annual fee supplemented by a contribution from the University. I'll continue the conversation with the Provost's Office on this matter, as I have a meeting scheduled with Deputy Provost, Wendy Rodgers, to ask if they can increase funding for the GSAP or make a long-term commitment to fund the program instead of the current year-by-year renewal. Conversations also continue with the Registrar about graduate bursaries and financial need funding. Further, a priority of our strategic plan, I strive to convince the Provost that the University should adopt a centralized funding model for graduate students to curb the unequal distribution of funding among graduate students. No grad student should be left behind. This also ties into my constant discussion with the University President about graduate student enrolment and funding in the growth strategy of the University.

This concludes my month of advocacy. Feel free to ask in the GSA Council meeting or reach out to me via email ([gsa.president@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.president@ualberta.ca)) should you have any further questions.

Thank you,  
Anas Fassih, President 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 September and 18 October 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

21 September	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
22 September	Joint Student/University Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-instructional Fees (MNIFs)
22 September	Meeting with S Abourizk, Faculty of Engineering Dean
22 September	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
23 September	Meeting with C Swindlehurst, Chief Strategy Officer
23 September	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
23 September	Meeting with Graduate Students
23 September	Meeting with S Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
23 September	Academic Leaders' Task Group
24 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy and Outreach Committee
27 September	Meeting with J MacKinnon, Chair of the Board Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee (BLRSEC)
27 September	Meeting with C Singh, International Students' Association (ISA) President
27 September	Canadian Graduate Student Alliance
28 September	Meeting with B Simmons, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
28 September	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
29 September	Board Governance Committee (BGC)
29 September	Academic Leaders' Task Group
1 October	Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee (BLRSEC)
4 October	General Faculties Council (GFC) Governance Education Lunch and Learn
4 October	Meeting with University Stakeholder Associations
4 October	PAW Centre Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)
4 October	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
5 October	Meeting with R Ley, Students' Union (SU) President
6 October	Meeting with R Ley and M Dumouchel, Students' Union (SU) President and General Manager
6 October	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
7 October	Academic Leaders' Task Group
7 October	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
8 October	Meeting with President Flanagan
12 October	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
13 October	Meeting with R Ley and M Dumouchel, Students' Union (SU) President and General Manager
13 October	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
13 October	Meeting with the Office of the Registrar re: Graduate Student Bursaries
13 October	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
14 October	Board of Governors (BoG) Development Session
15 October	Board of Governors (BoG)
18 October	Meeting with S Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
18 October	Meeting with T Gilchrist, Vice-President (University Services and Finance)
20 October	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Meeting re: Multi-Year Strategic Work Plan

**GSA Board**  
**Report to GSA Council for the 18 October 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
 From: Anas Fassih, President

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 19 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 19.0-19.8.

**22 September 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

Campus Food Bank; Request for Feedback on a Draft Campus and Community Recreation Survey; GSA Council Debrief; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**29 September 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Board Strategic Work Plan: Update to GSA Council; GSA Annual Report 2020-2021; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**6 October 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Board Strategic Work Plan: Update to GSA Council; Graduate Student Societies of Canada Draft Memorandum of Understanding; Donation Program; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

Members **AGREED** that the GSA would join the Graduate Student Societies of Canada and be a signatory to the associated MoU.

**13 October 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

Peer Panel Events; Potential 2022 International Students' Association Initiated Referendum; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

Members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION**. Members discussed the **Potential 2022 International Students' Association Initiated Referendum**. Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

Communication Between Meetings:

**16 September 2021**

Request for Feedback re GSA Statement re R Acuna and members **AGREED** to release a statement in response to R Acuna in GSA Newsletter.

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 18 October 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) met on 12 October 2021 to receive an update on the GSA's investment portfolio from our ATB investment manager. At this meeting we discussed the need to begin the process of updating our existing investment policy (developed in consultation with our investment manager and last updated in 2016), approaches to ethical investing, and our various options with respect to investing. We will be continuing these conversations at upcoming meetings over the next few months, as well as beginning the process of updating our investment policy.

In advance of the above-noted meeting, GSA BFC members were also consulted, via email, about the ongoing work of the Vice-President Labour and the GSA Labour Relations Committee to sign a service agreement with an external union. Such an agreement will give us access to professional negotiators and researchers to assist us with the upcoming collective bargaining process, access to a well-developed strike and lockout fund, and resources to help with the establishment of our steward network, among other things. The cost associated with such an agreement would be drawn from the recently established GSA Labour Union Fund

The GSA BFC will next meet on 29 October to review and discuss the Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report, which is currently being prepared by the GSA's Financial Team (Courtney Thomas (Executive Director), Shirley Ball (CPA), Dorte Sheikh (Financial Manager), and Erika Heiberg (Associate Director)). This item will come forward to GSA Council for information at the 15 November meeting. We will also host a Budget 101 session in advance of that meeting; anyone interested in learning more about the GSA's budget is encouraged to attend or to contact us if the timing doesn't work for you and you'd like to set up an individualized session.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,  
Anas Fassih, President and Chair of the GSA BFC

**GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 18 October 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC) has most recently developed a survey to help it narrow its focus as it embarks on its first project. This survey will seek consultation from graduate students and request feedback on their experiences and vision for the GSA, the graduate student community, and beyond. With the survey slated to circulate via the GSA newsletter on 15 October 2021, the GSA EDIC expects to meet again in the coming weeks to discuss survey responses as well as the committee's next steps.

