

**GSA Council Meeting - List of Reports Circulated**  
Monday, 12 December 2022  
**Cancelled**

Attachments	Attached Numbered Pages
1. Minutes from the 21 November 2022 GSA Council Meeting	1.0 - 1.4
2. President ( <b>Anas Fassih, President</b> )	
i. President's Report	2.0 - 2.1
ii. GSA Board	2.2
iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee	2.3
iv. GSA Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee <b>no meetings this reporting period</b> )	
v. GSA Governance Committee <b>(no meetings this reporting period)</b>	
3. Vice-President Academic ( <b>Bishoi Aziz, Vice-President Academic</b> )	
i. Vice-President Academic's Report	3.0 - 3.1
4. Vice-President External ( <b>Janmejaya Rao, Vice-President External</b> )	
i. Vice-President External's Report	4.0
ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee <b>(no meetings this reporting period)</b>	
5. Vice-President Labour ( <b>Hiren Kaklotar, Vice-President Labour</b> )	
i. Vice-President Labour's Report	5.0
ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee <b>(no meetings this reporting period)</b>	
6. Vice-President Student Services ( <b>Monisha Vinod, Vice-President Student Services</b> )	
i. Vice-President Student Services' Report	6.0 - 6.1
7. Senator ( <b>Peter Isesele, Senator</b> )	
i. Senator's Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	
8. Speaker ( <b>Dweej Shah, Speaker</b> )	
i. Speaker's Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	
9. Chief Returning Officer ( <b>Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer</b> )	
i. Chief Returning Officer's Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	9.0
10. GSA Nominating Committee ( <b>Elisabeth Widjaja, GSA Nominating Committee Chair</b> )	
i. GSA Nominating Committee Report	10.0 - 10.1
11. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee ( <b>Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Vice-Chair</b> )	
i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report	11.0
12. GSA Management ( <b>Erika Heiberg, Acting Executive Director</b> )	
i. Acting Executive Director's Report	12.0 - 12.2

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, 21 November 2022 at 6:00 pm  
Held in-person in Council Chamber and electronically via Zoom

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Anas Fassih (President)	Syed Quadri (Councillor-at-Large)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Alicia Chichak (Occupational Therapy)
Bishoi Aziz (VP Academic)	Emmy Marks (Anthropology)	Jane Allred (History, Classics and Religion)	Leo Remillard (Oncology)
Janmejaya Rao (VP External)	Karla Cristina Cruz; Andrew Pohlka (Biochemistry)	Anita Amir Labonno (Human Ecology)	Eduardo Andrade (Philosophy)
Hiren Kaklotar (VP Labour)	Carly Weber (Biomedical Engineering)	Jillian Ames (IGSA)	Kristen Sherrington (Physical Therapy)
Dweej Shah (Speaker)	Bhavneet Kaur (Business MBA)	Kristin Carroll (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Hamid Hassani (Physics)
Sophie Shi (CRO)	Teddy Carter (Business PhD)	Maia Trotter (Library & Information Studies)	Emilie Desnoyers (Psychiatry)
Eric Beaudry (Councillor-at-Large)	Zain Patel (Cell Biology)	Natasha Daley (Linguistics)	Cheryl Pan (Psychology)
Md Saiful Hoque (Councillor-at-Large)	Helia Dehghan Harati (Chemistry)	Yurij Salmaniw (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Tamara Samardzic (Public Health)
Jeremie Mahaux (Councillor-at-Large)	Sana Homsy (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Andy Zhang (Media & Technology Studies)	Wendy Amoako (Rehabilitation Science)
Laura Manerus (Councillor-at-Large)	Victor Ladewig (Dentistry)	Kara Goodkey (Medical Genetics)	Beckett Stark (Renewable Resources)
Mandeep Rainu (Councillor-at-Large)	Jonathan Spence (Earth & Atmospheric Studies)	Calvin Gordon (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Yan Xue (Sociology)
Md Saeed Siddik (Councillor-at-Large)	Qingyan Sun (Educational Policy Studies)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	Diksha Sharma (Surgery)
Pratima Singh (Councillor-at-Large)	Scott Taylor (Educational Psychology)	Nancy Hammer (Nursing)	

Guests: Melissa Padfield (Deputy Provost, Students and Enrolment, University of Alberta); Logan Mardhani-Bayne (Strategic Development Manager, University of Alberta); Erin O'Neil (Campus Food Bank, Executive Director); Jasmine Elniski (Campus Food Bank, Board Chair); Elizabeth Widjaja (Agriculture, Food, & Nutritional Sciences; GSA ERC Chair); Christina Saed (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences); Abigail Quaye (Women & Gender Studies).

