

GSA Council Meeting AGENDA
Monday, 21 September 2020 at 6:00 pm
Held online via Zoom

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

Substantive material is sent to all GSA Council members at least one week prior to the date of the meeting to give members abundant time to review. Any additional substantive material received after this mailing will be emailed as soon as possible.

Reports from committees, Directly-Elected Officers, and GSA Management are emailed the Friday before a Monday meeting so that the content is as current as possible.

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair

OPEN SESSION

**Attached
Numbered Pages**

1. Approval of the 21 September 2020 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 17 August 2020 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)
Attachment:
 - i. Minutes from the 17 August 2020 GSA Council Meeting
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership (*suggested time: 1 min*)
 - i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

2.0 - 2.4

GSA Council Member Announcements

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

Discussion Item

5. Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Overview and Membership Fees Consultation (*suggested time: 45 min*)
Anas Fassih (Vice-President External) will present the item and introduce the guests.

Guests: Crys Vincent, Advocacy and Outreach Chair (ab-GPAC) and Vice-President External, Athabasca University GSA, and Brandon Simmons, Executive Director (ab-GPAC)

Attachments:

- i. ab-GPAC Overview
- ii. ab-GPAC Membership Fees Consultation Letter and Associated Attachments

5.0 - 5.16

5.17 - 5.60

Elections

6. GSA Council Elections (*suggested time: 15 min*)
Kenzie Gordon (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item.

GSA Standing Committees

Prepared by E Heiberg for GSA Council 21 September 2020

- a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (renewal of 2 GSA Councillor positions and 1 GSA member position) – **Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker) will present this portion of the item**
Attachment:
 - i. Nominees for the Renewal of GSA ACB Positions (3 positions) 6.0 - 6.2
- b. GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) (6 vacancies for GSA members)
Attachment:
 - i. Nominees for the GSA ASC (6 vacancies) 6.3 - 6.5
- c. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (3 vacancies for GSA members)
 - i. Nominees for the GSA ERC (3 vacancies) 6.6 - 6.8
- d. GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (GSAB and GSA NoC) (1 vacancy for a GSA Councillor) – **Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker) will present this portion of the item**
Attachment:
 - i. Nominee for the GSAB and GSA NoC (1 vacancy) 6.9 - 6.10

Reports (suggested time: 15 min)

- 7. President (**Marc Waddingham, President**)
 - i. President's Report 7.0 - 7.2
 - ii. GSA Board Report 7.3
 - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
 - iv. GSA Governance Committee Report 7.4
- 8. Vice-President Academic (**Sachiketha Reddy, Vice-President Academic**)
 - i. Vice-President Academic's Report 8.0 - 8.1
- 9. Vice-President External (**Anas Fassih, Vice-President External**)
 - i. Vice-President External's Report 9.0 - 9.1
 - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report 9.2
- 10. Vice-President Labour (**Umesh Nimmathi, Vice-President Labour**)
 - i. Vice-President Labour's Report 10.0 - 10.1
 - ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
- 11. Vice-President Student Services (**Sridhar Parasharamatham, Vice-President Student Services**)
 - i. Vice-President Student Services' Report 11.0 - 11.1
- 12. Senator (**Marla Palakkamanil, Senator**)
 - i. Senator's Report (**no written report at this time**)
- 13. Speaker (**Pranidhi Baddam, Speaker**)
 - i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
- 14. Chief Returning Officer (**Michael Huang, Chief Returning Officer**)
 - i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**no written report at this time**)
- 15. GSA Nominating Committee (**Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Chair**)
 - i. GSA Nominating Committee Report 15.0 - 15.1
- 16. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair**)
 - i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

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

17.0 - 17.6

Question Period

18. Written Questions
19. Oral Questions

Adjournment

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 17 August 2020 at 6:00 pm
Held online via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Marc Waddingham (President)	Kyla Cangiano (Anthropology)	Md Monir Hossain (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Matthew Benson (Ophthalmology)
Sachiketha Reddy (VP Academic)	Allan Yarahmady (Biochemistry)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Shubham Soni (Paediatrics)
Anas Fassih (VP External)	Jessica Grenke (Biological Science)	Jane Allred (History & Classics)	Erika Poitras (Pharmacology)
Umesh Nimmathi (VP Labour)	Kevin Solar (Biomedical Engineering)	Jessica Kennedy (Human Ecology)	Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Sridhar Parasharamatham (VP Student Services)	Georgio Cheruvellil (Business MBA)	Muhammad Idrees Afzal (Internetworking)	Paolo Verdini (Philosophy)
Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker)	Kylie Heales (Business PhD)	Elaine Yip (Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation)	Kimberly Dice (Physical Therapy)
Priyanka Maripuri (Deputy Speaker)	Sophie Keegan (Cell Biology)	Janet Zhou (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Clinton Potts (Physics)
Michael Huang (Chief Returning Officer)	Arsh Hazrah (Chemistry)	Jenn Laskosky (Library & Information Studies)	Robert Reklow (Physiology)
Marla Palakkamanil (Senator)	Fernando Hernandez (Computing Science)	Nishant Agrawal (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Elise Sammons (Political Science)
Paramita Chaudhuri Basu (Councillor-at-Large)	Julie Piche; Harsimrat Kaur (Dentistry)	David Gordon (Mechanical Engineering)	Lane Liddle; Connor Lambert (Psychology)
Nadia Daniel (Councillor-at-Large)	Jennifer McDevitt (Digital Humanities)	Shui Jiang (Medical Genetics)	McKenzie Tilstra (Public Health)
Tejasai Kommanpalli (Councillor-at-Large)	Collette Slevinsky (Drama)	Kevin Joannou (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Noor Al-Zanoon (Rehabilitation Science)
Rakshith Reddy Gopu (Councillor-at-Large)	Alexandra San Diego (East Asian Studies)	Nadia Daniel (Medicine)	Beckett Stark (Renewable Resources)
Yashita Singh (Councillor-at-Large)	Jasen Aussant (Economics)	Noam Steinberg (Neuroscience)	Michael Huang (REES)
Md Solimul Chowdhury (Councillor-at-Large)	Carrie Karsgaard (Educational Policy Studies)	Valene Cheah (Occupational Therapy)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Zhiying Wang (Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science)	Lauren Trafford (Educational Psychology)	Braden Chow; Shayla Mosley (Oncology)	Lindy Schaffrick (Surgery)

Guests: Dr. Steven Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic); Radim Barta (GSA Nominating Committee Chair).

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

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

Approval of Agenda**1. Approval of the 17 August 2020 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 17 August 2020 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 14 August 2020. J Laskosky **MOVED**; N Daniel **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes**2. Minutes from the 20 July 2020 GSA Council Meeting**

Prepared by F Robertson and M Toghrai for GSA Council 17 August 2020

Members had before them the 20 July 2020 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 7 August 2020. J Kennedy **MOVED**; L Liddle **SECONDED**.

The Speaker noted an error in the attendance list, which had been amended following the circulation of the minutes.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

- i. **Introduction of New GSA Council Members:** It was the first meeting for C Karsgaard (Educational Policy Studies) and H Kaur (Dentistry).
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** It was the final meeting for J Piche (Dentistry).

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. **GSA Council Member Announcements:** No GSA Council member announcements were offered.

Presentations

5. 2020-2021 University of Alberta Academic Restructuring Initiative

Marc Waddingham (President) presented the item and introduced the guest, Dr. Steven Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic).

S Dew presented on the Academic Restructuring Initiative, part of the University of Alberta for Tomorrow (UAT) and noted that many of materials he referenced were available on the UAT website. S Dew then raised the following points, among others.

S Dew noted that the broader vision of President Flanagan for the project would address current challenges and set up the University for success going forward. The plan involved up to a five-year time frame - the first component was focused on restructuring within the University's current budget constraints and the second component was focused on dynamic growth. The first component was considered urgent so that the University could meet its financial imperatives as the province had implemented large cuts that equalled about one third of the University's funding over the next three years, with most of the cuts occurring in the first fiscal year. These cuts needed to be absorbed into the University's budget. The level of cuts was unusual and unprecedented for the institution and S Dew noted that the University must act swiftly and carefully to maintain effectiveness and deliver high quality programming and outstanding research.

S Dew explained that the intention of the administrative and academic restructuring was so the U of A could become more nimble and lean and that the administrative restructuring would complement the academic restructuring. S Dew noted that their aim would be to reduce workflow, optimize processes, and increase efficiency as well as quality. S Dew explained that beyond the financial piece, there were good reasons for an academic restructuring as an opportunity to consider what the University is doing and how it is doing it and if the University is set up for future success. S Dew noted that the University could become more interdisciplinary, reduce siloes, and become a more strategic institution. Looking at programming in different ways would help consolidate, reduce duplication, be more efficient, and look harder for opportunities for synergies.

S Dew explained that UAT would also assess physical spaces as the University had many and real estate was expensive. Economies of scale could help the University be more efficient administratively and reduce the cost of leadership. Faculty or department consolidation could reduce overall administrative costs by lowering leadership and operations costs without changing research or academic programs.

S Dew noted that changing traditions in place for over 100 years would be hard; changes this significant would be uncomfortable on a number of fronts. S Dew noted that the biggest challenge would be the extraordinarily fast pace required. The U of A would not be the first institution to weather cuts this large. The core funding on a per student basis would move from the top of the U15 list to somewhere in the middle, so the U of A would remain competitive. The prospect of raising tuition, the typical US approach, was neither desirable nor feasible. In offering comparative examples, S Dew noted that Ontario has seen large cuts, but over a longer period, and had increased class sizes and ratios but this was not a short term solution for the U of A. UAT has examined examples in Australia and the UK, which have somewhat similar systems to ours, which focused on finding efficiencies rather than raising tuition in the face of reduced government funding.

S Dew noted that the U of A currently has 18 faculties, 66 departments, and 82 institutes – how UAT would approach each would vary depending on the unit. The U of A was at the complex end of the organizational spectrum when compared to a

cross-section of institutions from across Canada, the US, the UK, and Australia. There were a broad range of examples to consider, any of which could be effective.

The Academic Restructuring Working Group was a group of deans, chairs, professors, and students (including M Waddingham) set up to explore the large suite of options and making recommendations to the General Faculties Council, the Board of Governors, government bodies, and stakeholders like the GSA. They were supported by the background work of a consultant (Nous Group). S Dew noted that the group hoped to pull this all together by 1 July 2021, to implement for the start of the 2021 academic year. Their principles and objectives were based on For the Public Good and have already gone through the governance process; these objectives could be seen online. The Working Group was still in the exploration phase and considering many strategies. Vertical cuts were not a priority for this group; eliminations would be time consuming and require governance approvals. These could be part of a longer, five-year timeline but cuts would be made to better fit the institution's academic vision, not financial vision. Focus would be on consolidation and shuffling to create synergies.

The other major consideration was work within a faculty that was administrative rather than academic. About half of the University's administrative functions happen within departments so S Dew noted that they hope to make strategic changes without compromising quality. New structures could create interdisciplinary opportunities. S Dew noted that they were still in phase one of a three-phase timeline; discussions about names and nomenclature would happen down the road and could be fine-tuned later. A lot would be happening very quickly, so GSA Council members were encouraged to express ideas and concerns using the UAT website or via email to the Provost.

Members raised a number of questions in the ensuing discussion, including, among others: what challenges were expected to arise and how those could be navigated (S Dew explained that most expected challenges would be around change management and helping people manage the change and move forward without barriers and that the scope of change would create issues); if there would be a vision for graduate students that involved less responsibility or oversight for their programs or if there would be any standardizations of the student experience (S Dew explained that if done correctly, programming and research should not be affected (course-based masters would see the same curriculum, thesis-based students would be meeting the same academic requirements and it would be relatively low-impact from a graduate student perspective as there could be a fair amount of standardization as a result of changes in administrative approach – more standardization and centralization)); what the role of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) would be (FGSR has a working group in place, led by the Dean, involving people from across campus to assess procedures and workflow); if there was an idea of how many people would be let go due to restructuring and if there was a timeline for that (S Dew responded that this was top of mind for many; the anxiety was understandable and there would be job losses driven by the cuts to the University's funding (last year the U of A lost about 400 positions, this year it would be about 630, simply to reduce our budget but restructuring would take the workforce the University had left and empower them to support this mission)); cuts had already happened in some departments – would the restructuring plan take these into account or would departments have to change their approaches (S Dew noted that there would likely be a little of both, the cuts in year one have been more traditional; restructuring would not take effect until into the second year of a three-year, \$260 million cut, everyone received cuts in year one and has modified their organization based on that and restructuring would map the current cuts onto planning for implementation); some departments had already seen cuts resulting in a reduced number of teaching positions available for graduate students or reduced funding – would the restructuring deepen these funding impacts (S Dew responded that faculties and departments across campus were responding to cuts in their own way as there were fewer resources and everyone was feeling the pinch; the aim of academic restructuring would be to minimize the amount of resources that go into support functions, maximize resources going into frontline academic teaching, research, and student support); how UAT would balance practicality and sensitivity, given that consolidation could make some stakeholders uneasy (S Dew outlined two phases, first of which would be improving efficiency, and the second of which would be growth and revenue generation, S Dew explained that there was no definitive answer at this point but certainly the Working Group was spending a lot of time thinking about how the U of A could maintain the values of the institution); the feasibility of addressing reduced budget in terms of salary negotiation instead of job loss (as an institution, everything was on the table but the U of A had collective agreements with all associations and unions so changes like that would require bilateral discussion and this was not currently happening); considering all the Australian and UK models, would this be an opportunity to establish ourselves and consider our rankings (S Dew outlined how some examples were more successful than others and that some had significant positive outcomes in terms of increased research funding, which did increase their ranking but the U of A was starting from a disadvantage so could not promise new investments for graduate students right now but would be working very hard to protect current levels of support, expanding research areas would be at the top of the list for investments); how equity would factor into academic restructuring and how less robustly funded fields would be protected (EDI has been a hallmark of the process and the Working Group would apply this lens to any of its recommendations); impacts to faculties not currently planning restructuring, such as through hiring freezes (S Dew responded that they were trying to hold the line – not firing people but also not hiring; considering purchasing processes that would allow the U of A to take advantage of greater supplier discounts or reduced consumption, space consolidation, etc); how

centralization and standardization would affect student experience in programs with significant departmental overlap (objective would not be to restructure programs but to restructure academic units that deliver programs; small changes would occur at first and then programs would evolve over time as units change and develop); with restructuring and merging, which faculty and staff roles would be considered crucial for student success and which would not (S Dew noted that they were not far enough down the path for specific descriptions and service excellence transformation with streams in HR, finance, and student experience would not get started for a few months but core student support units (through the Office of the Dean of Students, for example) would remain unchanged and UAT would be holding town halls and consultations to get input from all stakeholders); should we expect a decrease in funding and support for centres and institutes housed within faculties (S Dew clarified that these units are of interest for restructuring but they are being approached through a hierarchy starting at the faculty level and UAT would interfere with self-funded units as little as possible); if there are points of intersection with the simultaneous government review (Alberta 2030) that could minimize points of conflict (the scope of impact could be huge and the province would be interested in efficiency, value of taxpayer investment, use of tuition dollars, and what the Working Group had been doing was consistent with that; ideally, system review would happen first to provide a blueprint that the UAT model could reflect but, instead, processes would run parallel and UAT would aim to align and perhaps provide leadership.).