Sincerely,

Anas Fassih, President and Chair of the GSA EDIC

**Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for 18 October 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Kathy Haddadkar  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

October has come along quite rapidly. As the world around us continues to evolve, we must remember to take things day by day. I encourage you to find a moment away from your studies to escape to nature and breathe in the colder air with gratitude and peace – even if it's just a minute away from your desk. Like many of you, my academic load has been quite busy this term, so I am especially thankful to my fellow team members for supporting me. While finding this balance has been a unique continued journey, know that I always come with open arms to help fellow graduate students with any academic concerns.

Here are some of my meeting highlights:

**22 September – Working Group on the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Review of Teaching Awards (ERA-WG)**

- The working group was tasked with revising the nomination process for University teaching awards and speaking about further additions regarding the criteria and procedure for adjudicating teaching awards
- The discussion centred around the importance of recognizing that it is our responsibility to focus on the “now,” the why and the how of these perspectives and how they will continue to shape the future of teaching awards at the U of A
- Concerns expressed pertaining to teaching awards included recognizing transparency in nomination processes and adjudication, listing desired outcomes for awards succinctly, creating an atmosphere of value and appreciation for faculty and graduate student recipients, as well as acknowledging work-life-culture integration within the construct of award distribution
- Another topic of direct concern was the need for post-doctorate and graduate sessional instructors to be adequately represented in the creation of multiple awards; again, I spoke to the importance of work-life balance as a graduate student, as well as other topics such as gender disparity and how the teaching system has remained rooted in a patriarchal system
- Additionally, we brainstormed a revised nomination process, which, aside from award disbursement, will help us to carve the future pathways of teaching and instruction at our institution

**23 September – University Research Policy Committee (URPC)**

- Two items were discussed: research service statistics, which relate to projects completed by faculty and graduate students with sole authorship of their projects, and the safeguarding of research as it pertains to faculty
- The group encouraged the implementation of a training group to assist faculty in mitigating issues regarding authorship, amongst other academic elements
- As this meeting was geared towards faculty, I did my best to share my voice as a graduate student researcher

**29 September – General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)**

- Items of note included the GFC Committee Orientation document where the procedural rules and language within the roles and responsibilities document were revisited, as well as further additions to the Taskforce on Student Experience of Teaching and Learning (SETL) report including the consideration of Indigenous initiatives, considerations of the SETL's Framework for Effective Teaching and the need for further involvement with other stakeholders to evaluate this process effectively, which complements the Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Policy also addressed



- In addition, it was noted that this committee will be looking at the “teaching-learning evaluation policy suite” in the coming year to ensure its relevance to the circumstances present for our institution academically speaking at that time. Each of you received an email invitation to attend town halls on this topic, and I encourage you to attend if you are able:
  - **Monday, October 18, 2021 @ 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm MDT**
  - **Tuesday, October 19, 2021 @ 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm MDT**

[Register Here](#)

#### **4 October – General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)**

- This committee meeting focused on two items worthy of note: the first being the deletion of section 65.3 (University of Alberta Student Housing Policy) from the GFC Policy Manual on the basis that this over fifteen-year-old policy does not contain vital information for the campus residential community at the U of A as all pertinent information is already contained in other policies
- The current policy language lacks reference to the subjects of alcohol, death of a member of the university community-university response, discrimination, harassment and duty to accommodate, ethical conduct and safe disclosure, the Helping Individuals at Risk initiative, the protection of minors participating in university programs, and sexual violence
- Considering the proposed deletion of the policy language in section 65.3, these vital pieces of information will be noted on the residence life website
- Additionally, proposed changes to the GFC’s Guiding Documents were also discussed; to which the conversation centred around minor changes within these guiding documents highlighting that a two-thirds majority will be required for approving a motion within the body of the GFC agenda
- Both items have been forwarded to the upcoming GFC meeting for approval

#### **13 October – Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council**

- Items worthy of acknowledgement included general reports from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research as well as the GSA, a discussion of the School of Public Health’s (SPH) request to delete the requirements for comprehensive exams across SPH PhD programs, conversations concerning calendar language for courses extra-to-degree, in addition to those of the language regarding core academic requirements for graduate students at the U of A, academic standing, and academic probation changes

I warmly welcome further discussion and correspondence on this report, as well as any other academic-related matters and can be reached at [gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca).

Respectfully,

Kathy Haddadkar, Vice-President Academic 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21 September and 18 October 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

21 September	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
22 September	Joint Student/University Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs)
22 September	Working Group on the EDI Review of Teaching Awards (ERA-WG)
23 September	GSA General Faculties Council (GFC Caucus)
23 September	University Research Policy Committee (URPC)
23 September	GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
23 September	University Research Policy Committee
29 September	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
4 October	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
5 October	Meeting with H Vallianatos, Associate Dean of Students

## 10.2

7 October	Meeting with a Graduate Student
13 October	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
13 October	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
18 October	Meeting with A Quaye, International Students' Association (ISA) Counterpart

**Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for 18 October 2021**

To: GSA Council  
From: Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I attended two meetings in the last month with the Alumni Careers Committee as part of my involvement with the Alumni Council. The committee is responsible for offering programs such as professional development grants, alumni-to-alumni mentorship program, the What The Job podcast, UAlberta Switchboard (the online community for students, staff and alumni), and Alumni Career and Executive Coaching. Moreover, it also collaborates with the Career Centre to improve existing career services and develop new ones to ensure that all alumni have access to programs that will help them achieve their career goals. Being part of the committee, I had the opportunity to adjudicate 15 applications for professional development grants. It was a fascinating experience to work alongside our alumni for the betterment of the U of A community.