Speaker Dweej Shah in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

**Approval of Agenda****1. Approval of the 21 November 2022 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 21 November 2022 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. B Aziz **MOVED**; H Kaklotar **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes****2. Minutes from the 24 October 2022 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 24 October 2022 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 10 November 2022. E Beaudry **MOVED**; A Pohlka **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

### **Changes in GSA Council Membership**

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

- i. **Introduction of New Councillors:** B Kaur (Business MBA); J Spence (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences); Z Patel (Cell Biology); N Daley (Linguistics); C Weber (Biomedical Engineering); K Sherrington (Physical Therapy).
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** K Goodkey (Medical Genetics)

### **GSA Council Member Announcements**

#### **4. GSA Council Member Announcements**

Speaker reminded Council that there would be no December 2022 meeting of GSA Council and that starting in January 2023, GSA Council meetings would move to in-person only with no virtual option. Members were encouraged to reach out to GSA Speaker and the GSA Office if they needed assistance with this transition.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **5. University Strategic Plan**

Anas Fassih (GSA President) presented the item and introduced the guests Melissa Padfield (Deputy Provost, Students and Enrolment) and Logan Mardhani-Bayne (Strategic Development Manager).

M Padfield and L Mardhani-Bayne outlined the process of the University Strategic Plan (USP) consultation process and the various stakeholder groups the steering committee was engaging in the process, noting that graduate students provided a unique view as both learners and educators, students and researchers. L Mardhani-Bayne presented on the Plan, noted the steering committee members involved in this process, and gave an overview of the consultation process. What does the University want to be going forward? Questions asked during consultations included: when you think about the U of A and what it does well, what achievement or practice makes you most proud; what does the University most need to improve; what do you think are the main economic and socio-political changes that will affect higher education, society, and the environment over the next 15 years. The student experience and voice were critical at this planning stage. Consultation process would involve multiple meetings with many different groups.

A draft plan would be submitted to GFC in late Spring 2023. They posed a series of questions to GSA Council. Members raised questions and comments regarding alumni consultation, commended the University on building a community of diverse voices and backgrounds into teaching and learning, suggested reimagining University budgeting and financing to rely less on government supports and student tuition, more centralized access to opportunities available to prospective graduate students, immigration streams for graduate students, Indigenous-newcomer relationship building strategies, how these suggestions and the goals of the plan would be actualized, and whether or not graduate student input would actually be used or if consultation was lip service.

Members were encourage to further participate by contacting the committee directly at provost@ualberta.ca, online via the [website](#), and participate in a Roundtable discussion for graduate students.

#### **6. Tuition and Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)**

Anas Fassih (President) presented the item and introduced the guest, Melissa Padfield (Deputy Provost, Students and Enrolment).

A Fassih noted that consultation this year was happening more broadly and the committee developed a set of questions and answers provided to GSA Council ahead of this meeting.

M Padfield noted that GSA and SU consultation had been added, as well as increased consultation with the Council on Student Affairs (COSA) and TBAC members. The committee desired transparency around what underpinned the proposals. This process should not be opaque and should provide clarity. M Padfield outlined the process for determining both the domestic tuition increases for 2023-2024 and the international cohort tuition increases for 2024-2025. This proposal would allow the U of A to maintain quality while addressing the increase to cost drivers (salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, utilities, maintenance, gaps in revenue, desire to maintain academic mission, and quality of instruction). M Padfield explained what was covered by tuition, how they arrived at the amount of the increases, and the differences in the Provincial governing framework that dictated how the University could determine tuition for domestic and international students (Tuition Fee Regulation).

Members raised questions and concerns including how feedback would be received and implemented in regard to tuition, guaranteed minimum funding packages for PhD students, international student vulnerability and accessibility with rising tuition costs, whether services were being maintained or decreasing across campus, the effects of inflation, striking a balance as an institution between affordability and quality, financial supports and distribution of resources among domestic and international students, and government effects on tuition increases.

### 7. Campus Food Bank

Anas Fassih (President) presented the item and introduced the guests, Erin O'Neil (Campus Food Bank, Executive Director), Jasmine Elniski (Campus Food Bank, Board Chair).

E O'Neil explained that CFB recently completed an extensive client survey; clients gave three main reasons for using CFB services: inflation, increased tuition, and increased rent. Albertans experienced food insecurity at a much higher rate than the national average, with students experiencing this more acutely. CFB believed the numbers to be especially high among graduate students. CFB would run a similar survey every year to keep track of trends. The survey results showed that 59% of CFB clients were graduate students and 68% of clients were international students.