S Dew concluded by noting that the UAT homepage had a contact form and that there would be town halls held in future. Emails could be sent to provost@ualberta.ca with Academic Restructuring in the subject line. M Waddingham thanked S Dew for his time and willingness to engage.

Reports

6. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 August 2020. The report stood as submitted. Additionally, in response to a question regarding graduate student representation on bodies such as the General Faculties Council (GFC) and the Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG), and how graduate students could be assured that the representatives are voicing graduate student concerns adequately, M Waddingham noted that he sat on GFC alongside Vice-President Academic S Reddy, and 14 at-large graduate students elected by the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC), and that as GSA President, he was the graduate student representative on the ARWG. He noted that he brought forward concerns received from GSA Council members and others to these bodies and that individual graduate students could ensure their voices were heard by participating in student governance, whether by voting in the GSA General Election, connecting with their GSA Departmental Councillors, and/or with the GSA executive team.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 August 2020. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

No written report at this time.

iv. GSA Governance Committee

No written report at this time.

7. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 August 2020. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S Reddy noted that most committees were currently not meeting over the summer and meetings would resume shortly.

8. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 August 2020. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Fassih noted that the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) had a new Executive Director, that Michener Park residence had now officially closed, and that the hiring process for the University Vice-President (Finance & Administration) had concluded and details would be forthcoming.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee

No written report at this time.

9. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 August 2020. The report stood as submitted. In addition, U Nimmathi reminded members that wearing a mask was mandatory on campus.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No written report at this time.

10. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 August 2020. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S Parasharamatham stated that a new proposal to increase graduate student access to transit was being considered by Edmonton City Council and details would be communicated to graduate students once they had been finalized.

11. Senator

i. Senator's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 August 2020. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Palakkamanil stated that the first Senate Plenary would take place 24-25 September 2020 and she welcomed any ideas and suggestions for Senate initiatives in the meantime.

12. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

13. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

No written report at this time.

14. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 August 2020. The report stood as submitted. In addition, R Barta noted that a number of GSA Standing Committees were currently seeking new members. He strongly encouraged GSA Council members in particular to consider the joint position on the GSA Board (GSAB) and GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC).

15. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report

No written report at this time.

16. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 August 2020. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas noted that electronic orientation content and social programming were coming soon.

Question Period

17. **Written Questions:** No written questions were received.

18. Oral Questions

P Chaudhuri Basu (Councillor-at-Large) raised a question regarding how the Fall 2020 tuition increase was calculated across courses, as graduate students in her department were seeing inconsistencies between students' fee assessments. M Waddingham encouraged her to check in with the department and, as a secondary course of action, email him with additional details.

Adjournment

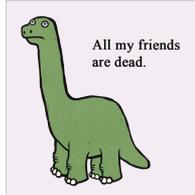
The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Introduction

Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council

Introductions (not to scale)

~66M years ago:
dinosaurs were extinct



1088: The first
university in the world



1760: The industrial
revolution



2015: abGPAC was
formed



A long, long time
ago: The Big Bang



~2589 BC: The Pyramid
of Giza was built



1150: First doctoral
degree awarded



1905: Alberta joined
Canada

What is ab-GPAC?

- The Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council
- A non-partisan, provincial organization representing the graduate students of Albertan post-secondary institutions
- Primary work:
 - Government of Alberta advocacy
 - Policy research and communications
 - Facilitating information-sharing among member GSAs
- Structure:
 - 12-member Board of Directors
 - 1 full-time Executive Director

Our members



Our Pillars *What We Believe and What We Stand For*

- **Promote Impact:** ab-GPAC believes in celebrating and promoting the success and impact of our fellow graduate students. Exemplary research, teaching, and service work done by graduate students should be recognized and promoted frequently and publicly.
- **Attainability:** ab-GPAC believes that graduate studies in Alberta should be attainable for all students who wish to undertake them. Students should not be limited due to barriers of access or completion.
- **Knowledge Creation:** ab-GPAC believes in supporting graduate students' ability to create knowledge in their field. ab-GPAC advocates for this freedom for its members and exemplifies these values by leading in thoughtful research and knowledge creation of the Alberta post-secondary sector.
- **Foundation for the Future:** ab-GPAC believes in purposefully investing for the betterment of graduate students, post-graduation and beyond. Students should receive necessary non-academic support from their institutions, governments, and other organizations.

Looking Ahead

Setting 2020- 2021 Advocacy Priorities

- **Support for caregiving graduate students**
- **Professional development opportunities for graduate students**
- **Improved digital infrastructure**
- **Mental health for graduate students**

Our advocacy policies are currently being drafted

Covid- 19 Response

Provincial priorities

- Advocate for reduced or eliminated, as possible, academic disadvantages
- Advocate for appropriate provincial benefits for post-secondary students (in addition to the CESB)
- Proper protection (PPE) and policy guideline as students return to campuses

Government of Alberta

In general:

- The new Alberta government is moving fast, and introducing far-reaching policy changes with substantial impacts
- Ongoing meetings and consultations
- Feedback has some impact, within broader government priorities
- Entire sector is currently under review (Alberta 2030)

How We Are Responding

- **Speaking out**
 - Media engagement
 - Government submissions
- **Supporting GSAs**
 - Information sharing
 - Strategic support for student mobilization
- **Engaging with other concerned civil society groups**
 - Exploring opportunities for joint campaigns

Past Successes

- Delay of performance based funding
- Reduction of institutional metrics
- Elimination of expenditure reduction targets
- COVID 19 student loan deferrals
- Continuation of student mental health funding
- Bill 19: an act to improve the affordability and accessibility of post-secondary education
- Implementation of student mental health funding

What is Graduate Studies? according to brochures



What is Graduate Studies? actually



JORGE CHAM © 2017

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Executive Committee



Evan Wong - Chair



Mary-Anne Parker - Treasurer



Christine Cao - Vice Chair



Brandon Simmons
Executive Director



Jacob Lamb - Secretary &
Governance Committee Chair



Crys Vincent - Advocacy and
Outreach Committee Chair

Diversity of Experience

One

1 kid on the way!

No

“Do you have kids?”

4 kids, 3 girls
and one
outnumbered
boy

4 kids, 2
grandkids

No children, but I
have 47 plants

Diversity of Experience

Drones! Or how to best deploy autonomous delivery technology that will be the next Skip the Dishes

Maternal Mental Health

A Deep Learning network to assess urban safety or "Tom Cruise's 2002 film Minority Report might be onto something"

"What is your research?"

Course based studies focusing on Entrepreneurship and Governance

"Edmonton has meth in the water and this is how you can tell we have lots of syph"

Phenomenology

Diversity of Experience

Marketing /
communications,
stay-at-home-mum,
newspaper editor, coffee
shop owner, children's
education director,
health care aide, end of
life Doula

Non-profit
management

Working in bio sci,
sending bio students
to South Africa,
volunteering as an
operations manager
for a mental health
group

**“What were you
doing before grad
school?”**

Student Union
Executive and
Business
Consultant

Pouring and
measuring asphalt
and cement as a
site engineer

Being a (bad)
front-end software
developer

Questions

August 19, 2020

To: ab-GPAC Member Organizations
From: ab-GPAC Board of Directors
Re. **Aligning ab-GPAC's scope of work with available resources (member fees)**

Dear Members Organizations,

The purpose of this letter is to begin conversations with member GSAs around ab-GPAC's scope of work and its available resources. The desired outcome of these conversations is to align, as much as possible, ab-GPAC's scope of work and financial resources into the future. This alignment may be achieved by either reducing ab-GPAC's scope of work, increasing member fees in future fiscal years (September 1, 2021 onwards), or some combination of these two approaches.

Through this discussion we hope to find clarity within the particularly challenging financial context of COVID-19. Additionally, the pandemic context will add its own ongoing influence to the future role of ab-GPAC and how we structure our internal work moving forward.

This letter includes information on ab-GPAC's scope of work (expanded over the course of 2019/2020 academic year), current resources, and a list of questions. Please forward brief comments on these questions to Evan Wong (chair@abgpac.ca) by **October 7, 2020**.

ab-GPAC's Scope of Work

Since September 2019, ab-GPAC's scope of work has expanded in a number of ways. Some examples of new or expanded work in the last year include:

- Government and media relations
 - Three new advocacy policy statements adopted in December 2019 (permanent residency, professional development, and scholarships), up from two policy statements in the previous year (2018/2019)
 - ab-GPAC's first Advocacy Week (held in December 2019)
 - Ongoing advisory services from a government relations firm, including training for incoming Directors
 - Increased interactions with the media (in particular, since January 2020)
 - Regular press releases, public statements, and government submissions on a number of topics (in particular, since January 2020)
 - An increased number of meetings with MLAs and government Ministers, over prior years
- Stakeholder relations

- An increased number of regular meetings with peer organizations, such as CAUS and ASEC, and a number of joint initiatives such as public statements and letters to government
- Development of new relationships with additional stakeholders organization, through regular meetings:
 - Public Interest Alberta (PIA),
 - Council of Post-Secondary Presidents of Alberta (COPPOA)
 - Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA)
- Participation in post-secondary adjacent initiatives, relevant to graduate studies (e.g. January 2020 Farmer-led Research Engagement)
- Member relations and services
 - More regular communications with member GSA staff
 - Monitoring of the Government of Alberta’s legislative agenda for potential impacts to graduate students (e.g. Bill 32)
 - The organization of member GSA roundtables, for shared learning and development:
 - Labour Relations
 - *Ad hoc* topics
 - Provision of media training opportunities
 - Member needs-driven research projects (e.g. post-2022 GSA labour relations research)
- Internal operations
 - Implementation of annual and semi-annual Executive Director performance reviews
 - Implementation of a more comprehensive system of MLA and government meeting reporting and tracking

In addition, many types of work that were previously undertaken by individual Directors and Executive Officers have been taken on to varying degrees by the Executive Director. Examples include compiling the annual audit file, and compiling materials for Transition Meetings and Board Retreats.

Accordingly, ab-GPAC staff (Executive Director) hours have increased as follows:

- Sept. 2019 - from 10-12 hours per week, to 20 hours per week
- Mar. 2020 - from 20 hours per week, to 30 hours per week
- Aug. 2020 - from 30 hours per week, to 35 hours per week

In addition to the above, the Executive Director salary has been increased to more closely align with sector norms.

Expectations of ab-GPAC’s work appear to be that it will achieve similar advocacy results for peer organizations (CAUS and ASEC), utilizing similar strategies. Recent conversations have also suggested the need to better allocate resources between proactive efforts (e.g. policy research), and reactive efforts (e.g. writing media releases/public statements in response to external events).

Both these broad items may entail additional time and resources above current staff resources, if current work items remain unchanged. For example, the cost of hiring a researcher.

ab-GPAC's Available Resources (Member Fees)

Member fees are ab-GPAC's sole revenue source, as is the case with similar organizations (CAUS, ASEC, CASA). The current cost for membership with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council is \$4.00 per student. It has been \$4.00 for the past 3 years.

In examining our recent fiscal situation, it has become clear that this amount may have to be re-visited for future fiscal years (2020/2021 onwards), if current expectations are to be met. The reasons for this are as follows:

1. The changing nature of student advocacy has meant a far greater reach is needed. This reach included a full-time Executive Director (35 hrs/week) in order to maintain the constant focus needed to provide an effective organization for student voices.
2. The cost of salaries are rising to reflect the level of responsibility placed on executive directors.
3. The cost of services in general (insurance, research, communication platforms) are increasing.

The goal of our budgeting process, currently underway, is to trim our operating budget as much as possible for the upcoming fiscal year (2020/2021). However, it has become clear that maintaining the current level of fees, along with planned levels of work, is unsustainable beyond the coming year.

Over the last several years, ab-GPAC has also generated substantial reserves (see attached) due to consistently under-budget expenditures. The general consensus among the 2019/2020 Board of Directors was that ab-GPAC's reserve should equal approximately one (1) year's operating budget.

Questions for Consideration

We ask that each member GSA forward brief, written responses to the following questions, to Evan Wong (chair@abgpac.ca) by October 7, 2020:

1. What activities should ab-GPAC focus more resources on?
2. What activities should ab-GPAC focus less resources on?
3. To what extent should ab-GPAC be expected to achieve similar advocacy outcomes, as peer organizations such as CAUS and ASEC?
4. To what extent should ab-GPAC be expected to pursue the same advocacy strategies as peer organizations such as CAUS and ASEC?
5. What does your GSA (including its board and council, as applicable) need to see from ab-GPAC, in order to justify an increase in ab-GPAC's member fees?

Next Steps

Informed by your feedback, the Board of Directors will consider options for better aligning ab-GPAC's scope of work with its available resources, at its October 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Many thanks,

Evan Wong

Chair, Board of Directors
Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council

Mary-Anne Parker

Treasurer, Board of Directors
Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council

- Att.
- 1 - ab-GPAC Fee Policy
 - 2 - ab-GPAC Audited Financial Statements for Year Ended August 31, 2019
 - 3 - ASEC Audited Financial Statements for Year Ended April 30, 2018 *
 - 4 - CAUS Audited Financial Statements for Year Ended June 30, 2017 *

**most recent available from Alberta Corporate Registry, as of December 2019*

Appendix

Supporting Information

Founders’ intention (level of member fees)

In 2015, ab-GPAC’s founding Board stated their intention to gradually increase the organization’s member fee to \$6.00 per graduate student.

