

GSA Council Meeting AGENDA
Monday, 18 July 2022 at 6:00 pm
Held in-person in Council Chamber and electronically 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 Dweej Shah in the Chair

OPEN SESSION

**Attached
Numbered Pages**

1. Approval of the 18 July 2022 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 20 June 2022 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)
Attachment:
 - i. Minutes from the 20 June 2022 GSA Council Meeting
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership (*suggested time: 1 min*)
 - i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

2.0 - 2.4

GSA Council Member Announcements

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

Action Item

5. Resolution Concerning GSA Council Composition (*suggested time: 10 mins*)
Dweej Shah (Speaker) will present the item.

Attachments:

- i. Outline of Issue

5.0

Information Item

6. 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (*suggested time: 15 min*)
Anas Fassih (President) will present the item.

Attachments:

- Outline of Issue
- 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

6.0

6.1 - 6.10

Discussion Item

7. Campus Safety (*suggested time: 20 min*)
Anas Fassih (President) will present the item

Elections

8. GSA Council Elections (*suggested time – to be determined*)
Kenzie Gordon (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item.

GSA Council-Elected Officer Positions

a. Senator

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for Senator (1 GSA member vacancy) **8.0 - 8.1**

GSA Standing Committees

b. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB)

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for the GSA ACB (2 GSA Councillor vacancies) **8.1 - 8.2**

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 (**no written report at this time**)
 - iv. GSA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
 - v. GSA Governance Committee Report **9.3**
10. Vice-President Academic (**Bishoi Aziz, Vice-President Academic**)
 - i. Vice-President Academic's Report **10.0 - 10.1**
11. Vice-President External (**Janmejy Rao, Vice-President External**)
 - i. Vice-President External's Report **11.0**
 - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
12. Vice-President Labour (**Hiren Kaklotar, Vice-President Labour**)
 - i. Vice-President Labour's Report **12.0 - 12.1**
 - ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
13. Vice-President Student Services (**Monisha Vinod, Vice-President Student Services**)
 - i. Vice-President Student Services' Report **13.0 - 13.1**
14. Senator (**Currently Vacant**)
 - i. Senator's Report (**no written report at this time**)
15. Speaker (**Dweej Shah, Speaker**)
 - i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
16. Chief Returning Officer (**Sophie Shi, 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**)

Prepared by E Heiberg for GSA Council 18 July 2022

- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report **(no written report at this time)**

19. GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, Executive Director)

- i. Executive Director's Report

19.0 - 19.5

Question Period

- 20. Written Questions (none received at this time)**

- 21. Oral Questions**

OPEN SESSION

Adjournment

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 20 June 2022 at 6:00 pm
Held online via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Anas Fassih (President)	Md Saeed Siddik (Councillor-at-Large)	Gillian Robinson (Educational Policy Studies)	Yan Shu (Angela) Kong (Oncology)
Bishoi Aziz (VP Academic)	Pratima Singh (Councillor-at-Large)	Rachel Hislop-Hook (Educational Psychology)	Jordan Chan (Pharmacy)
Janmejay Rao (VP External)	Syed Quadri (Councillor-at-Large)	Kapil Gangwar (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Bryanna Chan (Physical Therapy)
Hiren Kaklotar (VP Labour)	Madeleine Fleming (Biochemistry)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Hamid Hassani (Physics)
Monisha Vinod (VP Student Services)	Sam Deakin; Dayani Patuwatha Withanage (Biological Sciences)	Anita Amir Labonno (Human Ecology)	Luis Fernando Rubio Atonal (Physiology)
Lauren Hill (Speaker)	Thomas Goodhart (Biomedical Engineering)	Jillian Ames (Indigenous Graduate Students' Association)	Telisa Courtney (Political Science)
Sana Amjad (Deputy Speaker)	Natasha Pearson (Business MBA)	Maia Trotter (Library & Information Studies)	Huda Al-Shamali (Psychiatry)
Muneeb Mohiuddin (CRO)	Teddy Carter (Business PhD)	Hannah Lam (Linguistics)	Angela Ma (Psychology)
Peter Iselese (Senator)	Brenna Hourigan (Cell Biology)	Alain Gervais (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Nazif Mahbub (Public Health)
Eric Beaudry (Councillor-at-Large)	Helia Dehghan Harati (Chemistry)	Michaela Morrow (Media & Technology Studies)	Kathryn Lambert (Rehabilitation Science)
Md Saiful Hoque (Councillor-at-Large)	Sana Homsy (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Kara Goodkey (Medical Genetics)	Beckett Stark (Renewable Resources)
Jeremie Mahaux (Councillor-at-Large)	Nathalia Fernandes Fagundes (Dentistry)	Asna Latif; Calvin Gordon (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Laura Manerus (Councillor-at-Large)	Xavia Publius (Drama)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	Yan Xue (Sociology)
Preetam Panja (Councillor-at-Large)	Avni Patel (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Alicia Chichak (Occupational Therapy)	Kasra Shayeganpour (Surgery)

Guests: Dr Brooke Milne (Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR); Dr Micah True (Associate Dean, FGSR); Medha Samarasinghe (Human Resources and Office Coordinator, FGSR).

Speaker Lauren Hill in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

Approval of Agenda**1. Approval of the 20 June 2022 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 20 June 2022 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 17 June 2022. A Latif **MOVED**; M Vinod **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Minutes**2. Minutes from the 16 May 2022 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 16 May 2022 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 10 June 2022. B Stark **MOVED**; M Vinod **SECONDED**.

Prepared by M Toghrai and F Robertson for GSA Council 20 June 2022

Motion PASSED.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

- i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members: J Ames (IGSA).
- ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members: None.

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements

M Vinod noted that the GSA would be engaging in outreach over the summer by contacting departmental representatives to arrange to meet with them to hear about their departmental priorities over the coming year. Members were encouraged to keep an eye out for these emails.

A Fassih reminded members to provide any feedback regarding the development of the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) to him at gsa.president@ualberta.ca; the SWP would be shared with GSA Council at the July meeting.

A Fassih also encouraged members to attend the upcoming GSA Coffee Break on 24 June at 1 pm in Triffo Hall. More Coffee Break events would follow over the summer and into the fall.

Discussion Items

5. Update on Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Initiatives

Anas Fassih (President) presented the item and introduced the guests (Dr B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR; Dr M True, Associate Dean, FGSR; and M Samarasinghe, Human Resources and Office Coordinator, FGSR), who presented on policy proposals related to doctoral examinations that are currently under development, noting a desire to hear directly from graduate students.

Dr True noted that the proposals were motivated by a series of reviews of existing policies and by concerns brought forward about them over the years by various parties. FGSR was in the early stages of consultation; this would not go forward imminently and FGSR would allow ample time for input. The current project was initiated to remedy certain recurring problems with graduate examinations and to provide clarity and quality control across all programs. The current draft proposal was developed by a working group made up of graduate coordinators, associate deans, graduate advisors, and a PhD student, from across campus.

It was noted that, in some instances, current policy was unclear and difficult to implement and, in other, more serious instances, current policy could be disadvantageous to graduate students (for example, if a committee chair was not neutral enough or willing to object to unfair treatment in an exam, etc). Other changes (for example, the language describing examiner categories) were aimed at enhancing clarity with more precise language to reduce confusion and strengthening the role of the chair to protect the student's interest. A new category for 'Specialized Knowledge Keeper' had been also added. The proposals also recommended streamlining the size of examination committees, as large committees could be a burden on faculties and could take a long time to put together, resulting in inappropriately long periods to schedule exams and overly long examinations. Changes included counting co-supervisors as one member of the committee for the purposes of composition and voting but not for participating in the exam process by asking questions. Dr True noted that this element of the proposal seemed to provoke a strong reaction among many but that the intention was for co-supervisors to count as a single vote, not that both parties would not be able to be present and ask questions. This practice was not uncommon at several peer institutions – such as Waterloo and Manitoba, among others – which the working group discovered while considering policies from comparator institutions.