E O'Neil presented on history of the Campus Food Bank (CFB), the current state of the organization and its users, noting a substantial increase in clients since September 2022, and the CFB's programs and initiatives, including a recent change from a hamper model to a grocery model. CFB had seen a substantial increase in usage since September, with every month since being the same; this might be the norm going forward. Service was intended to be a supplementary service, not provide all groceries.

Members raised questions regarding how to address psychological issues related to food insecurity, building community around food, reducing stigma of food bank usage, and advocating for broader campus and societal changes to help address food insecurity among students and the University community. Members were invited to contact E O'Neil with their thoughts.

### Action Items

#### 8. 2022-2023 GSA Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report

Anas Fassih (President) presented the items and provided members with a brief summary of the material before them, noting that the GSA was in a strong financial position moving into the second half of the fiscal year.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2022-2023 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report. Y Xue **MOVED**; E Beaudry **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** Unanimously.

#### 9. GSA Officer Portfolio Restructuring

Anas Fassih (President) presented the items. He noted that this was the second review of this proposed change to the restructuring, which addressed the creation of a new portfolio of a Vice-President Student Life, and changes to the Vice-President Labour portfolio, which. This position would be shifted to an Associate Vice-President Labour, similar to what existed at our partner institutions in Calgary and Lethbridge.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, K, and Q, as noted in the attached double column proposal, effective upon approval by GSA Council, with the changes to Sections B, I, and J to take effect upon approval and with those to Sections C, D, E, F, G, K, and Q to take effect on 1 May 2023. B Aziz **MOVED**; H Kaklotar **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

### Elections

#### 10. GSA Council Elections

Elisabeth Widjaja (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) presented items a and b; D Shah (GSA Speaker) presented item c.

GSA Standing Committees

- a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (two (2) Councillor vacancies; 3 GSA member vacancies)
  - Md Saiful Islam (Computing Science)
  - Sameer Gumma (Public Health)
  - Maryam Jama (Pharmacy)

The nominees were not all present to address GSA Council.

- b. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (one (1) Councillor vacancy)  
Andrew Poholka (Biochemistry)

E Widjaja asked the nominee the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve on the GSA Budget and Finance Committee” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

- c. GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (two (2) Councillor vacancies)  
Hamid Hassani (Physics)

D Shah (GSA Speaker) asked the nominee the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve on the GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

## Reports

### **11. President**

#### **i. President’s Report:**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Fassih drew attention to the current priorities of increasing Tri-Council funding for graduate students, and urging the government for easing the barriers to Permanent Residency for international students. He also noted that the revised timeline for the hiring of the new GSA Executive Director, which aimed to hire someone in January 2023.

#### **ii. GSA Board**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted.

#### **iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted.

#### **v. GSA Governance Committee**

No written report at this time.

### **12. Vice-President Academic**

#### **i. Vice-President Academic’s Report:**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Aziz summarized a number of high priority points, including minimum funding packages, cohort tuition proposals for the coming years. Members asked about instructional fees for thesis-based students.

### **13. Vice-President External**

#### **i. Vice-President External’s Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, J Rao raised a number of high priority points, including his experience being at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Advocacy Week.

#### **ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee**

No written report at this time.

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

No written report at this time.

### **14. Vice-President Labour**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Kaklotar brought attention to the ratification vote for the next GSA Collective Agreement for academically-employed graduate students, which was scheduled to begin 22 November 2022.

**ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No written report at this time.

**15. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted.

**16. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

**17. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**18. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.

**19. GSA Nominating Committee**

**i. GSA Nominating Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, E Widjaja again noted the number of remaining vacancies, primarily for Council members, and urged members to consider running.

**20. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted.

**21. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 18 November 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, E Heiberg reminded members that meetings in January 2023 would be moving to in-person.

**Question Period**

**22. Written Questions**

**23. Oral Questions**

T Carter inquired about an email sent to [gsa.president@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.president@ualberta.ca) on behalf of the Business PhD students. A Fassih received the email and would respond by Wednesday following the meeting.

H Hassani inquired about GSA's advocacy for Iranian and Ukrainian students regarding extending application deadlines. A Fassih noted they had discussed with C Huang, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (International), and they planned to also discuss this with the Dean of FGSR.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

**President**  
**Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih  
Date: 9 December 2022

Dear Council colleagues,

I am pleased to report on the work I have been doing this month. I have attended a couple of meetings listed at the bottom of this report. Discussion in these meetings revolved around guaranteed minimum funding packages for doctoral students, tuition, mandatory non-instructional fees for graduate students, and support for international students, specifically those from Ukraine and Iran. I also had a couple of internal meetings with GSA staff, executives, and other GSA members to work on matters that concern the GSA internally, such as the hiring process of the GSA Executive Director, as well as working with the GSA financial team and GSA Budget and Finance Committee on the 2023-2024 GSA operating budget.