Recommendation from the ab-GPAC 2019/2020 Board of Directors

At the February 8, 2020 Annual General Meeting, the 2019/2020 Board considered increasing ab-GPAC’s member fee to \$4.50 for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. An increase was not approved. However, the 2019/2020 Board moved to suggest that the 2020/2021 Board consider increasing fees.

Note: previous 2019/2020 Board discussions, of course, occurred prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ab-GPAC Fee History

Academic Year	Amount per Graduate Student
2015/2016	\$3.00
2016/2017	\$3.00
2017/2018	\$3.00
2018/2019	\$4.00
2019/2020	\$4.00
2020/2021	\$4.00

Excerpts of Relevant Policies

ab-GPAC by-laws

...

3.2 Fees Payable by Members - Yearly membership fees shall be fixed by resolution of the Board,
subject to approval by the Members. The Treasurer shall notify the Members of the dues or fees at any time payable by them.

...

ab-GPAC Fee Policy

...

5.1 Each Member agrees to pay fees in the amount of \$3.00 per graduate student for the 2017/2018 academic year, and \$4.00 per graduate student in the years following, as calculated in Section 3, at their institution on an annual basis.

...

ab-GPAC Board of Directors Code of Conduct

...

10.0 RESPECT FOR SEPARATION OF ROLES BETWEEN THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERS

10.1. Members of the Board shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner that reflects a clear separation in roles between representing the Society and representing members.

10.1.1. When acting on behalf of the Society, in both official and unofficial capacities, the Director shall represent, at all times, the position of the Society and not that of individual members.

10.1.2. When engaging in Board deliberation and voting on motions, Directors are always representing the best interests of the Society and ALL members, and are not speaking for or representing the interest of individual members.

10.1.3. Although appointed by Members of the Society, once appointed, Directors represent the interests of the Society. Directors shall not be directed to act on behalf of the Society by the appointing member.

...



ALBERTA GRADUATE PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL

Approved on February 21, 2019

Fee Policy

Definitions

“ab-GPAC” means the Alberta Provincial Advocacy Council.

“The Board” means the Board of Directors of ab-GPAC.

“Candidates” mean individual members in good standing of their respective Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) that are named as a voting/non-voting ab-GPAC board of director by their respective GSA or an executive officer on the ab-GPAC Board.

“CARI” means the Comprehensive Academic Research Institutions, which include Athabasca University, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge.

“ED” means the executive director of ab-GPAC.

“Executive Officers” mean the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary of the ab-GPAC Board of Directors.

“GSA” means a Graduate Students’ Association

“Members” means all graduate students’ associations in good standing at the time of nominations.

“Non- Voting Director” means the member institutions representatives that are named as their voting member alternate on the ab-GPAC board.

“Provisional Election Results” mean the tally of the votes prior to the end of the second day of the annual transition meetings.

“Transition Meeting” means the annual event that allows for transition of information and roles from the outgoing board of directors to the incoming board of directors.

“Voting Director” means the member institutions representative that is named as their

voting member on the ab-GPAC board.

Purpose

Each Member is required to pay fees on an annual basis. This policy outlines the method used to calculate fees, the procedure for invoicing Members, and the procedure for collecting fees.

Policy

1. Delegation of Authority
 - 1.1. The appointed Treasurer of ab-GPAC is authorised by the board to charge fees to each Member on an annual basis
2. Fee Requirement
 - 2.1. Each Member is required to contribute fees to ab-GPAC annually
3. Fee Period
 - 3.1. Fees shall be applied to ab-GPAC's fiscal year between September 1 of each year and August 31 of the following year.
4. Number of Graduate Student Calculations
 - 4.1. Numbers of graduate students shall be calculated based on the previous academic year to determine annual fees to be collected by ab-GPAC for each Member.
 - 4.1.1. The number of graduate students at each institution shall be determined based on the total number of graduate students who paid fees to each Member in the previous academic year.
 - 4.1.2. For Athabasca University, the number of graduate students shall be determined based on the total number of graduate student Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) reported in the previous academic year.
 - 4.2. The Executive Director of each Member shall report the number of graduate students, with supporting documentation, as per 4.1, to the treasurer of abGPAC by September 30th each year.
 - 4.3. If the Executive Director fails to report the number of graduate students, with supporting documentation, as per 4.1 by the deadline stated in 4.2, the following sources shall serve as the data point; as determined by the source data found at:
 - 4.3.1. AU: <http://intra.athabascau.ca/depts/ois/facts/fle.php>
 - 4.3.2. UofA: <https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/about/facts-and-figures>

4.3.3. UofC: <https://oia.ucalgary.ca/fact-books>

5. Fee Amount

5.1. Each Member agrees to pay fees in the amount of \$3.00 per graduate student for the 2017/2018 academic year, and \$4.00 per graduate student in the years following, as calculated in Section 3, at their institution on an annual basis.

6. Invoice and Payment Schedule

6.1. The Treasurer will invoice each Member by October 15 of each year for 25% of the fees due. A second invoice will be sent to each member by December 1 of each year for the remaining 75% of the fees due.

6.2. The Treasurer will calculate the fees due based on the number of graduate students reported in the source data provided as per Section 4.1 .

6.3. Any errors in the calculation of students may be corrected by submitting a correction letter to the Treasurer from the registrar or faculty of graduate studies. Corrections will be made between issuing the first and second invoices to be reflected on the second invoice.

6.4. Invoices shall be due on October 31 and December 15 of each year.

7. Late Fees

7.1. Any Member whose fees are more than 30 days late will be assessed a late fee of 2% of the unpaid amount.

7.2. A late fee will be applied every 30 days until the amount due is paid.

8. Authority and Disputes

8.1. The Treasurer will have the full authority to invoice Members for fees, collect fees, and impose late penalties, if necessary, in accordance to sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

8.2. Disputes over fees will first be addressed with the Treasurer.

8.3. All Members have the right to have their dispute settled through a Board of Directors vote. Such a vote shall be considered the final resolution of the dispute, and the Treasurer shall act in accordance with the Board's decision.

Appendices

A: Point of Contact

ab-GPAC Treasurer

abgpactreasurer@gmail.com

ab-GPAC Chair

abgpacchair@gmail.com

ab-GPAC Executive Director

abgpac.ed@gmail.com

Revision History

<u>Action</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
Approved		Aug 20, 2015
Amended	As per AGM Minutes	Oct 22, 2016
Amended	As per Notes	May 7, 2017
Amended	4.2 (Add) Motion: To reflect fee increase to \$4 in 2018/2019 as per AGM 2016 minutes. 3.1 (Update) Included links to source data for FLE's for student fee calculation by member institution.	Aug 28, 2017
Revision	Reformat and revision	Jan 18, 2018
Approved		April 9, 2018
Revision	4.0 Amended to reflect the contact, timelines and data source for FTE from member institutions 6.1 and 6.4 deadlines changed to reflect changes in 4.2	Feb 11, 2019 (recommendation from Governance Committee)
Approved	As per Board Minutes	February 21, 2019

ALBERTA GRADUATE PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL
Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2019

ALBERTA GRADUATE PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL
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Year Ended August 31, 2019

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (the Organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2019, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at August 31, 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

(continues)

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council *(continued)*

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

King + Company

Edmonton, AB
January 15, 2020

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ALBERTA GRADUATE PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL

Statement of Financial Position

As at August 31, 2019

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 102,409	\$ 73,176
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 12,181	\$ 4,000
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	60,228	69,176
Internally restricted (Note 2)	30,000	-
	<u>90,228</u>	<u>69,176</u>
	<u>\$ 102,409</u>	<u>\$ 73,176</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

_____ Member

_____ Member

ALBERTA GRADUATE PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL
Statement of Operations
Year Ended August 31, 2019

	2019	2018
REVENUES	\$ 61,407	\$ 47,508
EXPENSES		
Contracted services	30,579	23,573
Professional fees	3,843	3,675
Office	2,366	2,878
Advertising	1,845	651
Insurance	1,650	1,650
Interest and bank charges	72	82
	<u>40,355</u>	<u>32,509</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 21,052	\$ 14,999

ALBERTA GRADUATE PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended August 31, 2019

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	2019	2018
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 69,176	\$ -	\$ 69,176	\$ 54,177
Excess of revenues over expenses	21,052	-	21,052	14,999
Transfer to internally restricted	(30,000)	30,000	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 60,228	\$ 30,000	\$ 90,228	\$ 69,176

ALBERTA GRADUATE PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended August 31, 2019

	2019	2018
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts from customers	\$ 61,407	\$ 47,508
Interest paid	(72)	(82)
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(32,102)</u>	<u>(32,836)</u>
INCREASE IN CASH	29,233	14,590
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>73,176</u>	<u>58,586</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 102,409</u>	<u>\$ 73,176</u>

ALBERTA GRADUATE PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL**Notes to Financial Statements****Year Ended August 31, 2019**

NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council ("ab-GPAC") is an incorporated, student lead, non-partisan organization that advocates to the provincial government on behalf of over 17,000 graduate students that attend the research-intensive universities in Alberta. ab-GPAC represents Graduate Students' Associations from Athabasca University, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary and Concordia University of Edmonton. The organization is exempt from income taxes under the Income Tax Act.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**Basis of Presentation**

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Revenue Recognition

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions and related interest income are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions and other revenue is recognized as revenue when received or receivable.

Membership fees collected are recognized over the university term. Fees that relate to the portion of the term that occurs subsequent to year end are recorded as unearned revenue.

Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

Cash

Cash is comprised of cash held with financial institutions.

Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Contributed Services

The operations of the organization depend on the the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. The fair value of donated materials and services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in these financial statements.

ALBERTA GRADUATE PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL**Notes to Financial Statements****Year Ended August 31, 2019**

2. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Internally restricted net assets have been restricted by the organization as a reserve for future expenditures.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organization, as part of its operations, carries financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the association is not exposed to any significant risks arising from these financial statements.

4. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.



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Corporate Registry

Alberta Students' Executive Council

Financial Statements
Year ended April 30, 2018

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JUL 19 2018
Registrar of Corporations
Province of Alberta

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Alberta Students' Executive Council
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**Turnbull Gamroth** LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of
Alberta Students' Executive Council

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Alberta Students' Executive Council, which comprise the statement of financial position as at April 30, 2018, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the Alberta Students' Executive Council's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Alberta Students' Executive Council's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.



Turnbull Gamroth LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT, continued

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Alberta Students' Executive Council as at April 30, 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Other Matter

The statement of financial position as at April 30, 2017 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year ended April 30, 2017, was issued with a Qualified Opinion. The Basis for the Qualified Opinion was that Alberta Students' Executive Council derived revenues from conference fees, the completeness of which was not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification; a condition which was rectified in the current year.

Edmonton, Alberta
June 9, 2018


Chartered Professional Accountants

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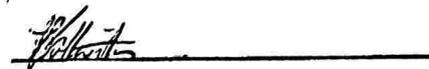
Alberta Students' Executive Council
(Incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta)
Statement of Financial Position

As at April 30	2018	2017
Assets		
Current		
Cash (note 2)	\$ 116,461	\$ 304,850
Term deposits (note 3)	41,045	7,397
Accounts receivable (note 4)	792	5,000
Prepaid expenses	1,479	1,465
	159,777	318,712
Equipment (note 5)	1,891	2,454
	\$ 161,668	\$ 321,166
Liabilities and net assets		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	\$ 12,048	\$ 14,034
Funds held in trust (note 7)	-	121,993
	12,048	136,027
Net assets		
Investment in equipment	1,891	2,454
Internally restricted	35,000	35,000
Unrestricted	112,729	147,685
	149,620	185,139
	\$ 161,668	\$ 321,166

Commitment (note 8)

Lease commitment (note 9)

On behalf of the board

 _____ Member

 _____ Member

See accompanying notes

Alberta Students' Executive Council
Statement of Operations

Year ended April 30	2018	2017
Revenues		
Membership fees	\$ 99,990	\$ 136,239
Conference fees	23,392	24,972
Pledged sponsorship	6,000	9,500
Other	-	6,200
	<u>129,382</u>	<u>176,911</u>
Expenditures		
Contract service	66,067	28,334
Rent	23,500	10,793
Conference hosting costs	19,051	21,155
Office	15,982	591
Salaries and related benefits	9,838	52,206
Travel	5,221	7,321
Professional fees	4,392	7,456
Insurance	1,961	233
Telephone and utilities	1,714	1,480
Interest and bank charges	1,015	1,125
Amortization	563	741
Staff appreciation	250	-
Dues and memberships	180	-
Bad debts	-	5,814
Professional development	-	290
Promotion	-	46
	<u>149,734</u>	<u>137,585</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenditures before undernoted item	(20,352)	39,326
Other expense (income)		
Alberta Campus Mental Health Innovation loss (income), Schedule 1	<u>15,167</u>	<u>(88)</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ (35,519)	\$ 39,414

See accompanying notes

Alberta Students' Executive Council
Statement of Cash Flows

<u>Year ended April 30</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Operating activities		
Cash receipts from operations	\$ 132,874	\$ 405,264
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(287,615)</u>	<u>(370,759)</u>
	<u>(154,741)</u>	<u>34,505</u>
Investing activities		
Redemption of term deposits	-	33,640
Purchase of term deposits	<u>(33,648)</u>	<u>(5,192)</u>
	<u>(33,648)</u>	<u>28,448</u>
(Decrease) increase in cash	(188,389)	62,953
Cash, beginning of year	<u>304,850</u>	<u>241,897</u>
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 116,461</u>	<u>\$ 304,850</u>

See accompanying notes

Alberta Students' Executive Council
Statement of Cash Flows

<u>Year ended April 30</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Operating activities		
Cash receipts from operations	\$ 132,874	\$ 405,264
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(287,615)</u>	<u>(370,759)</u>
	<u>(154,741)</u>	<u>34,505</u>
Investing activities		
Redemption of term deposits	-	33,640
Purchase of term deposits	<u>(33,648)</u>	<u>(5,192)</u>
	<u>(33,648)</u>	<u>28,448</u>
(Decrease) increase in cash	(188,389)	62,953
Cash, beginning of year	<u>304,850</u>	<u>241,897</u>
Cash, end of year	\$ 116,461	\$ 304,850

See accompanying notes

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Alberta Students' Executive Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended April 30, 2018

Nature of operations

Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC), is a not-for-profit organization that is incorporated under the Societies Act (Alberta) to provide a network for information and resource sharing, a vehicle for expressing internally and externally collective student views and concerns and a forum for the professional development of student executives from all member institutions. As a not-for-profit organization, ASEC is not subject to tax under the Canadian Income Tax Act.