As the chair of the Governance Committee of the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC), I helped in developing two policies for the organization. The first one is the IT Policy that targets making ab-GPAC communications more secure and the second one is the Email Voting Policy, which would help in making sure that quorum is achieved through online voting even if members are not present in the synchronous board meetings. Furthermore, as a director for U of A in ab-GPAC, I advocated for tuition and funding, AB2030, and immigration programs for international students in Alberta to be focused on as strategic priorities. I have been working towards formulating deliverables for these priorities in preparation for the Advocacy Week that is to take place at the end of November this year.

As Kathy also reports, Residence Services have been working with the GSA and SU to rescind a General Faculties' Council policy, which has elements that already exist in University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online (UAPPOL). We have been supportive in the rescinding of this policy and to maintaining our engagement with Residence Services. As part of the conversation with the Residence Advisory Committee (RAC), we will have two meetings solely for the discussion on the RAC budget for the year and use the rest of the year to address the issues we are facing now, including a potential solution for couples housing and other challenges faced by graduate students in residences.

I have also been active in the working group for the Alberta Student Congress, where student leaders from across Alberta will gather to discuss the impact of cuts on education, unprecedented provincial budget cuts, and massive tuition increases, and find out ways to respond together. The congress will take place virtually over Zoom from 10 am to 4 pm on 23 October 2021. The invitation letter and social media graphics for this event have been prepared and we are now working towards securing keynote speakers and volunteers from each host organization (the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), The Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC), and ab-GPAC).

Thank you,  
Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, Vice-President External 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 September and 18 October 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

22 September	Alumni Careers Committee
24 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Governance Committee
27 September	Meeting with K Huising, Associate Vice-President (Campus Services)
28 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
28 September	Meeting with B Simmons, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
29 September	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)

29 September	Edmonton Mayoral Forum
30 September	Alberta Student Post-Secondary Council
1 October	International Students' Association (ISA) All-Members Meeting
4 October	Alberta Congress Working Group
6 October	Alumni Council Meeting
7 October	Student EDI Survey Meeting
12 October	Alberta Congress Working Group
12 October	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
13 October	Alumni Careers Committee
14 October	GSA Emergency Bursary Appeals Committee
15 October	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Meeting
18 October	Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Alberta Congress Working Group

**GSA Awards Selection Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 18 October 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC), with the approval of TD Insurance Meloche Monnex and in pursuant of the GSA's agreement with TD, voted via email on 12 October 2021, to recommend proposed editorial changes to GSA Policy, Section O, to GSA Council. The changes are proposed to ensure the description of the TD sponsored award in GSA Policy align with that provided in the GSA's agreement with TD with respect to the name of the award and the noted adjudication criteria. The purpose and value of the award remain unchanged. These recommended changes will be before GSA Council for consideration at the November meeting.

Sincerely,

Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, Vice-President External and Chair of the GSA ASC

**Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the 18 October 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Jessica Grenke  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

The last month has been a busy one with lots of exciting developments on the labour front. The three main activities I'd like to share are: our formal signing of a service agreement with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC); the election of faculty stewards; and our approval of a collective bargaining negotiation team.

### **Service Agreement with PSAC**

We have entered a service agreement with PSAC. This partnership is in anticipation of the GSA losing its exclusive right to represent Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs) at the University of Alberta in July 2022. We seek to capitalize on this loss of exclusivity to enhance our capacity as a union in the current year. Combining the extensive expertise and experience in union advocacy of PSAC with the GSA's knowledge of graduate student worker needs will allow us to better serve you. This service agreement involves payment of a flat fee for use of existing PSAC resources including a professional negotiation team, researchers, outreach programs, and a strike fund. This also means that the three major graduate student unions of Alberta (University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, and us) are all partnered with PSAC. We plan to leverage this solidarity to further enhance our advocacy power.

### **Faculty Stewards**

Thank you to all who spread the word and volunteered to serve as faculty stewards! This is our first opportunity as a union to implement a 'shop stewards'-type program to build a bottom-up union structure. The Collective Agreement allows for 15 faculty stewards, and after our initial recruitment efforts we will have 5 spots filled from the Faculty of Science, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Studies, Engineering, Native Studies, and Medicine and Dentistry. If you are interested in spreading awareness of graduate student worker rights and are from a faculty not listed, please get in touch to apply. You have the opportunity to make a real difference and work with an amazing team.

### **Appointment of the GSA Negotiating Team**

In anticipation of collective bargaining (set to formally begin this November), the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) has approved the membership of the GSA Negotiating Team. The team consists of two GSA LRC representatives (Dayton Chen and Josephine Taiye Bolaji), a professional negotiator from PSAC, Erika Heiberg (our GSA Associate Director), and myself. Our bargaining mandate is directly based on your input. We will hold two town halls this week and will also distribute an email survey to collect your input. Please participate so far as you are able. It is an exceptionally challenging time to advocate for graduate student worker rights and our negotiating power is directly tied to our member involvement. Thank you to those who have already reached out via email and via my meetings with graduate student groups with bargaining priorities.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, comments, and ideas. We are here for you.