Dr True also noted that it was further proposed that doctoral examinations be opened to observers (with certain exceptions), that teleconferencing rules be relaxed, that there be greater clarity around relationships that would preclude service on an examination committee, that the post-examination timeline be clarified and more specific, and that time limits for questioning in exams be adjusted. Dr True also responded directly to feedback that was provided to FGSR by GSA Council members after the May meeting (including whether FGSR had the capacity to manage the proposed

processes (FGSR was hiring staff to ensure they did) and whether certain departments would have enough faculty within them with doctoral degrees to fully populate examination committees (it was noted it was rare for a department to not be able to achieve this and, should the issue arise, solutions could be brokered)).

Members raised questions regarding: whether the changes consolidated functions within FGSR, as opposed to departments continuing to perform them (it was noted many of the functions had not occurred at the departmental level for some time (or were supported differently across departments) as there were not staff to perform them in all departments; the proposal was meant to create uniform standards that were applied across all departments to ensure outcomes and experiences were not variable); in what circumstances a doctoral examination could be closed (a list of circumstances was noted in the proposal and FGSR was open to expanding it but the proposal was based on practices at other institutions where exams were open to members of the University community unless there were compelling reasons not to, as they constituted the culmination of years of publicly funded research); concerns about chairs being appointed by FGSR who might not have adequate context about departmental relationships that could play into the exam (the chair would be focused on the policy and ensuring proper process was followed, it would fall to other members to bring contextual knowledge to the fore); what would happen in cases of highly interdisciplinary research in which co-supervisors might be from very divergent fields and whether having co-supervisors act as one individual would result in reduced knowledgeable conversation (both co-supervisors would be present and allowed to speak in full and ask questions and nothing was being changed in this regard, they would only be acting as one individual with respect to voting); whether there would be enough time for students to address all the feedback/revisions provided before various post-exam deadlines arose (this was not an issue occasioned by the proposal and was always something to be monitored and addressed); whether some departments that had multiple faculty members with terminal masters degree but not doctoral degrees (for example, Drama) would find that small pool of faculty members with doctoral degrees overloaded in terms of the number of examinations they had to serve on (it was noted it was a base standard that people conducting doctoral examinations should have gone through a doctoral program themselves but the proposal did not preclude exceptions being made in certain instances to permit those with terminal masters degrees from serving); the role of Pro Deans in examinations (this was in the process of being reconceived); when additional specialist staff were expected to be hired by FGSR, where the staff would be situated, if the cost of additional staff would result in increased tuition (staff would be located within FGSR and graduate students could access them directly and FGSR had no role or authority in proposing or setting tuition so that was unrelated to the current discussion); whether the proposals were discouraging of co-supervision as currently drafted (it was expressed that FGSR did not believe that the proposals discouraged co-supervision or significantly change current processes); and what circumstances would preclude people from service on an examination committee (it was noted that the issue currently was that no transparent restrictions were set out and the proposed policies aimed to address this). It was also noted that any policy and process changes would be introduced with a phased approach and that many graduate students had concerns about these operational matters and hoped for greater clarity around them.

Elections

6. GSA Council Elections

Kenzie Gordan (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) presented the item and explained the voting procedure.

- a. GSA Speaker (one (1) GSA Member position)
Saurav Singh Rathore (Mechanical Engineering)
Dweej Shah (Mechanical Engineering)
- b. GSA Chief Returning Officer (one (1) GSA member position)
Sophie Shi (Chemical and Materials Engineering)

Reports

7. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 June 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Fassih brought attention to some of the more salient items described in his report, including the ongoing development of the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

ii. GSA Board Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 June 2022. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report

No written report at this time.

iv. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report

No written report at this time.

v. GSA Governance Committee Report

No written report at this time.

8. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 June 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Aziz brought attention to ongoing work on an institutional minimum for PhD funding packages, as well as program requirements and credit transfer policies.

9. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 June 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, J Rao drew attention to his involvement with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC), as well as work relating to graduate student housing on campus.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report

No written report at this time.

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

No written report at this time.

10. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 June 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Kaklotar noted recent productive meetings relating to collective bargaining.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 June 2022. The report stood as submitted.

11. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 June 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Vinod drew attention to the upcoming pilot project for access to virtual health services attached to the GSA Health and Dental Plan (noting that information about Plan members would be shared with the virtual health service provider (under the terms of a privacy and information sharing agreement) to enable members who wanted to use the service to set up a profile), as well as ongoing work to encourage the University to increase emergency funding for graduate students.

12. Senator

i. Senator's Report

No written report at this time.

13. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

14. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

No written report at this time.

15. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 June 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition K Gordon stated that there were a number of vacancies on GSA Standing Committees which were highly important to the ongoing work of the GSA. Among these were vacancies on the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, which could be filled by GSA Councillors, Alternates, or Councillors-at-Large.

16. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report

No written report at this time.

17. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 June 2022. The report stood as submitted.

Question Period

18. Written Questions

19. Oral Questions

A Fassih expressed his thanks to Lauren Hill whose term as GSA Speaker was set to end in June 2022.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting moved into closed session at 8:49 pm. A Latif **MOVED** and M Vinod **SECONDED**.

Reports

20. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair's Report

Nicholas Ruel (GSA ACB Chair) presented the item.

The meeting moved out of closed session at 8:53 pm. A Latif **MOVED** and M Vinod **SECONDED**.

OPEN SESSION

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Outline of Issue

Resolution Concerning GSA Council Composition

Suggested Motion:

That GSA Council **APPROVE** a resolution that, notwithstanding GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C.POL.3.1.c, effective July 2022 departmental seats from the Faculty of Education on GSA Council will be reflective of the faculty structure as of June 2022, with said resolution to remain in effect pending annual consultation with the GSA Speaker and the departmental representatives, and/or further amendments to GSA Policy concerning the composition of GSA Council (as approved by GSA Council).

Background:

As members may be aware, effective 1 July 2022 the Faculty of Education moved to a non-departmentalized structure. The composition of GSA Council, in parallel with the composition of faculty councils on campus (including that of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)), contains a seat for “one (1) graduate student elected from each department, faculty, or extradepartmental unit at the University that offers a graduate program (Departmental Councillors)” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C.POL.3.1.c). Accordingly, there are currently seats for Educational Policy Studies, Educational Psychology, Elementary Education, and Secondary Education (as well as for Library and Information Studies – which will be preserved as a stand-alone unit within Education following 1 July 2022, so is not currently impacted; it can also be identified as an “extra-departmental unit” per Section C.POL.3.1.c).

However, following 1 July, these four seats will, in theory, be collapsed into one as the four associated departments will be amalgamated. This will thus result in a loss of representation on GSA Council. Additionally, as the University moves through its ongoing restructuring process, it is possible that other faculties might also seek to become non-departmentalized. Should this be the case, there will need to be a broader analysis of the composition of GSA Council to ensure it maintains its current breadth of representation. However, in the interim, the GSA Speaker, working with the GSA Council support staff and after consulting with representatives from the various departments in Education, are proposing that GSA Council pass a resolution that would freeze Education seats at their current levels.

The benefits of proceeding in this manner are that this constitutes a flexible solution to an immediate problem that allows for further resolutions to be issued if other faculties move in the direction of non-departmentalization. When things have settled with respect to the University’s restructuring and the more longer term landscape of faculty and department structures is better known, it may necessitate (not just for the GSA but for other University governance bodies as well, such as FGSR Council) further changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy regarding GSA Council composition. However, as of now, these are larger, more long-term conversations while the proposed resolution below addresses the immediate problem.

This matter was reviewed by both the GSA Board and the GSA Governance Committee.

Jurisdiction:

Post-Secondary Learning Act, Section 95(1):

“The business and affairs of a student organization of a public post-secondary institution must be managed by a council.”

Post-Secondary Learning Act, Sections 95(2)(c) and 95(2)(h):

“The council of a student organization may make bylaws governing” ... “the number of persons ... that the council is to consist of” and “any other matter pertaining to the management and affairs of the student organization.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C.BYL.1.1

“The mandate of GSA Council is to fulfill all responsibilities listed in Section 95 of the Post-Secondary Learning Act.”