1. Significant accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The significant policies are detailed as follows:

(a) Revenue recognition

ASEC follows the deferral method of accounting for revenue. Revenues are recognized in the year in which they are received or receivable, with the exception that revenues to fund a specific future period's expenditures are included in revenue of that later period.

(b) Equipment

Equipment is recorded at cost. ASEC provides for amortization using the following methods at rates designed to amortize the cost of the equipment over its estimated useful life. The annual amortization rates and methods are as follows:

Office equipment	20% Declining balance
Computer equipment	30% Declining balance

(c) Contributed services

The work of ASEC is dependent on contributed services. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

(d) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. By their nature, these estimates are subject to measurement uncertainty. The effect of changes in such estimates on the financial statements in future periods could be significant.

Alberta Students' Executive Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

1. **Significant accounting policies, continued**

(e) **Financial instruments**

ASEC initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair market value, except for certain non-arm's length transactions.

ASEC subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair market value. Changes in fair market value are recognized in net income.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and accounts receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

ASEC's financial asset which is measured at fair market value is term deposits.

2. **Cash**

Cash consists of the following:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Operating cash	\$ 116,461	\$ 98,752
Alberta Campus Mental Health Innovation	-	172,450
Investment open account	-	33,648
	<u>\$ 116,461</u>	<u>\$ 304,850</u>

3. **Term deposits**

The term deposits bear interest of 1.7% and mature on November 1, 2018.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Guaranteed Investment Certificate (1 year special rate)	\$ 36,045	\$ 2,342
Guaranteed Investment Certificate (1 year special rate)	5,000	5,055
	<u>\$ 41,045</u>	<u>\$ 7,397</u>

As at April 30, 2018 the Guaranteed Investment Certificate (1 year special rate) in the amount of \$5,000 secures the Scotialine for business Visa card (see note 6).

Alberta Students' Executive Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

7. Funds held in trust

ASEC entered into an agreement with the Minister of Health of Alberta to conduct the project entitled "Supporting Alberta Campus Mental Health Innovation" (ACMHI). ASEC will act as fiscal agent for the grant and will distribute grants to member schools to support foundational research and innovative projects that will create new, system-leading strategies for the delivery of mental health support at Alberta post-secondary institutions.

	2018	2017
Trust funds held on behalf of ACMHI	\$ -	\$ 121,993

During the year the Alberta Campus Mental Health Innovation project was completed.

8. Commitment

ASEC entered into a contractual agreement with 1212720 Alberta Ltd. for monthly consulting services, for the period starting March 21, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017. During the fiscal year \$38,115 was paid under the contract. The contract renewed for one month, ending January 31, 2018, with \$3,125 paid under the renewal. Since February 1, 2018, \$25,000 has been paid to the consultant, while the contract is being re-negotiated.

9. Lease commitment

ASEC operates out of premises that are leased under an operating lease. The expiry of the lease is June 30, 2020. Minimum annual lease payments to expiry are, as follows:

2019	\$ 14,244
2020	2,374
	\$ 16,618

10. Related party transactions

Related party transactions are in the normal course of operations and have been measured at the exchange amount which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

Related parties consist of the members of ASEC. During the year there was no related party transactions.

11. Economic dependence

The business environment in which ASEC operates is dependant on memberships from post secondary institution student associations across Alberta. There is no obligation for any student association to continue its membership with ASEC from year to year.

Alberta Students' Executive Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

12. Financial instruments

ASEC's financial instruments consist of cash and term deposits, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. It is management's opinion that ASEC is not exposed to significant interest rate, market, currency, credit, liquidity or cash flow risks arising from these financial instruments and that the fair value of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values.

Cash is on deposit with a major financial institution. Guaranteed investment certificates, which are included in term deposits, bear interest at 1.7% per annum and mature in 2018. Accounts receivable are amounts receivable from members and third parties.

13. Capital management

ASEC's goal regarding the management of its capital is to safeguard its ability to continue as a going concern so that it can continue to provide services to its members. To accomplish this goal, policies have been established to preserve the financial condition of ASEC and protect its assets by setting limitations on expenditures of funds, incurring of debt and investment of funds. During the year, the Board meets with the Executive Director to review ASEC's financial position.

Schedule 1

Alberta Students' Executive Council
Schedule of Alberta Campus Mental Health Innovation

Year ended April 30	2018	2017
Alberta Campus Mental Health Innovation grant	\$ 121,627	\$ 199,950
Expenses		
Contract services	101,653	87,209
Salaries and related benefits	25,665	77,462
Equipment and overhead	5,091	23,226
Travel	2,225	4,899
Dues and memberships	1,000	1,000
Professional fees	578	-
Advertising and promotions	300	948
Interest and bank charges	179	603
Professional development	53	900
Office	50	1,215
Insurance	-	1,720
Conference and hosting	-	616
Staff appreciation	-	64
	<u>136,794</u>	<u>199,862</u>
Alberta Campus Mental Health Innovation (loss) income	\$ (15,167)	\$ 88

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COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
Financial Statements
Year Ended June 30, 2017

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COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
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Year Ended June 30, 2017

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COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Miniely Tower Hughes & Associates LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

FORWARD THINKING. PLAIN SPEAKING.

www.miniely.ca

*Kevin D. Tower, BCOMM, CPA, CA - Partner
*Jean Hughes, CPA, CGA, CA - Partner
*Derek W. Banman, BCOMM, CPA, CA - Partner
*Kyle Westerlund, BCOMM, CPA, CA - Partner

*Gordon T. Miniely, FCPA, FCA - Retired Partner
Carmelle Nickel, BCOMM, CPA, CA - Associate
Breanne Walker, BCOMM, CPA, CA - Associate
Mona Huang, BCOMM, CPA, CA - Associate

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Council of Alberta University Students

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Council of Alberta University Students, which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2017 and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

(continues)

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SD1323

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Council of Alberta University Students *(continued)*

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Council of Alberta University Students as at June 30, 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Miniely Tower Hughes & Associates LLP

Edmonton, Alberta
November 7, 2017

MINIELY TOWER HUGHES & ASSOCIATES LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended June 30, 2017

	2017	2016
REVENUE		
Membership dues (Note 8)	\$ 142,190	\$ 131,717
Delegate fees	4,025	3,500
	<u>146,215</u>	<u>135,217</u>
EXPENSES		
Salaries and wages	73,153	62,044
Rent (Note 7)	12,666	13,119
Communications	9,740	6,335
Benefits and deductions	9,163	7,204
Advertising and promotion	4,917	3,849
Travel	4,639	3,790
Changeover retreat	4,191	3,118
Accounting fees	3,853	4,305
Capital costs	1,847	1,577
Insurance	1,509	993
Training	1,167	1,728
Office expenses and supplies	619	572
Campaigns	350	-
Memberships	75	1,200
Interest and bank charges	42	49
Employee benefits	-	73
	<u>127,931</u>	<u>109,956</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	18,284	25,261
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)		
Interest income	48	48
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 18,332	\$ 25,309

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended June 30, 2017

	General Fund	Internally Restricted Reserve	2017	2016
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 161,724	\$ 5,264	\$ 166,988	\$ 141,679
Excess of revenue over expenses	19,082	(750)	18,332	25,309
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 180,806	\$ 4,514	\$ 185,320	\$ 166,988

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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SD1327

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended June 30, 2017

	2017	2016
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts from membership dues	\$ 142,190	\$ 139,773
Cash receipts from delegate fees	4,025	6,475
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(137,435)	(107,035)
Interest received	48	48
Interest paid	(41)	(48)
	<u>8,787</u>	<u>39,213</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds on redemption of short term investments	5,380	5,332
Purchase of short term investments	(5,428)	(5,380)
	<u>(48)</u>	<u>(48)</u>
INCREASE IN CASH FLOW	8,739	39,165
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	180,339	141,173
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 189,078	\$ 180,339

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended June 30, 2017

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SD1323

1. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

The Council of Alberta University Students is to represent, promote and defend the common interests of Alberta University Students. The organization is a non-profit organization and is exempt from income tax under Section 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act.

2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash consists of the bank balance less outstanding cheques. The organization does not have cash equivalents.

Revenue recognition

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are expensed in the year of acquisition since the Organization falls under the \$500,000 average gross revenue exemption limit. \$1,847 (2016 - \$1,577) tangible capital assets were expensed during the year.

Contributed services

Volunteers contribute time to assist the organization in carrying out its activities. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended June 30, 2017

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4. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides information about the organization's risk exposure and concentration as of June 30, 2017.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The organization is exposed to credit risk from contributors. An allowance for doubtful accounts is established based upon factors surrounding the credit risk of specific accounts, historical trends and other information. The organization has a significant number of contributors and members which minimizes concentration of credit risk.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The organization is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its contributors and payment of accounts payable.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. In seeking to minimize the risks from interest rate fluctuations, the organization manages exposure through its normal operating activities and by investing in fixed interest rate term deposits.

5. CASH

	2017	2016
Chequing account less outstanding cheques	\$ 189,078	\$ 180,339

6. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

	2017	2016
Non-redeemable term deposit maturing June 5, 2017 bearing interest at 0.90% per annum	\$ -	\$ 5,380
Non-redeemable term deposit maturing June 5, 2018 bearing interest at 0.85% per annum	5,428	-
	<u>\$ 5,428</u>	<u>\$ 5,380</u>

COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended June 30, 2017

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7. COMMITMENTS

The organization has a long term lease with respect to its premises that expires on December 31, 2017. Under the lease, the organization is required to pay a base rent of \$450 per month. In addition, the organization must pay for its proportionate share of utilities, maintenance, property taxes and other related costs for the leased premises.

Future minimum lease payments are as follows:

2018	\$ <u>2,700</u>
------	-----------------

8. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The organization receives 100% (2015 - 100%) of its membership dues from five members. Should any one of the members substantially change its dealings with the organization, there would be a significant impact on continued operations.

9. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The prior year comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

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GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (GSA ACB) (Renewal of two (2) GSA Councillor positions and one (1) GSA member position)

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, terms of office for the GSA ACB may run for a one (1) or two (2) year term and members may stand for re-election (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H.POL.7.4). Accordingly, as the terms of office for three (3) members of the GSA ACB are soon to expire/have expired over the past two months, those members were contacted on September 2, 2020 to inquire if they wished to stand for re-election. All three (3) members indicated they wished to extend their service. Additionally, all three (3) have been previously 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 said interviews) and have themselves, following their initial election to the GSA ACB, received training in the basic tenets of procedural fairness.

There will be an electronic vote held at the 21 September 2020 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 21 September 2020, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsanomco@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 21 September 2020 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. Kenzie Gordon (Humanities Computing)**
- 2. Nicholas Ruel (Pharmacology)**
- 3. Alexandra Ouellette Zuk (Neuroscience)**

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

Jurisdiction:

Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section 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."

Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.7.4

"Terms of office may run for a one (1) or two (2) year term as recommended by the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)."

Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.9.5

"The GSA NoC will interview all nominees to the GSA ACB and forward selected nominees to GSA Council."

The biographies and brief resumes received for the three (3) nominees are BELOW on pages 6.1-6.2. The biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE RENEWAL OF GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (GSA ACB) POSITIONS
(THREE (3) POSITION RENEWALS FOR 2 GSA COUNCILLORS AND 1 GSA MEMBER)**

Three (3) Nominees

1. Kenzie Gordon

Statement of Interest:
I would like to continue to a second term on the ACB because of my commitment to fairness and creating processes for resolving conflict in the GSA. Throughout my work on various GSA bodies including GSA Council, GSAB, and the Nominating Committee, I have had an opportunity to put into practice the values of procedural fairness that underlie ACB's mandate. I believe my knowledge of university policies and procedures, familiarity with the GSA, and professional background in seeking fair resolution to situations of conflict make me a strong candidate to continue as a member of ACB.
Bio:
I grew up in and around Edmonton, attending the U of A for a BA (Combined Honors) in Middle Eastern & African Studies and History, during which I participated in numerous student groups and programs, including spending a summer on health promotion projects in rural Tanzania with the Students' International Health Association (SIHA), and a semester abroad in Ghana through the U of A's ethnomusicology program. I then completed a Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Calgary (Edmonton campus), with practicums at the City of Edmonton's Family Violence Prevention unit and in Barbados at the Barbados Shelter for Abused Women. After working for several years as a domestic violence outreach worker, I returned to the U of A for an MA in Digital Humanities, studying possible applications of video games for gender-based violence prevention work. I am now completing a PhD on the same topic. I am an avid gamer, animal lover, and a mom to a very (VERY) busy toddler, and in addition to my work as an RA, I own a company with my spouse which produces various media, including music composition, photography, and digital app/game development.
Summary Resume:
I have extensive experience in student governance, including positions as faculty/department representative on the U of A undergraduate Student Union (and via this position, on the Strategic Planning, Audit, and Granting committees of the SU, and as SU representative on the CJSR and CBAS Boards), and on GSA Council, GSAB, GSA Nominating Committee and on the GSA ACB. I have also served as a student representative on Arts Faculty Council as both an undergraduate and graduate student, and participated in cross-campus committees including the U of A Sexual Assault Response Implementation 'Support' Committee and the U of A Social Enterprise Committee. As a social worker in the domestic violence sphere, I have considerable experience with many different approaches to justice, including the combative approach of the legal system, as well as more collaborative approaches that seek restitution and resolution. This experience contributes to my appreciation of the value of procedural fairness in an appeals board setting, and the importance of committee members who understand and are committed to fair resolution of issues.

2. Nicholas Ruel

Statement of Interest:
I am interested in this role since I believe in an independent and fair process for everyone no matter what. I have served on the GSA ACB since 2018 and hope to serve longer. I also have the necessary skills and experience from serving on the University Appeals Board as a member of several panels for the past year. This has given me extensive skills in procedural fairness and being unbiased to all cases that are presented.
Bio:

I was born in Calgary and lived in Leduc for most of my young life. I moved to Cold Lake for high school before moving to Edmonton where I received my BSc Specialization in Pharmacology at the University of Alberta. Currently, I am a PhD student in the Department of Pharmacology. I work in Dr. Hammond's lab investigating the role of SLC43A3 in 6-mercaptopurine transport and toxicity.