In solidarity,  
Jessica Grenke, Vice President Labour, 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 September and 18 October 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

23 September	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
27 September	GSA Labour 101 Session
28 September	University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee (UASSC)
29 September	GSA Labour 101 Session
29 September	Edmonton Mayoral Forum
30 September	Meeting with the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA)
4 October	Meeting with a Departmental GSA
4 October	Meeting with a Departmental GSA
4 October	Meeting with a Departmental GSA
6 October	Meeting with a Departmental GSA
6 October	Orientation Presentation to the Biology GSA
7 October	GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC)
12 October	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
13 October	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
13 October	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
18 October	Meeting with a Departmental GSA

**GSA Labour Relations Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 18 October Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Jessica Grenke  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) met on 7 October 2021. Members discussed the final version of the service agreement that was signed on the same day with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). Members from the PSAC joined the meeting to discuss moving forward with implementing the agreement.

Members also discussed the process for reviewing faculty steward applications and potential training. The PSAC offers various training sessions that we hope to utilize in training stewards. Following the meeting, GSA LRC members received the first round of faculty steward applications to review for appointment. Our hope is to have one steward in each faculty to help extend the reach of the union and expand awareness and education of the GSA as the labour union for Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs).

Members next discussed the composition of the GSA Negotiating Team as we will be initiating collective bargaining shortly. Members then discussed over email the final composition of the team. We are excited to receive support and resources from the PSAC for collective bargaining, including a chief negotiator, researcher, and resource staff to assist with this process. We anticipate the PSAC will be a very valuable partner as we move to negotiate our next collective agreement and look forward to working closely with them on this.

Finally, members reviewed the timeline for collective bargaining and were encouraged to attend upcoming townhalls to gather feedback for bargaining priorities. All current AEGSs have received notifications concerning the composition of the GSA Negotiating Team and information about the upcoming townhalls. Please encourage members in your departments to attend if they are eligible.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Grenke, Vice-President Labour and Chair of the GSA LRC



**Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for 18 October 2021**

To: GSA Council  
From: Paresh Kumar  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you all are doing well and fall is treating you well. I am happy to share a few highlights from the meetings I attended last month:

- [CampusReady Pass](#): All our community members are asked to declare their vaccination status and also upload their proof of vaccination. This will provide them with a campus pass which acts as a green signal to go to campus.
- Rapid testing: Until the end of October, rapid testing will be available for those who are not vaccinated or are partially vaccinated. Starting in November, rapid testing will be accessible only to those who have an approved exemption. Also, the rapid testing requirement has now been updated to within 72 hours instead of once a week.
- The Dean of Students' (DoS) office is reaching out to professors to accommodate students on a temporary basis who are trying to get vaccinated but are not able to due to appointment availability.
- The DoS office is extracting the list of unvaccinated people from the CampusReady Pass application and contacting them to confirm whether or not it is mistakenly recorded. Also, it has been communicated to those individuals that they need to be fully vaccinated if they are planning to campus in the next month or so.
- The International Students' Services (ISS) office raised concerns regarding the vaccine mandate, as international students need to be in Canada at least 2 months ahead to guarantee being fully vaccinated before winter term classes start. But if we provide students letters to attend, they might ask for extra funding for the 2 months. Also, this kind of restriction might change students' minds to come to the University of Alberta, as it may seem like we are not trying to accommodate them.
- We had a great discussion with Dr. Melissa Padfield, University Registrar, regarding the graduate technology bursaries. We discussed some ways to provide graduate students with more options regarding support for technology, such as laptops or software requirements. We will be looking into it and discuss the best possible solution for graduate students.
- A team is working on creating a policy for students who are not following the safety protocols inside labs/classes, they might face a monetary fine or can be charged under the Code of Student Behaviour.
- I met with a graduate student representative to discuss services and how we can improve them. I encourage you all to please reach out to me if you have any concerns or ideas which we can discuss and work for the betterment of students.
- I met with some colleagues from different universities to plan a National Trivia event to engage students across the country. There was not much turnout from all the universities in the planning meeting and so we are planning to postpone the event to next term.
- We are working on designing a survey with Campus and Community Recreation (CCR) to learn about graduate students' preferences and add activities which we think can benefit our graduate students.
- I have also encouraged the CCR team to make the website more user friendly and make it easy for students to understand the whole process from booking to renting and using the space.
- The Wellness 101 course through CCR is now available to all students and students can join using e-class free of cost. The course provides students with suggestion and tips on a healthy lifestyle.

- For safety related updates or COVID measures, please refer to the University's safety measure general directives:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/campus-safety/safety-measures-general-directives/index.html>

Feel free to reach out to me for any comments/concerns regarding this report or any other specific issue you want to discuss regarding student services at [gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca).