Outline of Issue

2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

Suggested Motion:

That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

Background:

The 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) was prepared by the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs), to direct efforts in the coming year and identify areas in which to work with others in the University community. This latest iteration builds upon past SWPs and incorporates initiatives of importance for the current team.

This year's SWP development started with the DEOs participating in several workshop sessions to discuss initiatives and priorities for 2022-2023. This work was accompanied by a survey to all graduate students and a survey directly to members of GSA Council (as well as discussion at the May 2022 meeting of GSA Council). Based on the feedback received, a draft of the SWP was developed and further reviewed and refined by the GSA Board on 22 June and 29 June 2022.

Following GSA Council's receipt of the Board SWP for information, this outward facing document will be released to University administration, other stakeholders, advocacy partners, and the GSA membership at large. DEOs will, likewise, begin meeting with key individuals to discuss the initiatives and goals developed in the Board SWP. As always, reports on progress with these initiatives will be provided to GSA Council in October, January, and April, in addition to the oral and written reports DEOs provide monthly.

Jurisdiction:

Post-Secondary Learning Act, Section 94(3):

"The graduate students association of a university shall provide for the administration of graduate student affairs at the university, including ... the promotion of the general welfare of the graduate students consistent with the purposes of the university."

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

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

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.5.1.i:

"The President leads development of a strategic work plan for the GSA, in concert with the other DEOs [Directly-Elected Officers]."

The Graduate Students' Association Board Strategic Work Plan 2022-2023

Connect Support Advocate



Our Vision and Mission

To advocate for all graduate students to the University of Alberta and all levels of government in pursuit of a safe, supportive, respectful, accessible, and inclusive community that fosters the multi-faceted roles played by graduate students.

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.

2022-2023 Graduate Students' Association Executives



Graduate students elect GSA leaders each February. Here are the 2022-2023 GSA Directly-Elected Officers (from left to right): Vice-President Academic, Bishoi Aziz; Vice-President External, Janmejay Rao; President, Anas Fassih; Vice-President Labour, Hiren Kaklotar; and Vice-President Student Services, Monisha Vinod.

The Graduate Students' Association

The GSA, as established by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, represents graduate students at the University of Alberta and provides a wealth of services to its members to enrich the graduate student experience. A separate corporate entity, the GSA is a collegial organization which co-exists alongside the University of Alberta to fully empower, represent, and advocate for graduate students. Concurrently, the GSA is the provincially-designated labour union for the Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs), thus bestowing it with a dual set of responsibilities and obligations.



Who is a Graduate Student?

A graduate student is an emerging colleague who contributes to their field of study in pursuit of an advanced degree through collaborative work with the professoriate in research, teaching, and the cultivation of University learning environments. These contributions are accomplished through, among others: extensive coursework and the development of capstone projects, theses, or dissertations (in pursuit of which graduate students are charged tuition and fees); academic employment (for which graduate students are paid); the co-creation and writing of scholarly work; contribution to the securing of academic funding; participation in the academic community via presentations, conferences, and other engagement initiatives; as well as economic contributions in the form of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The multi-faceted role of the graduate student is to take place in an environment of mutual respect and fairness—one aimed at developing skills and knowledge with lifelong benefits. This role therefore merits appropriate remuneration for labour in service of the enhancement of the institution.

What is the GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan?

The GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan is the document that steers and prioritizes the work and initiatives of the GSA in accordance with the tenets of the graduate student experience. The GSA sees this plan as a living document, shifting focus and direction as the landscape changes within the University community and beyond, often at the provincial and federal levels. It is developed annually following extensive consultation with the graduate student community and with reference to the Strategic Work Plans of previous GSA Boards, and as such provides a planning document for this and future years.

The groups and issues identified within this year's Strategic Work Plan are neither the sole areas worthy of attention, nor free from the simultaneous influence of multiple sociopolitical forces. While this document necessitates simplicity in identifying priorities and aspirations, in practice the work to be undertaken by the GSA Board in the upcoming year hinges upon an understanding of intersectionality.



What Are Our Responsibilities?

The GSA provides a wealth of benefits and services to its members that both enrich the graduate student experience and forge connections between graduate students.

At its core, the GSA is an organization by and for graduate students, and is endowed with the ability to help cultivate a thriving and resilient graduate student community. In this vein, the GSA will continue to create opportunities for graduate student awareness of and engagement with the GSA and its services by:

- ◆ Ensuring the GSA remains responsive, effective, and efficient through regular reviews of services and solicitation of feedback from members,
- ◆ Evaluating and strengthening communication methods to broaden engagement with our members,
- ◆ Offering orientation and information sessions on key issues,
- ◆ Offering engagement and recognition events in an in-person format, where at all possible, and
- ◆ Working to connect with, and support departmental graduate student groups and other graduate student groups.

To serve as effective advocates of the graduate student body, the GSA will continue to cultivate a culture of engagement with graduate students, graduate student units, and institutional units that serve graduate students.

Did you know?

The GSA has:

- ▶ graduate student lounges at Triffo Hall
- ▶ rooms available for booking
- ▶ several fun events per year

The GSA places great value on its countless relationships with stakeholders. It will thus continue to foster collaborative and collegial relationships with:

- ◆ The Government of Alberta, particularly the Ministry of Advanced Education (working collaboratively with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council), as well as the City of Edmonton and the Government of Canada,
- ◆ Members of senior University administration, many of whom have been invaluable allies in advancing the goals of the GSA,
- ◆ Community groups and non-governmental organizations whose goals align with those of the GSA, and
- ◆ Other campus stakeholder constituency associations such as the Students' Union, the Association of Academic Staff of the University of Alberta, the Postdoctoral Fellows' Association, the Non-Academic Staff Association, and the Alumni Association, as well as student groups and other campus organizations.



What Groups Are Our Focus?

As an international graduate student, the GSA gave me an opportunity to get involved with the community, and work on my professional development and public speaking skills.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students at the University of Alberta often experience unique challenges resulting from their unique cultural backgrounds, language proficiency, barriers to community connectedness, and financial obstacles. *The GSA will:*

- ◆ Continue to advocate for new initiatives and programs that specifically support international graduate students.
- ◆ Work on above initiatives that may, among others, take the form of dedicated immigration streams for international students—whose cultural and economic contributions to our region only serve to enrich.

STUDENTS WHO PARENT

The GSA is committed to advocating for the significant portion of graduate students who parent, as they face unique barriers in accessing post-secondary education. The GSA will continue its work on:

- ◆ Sustaining its partnership with Kids & Company.
- ◆ Promoting the private parents' room in Triffo Hall.
- ◆ The ongoing provision of GSA Child Care Grants and advocacy for more funding in this area.

Did you know?

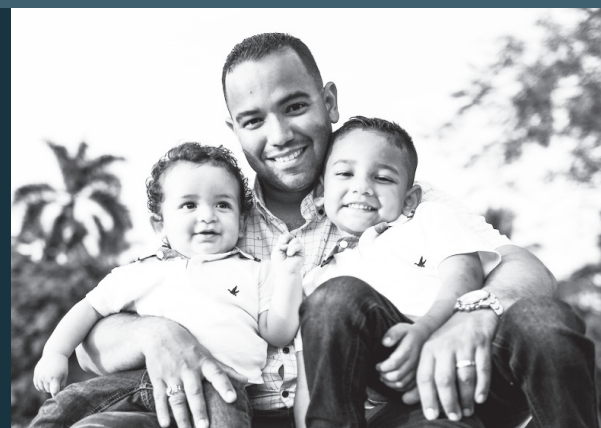
The GSA has:

- ▶ Orientation resources specific to graduate students (we also participate in 45-50 departmental orientations annually)
- ▶ a weekly newsletter, website, and social media profiles that highlight events and ways to get involved

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

In an effort to give the recognition due to the Indigenous peoples upon whose land the GSA and the University reside, *the GSA will:*

- ◆ Continue to work to advance the objectives of Truth and Reconciliation by advocating for new initiatives and uphold existing initiatives that specifically support Indigenous graduate students.
- ◆ Work closely with groups such as the Indigenous Graduate Student's Association, First Peoples' House, and the office of Indigenous Programming and Research.



What Groups Are Our Focus?