Summary Resume:

I received my BSc Specialization in Pharmacology at the University of Alberta and currently am in the PhD program in Pharmacology. I have been a part of several student groups like: Science Mentors, Science FUNDamentals, RuSH, PGSA, WCHRI TAC, and the UAB. Particularly, in my position at the UAB I have honed my skills in procedural fairness and ensuring all parties are heard as a part of the appeal process. This along with working together in a panel to render a fair and impartial judgement for each individual case.

3. Alexandra Ouellette Zuk

Statement of Interest:

Prior to serving my first term on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, it was my belief that the experiences I've amassed by working and volunteering with people from diverse backgrounds, cultures and walks of life would make me a valuable contributor to the board. I still believe this to be true. A large strength of mine is my ability to listen without imparting judgement and making people feel comfortable having conversations about sensitive topics with me. I continue to believe that remaining a member of this committee give me the best opportunity to utilize those skills. As such, I would love to continue to serve as a member of the GSA ACB, and contribute to the diversity of the board as a student member of the NMHI. Although I was not called upon to serve during my previous term as a committee member, I think my continued service with this board will allow me to contribute positively to my academic community.

Bio:

With my mother being a professor of Social Work at the University of Calgary, and both parents having volunteered for Victim's Services throughout my life, I grew up in a family where social justice and ethics were common topics of conversation at the dinner table. This not only led me to pursue an education in neuroscience, which I believed would allow me the greatest opportunity to aid disadvantaged populations in the future, but also led me to spend a summer working as a front-line worker at Rotary House, an emergency shelter in Grande Prairie. The pursuit of understanding in these topics also led me to volunteer as a mental health aid in Sri Lanka and, more recently, as a tutor for children with disabilities in Vietnam. It is important to me that I continue to be involved in conversations surrounding social justice, ethics, and, more broadly, simple care for our fellow community members - local or otherwise.

Summary Resume:

Having completed a BSc. in Neuroscience here at the University of Alberta, I am now beginning my second year as a Master's student in the same program. Working in Dr. Chapman's lab (ACELabs), my current project involves the development of an app-based objective assessor of subjective preference (using rapid reach movements) for a company based out of the UK. I also previously worked in Dr. Chapman's lab as both a research assistant (summer of 2018 and 2019) and as an undergraduate honours thesis student (2017/2018). Summer positions held between school years also included work as Front Line Worker at Rotary House in Grande Prairie (2017) and multiple waitressing positions (Moxie's, 2016; Brown's Socialhouse, 2018/2019). I am currently a mentor with Fit4You here at the UofA, and have volunteered previously as a Literacy Tutor with PALS Edmonton, as a Volunteer Activities Coordinator at Rotary House, as a Mental Health Aid with PMGY Sri Lanka, and a Childcare Aid with PMGY Vietnam. I have also held a position as a Health and Safety Committee member for Brown's Socialhouse Tamarack. For the last year, I have been incredibly thankful to also serve as a member of the GSA ACB, and would love the opportunity to continue to do so.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

GSA AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE (GSA ASC) (SIX (6) POSITIONS FOR GSA MEMBERS): THREE (3) NOMINEES

Information regarding the six (6) vacancies for GSA members was advertised in the GSA newsletter of 28 August and 4 and 11 September 2020 with a nomination deadline of 16 September 2020. Three (3) nominations were received.

The GSA ASC is “responsible for selecting the recipients of the GSA Council approved GSA Recognition Awards” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Awards Selection Committee, Section O.POL.5.1).

There will be an electronic vote held at the 21 September 2020 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 21 September 2020 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsанomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gсанomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 21 September 2020 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. Breanne Aylward (Public Health)**
- 2. Nathalia Fagundes (Dentistry)**
- 3. Matthias Lottmann (Mechanical Engineering)**

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

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Awards Selection Committee, Section O.POL.3.3

The GSA ASC is composed of “a minimum of eight (8) and up to twelve (12) GSA members elected by GSA Council as voting members. The GSA ASC Chair, in consultation with the GSA ASC Vice-Chair and the Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee, can decide to increase the number of GSA members on the GSA ASC.”

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

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

The names and biographies received for the three (3) nominees is BELOW on pages 6.4-6.5. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).

**NOMINATIONS FOR GSA AWARDS AND SELECTION COMMITTEE (GSA ASC)
(SIX (6) VACANCIES FOR GSA MEMBERS)
Three (3) Nominees**

1. Breanne Aylward (Public Health)

Statement of Interest:

The skills I have gained during my graduate education will benefit the work that the GSA Awards Selection Committee does. In particular, I have held positions on multiple university committees (see summary resume section for more details), which demonstrate my ability to work effectively in a team environment. I have previous experience with adjudication, as demonstrated through my position as a volunteer judge at the 2020 Festival of Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities. I am organized and detail oriented; qualities that would serve as assets for the GSA Awards Selection Committee.

Bio:

I am from Edmonton and completed both my Bachelor of Science and Master of Science at the University of Alberta (2015 and 2020 respectively). I am passionate about understanding and reducing inequities in health found throughout different populations. I have always felt a strong connection to my community, providing support to various organizations that aim to improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable individuals (see next section for details).

Summary Resume:

I am now a first year PhD student at the U of A's School of Public Health (SPH), where I will explore the mental health impacts of climate change.

During my MSc, I was very involved with my school community. I served as the Communications Officer for the School of Public Health Students' Association, and as a student representative on the Committee for Educational Policy & Programs (an SPH committee that discusses and votes on academic-related policies and programs). I have gained experience in adjudication, through my role as a volunteer judge at the 2020 Festival of Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities.

Throughout my education, I have maintained balance between academic activity and community service. I continue to hold positions as a Student Ambassador for the Centre for Healthy Communities and as a presenter for U School (although these roles have been impacted due to COVID-19).

My past roles and experiences have provided me opportunities to build a diverse range of skills that will be useful for a position on the GSA Awards Selection Committee. Further, as a PhD student, my schedule offers the flexibility needed attend committee meetings and fulfill committee duties.

2. Nathalia Fagundes (Medicine and Dentistry)

Statement of Interest:

My experience as a graduate student at the University of Alberta helped me understand and be sensitive to my community's needs regarding grants and awards application. During my master's and undergraduate studies, my involvement in event organizations and students' bodies helped me work on leadership and teamwork in my home country. I believe this experience will help to participate actively in the Awards Selection Committee. In my personal life, as a single mom and graduate student, I learned how to manage multiple tasks at the same time. I'm a very organized person and independent at work.

Bio:

I was born and raised in the north of Brazil. I'm fluent in Portuguese, English, and I also speak a little bit of Spanish. I have a DDS degree (2014), and Master's degree in Dentistry (2015) attained at the Federal University of Pará (Brazil). While in my undergraduate and Master studies, I was involved in dental volunteer work at public schools and indigenous communities. I actively work to help the research community serving as a reviewer to peer-reviewed journals. Here at U of A, I volunteered to review presentations in scientific events at my department. I also took a 4-month maternity leave while here. I'm a mother of a very curious 20 months little girl, which helped me learn many lessons and balance my personal and professional life.

Summary Resume:

I am now a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Dentistry studying dental management and craniofacial risk factors in sleep apnea children. I work in clinical studies in both the Orthodontic clinic and Stollery Children's Hospital. In Brazil, I received training as a DDS and orthodontist. I have dedicated my time to private practice and part-time graduate students for three years (2014-2017). I have volunteered to organize scientific events in the Dentistry field and to tutor other undergraduate students in dental research. I have a schedule that is flexible enough to participate in this Committee.

3. Matthias Lottmann (Mechanical Engineering)**Statement of Interest:**

I am very motivated and interested in serving on the GSA ASC because I am looking to partake in fair decision making within my faculty while gaining my first experience with university governance and getting to work with diverse representatives from different faculties. I enjoy taking the managing role in group projects and debating with my peers, for which I have been complemented on my strong objectivity and reasoning. Also, I would like to gain insight into how nominees for awards are selected and understand how we can distribute awards to those who need support and deserve it. I invest a lot of time and effort into understanding the decisions I make. As a member of the ASC, I would like to use these perks and my best judgement to help to distribute awards fairly and review the selection process to ensure that it is just and inclusive.

Bio:

I am an international student from Germany, where I completed my B.Sc. in Engineering in 2018 and then spent the first term of my graduate studies on exchange at the U of A. While in Edmonton I found an opportunity to join research at the MECE department and decided to come to U of A for a full M.Sc. starting in fall 2019. I like the diversity of people at our university, and that I am able to connect with people of many different backgrounds. In my free time I love exploring and photographing nature, and I have been able to travel to some great locations in western Canada since I came here.

Summary Resume:

I am now a second year Masters student working in a Stirling engine research lab. In my first year I learned to take control of my own research direction and progress, which gave me a lot of responsibility and is very different from what I was used to from my previous university. I enjoy the close collaboration with my colleagues of diverse backgrounds. Through my first TA during undergrad I discovered that I like engaging and discussing with students, which is why I am a motivated TA in my department here and would like to keep teaching as part of my future work. I volunteered for the U of A Open House last fall to present some of our engineering work to prospective students. The ASC would be my first volunteering engagement on a committee related to university affairs.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC) (THREE (3) POSITIONS FOR GSA MEMBERS): THREE (3) NOMINEES

Information regarding the two (2) vacancies for GSA members was advertised in the GSA Newsletters of 28 August and 4 and 11 September 2020 with a nomination deadline of 16 September 2020. Since we circulated those advertisements, another vacancy on the GSA ERC has opened up. In place of having to run this ad once again, the GSA Nominating Committee agreed to move all three names forward to GSA Council. There are thus now three (3) nominees for three (3) vacancies, although only two (2) vacancies were previously advertised.

The GSA ERC acts to “advise the CRO on all matters pertaining to the GSA General Election, by-elections, and referenda” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda, Section I.POL.18.1).

There will be an electronic vote held at the 21 September 2020 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 21 September 2020 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsanomco@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 21 September 2020 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. Simran Pherwani (Pediatrics)**
- 2. Fatemeh Razavi (Mechanical Engineering)**
- 3. Shiya Teng (Mechanical Engineering)**

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

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, Section I.POL.16.1

The GSA ERC is composed of “a total of six (6) GSA members including at least one (1) Councillor elected by GSA Council, as voting members.”

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

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

The names and biographies received for the three (3) nominees are BELOW are on pages 6.7-6.8. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC)
(THREE (3) VACANCIES FOR GSA MEMBERS)
Three (3) Nominees**

1. Simran Pherwani (Pediatrics)

Statement of Interest:

Through my various volunteering and leadership roles on campus and in the community during my undergraduate and graduate degrees, I strengthened critical thinking, organization, and public speaking/communication skills necessary for this role. As both an executive member and Co-President of multiple student groups, I planned events and student group elections, formed trusting partnerships with organizations, helped create and achieve goals, and liaised with staff advisors, while supporting the executive team. These skills will be advantageous in my role on the GSA ERC to represent graduate students and aid in planning the GSA election, while helping strategize new policies. I will harness these skills alongside my knowledge in student group governance. My past experiences allow me to effectively build rapport with others in a culturally competent manner and in a collaborative environment, which I will bring through this role.

Bio:

Born and raised in Edmonton and being from an East-Indian heritage, I have been and am involved in multiple cultural initiatives/activities, including Indian Classical dance and volunteering with my Spiritual Centre, where I work with immigrant families to navigate community resources. I graduated with a BSc in General Sciences in June/19, majoring in Biological Science and minoring in Sociology, where I was involved in multiple advocacy and wellness student groups. My strong passion for healthy living enabled me to start my own food blog where I create healthy recipes and share them with the community. It has led me to collaborate with a local non-profit, where I produce recipe videos for English language learners and teach cooking classes. Outside of the UofA, I am a Girl Guides of Canada leader and enjoy travelling and baking.

Summary Resume:

I am a second year MSc student in the Department of Pediatrics in Dr. Lopaschuk's Lab, studying energy metabolism in heart failure. I worked in this lab for 3 summers prior to my MSc, where I completed multiple collaborative projects and mentored an exchange student. I also did a full year research course in another wet lab during 4th year in my undergraduate degree, further expanding my research skillset. I have been involved with the Canadian Blood Services Youth Committee for 4 years where I organized donor recruitment events alongside managing volunteer resources. I am the 2020/21 Pediatric Graduate Student Association Co-President where I am coordinating a peer mentorship program and academic skills workshops. I have been tutoring Organic Chemistry for the past 4 years, and am a TA for a course in Women and Gender Studies in Winter 2020. I am not taking any more courses, and have a flexible schedule which will enable me to attend all committee meetings and successfully complete all of my responsibilities.

2. Fatemeh Razavi (Mechanical Engineering)

Statement of Interest:

I am a huge fan of volunteering. I am honoured to serve as GSA representative in FGSR council for the past 2 years (2018-2020) and I am eagerly applying to hold this role for the coming school year. I have learned a lot about leadership and teamwork in the volunteering works that I have done so far for GSA, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA), Women in Science, Engineering and Research (WISER) and cooperation on holding mutual events with Iranian Student Association of University of Alberta (ISAUA). All I could say is that I strongly believe in volunteering work to serve the community that I belong to and to learn valuable knowledge and experience. There is so much value in volunteering: sharing, caring and learning at the same time.

Bio:

I hold a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran, Iran) and an MSc in Petroleum Reservoir Engineering from University of Tehran (Tehran, Iran). I came to Canada in

2011 and I have received my MSc in Mining Engineering (Geo-statistics) from the University of Alberta in 2013. Currently, I am a Ph.D. candidate in Mechanical Engineering department at the University of Alberta. Almost 6 years of graduate student life at U of A ... I have been graduate research and teaching assistant as other students do normally. I am proud to be a Canadian citizen since February 2019. I am also a professional photographer and usually, my hand is up for events photography on and off-campus. I am honest and ready to help off course when my Ph.D. life schedule is cooperating. The FGSR meeting schedule looks reasonable for me to join.

Summary Resume:

I am a Ph.D. candidate in the MEC E department working on modelling particulate flow in sand filters. My 4th year of Ph.D. ends soon in August. I am done with the courses and candidacy exam and focused on the research part. I have been the leader of two subcommittees in the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) Executive Committee for 2 consecutive years in Edmonton branch where I have practiced teamwork considerably and learned a lot. I have been elected to serve for 2nd year which means that they have probably liked my performance and the way I care for what I am responsible for. I have also joined WISER executive committee meetings and have been involved in organizing, promoting and advertising events and fairs. I believe that I have the potential to serve as GSA representative for another year. There is an opportunity for me to serve and grow. Many thanks for giving me this valuable opportunity.