Advocating for a guaranteed minimum funding package for doctoral students continues to be at the forefront for me and the GSA Vice-President Academic. We have been working closely with the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), Dr Roger Epp, and other relevant Associate Deans from FGSR on an internal and external landscape scan of graduate funding in the University and across peer institutions from the U15. Work on the latter task involved some preliminary research on the funding situation in other comparative research-intensive institutions in the country, important research initiated by the GSA staff to complement the internal environmental scan of graduate funding done by FGSR. Dr Epp has informed me of the survey that was circulated by FGSR to chairs and graduate coordinators in individual departments for them to complete. We need a higher response rate to get as much information as possible, and we would thus appreciate Council members getting in touch with their department chairs and graduate coordinators to remind them to fill out the survey by the end of next week. In the same vein, I also joined Dr Epp in a presentation to FGSR Council on our progress in this work and received substantial feedback from the Council last week. This is a collaborative work that wouldn't have been possible without the direct support from the Interim Provost, Dr Verna Yui, who recently sent out a memo and letter to all faculties to garner support for this priority. Many thanks to everyone for supporting this cause.

Advocacy for financial support also involves pushing back against tuition increases. We continue to advocate for a better tuition deal for graduate students in the Tuition Budget and Advisory Committee (TBAC). The University is proposing an increase in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) provided by the provincial government for domestic tuition and a 6% increase for international tuition this year. As well, the University is also proposing a flat-rate fee for mandatory non-instructional fees. This means that both students on- and off-campus will be charged the same fee whether they use the service or not, but rather because they have access to the services. In collaboration with the Students' Union, we have been discussing with the Office of Provost the possibility of reducing the increases to fees if we are going to support the flat-rate proposal.

In addition, responding to the concerns that came up in the last GSA Council meeting, especially from our international members, I have been in conversation with FGSR on supports for students coming from Ukraine, Iran, and other conflict zones. I have been informed that FGSR has been working with individual departments to extend deadlines and issue deferrals for Ukrainian and other students without impacting their funding offers and packages. Discussions also continue on establishing a crisis and emergency fund for students coming from countries undergoing geopolitical risks.

Finally, as reported in the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) report, the financial team under the leadership of Acting Executive Director, Erika Heiberg, is preparing the budget proposal and recommendation for the GSA BFC, GSA Board, and GSA Council for discussion and approval. I am happy to report we are in a very strong financial position. Last, the Executive Director Hiring Committee was struck in consultation with the GSA Board and GSA staff; we have had meetings to discuss and finalize the job description and job posting. The latter was advertised early this week and I am glad to say we are already receiving an important number of applications. The committee is meeting next week to finish the committee's terms of reference, brainstorm and finalize interview questions for candidates.

This concludes my report. I am happy to answer any question.

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21 November to 12 December 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

21 – 25 November	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Advocacy Week, Ottawa ON
29 November	Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee (BHRCC)
30 November	Board Governance Committee
30 November	Meeting with A Monteiro, Students' Union President
1 December	GSA Executive Director Hiring Committee
2 December	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
3 December	Cultural Sensitivity Training for Diversity Workshop
5 December	Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre Strategic Operating Committee
6 December	Meeting with Students' Union re: Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees
6 December	Athletics and Recreation Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee Discussion
8 December	Meeting with R Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
9 December	Board of Governors
12 December	Student Accessibility Action Plan Working Group
12 December	Student Services - Service Management Committee (SS-SMC) Meet and Greet
12 December	Meeting with J Smith, Chief of Staff, President's Office
12 December	Meeting with S Forgie, Chair, Pediatrics Departments, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry



**GSA Board**  
**Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

The GSA Board (GSAB) reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. GSA Council members are always able to ask questions about items that were discussed in closed session. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The Directly-Elected Officers and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 12 (Acting Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 12.1 – 12.2.

**30 November 2022 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Coffee Breaks; GSA Council Debrief; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**7 December 2022 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih  
Date: 9 December 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) met on 2 December 2022 to discuss the 2023-2024 GSA operating budget. At this meeting, members engaged in a high level discussion of the anticipated features of the budget and agreed on several elements to be included in a draft budget, which will be prepared shortly and considered in January (the committee will next meet in late January 2023 and will make a recommendation concerning the 2023-2024 operating budget at this time; the budget will then come before GSA Council for its February meeting). I am happy to report that we are in an excellent financial position (even allowing for the current economic strictures occasioned by the pandemic) and are taking a conservative approach to budgeting as we anticipate normal expenditures in the 2023-2024 year.