All graduate students are entitled to a safe and respectful study and work environment characterized by positive supervisory relationships and free from harassment, discrimination, and bullying.

MARGINALIZED GROUPS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO IDENTIFY AS DISABLED OR DIVERSELY ABLED; MEMBERS OF THE LGBTTQQPIANU+ COMMUNITY; AND/OR RACIALIZED COMMUNITIES

As graduate students represent a broad range of lived experiences, many of the dimensions that shape these experiences have historically been neglected by the framers of our societies and institutions. *The GSA is:*

- ◆ Committed to magnifying the voices of equity-deserving groups.
- ◆ Working both to deconstruct the systemic barriers the GSA perpetuates internally, as well as advocating in this vein to the University and government (this work is aided by the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee).
- ◆ Focused on ongoing initiatives to build partnerships with various groups and advocate for technology bursaries as an accessibility issue.

Did you know?

The GSA offers:

- ▶ Emergency Bursaries
- ▶ Child Care Grants
- ▶

Academic Travel Grants

What Issues Are Priorities?

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Despite recognition of the diversity of the graduate student population, the current offerings of official University residences are limited in terms of pricing and/or consideration for families. *The GSA seeks:*

- ◆ To provide support to graduate students who experience vulnerability in their housing situation.



What Issues Are Priorities?

A lack of stable funding and unpredictable increases in educational and other costs can cause significant strain on graduate students' health and wellness and can inhibit academic progress.

The biggest difference the GSA has made for me are the mental health resources.

FAIR TUITION AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

Increasing tuition costs are caused at an initial level by provincial budgetary considerations, and subsequently by budgeting prerogatives of the University. *The GSA will continue to:*

- ◆ Advocate for fair tuition and broadly accessible post-secondary education at the University of Alberta, but also—in tandem with its partner associations—for the same across the province.
- ◆ Spearhead the goal of establishing an institutional minimum for doctoral-level funding packages in pursuit of accessible post-secondary education.
- ◆ Ensure affordable access to Edmonton and Edmonton-area public transit.
- ◆ Negotiate for increases in the University's approximately-million dollar annual contribution to the GSA grants, awards, and bursaries.

Did you know?

The GSA offers:

- ▶ Graduate Student Group Grants
- ▶ Recognition Awards
- ▶ Health and Dental Plan

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Mental health is inextricably tied to physical health as well as a myriad of social factors. In recognition of this complexity, *the GSA will continue to:*

- ◆ Work to increase accessibility to professional mental health and/or medical services. International students merit particular attention here due to their lack of familiarity with the Canadian healthcare system.
- ◆ Advocate for government and University services which strengthen mental resilience, and services for financially vulnerable graduate students. Part of this effort is represented by the work of negotiating with service providers to offer health coverage that remains affordable but comprehensive, as well as increasing the GSA's annual financial support for the Campus Food Bank.



What Issues Are Priorities?

The GSA believes that graduate students should be provided with professional development opportunities that are essential for future career success.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Graduates of masters and doctoral programs at the University of Alberta are leaders and innovators of the economic market within Edmonton, across Alberta, and beyond. *It follows that the GSA:*

- ◆ Considers it crucial to provide graduate students with the opportunity to connect with and participate in the labour market in ways that will strengthen their future prospects.
- ◆ Expects that further initiatives in this vein will complement the existing internship and professional development opportunities available to graduate students.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

As members of a society defined not only by political and cultural boundaries, *the GSA is:*

- ◆ Committed to pursuing work that prioritizes environmental stewardship and sustainability as a practice in research, in work, and in life.

Did you know?

The GSA:

- ▶ meets regularly with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Dean of Students
- ▶ is a member of the provincial advocacy group the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Advocacy to the federal government was previously hindered by the absence of a Canadian alliance of graduate student associations. With the recent establishment of such a network, *the GSA will:*

- ◆ Participate in joint efforts to advocate for increased Tri-Council funding for graduate studies, and for dedicated immigration streams for international graduate students.



What Issues Are Priorities?

*In its role as a union,
the GSA champions,
advances, and
protects the rights
of its members as
workers.*

SAFETY AND DIGNITY

Graduate students are entitled to conducting their work and studies in spaces which are free from harassment and abuse, and which foster world-level researchers and leaders as befits this world-level institution. *The GSA will* continue to spotlight this necessity. This work is expected to manifest as—among other things:

- ◆ Continued advocacy for the betterment of student-supervisor relationships (working closely with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research on the implementation of recently approved policies around quality supervision).
- ◆ Pursuit of improvements in the physical accessibility of work, research, and study spaces.
- ◆ Continued advocacy for the preservation of high quality graduate-level programs.
- ◆ Tangible work to prevent and respond to sexual violence (in partnership with the Students' Union and the Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator).

Did you know?

The GSA:

- ▶ has seats on the Board of Governors, the General Faculties Council, and their sub-committees
- ▶ works individually with students to help them

LABOUR

With regards to its role as the union for AEGSs, *the GSA will*:

- ◆ Continue the work of bolstering its bargaining position. This may manifest as, among others, the continued growth of a robust stewardship network, and that of the dedicated labour fund which member dues augment.
- ◆ Work to ensure that AEGSs are protected by legislated occupational health and safety standards.
- ◆ Seek to ensure campus-wide compliance with the provisions of the Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement by connecting with graduate students as well as the institutional units who serve these students.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

Circumstances are shifting rapidly in Alberta and specifically within the University. Structurally, changes have occurred at the discretion of the provincial government and the University administration. Meanwhile in a broader sense, public health and economic ripple effects have altered the needs of the graduate student body. In response to this changing landscape, *the GSA will:*

- ♦ Continue diligently advocating for the voice of graduate students and striving to protect the interests of this diverse population.
- ♦ Remain committed to ongoing review of its own internal structure and to making changes where warranted to ensure it is operating to the fullest extent of its capacity.



Events:

The GSA will offer a mixed slate of virtual and in-person events in the 2022-2023 year; these include Fall and Winter orientation opportunities, GSA information sessions which are offered for the benefit of graduate students, and regular social events. Additionally, the GSA General Election takes place annually in February-March.



The Graduate Students' Association
1-49 Triffo Hall
University of Alberta
T6G 2E1



780-492-2175
gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca
uab.ca/gsa

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
SENATOR (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

Information regarding the vacancy for one (1) GSA Senator position was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 24 and 30, and 8 July 2022 with a nomination deadline of 13 July 2022. ONE (1) nomination was received.

Duties

“The Senator is the GSA’s representative to the University of Alberta Senate” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.BYL.3.3.b)

“All GSA Council-Elected Officers and Deputies are non-voting members of GSA Council” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.BYL.3.3.e)

“The Senator is a non-voting member of the GSA Board (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.POL.3.1.d)

Qualifications

“The Senator should have prior experience acting as a representative for the GSA and/or as a liaison with bodies external to the University” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.2.a)

There will be an electronic vote held at the 18 July 2022 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 18 July 2022 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator (gsanomco@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 18 July 2022 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. Md Habibur Rahaman (Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science)

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.BYL.3.1.d

“The Senator will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E.POL.3.2.a

“The GSA NoC provides GSA Council with the names of nominees for all GSA Council-Elected Officer positions. These positions will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E.POL.3.2.b

“Prior to forwarding the names of nominees for GSA Council-Elected Officer positions, the GSA NoC will review the resumes and bios received with reference to eligibility criteria as set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy and will forward the names of nominees who meet the eligibility criteria to GSA Council.”

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

**Nominations for GSA SENATOR
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER)
One (1) Nominee**

1. Md Habibur Rahaman

Other governance bodies served on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	Faculty Steward committee at GSA, U of A DiscoverE Mentor at U of A Safewalk committee at U of A
Statement of Interest:	
Actually, I was a volunteer and active member of graduate student union at Memorial University for two years in three different committees such as finance, academic and social. Here at U of A, I am volunteering the above-mentioned committee as well. I always love to work for the communities and love to serve students from various countries.	
Bio:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive member, Academic committee, GSU, Memorial University, Canada, 2018-2020. ✓ Executive member, Finance committee, GSU, Memorial University, Canada, 2018-2020. ✓ Executive member, The sustainable society, Memorial University, Canada, 2018-2020. ✓ Organizer and reviewer, IEEE sponsored ICEEE conference, RUET, Bangladesh=02 times. ✓ Organizer and reviewer, IEEE sponsored ICECTE conference, RUET, Bangladesh=02 times. ✓ Organizer, Technocracy 2018~2019 (National Technological event), RUET, Bangladesh=3 times. 	