3. Shiya Teng (Mechanical Engineering)

Statement of Interest:

As a vice-president at Mechanical Students' Association in my undergraduate school, the experience with my team from holding university-level Marathon, Welcome party and Mechanical Department Anniversary ceremony gives me the valuable opportunities to learn how to organize big events, but also let me know how to communicate and fabricate a bridge between faculty government and students. I believe the experience I got will help me to do a better job here.

Bio:

I am a graduate, also, an international student in the faculty of Engineering. I got my BSc degree in Material Science at the Hefei University of Technology (2018) in China. I believe I am the luckiest student because now I work with almost the completely same academic research topic as what I did in my undergraduate period: The robot automatic additive manufacturing. Not all graduate students could have this kind of chance to keep their research topic from undergraduate to graduate period, while the University of Alberta and the professors here give me this chance. Also, I am interested in marathon, got the 9th in Hefei University Half-marathon.

Summary Resume:

I am supervised under Dr.Qureshi to study Additive manufacturing, collaborating with many international students in the Lab. Meanwhile, the works in Innotech Alberta give me a chance to work and communicate with locals. Also, the Students' Association work experience from my undergraduate period would help me do a better job here. Since I study here, I attend the GSA Coffee Break every time and feel the enthusiasm from the GSA stuffs. This kind of enthusiasm gives me the passion to be a member and work with GSA. I will enter my second academic year this September and I desire to be the bridge between student and GSA. Now I am pursuing such a chance here.

SPEAKER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOINT POSITION ON THE GSA BOARD (GSAB)/GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC) (One (1) POSITION FOR A GSA COUNCILLOR): ONE (1) NOMINEE

Information regarding this joint position for GSA Councillors was circulated on three instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 16 September 2020. One (1) nomination was received.

The GSAB is the senior administrative authority of the GSA. As set out in GSA Board Policy (GSA Board Policy, GSA Councillor Positions on the GSA Board: Mandate F.POL.3.2), the responsibilities of the GSA Councillor positions on the GSAB are:

1. Regular attendance at GSAB meetings, with regrets and reasons submitted to the GSA President.
2. Providing a link between the elected GSA Officers and the floor of GSA Council.
3. Participating and speaking up at GSA Council when GSAB business is discussed, from the member's own unique views.

The GSA NoC is charged with selecting graduate student representatives to serve on councils, committees, and other bodies requiring such representation. The GSA NoC also leads an annual initiative in October during which graduate students interested in running for elected office are invited to attend a series of events and training sessions (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Nominating Committee, Sections E.POL.8.2 and E.POL.8.7).

There will be an electronic vote held at the 21 September 2020 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 21 September 2020 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsanomco@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 25 May 2020 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. Nadia Daniel (Councillor-at-Large)**

Jurisdiction:

Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Board, Section F.POL.3.1.e

The composition of the GSAB includes *"up to three (3) members of GSA Council elected by GSA Council as non-voting members."*

Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.4

"Vacancies on the GSA NoC will be advertised by the ED or delegate and GSA Speaker. The ED or delegate and GSA Speaker will provide GSA Council with the names of nominees for the GSA NoC who meet the criteria set out in Section E.POL.5, below. These vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement."

Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Nominating Committee, Section E.POL.5.1

The GSA NoC is composed of *"a total of five (5) graduate student members, including at least two (2) voting members of GSA Council (who may be alternates) elected by GSA Council, and three (3) additional graduate student members elected by GSA Council, as voting members."*

The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee is BELOW on page 6.10. The biography and resume is presented as received (ie not edited).

**NOMINATIONS FOR GSA BOARD AND GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSAB/NoC)
(One (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA COUNCILLOR)
One (1) Nominee**

1. Nadia Daniel

Statement of Interest:
The skills I have gained from my volunteer work at the Trent's student unions during my undergrad and the national Food Bank, will benefit the advocacy work the GSA Board does. I'm very outspoken and experienced at conflict resolution, which would serve as an asset as member of this committee. Furthermore, I'm passionate about being a representative for graduate students, the council, and getting invested in the function of the GSA. I would like to learn about various advocacy initiatives, actions undertaken by the board, and hear about the positive and negative interactions our leadership have with the university leadership.
Bio:
I was born in the Netherlands and raised in Aruba. My mother is from Aruba and my dad from Curacao, so I am also fluent in Papiamentu and Spanish besides Dutch and English. After a BSc degree in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at Trent University (2009), I studied at the University of Leiden and attained a MSc (2015) in Biomedical Sciences. While I studied at Trent, I was part of multiple student unions and was part of the varsity team Trent Excalibur. While in Leiden I did not engage in any extra-curricular activities, but I worked part-time at several pharmaceutical companies to gain work experience. Here at the UofA, I am the vice-president of the Science to Business Network and I organize all social events for the Alberta Respiratory Centre (ARC lab). I also volunteered with Santa Anonymous last year.
Summary Resume:
I am now going into my third year as a PhD student in the Department of Medicine studying the effect of barrier function on airway epithelial cells. I work in Dr. Vliagoftis's lab as part of Alberta Research Centre, which is a multidisciplinary team. Between my MSc and my PhD, I worked as a research assistant at Queens University at the department of Biomedical Science. I started my PhD in the Fall of 2018 and recently completed my candidacy exam, and my schedule is flexible enough to accommodate sitting on a busy committee and attend both the GSAB and GSA NoC meetings.

President
Report to GSA Council for the 21 September 2020 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Marc Waddingham
Date: 18 September 2020

To my Colleagues in Council,

For my report this month, please see the highlights below:

Alberta 2030

- We continue to monitor the provincial government's AB2030 initiative as it progresses to its intermediate stage, largely through support of Evan Wong, the Chair of Alberta Graduate Advisory Council (ab-GPAC) and member of various consultation events hosted by McKinsey & Co. While the process remains confidential and fairly opaque, we plan to continue our efforts through the formal process and via our traditional advocacy strategies.
- Of the AB2030 foci, "commercialization of research" has attracted significant attention by both government and other stakeholder groups. The UAGSA is actively pursuing leads related to hubs of innovative and entrepreneurial activity in the capital region, including the Venture Mentoring Service, Edmonton Regional Innovation Network, and the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP) Office. Our aim is to investigate opportunities to grow the current iteration of the GSIP, which we believe aligns with provincial and institutional priorities.

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

- I have been working closely with members of the Black Graduate Students' Association (BGSA), primarily Prof-Collins Ifeonu, to help develop and support their latest advocacy priorities to Central Administration. Following their meeting with President Flannagan and his associates, I heard positive reports back from both sides of the table, including an endorsement from the President on a number of the advocacy priorities raised. Notably, the administration will look into the voluntary collection of data on racialized students, following similar work undertaken for faculty and staff at the University.
- The GSA EDI Committee Terms of Reference have been circulated to a number of my colleagues knowledgeable on the subject of EDI initiatives, to ensure the high-level structure of the committee and its operation is clear of any red-flags or necessary additions. Following this review, the documentation will come to GSA Council, likely in October or November, for discussion and approval.

Academic Restructuring

- The University of Alberta for Tomorrow project continues to move forward, with major consultation events set to take place throughout the semester. Aside from meeting with the student association councils, the current proposals have been vetted at the Senior Leadership Retreat, the Board of Governors' Retreat, and will be brought forward to General Faculties' Council and relevant subcommittees thereof. While I am unable to disclose much detail, the project is nearing its first milestone towards the end of this semester. To ensure that our councillors and members have

adequate opportunities to share their input, we will be hosting a town hall specifically for graduate students and will be inviting President Flanagan and Provost Dew for an update later on in the academic year.

President's Installation Ceremony

- On 16 September, President William Flanagan was officially installed as the 14th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Alberta. Although in-person attendance was limited, the event was a close-knit affair and featured deliberate reconciliatory inclusions of the Indigenous community of the capital region and beyond. While we've had the opportunity to work with President Flanagan for a few months now, the official sign-on was a welcome, positive ceremony.

As always, I look forward to your comments and questions on these items or any other meeting I have attended.

Kind regards,
Marc Waddingham

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 August 2020 and 21 September 2020 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 August	Meeting with Alumni Association
19 August	Meeting with International Students' Association (ISA)
20 August	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
21 August	GSA Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) Team-Building Activity
21 August	Meeting with R Ley, Students' Union (SU) VP External
24 August	GSA Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) Team-Building Activity
24 August	President's Installation Committee
26 August	University Associations' Meeting
27 August	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
27 August	University Town Hall for Equity-Seeking Communities
27 August	Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG)
27 August	Edmonton Students' Alliance (ESA)
28 August	Meeting with C Swindlehurst, Interim Vice-President (University Relations)
28 August	Meeting with P Garrity, Chancellor
28 August	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
31 August	President's Installation Committee
1 September	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
2 September	Meeting re Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)
2 September	Meeting with the Office of the Vice-President (University Relations)
2 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Meeting
3 September	GSA Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) Team-Building Workshop
3 September	Board of Governors (BoG) Retreat and Social
4 September	Board of Governors (BoG) Retreat
8 September	Meeting re Academic Integrity Project
9 September	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)

10 September	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
11 September	President's Installation Committee
11 September	Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG)
11 September	Meeting with Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) re: Postdoctoral Fellows
11 September	Meeting re Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP)
15 September	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
15 September	Meeting with K Peters, General Faculties Council (GFC) Secretary
15 September	Meeting with UAlberta International
16 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Media Training
16 September	B Flanagan Presidential Installation
16 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
17 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy and Outreach Committee
17 September	Residence Advisory Council (RAC)
18 September	Special Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting
18 September	Meeting with W Dixon, Interim Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
18 September	GSA Lunch and Learn Series
18 September	Meeting with the Office of University Relations
21 September	Meeting re General Faculties Council (GFC)
21 September	General Faculties Council (GFC) New Member Orientation

GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the 21 September 2020 Meeting

To: GSA Council
 From: Marc Waddingham, GSA President
 Date: 18 September 2020

The GSA Board (GSAB) reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, Motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. GSA Council members are always able to ask questions about items that were discussed in closed session. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The President, Vice-Presidents, and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 17 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 17.2 – 17.6.

19 August 2020 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update; GSA Council Debrief; SWP Quarterly Report Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

ACTION MW to ask S Dew to provide any new information and incorporate academic restructuring updates into monthly report to GSA Council.

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

Members discussed the **Special Board of Governors** Meeting.

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

26 August 2020 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

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

Board Members discussed the **Meeting with International Students' Association (ISA)**.

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

ACTION AF to email S Price to ask for someone to come speak at GSAB to discuss the Venture Mentorship program.

2 September 2020 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update; Public Interest Alberta PSE Ad Campaign; Scheduling Matters; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

ACTION LT to set up regular meetings with GSA President and Chancellor.

AGREED to move into **CLOSED SESSION**.

Board Members discussed the **GSA Collective Agreement Negotiations**.

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

9 September 2020 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council Membership Fee Consultation; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

AGREED to move into **CLOSED SESSION**.

Board Members discussed the **Board of Governors Retreat and Social**.

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

ACTION AF to write a white paper to circulate to the provincial government about the importance of graduate students to the province.

AGREED to move into **CLOSED SESSION**.

Board Members discussed **questions related to Collective Bargaining**.

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

16 September 2020 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Participation Report for the Period 1 January 2019 to 31 July 2020: To Receive for Information; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached participation report, as provided by TD Meloche Monnex Insurance. **SP MOVED**. **SR** Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**GSA Governance Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 21 September 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Marc Waddingham
Date: 18 September 2020

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) approved, via email vote on 10 September 2020, an editorial change to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, to make mention of the Indigenous Graduate Student Award. As you may recall, acting on a recommendation from the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, GSA Council approved, in February 2020, funding for this Indigenous Graduate Student Award, with the application and adjudication processes to be overseen by First Peoples' House. Arrangements have now been made for the establishment of this award and, consequently, the GSA GC amended GSA Bylaw and Policy editorially to include mention of this GSA Council-approved award and the associated GSA Council-approved proviso that the GSA Awards Selection Committee (which has been consulted on this change as well) does not play a role in the adjudication of this award. The recipient of this award, valued at \$750, will be honoured along with the recipients of other GSA Recognition Awards at the annual GSA Awards Night.

Sincerely,
Marc Waddingham, President and Chair of the GSA GC

**GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 21 September 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sachiketha Reddy Paspula
Date: 18 September 2020

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you all are doing great these days. I have attended several meetings in the past month and a lot has happened in this period as I work diligently in my role as your VP Academic. Here are a few highlights:

- Myself and the other GSA Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) attended a of couple of team building activities, as others report.
- GSA Orientation e-class modules, as well as short videos for departmental orientations, have been circulated for incoming students. The GSA staff have been working hard to set up virtual services for all graduate students.
- I chaired the first Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus meeting for this academic year. I would like to thank the outgoing representatives and welcome all the new and returning graduate student representatives on this Council. I think we will have many important discussions over the year.
- In the FGSR Council meeting, I presented the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan for 2020-2021. I highlighted the issue of internships for graduate students and that we are working closely with students to provide virtual services. I also mentioned our relationship with other stakeholder groups and student bodies.
- I attended a General Faculties Council on Student Affairs (GFC COSA) meeting. We focused on alternate practices for examinations owing to the current online environment and the mode of delivery for Winter 2021; decisions about this may come out in the next couple of weeks.
- Marc and I had a meeting with the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP) office, where we discussed the current state of internships offered and the future steps planned to improve the number of internships. Twenty-five new companies have reached out to GSIP office and there are more companies coming forward with an interest in hiring graduate students. The GSIP office is working closely with government to get more funds for this program.
- I attended the Undergraduate Research Initiative (URI) Advisory Committee meeting. This committee involves supporting and promoting undergraduate student research by raising awareness, supporting skill development, and facilitating opportunities to get involved in research. Stipends associated with this program have also recently increased. This program is

open to domestic and international students. URI is working closely with FGSR and looking forward to increasing the visibility and sustainability of URI's program and impact.

If you have any concerns about this report/concerns regarding any academic related issue feel free to reach me at gsavpaca@ualberta.ca. I will be more than happy to answer your questions.