Thank you,  
Paresh Kumar, Vice-President Student Services 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 September and 18 October 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

22 September	Joint Student/University Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-instructional Fees (MNIFs)
22 September	Days of Action Committee
23 September	General Faculties Council Student Conduct Policy Committee (GFC SCPC)
23 September	Return to Campus (RTC) Safety and Logistics Committee
23 September	Meeting with a Graduate Student
24 September	Campus and Community Recreation Meeting
1 October	Meeting with a Graduate Student
6 October	Meeting with Other Canadian GSAs re a National Trivia Event
7 October	Return to Campus Safety and Logistics Committee
7 October	Student Services and Experience Meeting
13 October	Meeting with the Office of the Registrar re: Graduate Student Bursaries
14 October	Campus Food Bank Board Meeting

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 18 October 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Kenzie Gordon  
Date: 15 October 2021

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,

Kenzie Gordon, Chair of the GSA NoC

**Memorandum to GSA Councillors**

**As reported previously on multiple occasions, there are a number of vacancies on GSA Standing Committees for GSA Council Members (Departmental Councillors, Alternates, and Councillors-at-Large).** These positions play a pivotal role in the GSA's ongoing efforts to keep its processes transparent and itself accountable and long-term vacancies adversely impact these efforts. **GSA Councillors (including Alternates) are strongly encouraged to consider serving on these committees.**

It is important to note that the time commitment for these committees varies greatly. While some meet regularly throughout the year (usually every two (2) to three (3) months) others meet less frequently, and some do almost all of their work over email. Additionally, **there is an appreciation of people's schedules and other commitments and accommodations are routinely made for those who cannot attend all meetings.**

**Service on these bodies is an excellent way to make sure your voice is heard and a great opportunity to add to your CV/resume!**

On behalf of the GSA NoC, I strongly encourage GSA Councillors (and Alternates) and Councillors-at-Large to consider the next round of vacancies, which will be circulated to GSA Council electronically and which are listed below. Questions can be directed to me at [mlgordon@ualberta.ca](mailto:mlgordon@ualberta.ca) or GSA Elections Coordinator Monica Brzak at [gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca).

**GSA Standing Committees**

**1) 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 1 and 7 October 2021 with a nomination deadline of 13 October 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**2) GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) (Three (3) GSA Councillor Positions)**

Information regarding the position for three (3) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 1 and 7 October 2021 with a nomination deadline of 13 October 2021. **One nomination was received; the remaining**

vacancies will be advertised again; there will be an electronic vote (see item 8.0 - Nominees for the GSA Governance Committee).

**3) GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (GSAB/NoC) (Two (2) Joint GSA Councillor Positions)**

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 1 and 7 October 2021 with a nomination deadline of 13 October. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**4) GSA Board (GSAB) (One (1) GSA Councillor Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 1 and 7 October 2021 with a nomination deadline of 13 October 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**External Committees: Vacancies**

**5) Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) (One (1) GSA Councillor Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 1 and 7 October 2021 with a nomination deadline of 13 October 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**6) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Committee (Fifteen (15) Graduate Student Positions)**

Information regarding the fifteen (15) vacancies (ten (10) Councillors and five (5) Alternates) on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Committee was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 1 and 7 October 2021 with a nomination deadline of 13 October 2021. **Ten (10) nominations were received: Mona Ahmadi, Kolawole, Peter Joseph, Sobia Idress, Sophie Shi, Emilee Storfie, Emma Takeuchi, Babalola Olabode, Nazif Mahbub, and Farzad Aghazadeh Shabestari were elected as Councillors and Kashif Javed was elected as Alternate. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.**

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 18 October 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Jennifer Bertrand  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) met on 12 October 2021 to review the 2022 GSA General Election and Referendum timeline, and the 2022 GSA ERC General Election and Referendum work plan. Additional meetings of the GSA ERC have been scheduled throughout the fall. The GSA ERC also held a discussion regarding the potential holding of a referendum initiated by the International Students' Association.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Bertrand, Chair of the GSA ERC

**Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the 18 October 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Courtney Thomas  
Date: 15 October 2021

Dear Council Members,

At the November meeting of GSA Council, the most recent term financial report will be presented for information. An important element of the GSA's budgeting practices is a regular review of our various corporate documents. As a separate corporation from the University, we are the signatories to multiple contracts, agreements, memorandums of understanding, etc. In advance of the fall term financial report coming forward to GSA Council next month, I have included the below list of all of the documents that define us as a corporate entity and which are constantly monitored by the staff team (and were last shared with you in June). Additionally, in advance of the November meeting of GSA Council, we will be hosting a Budget 101 session for members of GSA Council who might wish to learn more about the GSA's budget – details will be circulated shortly.

Aside from focusing on the preparation of term financial support, the GSA staff team has been engaged over the past month with supporting a survey created by the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, supporting the GSA Budget and Finance Committee as it reviews the GSA's investment portfolio, supporting the work of the Directly-Elected Officers to develop the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan update before you at the October meeting, assisting the Vice-President Labour and the GSA Labour Relations Committee with initiatives related to the GSA's role as a trade union (including the impending commencement of the next collective bargaining process), and hosting some online events, including a Funding 101 session and a peer panel series.