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (GSA ACB) (TWO (2) POSITIONS FOR GSA COUNCILLORS): ONE (1) NOMINEE

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated to GSA council on 24 and 30 June, and 8 July 2022 with a nomination deadline of 12 July 2022. One (1) nomination was received for the two (2) GSA Councillor vacancies. The nominee was then interviewed by GSA NoC members who have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. A member of GSA management was also present for the interview. During the interview, the nominee was asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB receive training in procedural fairness).

There will be an electronic vote held at the 18 July 2022 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 18 July 2022, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 18 July 2022 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name and will be presented in *reverse alphabetical* order on the ballot. 'None of the Candidates' will also be considered a nominee.

- 1. Eric Beaudry (Mechanical Engineering)**

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

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections H.POL.7.1 and H.POL.7.2

"Eight (8) GSA members elected by GSA Council as voting members" and "four (4) Departmental Councillors (including the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) Councillor), alternates, or recent former Departmental Councillors, elected by GSA Council as voting members."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H.POL.8.1

"The GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) will interview all nominees to the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) and forward selected nominees to GSA Council."

The biography and brief resume received for the one (1) nominee is BELOW on page 8.3. The biography and brief resume is presented as received (ie not edited).

**Nominations for GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD
(TWO (2) VACANCIES FOR GSA COUNCILLORS)
One (1) Nominee**

Eric Beaudry

Other governance bodies served on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	None
Statement of Interest:	
I would like to serve on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board to ensure that the electoral process of the GSA is fair and democratic. I also have strong convictions to ensure that the members of the GSA feel safe, are protected against harm and harassment, are held accountable for their actions, and have mechanisms to seek justice. I believe the sanctity of the GSA relies on this committee, and I am whole-heartedly committed to serving on it.	
Bio:	
Being a team member in a variety of environments has equipped me with great interpersonal, problem solving, and leadership skills. I have experience as an industry engineer, researcher, volunteer, international coach in para-sport, and provincial athlete. As a team member in these settings, I have been exposed to diverse perspectives and been forced to reach consensus on tough issues.	

President
Report to GSA Council for the 18 July 2022 Meeting

To: GSA Council
 From: Anas Fassih
 Date: 15 July 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope this report finds you well and enjoying the summer. The last month has been quiet with most of University administrative leaders being on vacation till August. The GSA team and I have been preoccupied with brainstorming priorities for our GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) that is before Council members at this month's meeting. I look forward to your feedback on our priorities for the year.

Another major highlight from the month is the GSA Board's effort to land on directions for our new structure as we anticipate separating the Labour portfolio from our role as a student association. It seems all Board members are in agreement with moving to an Associate Vice-President Labour position, which will be reporting directly to the bargaining unit (academically-employed graduate students (AEGSs)) and to Council during monthly meetings. We believe this is a long overdue separation which will allow the organization as a student association and labour union to thrive in its efforts to defend the rights of its AEGSs and to advocate for all its members towards the betterment of the academic experience to a higher standard. Council members will be kept updated about the structure going forward and will have the authority to approve the final bylaw and policy changes sometime later this year, to take effect in May 2023.

I would also like to encourage members to get involved with the GSA to help the executive team execute its mandate. Currently, we need to fill a number of vacancies in GSA Standing Committees and many of these are seats open only to Council members (please consider applying). The major committee that I would really like members to be part of is the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EDIC). We anticipate there will be some vacancies on this group in the coming months as we replenish membership and, when these spots are advertised in the GSA newsletter, I hope you will consider putting your name forward. We are aiming to embark on robust conversations on building a GSA EDI Strategic Work Plan, a blueprint document that will guide our resources as we advocate for EDI on campus and beyond. We won't be able to attain this goal without the help and input of EDIC members and, thus, your involvement is of utmost necessity.

Finally, I would like to thank the executive team for the dedication they have shown in the start of our term, and the investment they have put into their own portfolios as we draft our SWP and as we engage with various internal and external stakeholders to build relationships for our advocacy. I would also like to thank the management team in the office for supporting the executive team. Important as it is, the role of the management team could not be more important this year, as we engage in a massive change of the structure which will require a lot of research, consultation, and drafting. Further, the full transition to in-person necessitates organizing in-person events for engaging with our members; all this is done by staff members making the role of pivotal importance, for which I am grateful.

I welcome any questions you may have in the Council meeting or to my email (gsa.president@ualberta.ca).

Respectfully,
 Anas Fassih
 2022-2023 GSA President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21 June to 18 July 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

22 June	Meeting with Ukraine President Zelenskyy
22 June	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
22 June	Meeting with Education Representatives on GSA Council
22 June	Meeting with a Graduate Student
23 June	Joint University of Alberta Board of Governors and the University of Alberta Properties Trust (UAPT) Board of Directors Meeting

9.1

23 June	Meeting with C Swindlehurst, Chief Strategy Officer
24 June	U of A Indigenous Strategic Plan Celebration
24 June	Coffee and Governance with K Peters, General Faculties Council (GFC) Secretary
27 June	Meeting with C Saed, Vice-President Academic, International Students' Association (ISA)
27 June	Meeting with P Garritty, Chancellor
28 June	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
29 June	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
30 June	Meeting with Saaka Sulemana Saaka, President of the University of Calgary GSA
6 July	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations), and R Stein, Chief of Staff (External Relations)
8 July	GSA, Students' Union (SU), and Dean of Students Retreat
12 July	Meeting with A Sharman, Vice-President, Facilities and Operations
13 July	Meeting with G Cummings, College Dean (Health Sciences) and P Manns, Associate Dean Graduate Studies (Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine)
15-16 July	Alberta Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Retreat
18 July	Meeting with D Vethanayagam and S Shanmuganathan (Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry)

**GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the 18 July 2022 Meeting**

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 Directly-Elected Officers 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 19.2-19.5.

22 June 2022 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Council Debrief; Draft GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2022-2023; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

29 June 2022 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Draft GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2022-2023; GSA Officer Portfolio Restructuring; GSA Orientation Briefing; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

6 July 2022 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Attendance at an Alberta Provincial Graduate Advocacy Council Board Retreat, 14-17 July 2022 in Canmore, AB: Estimated Expense; Draft GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2022-2023; GSA Officer Portfolio Restructuring; Proposed Resolution Concerning the Composition of GSA Council; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the estimated expense for three (3) representatives to attend an Alberta Provincial Advocacy Council Board retreat, 14-17 July 2022 in Canmore, AB, as noted in the attached document. MV **MOVED**. BA Seconded. **CARRIED**.

MOTION: That the GSA Board **APPROVE AND FORWARD TO GSA COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION** the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. AF **MOVED**. MV Seconded. **CARRIED**.

13 July 2022 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Introduction to Mitacs; GSA Officer Portfolio Restructuring; Attendance at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Policy and Planning Conference, 7-12 August 2022 in Calgary, AB: Estimated Expense; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the estimated expense for two (2) representatives to attend the Canadian Alliance of Student of Associations Policy and Planning Conference, 7-12 August 2022 in Calgary, AB, as noted in the attached document. MV **MOVED**. JR Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**GSA Governance Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 18 July 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 15 July 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

On 28 June 2022, the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) reviewed, via email, the resolution concerning seats for the Faculty of Education on GSA Council currently before members for consideration. Members of the GSA GC had no questions or concerns regarding the proposed resolution.

I am happy to answer any questions.

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

**Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 18 July 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Bishoi Aziz
Date: 15 July 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you all enjoy the summertime and the long sunny days. I am writing to keep you informed of the work I have done over the past month.