Regards,

Sachiketha Reddy Paspula, Vice-President Academic 2020-2021

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 August 2020 and 21 September 2020 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 August	Meeting with the Alumni Association
21 August	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Activity
24 August	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Activity
25 August	Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Action Team 4
26 August	General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC)
28 August	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
1 September	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
3 September	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Workshop
10 September	Council on Student Affairs (COSA)
11 September	Meeting re Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP)
14 September	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
14 September	Undergraduate Research Initiative (URI) Advisory Committee
14 September	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
15 September	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
15 September	Meeting with K Peters, General Faculties Council (GFC) Secretary
16 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
17 September	General Faculties Council Programs Committee (GFC PC)
18 September	Meeting with the Office of University Relations
21 September	General Faculties Council (GFC) New Member Orientation

**Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 21 September 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 18 September 2020

Colleagues,

I hope you are doing great, and the fall is treating you well. My efforts to advocate for the interests of graduate students in external representation, residences, and alumni relations continue through the fall. As you can see I've been busy this month and it is my pleasure to ensure my fellow graduate students that everything is under control in my role. Here are the main takeaways from the meetings attended with Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC), Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA), Alumni Council, residence staff, and the Search Committee for the new Vice-President (External Relations).

- With respect to ab-GPAC, the transition from Christopher Bill to Brandon Simmons as Executive Director is complete. We wish Chris the best of luck in whatever his next career path is, and we welcome Brandon to this role. Moreover, ab-GPAC chair Evan Wong continues to attend roundtable discussions with McKinsey and Company, the consulting firm hired to perform a review of the province's post-secondary education system (AB2030). Evan reports a strong interest among the consulting group in indigeneity as an important variable in this review and they are responsive to Evan's input on indigeneity in advanced education according to the guiding principles of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Evan will continue to attend these roundtable discussions and provide input on behalf of ab-GPAC, while the other board directors, including myself, continue to work with Evan on various submissions for AB2030. I am currently working on a piece on "Internationalization and Recruitment," where I explain the contribution of international graduate students to the economy of Alberta, commercialization of research, and the need for retainment of international students and facilitation of immigration streams in the province.
- There is a major development in the Housing Research Survey initiative: we have invited UTILE to come to an ab-GPAC meeting next week to talk about their housing research. I brought the housing survey up again with colleagues from the ESA, and everybody seemed on board. For now, we are waiting for UTILE to come and talk to ab-GPAC about the timeframe, and then we will proceed with identifying which institutions would be interested in administering the survey.
- In the ESA meeting, one colleague mentioned that Leduc has made public transit free for post-secondary. Sean Waddingham, the ESA chair, also mentioned that we need more attendance at our upcoming meeting with the municipality and, thus, I would encourage you as GSA Councillors to join us.
- I attended a meeting with Alumni Council. Partnership and engagement with the Council is vital and I am making sure that my involvement best suits the interest of graduate students. I asked to switch from the Career Committee to Student-to-Graduate Committee where I will partake in the Venture Mentorship program, thereby creating internship opportunities for graduate students. We have arranged for a meeting with folks from Alumni Council to attend a GSA Board meeting next month to talk about those internship opportunities and how we can create partnerships. Stay tuned!
- I had a couple of meetings with Janice Johnson, Assistant Dean of Students (Residences), to talk about ways to ensure good COVID-19 behavior in residences. All efforts are being made to avoid any disciplinary measures. Luckily, as reported by Janice, University residences had about 900 student residents last summer, and the majority abide by social distancing rules and wearing masks, which is a good indicator of good COVID-19 behavior for the fall and winter as well. I also met with Katherine Huising, Associate Vice-

President (Ancillary Services), to discuss University Housing Policies and how they impact graduate students residing on campus. It was very collaborative.

- Lastly, I am a member of the Search Committee for hiring the University Vice-President (External Relations). We have had two meetings so far, which were introductory. We are supposed to hold interviews in October and round off the recruitment process in the same month.

That concludes my monthly report. Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to ask in our Council meeting or contact me directly at: gsa.vpexternal@ualberta.ca. Please reach out!

Thank you!

Anas Fassih, Vice-President External 2020-2021

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 August 2020 and 21 September 2020 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

19 August	Alumni Council Orientation
19 August	Meeting with International Students' Association (ISA)
20 August	Alberta Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy and Outreach Committee
21 August	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Activity
24 August	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Activity
27 August	Edmonton Students' Alliance (ESA)
28 August	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
31 August	Alberta 2030 Weekly Strategy Call
2 September	Meeting with K Huisig, Associate Vice-President (Ancillary Services)
2 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Meeting
3 September	Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Search Committee
3 September	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Workshop
9 September	Vice-President (External Relations) Search Advisory committee
10 September	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Scoping Group
11 September	Meeting with NASA re: Postdoctoral Fellows
15 September	Meeting with UAlberta International
16 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Media Training
16 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Meeting
17 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy and Outreach Committee
17 September	Residence Advisory Council (RAC)
28 September	Meeting with the Office of University Relations
21 September	Meeting re General Faculties Council (GFC)

**GSA Awards Selection Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 21 September 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 18 September 2020

Dear Council Colleagues,

Following ongoing discussions by the GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) concerning the establishment of a new GSA Recognition Award (funding for which was approved by GSA Council in February 2020), the committee voted, via email on 14 September 2020, to recommend a proposed addition to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O, that encompasses the description and eligibility criteria of this new award. This recommended addition will be before GSA Council for consideration at the October meeting.

The GSA ASC also provided feedback, via email, on proposed editorial amendments to GSA Bylaw and Policy to include a reference to the Indigenous Graduate Student Award, the establishment of which was approved by GSA Council when it considered the GSA's 2020-2021 operating budget in February 2020. Additional information on this is provided in the GSA Governance Committee's report to GSA Council.

Sincerely,
Anas Fassih, Vice-President External and Chair of the GSA ASC

**2020-2021 Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the 21 September 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Umesh Nimmathi
Date: 18 September 2020

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope that everyone is doing fine and the new academic term is going well. Below are some of the highlights of the meetings that I have attended:

- I attended Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council's (ab-GPAC) Labour Relations Roundtable met on 24 August. Brandon Simmons (BS) is the new Executive Director of ab-GPAC and convenes these meetings. ab-GPAC has prepared a Labour Relations Research proposal which summarizes a suggested timeline, estimated resources required, drafted interview questions, etc. Committee members suggested a few questions to add to the list of interview questions. The aim of the research will be to assess strategies for strike fund growth and management, enhancing union engagement, etc.
- Negotiations for the next Collective Agreement are still ongoing; we have scheduled the next meeting dates and hope to wrap up the process by the end of Fall 2020. We are sharing updates on this process with all current Academically-Employed Graduate students (AEGSs). If you are a non-AEGS and have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me.
- The GSA team and I attended some GSA DEO team-building activities virtually to get know about each other's personality traits and how to use this knowledge to work together as a team.
- I attended a training webinar regarding collective bargaining on 8 September. This webinar was hosted by Jay Sharun, who has negotiated more than 650 collective agreements. He discussed the collective bargaining process and shared useful tips and strategies.

Finally, we are hosting a [Labour 101 session](#) on 30 September from 2-3PM via Zoom. Please feel free to join this session if you have any questions or concerns about the Collective Agreement and kindly share this information to your fellow AEGSs. Information about the session will be circulated to all graduate students via the GSA newsletter.

If any graduate student comes to you regarding CA issues, harassment, or safety and security issues, please email me at gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca

Best wishes,
Umesh Nimmathi, Vice-President Labour 2020-2021

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 August 2020 and 21 September 2020 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 August	Meeting with a Graduate Student
18 August	Meeting with the Alumni Association
21 August	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Activity
24 August	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Activity
24 August	Alberta Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Labour Relations Roundtable
27 August	Meeting re GSA Collective Agreement Negotiations
28 August	Meeting re GSA Collective Agreement Negotiations
28 August	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
2 September	Meeting re Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)
3 September	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Workshop
8 September	Webinar re Collective Bargaining
14 September	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
16 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
18 September	Joint Work Site Health and Safety Committee (JWSHSC)
18 September	Meeting with the Office of University Relations
21 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Media Training

**Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the 21 September 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sridhar Parasharamatham
Date: 18 September 2020

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy and that you have all had a wonderful start to the fall semester and were able to enjoy some rest over the summer months. I will be giving highlights on some of the important meetings I attended.

Firstly, I attended the Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Action Team 4 meeting where we discussed how student services would interact with students - a document with details of these modes of interactions is being prepared and will be updated on a regular basis. In this regard, some of the units involved, similar to the QUAD newsletter, would be directed to students, and the faculties will communicate through this, so that there is co-ordination between the faculties and central administration. Every faculty is creating different forms for itself, but we hoped a common form would be developed to fill out and then redirected to respective faculty. This would help in planning properly for the winter semester.

Secondly, I attended some Infrastructure and Operations Planning Team meetings. The winter semester may be the same as this semester (predominantly online), however this is still to be determined. Some of the U-15 schools (UBC etc) have already decided on this. Continuous updates are being received from both the federal and provincial governments around international students and the post-secondary plan for students when they arrive, isolation expectations, and so on. Since the US-Canada border is closed until at least the end of October, there will not be any significant increase in the international community at the U of A in terms of incoming students. Mask exception procedures for both staff and students have been approved by the President's Executive Committee (PEC). 10,000+ people have completed the return to campus e-learning module in the last two months.

We attended team building sessions within our executive team, which helped build a stronger bond in terms of our work as your GSA Executive, and motivated us to collaborate more in times of need.

Next, I attended a meeting with Unitea for the Graduate Collective Tea Time where we decided how to move forward in the fall semester. From September, the tea times will be conducted twice a month via Zoom or Google Meet. Also, there are new members on the committee leading the transition from this semester to the next.

Finally, I attended many meetings regarding the U-Pass for both Fall 2020 and negotiations for a 2021-2025 agreement. As you've already been informed, every post-secondary student is eligible to buy youth fare products as long as they have a valid student ID, and can also apply for the Ride Transit Program if they meet the individual income restrictions. International students with proper documentation are also eligible to apply for the Ride Transit Program. The negotiation for the next contract (2021-2025) are going well and are on track. We are anticipating holding a referendum on both the U-Pass and the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) in the new year.

Feel free to reach me out for any comments/concerns regarding this report or any other specific issue you want to discuss regarding services to students at gsavpsse@ualberta.ca.

Regards,
Sridhar Parasharamatham, Vice-President Student Services 2020-2021

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 August 2020 and 21 September 2020 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 August	Meeting re U-Pass Agreement Negotiations
18 August	U-Pass Agreement Negotiations Session
20 August	U-Pass Administrative Committee Meeting
20 August	Edmonton Regional Post-Secondary Mental Health Committee (RSPSMHC)
20 August	U-Pass Agreement Negotiations Session
21 August	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Activity
24 August	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Activity
25 August	Meeting re U-Pass Agreement Negotiations
25 August	Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Action Team 4
27 August	Days of Action Committee Meeting
27 August	Infrastructure and Operations Fall Planning Team
28 August	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
28 August	Meeting with Unitea re: Graduate Collective Tea Time Planning
1 September	Meeting re U-Pass Agreement Negotiations
1 September	Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Action Team 4
2 September	Meeting re Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)
3 September	Infrastructure and Operations Fall Planning Team
3 September	GSA Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) Team-Building Workshop
9 September	Meeting re U-Pass Negotiations
10 September	Infrastructure and Operations Fall Planning Team
10 September	Supporting Good COVID Behaviours in Residence
10 September	Campus Food Bank Board Meeting
15 September	U-Pass Agreement Negotiations
17 September	U-Pass Administrative Committee
17 September	Infrastructure and Operations Fall Planning Committee
17 September	U-Pass Agreement Negotiations
18 September	GSA Lunch and Learn Series
18 September	Meeting with the Office of University Relations

**GSA Nominating Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 21 September 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Kenzie Gordon
Date: 18 September 2020

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,

Kenzie Gordon, Chair of the GSA NoC

Memorandum to GSA Councillors

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

It is important to note that the time commitment for all of these committees varies greatly. While some meet regularly throughout the year (usually every two (2) to three (3) months – with the GSA Board meeting weekly), others meet less frequently, and some do most 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, GSA NoC Chair Kenzie Gordon strongly encourages GSA Councillors 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 GSA NoC Chair Kenzie Gordon at mlgordon@ualberta.ca or GSA Elections Coordinator Monica Brzak at gsanomco@ualberta.ca.

GSA Standing Committees

1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Committee (GSA ACB) (Two (2) GSA Councillor Positions and One (1) GSA Member Position) – Renewal of Positions

Information regarding the terms of office of three (3) GSA ACB members coming to an end were emailed to current GSA ACB members on 2 September 2020. **All three (3) members were interested in seeking an additional term and nominations were received from all; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 6 – Nominees for Renewal of Positions on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board).**

2) GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) (Six (6) GSA Member Positions)

Information regarding the position for six (6) GSA members was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 28 August and 4 and 11 September with a nomination deadline of 16 September 2020. **Three (3) nominations were received; there**

will be an electronic vote (see Item 6 – Nominees for the GSA Awards Selection Committee). The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 28 August and 4 and 11 September with a nomination deadline of 16 September 2020. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

4) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (Three (3) GSA Member Positions)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Member was circulated via the GSA Newsletter on 28 August and 4 and 11 September with a nomination deadline of 16 September 2020. Since we circulated those advertisements, another vacancy on the GSA ERC has opened up. In place of having to run this ad once again, we have asked the GSA Nominating Committee if they had any objections to moving all three names forward to GSA Council. All members of the NoC agreed to move all names forward. **There are now three (3) nominees for three (3) vacancies, although only two (2) vacancies were advertised. Three (3) nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 6 – Nominees for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee).**

5) 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 on 28 August and 4 and 11 September with a nomination deadline of 16 September 2020. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 28 August and 4 and 11 September with a nomination deadline of 16 September 2020. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

7) GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (GSAB/GSA NoC) (One (1) GSA Councillor Position)

Information regarding this joint position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 28 August, 4 and 11 September 2020 with a nomination deadline of 16 September 2020. **One (1) nomination was received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 6 – Nominee for the GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee).**

External Committees: Vacancies and Vacancies Filled

1) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (Up to 25 Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding sixteen (16) Councillor positions and five (5) Alternate positions was circulated in the GSA newsletters of 7, 14, 21, and 28 August, and 4 September with a deadline of 9 September 2020. **Subham Soni, Claudia Holody, Meagan Auer, Puruhithika Kunde, Salam Khalife, Lindsey Drozak, Kasra Shayeganpour, Shashi Kumar, Mukt Patel, Nayiar Shahid, Christian Kwarkye, Kevin Solar, Tiffany Kung, Kathy Haddadkar, Nicole Dittmann, and alternate Kelvis Hazhij** were elected to serve as FGSR Councillors. The remaining one (1) Councillor position and four (4) Alternate positions will be advertised again.