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached (pages 19.5-19.8) and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Best,  
Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

**Documents that Define the GSA as a Corporate Entity**

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
<b><i>Agreements with Expiry Dates</i></b>		
Campus Food Bank	Regulates GSA involvement with Food Bank.	GSA gives \$23,000/annum to Campus Food Bank (increased in 2018-2019 budget, 2019-2020 budget, 2020-2021 budget, and 2021-2022 budget). Original MoU expired 30 April 2015. <b>Subsidy is set out annually in letters to the Campus Food Bank.</b>
Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement	Sets out terms and conditions for graduate students serving as GTAs, GRAs, and GRAFs.	<b>Current agreement with the Board of Governors expired 31 August 2018, a new agreement with a term ending 31 August 2020 was ratified by both parties in December 2019.</b>
Agreement re GSSF	MoU that provides for funding allocations to the GSA for the GSSF.	<b>Support from the University confirmed annually in advance of 31 March for the upcoming fiscal year.</b>

Collective Agreement with NASA covering office staff	Sets out terms of employment for GSA staff.	Renegotiated in April 2012, 2015, and 2020. <b>Current agreement expires in 2025.</b>
Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)	Provides for a wide range of personal counselling.	Referenda held in 2009 and 2021; originally signed 31 December 2010 for a 2-year period with the possibility of four 2-year extensions; reviewed and re-signed in August 2013. Dependents added in December 2013. Current agreement expired 31 December 2014 but is <b>described by Administration as a rolling plan. Reviewed annually. Support from the University confirmed annually in advance of 31 March for the upcoming fiscal year with the remainder paid by graduate students pursuant to a referendum vote.</b>
Health and Dental Agreement with Studentcare	Provides for Health and Dental Plan.	Provider changed in 2012. Re-signed in 2014 and 2020. <b>Current agreement expires 31 August 2025. Service levels, claims, etc are reviewed annually.</b>
Liability Insurance	General Liability insurance and Directors and Officers insurance.	Doubled our liability insurance in 2012. The GSA is not covered for alcohol use. Discussions in 2013-2014 and 2016-2017 with Administration and insurance experts surrounding the creation of an alcohol liability waiver for graduate student groups. <b>Current Directors and Officers insurance expires 28 January 2022. Current General Liability insurance expires 17 May 2022.</b>
North Power Plant and Dewey's	<p><b>2009 Memorandum of Agreement</b> with the Students' Union regarding the operation of Dewey's.</p> <p><b>2010 Memorandum of Understanding</b> with the U of A for use of North Power Plant Space for the Tory Building decant.</p> <p><b>1997 Memorandum of Agreement</b> with the U of A guaranteeing graduate social space in North Power Plant or at another location; 2004 Letter of Confirmation on this MoU from the Dean of Students. The space includes the current sustainability offices.</p>	<p><b>Expired August 2012</b> - conversations about use of space are ongoing.</p> <p><b>No Expiration</b> - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP ongoing as part of this MoU.</p> <p><b>No Expiration</b> - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP ongoing as part of this MoA.</p>
Officers/Directors' Insurance	Covers elected officials and administrative/professional staff.	Doubled coverage in 2013; switched brokers in 2016 and signed a new agreement. <b>Current agreement expires 28 January 2022.</b>
TDIMM	Provides for group auto and home insurance as well as some funding for	Renewed in 2016 and 2021 for a period of 5 years. <b>Current agreement expires 31</b>

	GSA events and the TD Student Service Award (given out at GSA Awards Night).	<b>August 2026.</b>
Triffo Hall Lease	Detailed lease covering Triffo Hall office space.	First-ever lease was signed in June 2011; 5-year term, four renewals (three now remaining). <b>Re-signed in 2016 and 2021 and current agreement expires 31 June 2026 (notification of desire to renew must be given 6-12 months before expiry).</b>
U of A Financial Services	Stipulates when GSA receives membership fees collected by the U of A on our behalf.	Re-negotiated and signed in April 2012. Re-negotiated again in 2013, 2016, and 2019. <b>Current agreement expires 30 April 2022.</b>
U-PASS	Governs U-PASS.	Referenda held in March 2013, February 2017, and February 2021. New agreement signed in 2021. <b>Current agreement expires in 2025.</b>
Kids and Company	Cost-sharing arrangement with the Students' Union to provide access to child care facilities around the city for students.	Signed in March 2021 for a one-year. <b>Current agreement expires in 2022.</b>
GSA Indigenous Graduate Student Award	Governs an annual award of \$750 for an Indigenous graduate student, as adjudicated by First Peoples' House.	Renewed every six years ( <b>next renewal will be in 2027</b> ).
<b>NAME</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>STATUS</b>

<b>Agreements with No Expiry Dates (Ongoing)</b>		
Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council	Society under the <i>Societies Act</i> .	Registered in March 2015 along with U of C, U of L and AU GSAs. U of L withdrew in 2017/2018. <b>Annual Societies Act filing required.</b> (The former Alberta Graduate Council disbanded in 2013).
ATB Financial Banking	Operating account.	Switched from BMO to ATB in May 2016 (as they also manage the GSA's investments). <b>Signing authorities reviewed/updated annually.</b>
ATB Financial Investments	GICs, investments.	Agreement was signed on 11 April 2016. <b>Reviewed regularly.</b>
Career Centre and Student Success Centre Agreements	Provides for subsidy of certain Career Centre and Student Success Centre courses for grad students.	Annual subsidy of \$12,000 (increased in 2017-2018 budget, 2019-2020 budget, and 2020-2021 budget). <b>Reviewed annually.</b>
Ceridian (Payroll)	GSA staff and elected officials are paid by direct deposit.	Outsourcing is cheaper/more efficient than in-house production of cheques. Agreement signed 30 May 2011.