General Faculties Council Programs Committee (GFC PC) – June 22nd

- The committee approved changes to program requirements for graduate programs in Medicine, Pediatrics, and Medical Microbiology and Immunology

Meeting with the International Student Association (ISA) President & VP Academic – June 27th

- We had a preliminary discussion about the ISA's proposal to collect fees from international students. We discussed that, for the GSA to support it, ISA needs to offer services that aren't already offered by the GSA.

Meeting with the University of Alberta Chancellor, Peggy Garritty – June 27th

- We advocated for graduate student priorities including centralized minimum funding packages. The Chancellor showed her full support for it. We also discussed the extreme work overload that graduate students have, which elongates the study duration for many students. We also discussed the inability of international graduate students from medicine to practice as physicians and obtain residency positions despite the huge deficit of physicians in Canada. The Chancellor showed great understanding and suggested bringing this issue to the Senate as this point is important for the broader Edmonton and Alberta community.

Meeting with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean, B Milne – June 28th

- We discussed the last visit of FGSR to GSA council. We focused our discussion on the new policies brought forward regarding doctoral exam restructuring. The Dean stated that those new policies are already the practice in several Canadian institutions including UBC, UofT, and UofM.

Meeting with the University President, Bill Flanagan – June 29th

- Each Directly Elected Officer (DEO) discussed their priorities for the year with the President. We also mentioned that we are working on the new GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

Meeting with the Computing Science GSA Councillor, Uduak Ituen – June 30th

- I had the chance to meet with Uduak and talk about each other's role in the GSA. I sought to consult Uduak about initiatives that I have related to new programs in Computing Science. Uduak showed interest in the initiatives and promised to discuss them with her team. She also discussed the need for funds for her departmental GSA to have events (she was subsequently referred to the GSA Graduate Student Group Grant).

Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations), and R Stein, Chief of Staff (External Relations) – July 6th

- I discussed the priorities for the VP Academic portfolio including advocacy for minimum guaranteed funding packages for graduate students. I also discussed the development of new interdisciplinary graduate specialized degrees.

Meeting with Dr. F Plane, FGSR Associate Dean – July 11th

- I discussed with her initiating new programs. She supported the initiative and suggested I meet with the relevant departments to discuss the new programs.

Meeting with G Cummings, Dean of College of Health Sciences – July 13th

- I discussed with her starting new interdisciplinary graduate programs. An example we discussed is Artificial Intelligence in healthcare. I also discussed with her the difficulty faced by graduate students who are international Medical Doctors to obtain medical residency positions in the University following finishing their graduate degrees. The Dean commented on ongoing talks in the College to create new interdisciplinary programs. She expressed interest in hearing student perspectives.

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21 June to 18 July 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

22 June	General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC)
23 June	General Faculties Council Programs Committee (GFC PC)
27 June	Meeting with C Saed, Vice-President Academic, International Students' Association (ISA)
27 June	Meeting with P Garritty, Chancellor
28 June	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
29 June	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
30 June	Meeting with the Computing Science GSA
6 July	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations), and R Stein, Chief of Staff (External Relations)
6 July	Meeting with a Graduate Student
8 July	GSA, Students' Union (SU), and Dean of Students Retreat
11 July	Meeting with F Plane, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Associate Dean
13 July	Meeting with G Cummings, College Dean (Health Sciences) and P Manns, Associate Dean Graduate Studies (Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine)

**Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 18 July 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Janmejy Rao
Date: 15 July 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are all doing well, enjoying the warm weather and getting some time to relax before the fall semester. I have briefly summarized some important meetings that I attended since the last GSA Council meeting.

22 June – Meeting with M Garcia, Manager, Retail Food Services – Discussed jobs students can get with on-campus services. It will be helpful for students who work to pay their tuition and living expenses. The idea is if corporations can hire more students for these jobs.

24 June - GSA Coffee Break – Met with many graduate students to identify the issues they are facing. An informal session to learn about graduate students' problems during their time at UofA.

27 and 28 June – Meeting with International Students' Association (ISA) – Met VP Graduate Affairs and VP Academic from the ISA. Discussed the priorities of the ISA and how the GSA can support international students. A significant priority of international students seems to be a dedicated immigration stream.

29 June – Meeting with President Flanagan: Discussed the external advocacy priorities of graduate students this year and how the President of the University can help us achieve those priorities.

7 July – Meeting with S Price, Associate Vice-President (Alumni Affairs) – The previous GSA Vice-President External had been trying to establish a career fair for graduate students with the help of Alumni. I am pursuing the same to help graduate students to get a job after their studies.

11 July - Meeting with Associate Vice-President, Campus Services: Discussed family housing and couples housing on campus. A consultation report from January 2019 pointed out that student parents do not prefer to live on campus due to childcare availability issues.

These were the main highlights of the few meetings I attended. If you have any further questions, feel free to ask in the GSA Council meeting or reach out to me via email (gsa.vpexternal@ualberta.ca). I hope to bring a positive change to external advocacy and look forward to working with you all.

Thank you,
Janmejy Rao, Vice-President External 2022-2023

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21 June to 18 July 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

22 June	Meeting with M Garcia, Manager, Retail Food Services (Vice-President Facilities and Operations), Commercial Leasing
24 June	U of A Indigenous Strategic Plan Celebration
24 June	GSA Coffee Break
27 June	Meeting with C Saed, Vice-President Academic, International Students' Association (ISA)
28 June	Meeting with A Quaye, Vice-President Graduate Affairs, International Students' Association (ISA)
29 June	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
7 July	Meeting with S Price, Associate Vice-President (Alumni Affairs)
8 July	GSA, Students' Union (SU), and Dean of Students Retreat
11 July	Meeting with K Huising, Associate Vice President, Campus Services (Vice-President Facilities and Operations)
13 July	Post-Secondary Education Task Force
15-16 July	Alberta Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Retreat
18 July	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Policy Writing Session

**Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the 18 July 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Hiren Kaklotar
Date: 15 July 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying sunny days. Here are the main takeaways from the meetings I attended since last council meeting.

On 23 June, I hosted a GSA Labour 101 Session and nearly 15 students attended, where I went through the Collective Agreement and we also had a fruitful Q&A session at the end.

On 29 June, I and the other Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) met with President Flanagan. Each of us discussed our priorities for the 2022-2023 year. In terms of priorities, I discussed expanding our faculty steward network, which helps address student concerns related to the Collective Agreement and inform academically-employed graduate students about ongoing collective bargaining. President Flanagan discussed where he can help us in the case we need support.

On 6 July, I and the other DEOs met with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations), and R Stein, Chief of Staff (External Relations). Each of us discussed our priorities for the 2022-2023 year. In terms of priorities, again I discussed about expanding the faculty steward network and ongoing collective bargaining. We discussed some ways by which we can achieve our goals for the year.

On 7 July, I met with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) and individuals from other graduate student associations and postdoctoral fellow associations across Alberta concerning a response to the passing of Bill 17 by the provincial government. We discussed a few possible steps that we can take to show our disagreement and we have planned to meet again to keep on track with that.

On 8 July, the GSA, Students' Union and Dean of Students Office had a teambuilding retreat together and did a scavenger hunt on campus. Later, we discussed priorities for the year and took guidance from the Dean of Students.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or suggestions. I'm here to serve you!

In solidarity,
Hiren Kaklotar, Vice-President Labour 2022-2023

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21 June and 18 July 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

23 June	Meeting with a Graduate Student
23 June	GSA Labour 101
29 June	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
5 July	Meeting with a Graduate Student
6 July	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations), and R Stein, Chief of Staff (External Relations)
7 July	Meeting with the Public Service of Canada (PSAC)
8 July	GSA, Students' Union (SU), and Dean of Students Retreat

14 July	Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Monthly Meeting
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**Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the 18 July 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Monisha Vinod
Date: 15 July 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope all is well with you. I hope you are enjoying the summer and are taking some well-deserved time off as the Fall semester nears. I have been working with the GSA Board on the Strategic Work Plan and sharing ideas and thoughts with stakeholders on campus. Below are a few updates from the committees I sit on since the last Council meeting.