Addendum – Election of GSA NoC Chair

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, "two members (2) from amongst the five (5) voting members of the [GSA NoC] will be elected by the GSA NoC to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the duration of their time on the GSA NoC or until they resign their positions as Chair and Vice-Chair. The persons elected will be reported to GSA Council" (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Nominating Committee, Section E.POL.5.3). On 19 August 2020, GSA NoC members were informed of the vacancy in the position of Chair and were invited to submit nominations for this position. One (1) nomination was received in advance of the deadline of 24 August 2020. As of 25 August 2020, GSA NoC members have elected **Kenzie Gordon (Media & Cultural Studies and Digital Humanities)** to serve as GSA NoC Chair. The position of Vice-Chair, previously occupied by Kenzie, remains to be filled.

**Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the 21 September 2020 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 18 September 2020

Dear GSA Council Members,

The big projects for the office staff over the past month have related to the start of the fall semester; including the circulation of a series of GSA orientation e-class modules, staffing our virtual front desk, responding to student inquiries, organizing Lunch and Learn style informational programming, as well as online social events, and the mailing of GSA planners to interested students. Staff are also engaged with a re-haul of the GSA website and the development of a new Discover Governance program that builds off of the Early Call program and will hopefully help to engage more graduate students with GSA governance. We are also maintaining all our standard operations and working to plan the 2021 GSA General Election and the two referenda that we anticipate needing to hold in the new year related to the U-Pass program (a new agreement is currently being negotiated) and the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) (as previously reported, after no increases since 2008, the cost of the GSAP has now increased by approximately \$10 per graduate student per year and this new cost will need to be considered in a referendum vote).

All this ongoing work is done by a small team of dedicated and engaged staff and, every fall, as we embark on a new academic year, I like take the opportunity to briefly introduce you to that staff team. Brief snapshots of their 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. 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 the GSA's corporate infrastructure. 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 fair process; finance (she heads the Financial Team); elections; 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 committee, and oversees initiatives related to the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan and engagement initiatives.

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.

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. She coordinates and produces communications and graphics, and prepares the weekly newsletter. In addition, she schedules GSA Directly-Elected Officers and staff; writes weekly GSA Board minutes; manages the information retrieval system; and organizes the annual transition of elected officials. She also answers Front Desk inquiries.

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; works with departmental GSAs; acts as a GSA Council Secretary; and deals with Front Desk enquiries.

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 also deals with Front Desk enquiries.

Mahsa Toghrari: Research and Strategic Planning Coordinator, BA Psychology (U of A) (FT)

Mahsa joined the GSA in August 2016 and transitioned to her current role in November 2019. In addition to her share of Front Desk responsibilities, she supports the development and ongoing administrative work related to the Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) and pursues various research projects related to strategic priorities of the organization. She coordinates 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.

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached (pages 17.2-17.6) and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Best,

Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, 19 August 2020

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 12 August 2020:

Strategic

- Forward planning for the 2021 GSA General Election (drafting a timeline and a workplan for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) and associated referenda (on the GSAP and the U-Pass) that will also occur.
- Reviewing the composition of GSA Council following the move of some graduate programs from the Faculty of Extension to the Faculty of Arts – waiting to hear how FGSR Council will address the matter as the composition of GSA Council is loosely based on that of FGSR.
- Analyzing the recent changes to the *Labour Relations Code* and the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* enacted by Bill 32, and how they will impact the GSA's work as a labour union for academically-employed graduate students – awaiting a legal opinion.
- Soliciting and reviewing feedback on the first online GSA social event and planning further events into the fall (both social events and some lunch and learn style sessions).
- Assessing needed updates to Section O: GSA Recognition Awards of GSA Bylaw and Policy, now that we have received Terms of Reference from First Peoples' House and are conferring with GSA Awards Selection Committee concerning this GSA award for an Indigenous graduate student.
- Supporting the current U-Pass negotiations processes.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes (next negotiation meetings are scheduled for 17 and 28 August) and planning to research best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, growth, and utilization (project temporarily on hold as the upcoming cycle of bargaining unfolds but is being discussed with other GSAs at Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council-hosted labour roundtables and looked at with reference to the provisions of Bill 32 and the guidance our lawyer may provide with respect to that). We are also assessing strategies to build engagement and the construction of a steward network, as well as forward planning for a ratification vote associated with the current negotiating process).
- Ongoing work associated with remote delivery of GSA orientation (utilizing Articulate to build eClass modules and looking to disseminate this presentation next week), working with the FGSR to contact graduate program coordinators about departmental orientations to be offered via a short video), preparing for the 24 August opening of a virtual front desk.

Operations

- Facilitating delivery to departments of the 2020-2021 GSA Planner.
- Follow up associated with the most recent GSA Council meeting.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: replenishment of graduate student seats on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (currently being advertised), several standing committee position vacancies for GSA Councillors and GSA members to be advertised later in the month, and a vacancy in the DRO position.
- Facebook = 1,476 likes (up 6 from 12 Aug) and 1,543 followers (data is unclear from 12 Aug); Facebook posts reached 1,108 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 52. Twitter = 1,055 followers (up 3 from 12 Aug); our tweets earned 191 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 480 followers (up 6 from 12 Aug); our posts earned 98 "impressions" over the past week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); 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. Next funding periods opens 1 October 2020. All funding is being closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 26 August 2020

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

Strategic

- Forward planning for the 2021 GSA General Election (drafting a timeline and a workplan for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) and associated referenda (on the GSAP and the U-Pass) that will also occur.
- Reviewing the composition of GSA Council following the move of some graduate programs from the Faculty of Extension to the Faculty of Arts – waiting to hear how FGSR Council will address the matter as the composition of GSA Council is loosely based on that of FGSR.
- Analyzing the recent changes to the *Labour Relations Code* and the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* enacted by Bill 32, and how they will impact the GSA's work as a labour union for academically-employed graduate students – awaiting a legal opinion.
- Preparing for an upcoming meeting with University administration to discuss the GSAP.
- Supporting the current U-Pass negotiations processes.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes (next negotiation meetings are scheduled for 27 and 28 August) and planning to research best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, and utilization (project temporarily on hold as the upcoming cycle of bargaining unfolds but is being discussed with other GSAs at Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council-hosted labour roundtables and looked at with reference to the provisions of Bill 32 and the guidance our lawyer may provide with respect to that). We are also assessing strategies to build engagement and a steward network, as well as forward planning for a ratification vote associated with the current negotiating process).

Operations

- Launch of the virtual front desk, release of fall orientation e-class modules, and planning further online engagement events for the fall (both social events and some lunch and learn style sessions).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Awards Selection Committee (advertised via the newsletter), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via the newsletter and directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), a vacancy in the DRO position, and replenishment of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council, the Faculty of Science Council, and the Faculty of Native Studies Council.
- Facebook = 1,483 likes (up 7 from 19 August) and 1,550 followers (up 7 from 19 August); Facebook posts reached 1,068 users last week and our “post engagement” count was 45. Twitter = 1,057 followers (up 2 from 19 August); our tweets earned 1,100 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 482 followers (up 2 from 19 August); our posts earned 278 “impressions” over the past week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July and closed 25 August (61 applications funded and \$103,000 disbursed); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. Next funding periods opens 1 October 2020. All funding is being closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 2 September 2020

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

Strategic

- Forward planning for the 2021 GSA General Election (drafting a timeline and a workplan for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) and associated referenda (on the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) and the U-Pass) that will also occur, and providing a training session for the newly elected Chief Returning Officer.
- Planning a GSA town hall (29 September) to hear from graduate students on the University's academic/administrative restructuring initiative.
- Information sharing meeting with other Alberta GSA Executive Directors.
- Ongoing conversations about student groups and their intersections with the work of the GSA.
- Reviewing the composition of GSA Council following the move of some graduate programs from the Faculty of Extension to the Faculty of Arts – waiting to hear how the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council will address the matter as the composition of GSA Council is loosely based on that of FGSR.
- Analyzing the recent changes to the *Labour Relations Code* and the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* enacted by Bill 32, and how they will impact the GSA's work as a labour union for academically-employed graduate students – awaiting a legal opinion.
- Preparing for an upcoming meeting with University administration to discuss the GSAP.
- Supporting the current U-Pass negotiations processes.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes and collaborating with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) to research best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, and utilization (project temporarily on hold as the upcoming cycle of bargaining unfolds but is being discussed with other GSAs at Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council-hosted labour roundtables and looked at with reference to the provisions of Bill 32 and the guidance our lawyer may provide with respect to that). We are also assessing strategies to build engagement and a steward network, as well as forward planning for a ratification vote associated with the current negotiating process).

Operations

- Launch of the virtual front desk (we're seeing good usage levels), release of fall orientation e-class modules (many people are completing the modules), and planning further online engagement events for the fall (both social events and some lunch and learn style sessions).
- Annual GSA Council remuneration process.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Awards Selection Committee (advertised via the newsletter), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via the newsletter and directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), a vacancy in the DRO position, and replenishment of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council, the Faculty of Science Council, and the Faculty of Native Studies Council.
- Facebook = 1,511 likes (up 28 from 26 August) and 1,5579 followers (up 29 from 26 August); Facebook posts reached 386 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 24. Twitter = 1,064 followers (up 7 from 26 August); our tweets earned 1,500 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 505 followers (up 23 from 26 August); our posts earned 854 "impressions" over the past week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July and closed 25 August (61 applications funded and \$103,000 disbursed); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. Next funding periods opens 1 October 2020. All funding is being closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 9 September 2020

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 2 September 2020:

Strategic

- Forward planning for the 2021 GSA General Election (drafting a timeline and a workplan for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) and associated referenda (on the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) and the U-Pass) that will also occur – beginning to draft the GSAP referendum question following a meeting with the Vice-Provost
- Planning a GSA town hall (29 September) to hear from graduate students on the University's academic/administrative restructuring initiative.
- Ongoing conversations about student groups and their intersections with the work of the GSA.
- Reviewing the composition of GSA Council following the move of some graduate programs from the Faculty of Extension to the Faculty of Arts – waiting to hear how the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council will address the matter as the composition of GSA Council is loosely based on that of FGSR.
- Analyzing the recent changes to the *Labour Relations Code* and the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* enacted by Bill 32, and how they will impact the GSA's work as a labour union for academically-employed graduate students – awaiting a legal opinion.
- Supporting the current U-Pass negotiations processes.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes and collaborating with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) to research best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, and utilization (project temporarily on hold as the upcoming cycle of bargaining unfolds but is being discussed with other GSAs at Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council-hosted labour roundtables and looked at with reference to the provisions of Bill 32 and the guidance our lawyer may provide with respect to that). We are also assessing strategies to build engagement and a steward network, as well as forward planning for a ratification vote associated with the current negotiating process).

Operations

- Planning further online engagement events for the fall (both social events and lunch and learn style sessions – first one scheduled for 18 September with Studentcare) and staffing the virtual front desk.
- Preparing for the first mailing of GSA Council meeting materials.
- Preparing electronic votes for the GSA Governance Committee concerning recommended amendments to GSA Bylaw and Policy.
- Annual GSA Council remuneration process.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Awards Selection Committee (advertised via the newsletter), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via the newsletter and directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), a vacancy in the DRO position, and replenishment of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council, the Faculty of Science Council, and the Faculty of Native Studies Council.
- Facebook = 1,522 likes (up 11 from 2 Sept) and 1,629 followers (up 29 from 2 Sept); Facebook posts reached 68 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 0. Twitter = 1,075 followers (up 11 from 2 Sept); our tweets earned 511 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 523 followers (up 18 from 2 Sept); our posts earned 378 "impressions" over the past week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July and closed 25 August (61 applications funded and \$103,000 disbursed); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. Next funding periods opens 1 October 2020. All funding is being closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 16 September 2020

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 9 September 2020:

Strategic

- Drafting recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy for consideration by the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Council.
- Ongoing monitoring of the GSA's financial position (enrollment numbers are anticipated shortly), preparing to send the GSA's annual audit forward to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the GSA Board and GSA Council, and working to arrange for the GSA Budget and Finance Committee to receive an update from our investment advisor.
- Participation in professional development workshops related to human resources.
- Forward planning for the 2021 GSA General Election (drafting a timeline and a workplan for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and setting meetings for the committee in the fall) and associated referenda (on the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) and the U-Pass) that will also occur – beginning to draft the GSAP referendum question and calculate the necessary fee increase following a meeting with the Vice-Provost.
- Planning a GSA town hall (29 September) to hear from graduate students on the University's academic/administrative restructuring initiative.
- Reviewing the composition of GSA Council following the move of some graduate programs from the Faculty of Extension to the Faculty of Arts – waiting to hear how the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council will address the matter as the composition of GSA Council is loosely based on that of FGSR.
- Analyzing the recent changes to the *Labour Relations Code* and the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* enacted by Bill 32, and how they will impact the GSA's work as a labour union for academically-employed graduate students – awaiting a legal opinion.
- Supporting the current U-Pass negotiations processes.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement, including supporting negotiations processes and researching best practices with respect to strike fund establishment, maintenance, and utilization, assessing strategies to build engagement and a steward network, and forward planning for a ratification vote associated with the current negotiating process.

Operations

- Planning further online engagement events for the fall (both social events and lunch and learn style sessions – first one scheduled for 18 September with Studentcare, the 2 October with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research) and staffing the virtual front desk.
- Preparing for the second mailing of GSA Council meeting materials and completing the annual GSA Council remuneration process.
- Mailing out some 200 GSA Planners to those who have expressed interest in receiving them.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Awards Selection Committee (advertised via the newsletter), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via the newsletter and directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), a vacancy in the DRO position, and replenishment of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council, the Faculty of Science Council, the Faculty of Native Studies Council, and Medical Sciences Library Committee.
- Facebook = 1,532 likes (up 10 from 10 Sept) and 1,629 followers (up 11 from 2 Sept); Facebook posts reached 489 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 63. Twitter = 1,080 followers (up 5 from 10 Sept); our tweets earned 1,300 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 524 followers (up 1 from 10 Sept); our posts earned 1029 "impressions" over the past week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July and closed 25 August (61 applications funded and \$103,000 disbursed); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. Next funding periods opens 1 October 2020. All funding is being closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.