Info Sharing with Studentcare and University	Allows Studentcare access to specified graduate student personal information for strictly defined purposes regarding the GSA's Health and Dental Plan.	Reviewed with the U of A Privacy Officer and Studentcare in 2012 and new agreement signed on 3 May 2013. <b>GSA to give notice of 6 months if wanting to terminate.</b>
PAW Centre	Sets out terms of operation of PAW. SU also a signatory to the Agreement.	Referendum held, agreement signed in April 2012.
PAW Centre Leased Space	Sets out terms of rights and obligations of SU and GSA with respect to the leased space in PAW.	Negotiated business terms with SU concerning the food vendor space (currently occupied by Chopped Leaf until September 2024, following the negotiation of their lease in 2019) – agreement concerning the leased space signed in April 2017. <b>Reviewed annually.</b>
Personal Information Sharing Agreement with the U of A	Provides specified graduate student personal information for strictly defined purposes, e.g. emailing the newsletter, elections.	Signed in May 2013.
Student Connect (Office of the Registrar)	Administers the GSA's Emergency Bursary program. GSA distributes funds.	2006 AEGS Memorandum of Settlement between GSA/BoG provides for establishment of emergency bursary program with terms of reference developed by GSA and "distributed through the University Bursary Program."
Student Group Services	Outlines the responsibilities of the GSA and Student Group Services with respect to the registration and oversight of graduate student groups.	Developed in 2011 and redrafted in 2018. <b>Reviewed annually.</b>
U of A Human Resources Direct Deposit	Provides for direct deposit through Bear Tracks of GSSF allocations to graduate students and T4A production by U of A.	Agreement negotiated in 2012. Major infrastructure change from cheque processing by GSA.
U of A IST	Provides service, support, and regular review of the GSA's IT infrastructure.	Signed in June 2017. <b>Reviewed annually.</b>
Western Archives	Provides secure shredding of GSA material once every two months.	Signed in July 2018 for a term of two years with automatic renewals annually after that. <b>Reviewed annually.</b>
Xerox	Covers the leasing of two photocopiers.	Original agreement expired 31 March 2018. Thereafter the agreement renews automatically on a yearly basis. <b>Reviewed annually.</b>
<b>NAME</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>STATUS</b>

***Other Corporate Documents***

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Audit (based on GSA Council-approved budget)	As a separate corporation from the University, we hire our own auditor. Requirement of the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> to provide audited financial statements to the Board of Governors annually.	<b>Audit occurs annually in May/June.</b> Audit field workers are typically on-site in late May/early June.
GSA Council Bylaw and Policy	Enabled by the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> . Sections pertaining to collective bargaining approved by the GSA Labour Relations Board as per the <i>Labour Relations Code</i> .	<b>Reviewed regularly.</b>
Contract with ED/Letters of Appointment	Sets out terms of employment for administrative/professional staff.	The ED's contract and other standard appointment letters for administrative/professional staff have been reviewed by our lawyers. <b>Regular performance reviews conducted.</b>
Referenda Master File	All referenda questions that actively impact graduate students (eg U-PASS, PAW Centre, GSAP, GSA Health and Dental Plan, etc).	Compiled and filed. <b>Ongoing as referenda arise.</b>

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 22 September 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 15 September 2021:

#### Strategic

- Drafting the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council – will also come before the GSA Board shortly.
- Reviewing materials going forward to various University governance bodies.
- Drafting GSA reports to the Senate and the Board of Governors.
- Planning for an upcoming meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and sharing updates on financial matters with that body.
- Drafting a proposal concerning editorial changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Recognition Awards.
- Planning training sessions for newly elected members of GSA standing committees.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (replenishing the membership of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, advising individual graduate student workers, preparing for the next round of negotiations) and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee as it reviews a service agreement with an outside union – a legal opinion has been solicited on a draft service agreement and questions raised are being follow up on).
- Beginning to work on drafting a proposal to amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large (hoping to bring forward to GSA Council in January).

#### Operations

- Coordinating with the Students' Union concerning distribution of Arc cards (~36% distributed for the Fall term).
- Planning online peer panels to connect current and incoming graduate students in an informal setting and planning a Grants 101 session for October.
- Action associated with the recent meeting of GSA Council.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Council (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty), the Medical Sciences Library Committee (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty of Medicine and Dentistry), and the Campus St Jean Dean Selection Committee (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty). Also supporting the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it begins to plan the 2022 GSA General Election and a potential ISA initiated referendum.
- Facebook = 1,712 likes (up 0 from 15 September); Facebook posts reached 1,648 users since 15 September. Twitter = 1,232 followers (up 3 from 15 September); our tweets earned 649 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 740 followers (up 8 from 15 September); Instagram posts reached 369 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July (as the University has updated its travel directive, we are now accepting applications for travel with Canada, as well costs associated with online events); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 29 September 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 22 September 2021:

#### Strategic

- Drafting the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council.
- Planning finding GSA representatives for upcoming decanal review and search committees.
- Meeting with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer to discuss a potential referendum initiated by the International Students' Association (ISA) – the ISA has contacted the CRO (as per the requirements of GSA Bylaw and Policy) to begin drafting a referendum question.
- Planning the 2021 GSA General Election as well the annual Discover Governance initiative.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and preparing for the next round of negotiations) and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee as it reviews a service agreement with an outside union – a legal opinion has been solicited on a draft service agreement and questions raised are being follow up on).
- Drafting a proposal to amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large (hoping to bring forward to GSA Council in January, following consultation with the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board and the GSA Board).