- Campus and Community Recreation have created a survey to gauge current students' experience on campus to ensure more accommodation of potential needs of the incoming students this Fall. I looked it over and it will be published in the GSA newsletter in late September along with promoting a Wellness 101 course in eClass that I will complete by then so that I can provide feedback.
- I am working on setting up the first snack station, on behalf of Campus Food Bank (CFB), in the Alberta School of Business and will be reaching out to the MBA Office shortly. I got a chance to meet a few members of the CFB Board as well as the diverse population of volunteers at an Appreciation Picnic event hosted by CFB.
- There has been more work on activities planned for Mental Health Day as part of the Days of Action Committee's priorities, and tasks to realize how the day will look have been divided up between members of the working committee.
- I met with a representative from Healthy Campus Alberta (HCA) who was introduced to me by Kevin Friese, Assistant Dean, Health and Wellness, where I spoke about what we did at the UofA to take care of the mental health of a student on campus and what resources were available. The HCA representative shared what events may be coming up that are organized by HCA and how discussions with students from other campuses could open avenues for more ideas to improve and aid wellness initiatives on campus today. I was also pointed to more resources on their website that can help me advocate for mental health.
- A survey was sent out to garner interest for Michael Frishkopf's (Faculty of Arts) Smart Listening Room and Soundscape Research AI Project and will be sent again when the Fall semester begins.
- Regarding the U-Pass, Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) has the SmartFare system for the Arc cards in their pilot program and full launch of the program to all citizens is expected for September and GSA Management is confirming receipt of all required documents of the contract renewal from ETS. Current students are already using the Arc Card, and this service will continue throughout the Summer and into the Fall.
- The President and DEOs had a chance to go over their strategic goals under each of their portfolios and present them to President Bill Flanagan, Vice-President (External Relations) Elan MacDonald, and the Office of the Dean of Students. I appreciated the feedback I received and am in the process of setting up meetings with the people who I was pointed to for certain initiatives on my end. There is unmatched support from all individuals I interacted with, and I was thankful that we were all working together towards the same goal of enhancing a student's experience at the UofA.

I look forward to working with each one of you this 2022-2023 academic year. As always, I am open to feedback and questions and can be reached at gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca.

Thank you and with warm regards,
 Monisha Vinod, Vice-President Student Services 2022-2023

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21 June to 18 July 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

21 June	U-Pass Administrative Committee
22 June	Healthy Campus Alberta Introduction
23 June	Mental Health Day Working Group
23 June	Social Justice Day Working Group
29 June	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
6 July	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations), and R Stein, Chief of Staff (External Relations)
6 July	Campus Food Bank Summer Picnic
8 July	GSA, Students' Union (SU), and Dean of Students Retreat
13 July	Mental Health Day Working Group
14 July	Campus Food Bank Strategic Goals Lunch
14 July	Meeting with K Friese, Assistant Dean, Health and Wellness

**GSA Nominating Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 18 July 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Kenzie Gordon
Date: 15 July 2022

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 or GSA Elections Coordinator Monica Brzak at gsanomco@ualberta.ca.

GSA Standing Committees**1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (Two (2) GSA Councillor Positions)**

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council 24 and 30, and 8 July 2022, with a deadline of 12 July 2022. **One (1) nomination was received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 8b – Nominee for the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board).**

2) GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) (Two (2) GSA Councillor Positions)

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council 24 and 30, and 8 July 2022, with a deadline of 13 July 2022. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

3) GSA Board (GSAB) (One (1) GSA Councillor Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council 24 and 30, and 8 July 2022, with a deadline of 13 July 2022. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

4) 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 24 and 30, and 8 July 2022, with a deadline of 13 July 2022. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

GSA Officers**1) GSA Senator (One (1) Position for a GSA Member)**

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 24 and 30, and 8 July 2022, with a deadline of 13 July 2022. **One nomination was received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 8a – Nominee for the GSA Senator).**

2) GSA Deputy Speaker (One (1) Position for a GSA Member)

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 24 and 30, and 8 July 2022, with a deadline of 13 July 2022. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

3) GSA Deputy Returning Officer (One (1) Position for a GSA Member)

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 24 and 30, and 8 July 2022, with a deadline of 13 July 2022. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the 18 July 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 15 July 2022

Dear GSA Council Members,

The big projects for the office staff over the past month have centred mostly on planning for the GSA's annual September orientation and information fair and departmental orientations, design and production of the GSA planner, finalizing the GSA's audit (which will be presented to GSA Council in September), organizing a series of town halls on the GSA Health and Dental Plan, and assisting the executive team with the development of the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (currently before you). After a long hiatus occasioned by the pandemic, we're all very excited to be planning in-person orientation activities for the fall.

All this ongoing work is done by a small team of dedicated and engaged staff and, annually, I like to take the opportunity to briefly introduce you to that staff team. Snapshots of their backgrounds and roles in the organization are below.

GSA Administrative/Professional Staff

Courtney Thomas: Executive Director, BA Honours and MA History (U of A), PhD History and Renaissance Studies (Yale) (FT)

Courtney came to the GSA with three years' experience working in U of A governance prior to her completion of her PhD at Yale. After serving at the GSA as Director of Services and Governance for several years, Courtney was appointed Executive Director (ED) in 2016. In that role, she oversees the GSA staff, the GSA office and its operations, and the GSA's corporate and governance infrastructures. The GSA has a dynamic staff that regularly dissolves into problem-solving teams under Courtney's direction. Her other direct responsibilities include the GSA's corporate life; governance and support for GSA standing committee and GSA Council; financial management; advising the executive team; and overseeing the annual GSA election and the transition of elected officials. She is the Coordinator of GSA Council and the GSA Board, provides support for several GSA standing committees, and oversees initiatives related to the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan and engagement initiatives. All this work is done in collaboration with the executive team and other members of the staff team. Courtney published a monograph based on her PhD dissertation with the University of Toronto Press in 2017 and is highly obsessed with the Real Housewives franchise (she remains committed to getting her five-year old daughter to share this obsession, to no avail).

Erika Heiberg: Associate Director, BA Psychology and Physical Education (U of A), MPhil Culture, Environment and Sustainability (University of Oslo) (FT)

Coming to the GSA in 2020, with a background in student advising and student services at Augustana Faculty, Erika assists with the coordination of GSA Council, the GSA Board, and other GSA standing committees. She is involved with the processing of GSA grants, awards, and bursaries, and has oversight of nominating and elections processes. Erika utilizes her previous knowledge to assist with the management of the GSA's corporate documents, contracts, and agreements and assists with human resources work. She also oversees the GSA's website and is the point person for GSA services, such as the Health and Dental Plan and the Graduate Student Assistance Program. Finally, she serves as the GSA's Labour Professional and works closely with the Vice-President Labour to support the work of the GSA as a union. Erika plays ultimate frisbee, makes pottery, and hangs out with her dog Max in her spare time.

Shirley Ball: Accountant, CPA (CA), Bachelor of Business Administration (PT) and Dorte Sheikh: Financial Manager, BA Anthropology (U of A) (PT)

Shirley has extensive experience with not-for-profits and is a key member of the Financial Team. Dorte has 33 years' experience in the Registrar's Office. She handles banking and payroll matters and advises on matters related to our corporate structure. Shirley and Dorte work on the GSA's finances and budgets, financial reporting to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the GSA Board, and GSA Council, and our annual external audit.

GSA Support Staff (represented by NASA with their own collective agreement)

Laura Taras: Executive Coordinator and Communications Specialist, BFA (U of A), Bachelor of Applied Communications (MacEwan) (FT)

Laura joined the GSA in 2014. Laura has prior not-for-profit work experience, including course development and training for at-risk youth and a course for Indigenous young adults, written communications and graphics, technical documentation, and office administration. She coordinates and produces communications and graphics. In addition, she schedules GSA Directly-Elected Officers and staff; manages the information retrieval system; and organizes the annual transition of elected officials. She also answers Front Desk inquiries. Laura enjoys Scandinavian murder mysteries, collecting art, and spending time with her beloved parrot Marbles, but is *not* a bird lady.