#### Operations

- Arranging training sessions for new GSA Budget and Finance Committee and GSA Nominating Committee members.
- Planning online peer panels to connect current and incoming graduate students in an informal setting and planning a Grants 101 session for October.
- Filing paperwork to request a ruling from the Canada Revenue Agency concerning CPP and EI deductions for Directly-Elected Officers.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter). The committee is also assisting with the election of members to the Human Ecology Graduate Students' Association. Also supporting the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it begins to plan the 2022 GSA General Election and a potential ISA initiated referendum.
- Facebook = 1,715 likes (up 3 from 22 September); Facebook posts reached 201 users since 22 September. Twitter = 1,232 followers (up 0 from 22 September); our tweets earned 340 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 744 followers (up 4 from 22 September); Instagram posts reached 444 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July (as the University has updated its travel directive, we are now accepting applications for travel with Canada, as well costs associated with online events); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 6 October 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 29 September 2021:

#### Strategic

- Revising the draft GSA Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council following the receipt of feedback from GSA Board members.
- Facilitating a GSA Emergency Bursary appeal.
- Meeting with the International Students' Association (ISA), Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer to discuss a draft question for a referendum initiated by the ISA – the draft question will next come to the GSA Board, presented by the CRO.
- Planning the 2022 GSA General Election as well the annual Discover Governance initiative (the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee will meet shortly to begin the planning process).
- Hosting a Budget 101 session for newly elected GSA Budget and Finance Committee members and preparing for a meeting of the GSA BFC to review the GSA's investment portfolio.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and preparing for the next round of negotiations) and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee as it finalizes a service agreement with an outside union.
- Drafting a proposal to amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large (hoping to bring forward to GSA Council in January, following consultation with the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, the GSA Governance Committee, and the GSA Board).

#### Operations

- Planning online peer panels to connect current and incoming graduate students in an informal setting and planning a Grants 101 session for October.
- Wrapping up the fall orientation class and drawing the winner of the iPad - we had 989 enrollments with 514 full completions, which represents an increase from last year for both enrollments and completions.
- Filing paperwork to request a ruling from the Canada Revenue Agency concerning CPP and EI deductions for Directly-Elected Officers.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the Student Library Advisory Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council) and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter). The committee is also assisting with the election of members to the Human Ecology Graduate Students' Association. Also supporting the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it begins to plan the 2022 GSA General Election and a potential ISA initiated referendum.
- Facebook = 1,716 likes (up 1 from 29 September); Facebook posts reached 207 users since 29 September. Twitter = 1,234 followers (up 2 from 29 September); our tweets earned 48 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 748 followers (up 4 from 29 September); Instagram posts reached 6 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 October (25 applications funded and \$8,236 disbursed in the last period; now accepting applications for travel within Canada as well as online; uptake on travel option remains very low); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 October (44 applications funded and \$73,000 disbursed in the last period); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods (44 applications funded and \$123,746 disbursed since 1 April 2021); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 October (2 applications funded and \$400 disbursed in the last period). All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 13 October 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 6 October 2021:

#### Strategic

- Ongoing conversations (internally and with the Students' Union) concerning the fee proposal from the International Students' Association.
- Facilitating a GSA Emergency Bursary appeal.
- Planning the 2022 GSA General Election as well the annual Discover Governance initiative (the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee met on Tuesday to begin the planning process).
- Supporting a meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee to review the GSA's investment portfolio.
- Planning upcoming meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee to review the most recent term financial report and begin the process of building the 2022-2023 GSA operating budget.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and preparing for the next round of negotiations) and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee as it finalizes a service agreement with an outside union (an agreement with PSAC was signed late last week).
- Drafting a proposal to amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large (hoping to bring forward to GSA Council in January, following consultation with the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, the GSA Governance Committee, and the GSA Board).

#### Operations

- After consulting with the Vice-President Student Services, meeting with Student Financial Support concerning the transfer of additional supplementary bursary funding.
- Preparing for the second mailing of GSA Council.
- Hosting a Grants 101 session and finalizing arrangement for the upcoming peer panel sessions.
- Filing paperwork to request a ruling from the Canada Revenue Agency concerning CPP and EI deductions for Directly-Elected Officers.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Awards Selection Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Student Library Advisory Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), and the Faculty of Native Studies Council (advertised directly to graduate students in the Faculty). The GSA Nominating Committee is also assisting with the election of members to the Human Ecology Graduate Students' Association and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee is beginning to plan the 2022 GSA General Election and a potential International Students' Association initiated referendum.
- Facebook = 1,729 likes (up 13 from 5 October); Facebook posts reached 1862 users since 5 October. Twitter = 1,233 followers (up 2 from 5 October); our tweets earned 134 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 748 followers (up 0 from 5 October); Instagram posts reached 422 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 October (now accepting applications for travel within Canada as well as online; uptake on travel option remains very low); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 October; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 October. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.