Fiona Robertson: Outreach Coordinator, BA Anthropology (U of S), MA Anthropology (U of A) (FT)

Fiona gained administrative experience working in both a tax firm and a law firm before coming to the University of Alberta to begin a Masters degree in Anthropology. After completing her degree, Fiona worked for four years in the Faculty of Extension on a grant-funded community-based research project with Metis settlements. At the GSA, Fiona deals with awards, grants, and bursaries; plans and manage all GSA events, including in-person and virtual orientation programming; works with departmental GSAs; acts as a GSA Council Secretary; and deals with Front Desk enquiries. Fiona is a self-proclaimed expert in pop-culture, particularly the nerdy categories, and stays ready should anyone attempt to challenge her dominance in this field.

Monica Brzak: Elections Coordinator, BA Sociology (MacEwan) (FT)

Monica joined the GSA in January 2020 and supports the GSA Nominating Committee, Discover Governance, and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee. She drafts materials related to elections and referenda, and manages requests from Administration for graduate student representatives on committees, task forces, etc. Monica takes minutes for the GSA Board meetings and also deals with Front Desk enquiries. In her spare time Monica enjoys playing slo-pitch and banging on her drums.

Mahsa Toghray: Strategic Planning Coordinator and Initiatives Lead, BA Psychology (U of A) (FT)

Mahsa joined the GSA in August 2016 and transitioned to her current role in January 2021. In addition to her share of Front Desk responsibilities, she supports the development and ongoing administrative work related to the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) and pursues various research projects related to strategic priorities of the organization. She coordinates the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC), the GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus and the GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus, and supports a number of communications projects and initiatives alongside Laura. Mahsa has recently started skateboarding in her spare time, and she also enjoys video games.

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached (pages 19.2-19.5) and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Best,

Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, 22 June 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 15 June 2022:

Strategic

- Ongoing work on the development of the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.
- Debriefing the hybrid GSA Council meeting and preparing for a meeting with representatives from Education about departmental seats on GSA Council in light of Education's move to a non-departmentalized structure.
- Planning the governance cycle for the GSA's audit (progresses to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, then the GSA Board, then GSA Council). The audit process started a bit later than usual this year so may not go forward to GSA Council until September but the spring/summer term financial report will still move forward in July.
- Reviewing GSA Bylaw and Policy to make a list of sections that would need to be amended pending discussion with the GSA Board and GSA Council about changes in GSA Officer portfolios.
- Preparing materials requested by the GSA's Auditor.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (supporting the GSA Negotiating Team (bargaining has resumed), the GSA Labour Relations Committee, circulating updates to members of the bargaining unit, meeting with graduate students, and soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network).

Operations

- Beginning to solicit advertisers for the GSA handbook, generating printing cost estimates, and beginning the design process.
- Planning for in-person fall orientation (Lister has been booked) and departmental orientations.
- Preparing to host a Funding 101 session and a GSA Coffee Break.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council).
- Facebook = 1,748 likes (down 1 from 15 June); Facebook posts reached 360 users since 15 June. Twitter = 1,299 followers (up 2 from 15 June); our tweets earned 1,100 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 809 followers (down 2 from 15 June); Instagram posts reached 137 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 April and there is an upswing in application numbers; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 April. We are seeing an increase in applications as pandemic prevention measures ease and 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 June 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 22 June 2022:

Strategic

- Ongoing work on the development of the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.
- Drafting a resolution to freeze seats on GSA Council for Education at their June 2022 numbers for GSA Council's consideration.
- Planning the governance cycle for the GSA's audit (progresses to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC), then the GSA Board, then GSA Council). The audit process started a bit later than usual this year so both the audit and the most recent term financial report will go forward to the GSA BFC in August.
- Training, with the current Speaker, for the incoming Speaker.
- Reviewing GSA Bylaw and Policy to make a list of sections that would need to be amended pending discussion with the GSA Board and GSA Council about a potential restructuring in GSA Officer portfolios.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (supporting the GSA Negotiating Team (bargaining has resumed), the GSA Labour Relations Committee, circulating updates to members of the bargaining unit, meeting with graduate students, and soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network).

Operations

- Soliciting advertisers for the GSA handbook, generating printing cost estimates, and beginning the design process.
- Planning for in-person fall orientation (Lister has been booked) and departmental orientations.
- Grants processing.
- Updating GSA Council attendance records for the previous year and forward planning for the first mailing of GSA Council meeting materials for the July meeting.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council). Also soliciting nominations for the positions of Deputy Speaker, Deputy Returning Officer, and Senator (advertised via the GSA newsletter) and the Faculty of Arts Council and associated standing committees (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty).
- Facebook = 1,749 likes (up 1 from 22 June); Facebook posts reached 138 users since 22 June. Twitter = 1,302 followers (up 3 from 22 June); our tweets earned 1,300 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 808 followers (down 1 from 22 June); Instagram posts reached 221 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 July (278 applications funded and \$130,586 disbursed in the last period); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 July (97 applications funded and \$190,000 disbursed in the last period); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs (3 applications funded and \$6,354 disbursed since 1 April 2022); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 July (6 applications funded and \$2,615 disbursed in the last period). We are seeing an increase in applications as pandemic prevention measures ease and 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 July 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 29 June 2022:

Strategic

- Reviewing and updating the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan distribution list.
- Human resources work (reviewing vacation requests, organizing human resources files, processing payroll, etc).
- Finalizing recommended amendments to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda, as requested by the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (the committee will begin meeting in the fall to plan the upcoming GSA General Election and will review the proposal then before recommending the changes to GSA Council for consideration).
- Finalizing the GSA's audit.
- Reviewing GSA Bylaw and Policy to make a list of sections that would need to be amended pending discussion with the GSA Board and GSA Council about a potential restructuring in GSA Officer portfolios.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (supporting the GSA Negotiating Team (bargaining has resumed), the GSA Labour Relations Committee, circulating updates to members of the bargaining unit, meeting with graduate students, and soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network).

Operations

- Soliciting advertisers for the GSA handbook, generating printing cost estimates, and beginning the design process.
- Making advocacy travel bookings for Directly-Elected Officers and generating travel estimates for the GSA Board's consideration.
- Planning for in-person fall orientation (Lister has been booked) and departmental orientations.
- Compiling the first mailing of GSA Council meeting materials.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council). Also soliciting nominations for the positions of Deputy Speaker, Deputy Returning Officer, and Senator (advertised via the GSA newsletter) and the Faculty of Arts Council and associated standing committees (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty).
- Facebook = 1,752 likes (up 2 from 29 June); Facebook posts reached 20 users since 29 June. Twitter = 1,301 followers (down 1 from 29 June); our tweets earned 203 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 812 followers (up 4 from 29 June); Instagram posts reached 5 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July; 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. We continue to see an increase in applications as pandemic prevention measures ease and all funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is; 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 July 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 6 July 2022:

Strategic

- Finalizing the content and design of the GSA Planner for review prior to sending to the printer.
- Arranging for a GSA Budget and Finance Committee meeting and finalizing the GSA's audit.
- Attempting to arrange a meeting of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.
- Reviewing GSA Bylaw and Policy to make a list of sections that would need to be amended pending discussion with the GSA Board and GSA Council about a potential restructuring in GSA Officer portfolios.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (supporting the GSA Negotiating Team (bargaining has resumed), the GSA Labour Relations Committee, circulating updates to members of the bargaining unit, meeting with graduate students, soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, and arranging for a meeting of stewards).

Operations

- Making advocacy travel bookings for Directly-Elected Officers and generating travel estimates for the GSA Board's consideration.
- Fall orientation and departmental orientations planning
- Compiling the second mailing of GSA Council meeting materials.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council). Also soliciting nominations for the positions of Deputy Speaker, Deputy Returning Officer, and Senator (advertised via the GSA newsletter) and the Faculty of Arts Council and associated standing committees (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty).
- Facebook = 1,751 likes (down 1 from 6 July); Facebook posts reached 439 users since 6 July. Twitter = 1,302 followers (up 1 from 6 July); our tweets earned 488 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 809 followers (down 3 from 6 July); Instagram posts reached 4 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July; 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. We continue to see an increase in applications as pandemic prevention measures ease and all funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is; 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.