I am happy to answer any questions either via email or when GSA Council next meets in January.

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

**Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Bishoi Aziz  
Date: 9 December 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I can't imagine that I finished two thirds of my service as a GSA DEO advocating for the betterment of life and academic conditions of my graduate student colleagues. As we wrap up this year, I would like to report to the GSA Council on the most significant work I am doing on your behalf.

**Meeting with R Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) – Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- In our meeting, we discussed the restructuring process of FGSR. Dr. Epp mentioned that he is currently consulting with the different stakeholders on that matter, including the different leaders in departments, faculties, and colleges. He is also discussing with graduate students through the GSA. He mentioned to me that some departments think that certain graduate student services need to be migrated from FGSR to individual departments.
- I argued that since the University is now in a state of centralization, services are being moved from departments to the larger, more centralized offices because of the mass layoffs that have reduced the capacity and thus prevented departments from offering their services. In that case, a great caution needs to be taken while making such decisions. Moving services that are already established centrally in FGSR to the departments without having the capacity to support them would harm the students who have already been negatively impacted by academic restructuring.

**General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>**

- The main focus of discussions of the committee over the past few months, including this month, has been the practical implementation of Indigenization and decolonization of the University. Norma Dunning, an Inuk Canadian writer and UofA assistant lecturer, recited one of her poems. Dr. Dunning portrayed in her poem a sad story of the deep agony Indigenous Peoples of Canada have had to go through. The poem left me speechless and deeply touched.

**Academic Integrity Policy Working Group – Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

- The group continued discussion around the redesign of the Academic Integrity Policy and its decriminalization. The group agreed that the challenge with implementation of the policy will be the workload that will prolong the investigations timeframe. We felt that the best way to address that is to try and prevent it through educating students in the classrooms about the University's expectations of students in their academic behaviour. The group felt that it is better to require undergraduate students to take the ethics courses that graduate students have to take. They also felt that the University needs to change the culture of professors from only teaching the technical topics to educating students on appropriate academic behaviour. However, the group debated whether or not the University should force professors to include that in syllabi but decided not to in the end. I asserted that we do, however, need to design courses for professors to train them on that process, especially as it will be hard to change the way established professors are used to. Karsten Mundel, the College of Social Sciences and Humanities Associate Dean, confirmed that such courses are currently being implemented and that the University is starting with new professors and then will later require that from all professors.

At the end of my report, I would like to wish a Merry Christmas to all students who celebrate the Christmas, and a nice break for the students who don't, and a happy new year for all! This time of the year marks new beginnings, so I wish for you to take a surely well-deserved break from the studies, and then to come back for better days in the start of 2023!

## 3.1

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21 November to 12 December (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

22 November	Meeting with R Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
22 November	Convocation
23 November	College of Health Sciences (CHS) College Dean Selection Committee
23 November	Hors d'Oeuvres Reception for Honorary Degree Recipients
25 November	GSA Hello Day Coffee Break
28 November	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Grad Program Support Team (GPST)
28 November	General Faculties Council Executive Governance and Procedural Oversight (GFC Exec GPO)
30 November	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment
1 December	College of Health Sciences (CHS) College Dean Selection Committee
2 December	College of Health Sciences (CHS) College Dean Selection Committee Update
5 December	General Faculties Council Executive (GFC EXEC) Committee
6 December	Academic Integrity Policy Working Group
6 December	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
7 December	2023 Festival of Teaching and Learning (FoTL) Steering Committee
7 December	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
8 December	Meeting with R Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
9 December	Academic Integrity Advocate Working Group
12 December	Meeting with S Forgie, Chair, Pediatrics Departments, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

**2022-2023 Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Janmejy Rao  
Date: 9 December 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

Finally, it's December. I wish you all the best as we are in the exam period. Things have been productive at the GSA this month as we continue to serve graduate students during this busy time. I hope you will have a joyous Christmas break. Wishing you a happy holiday and a bright new year in advance!

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Advocacy Week, Ottawa ON:

I had the opportunity to represent graduate students of our University at the Parliament. Along with other student leaders across Canada, we met with various Senators and Members of Parliament. In these meetings, we presented our advocacy document prepared by CASA and talked about the needs of students across Canada.

Residence Advisory Committee Meeting:

In this meeting, Residence System Health was discussed. Resident System Health was based on residents' satisfaction, occupancy and financial health of the campus residences. Overall, the results seemed positive. Apart from that, we talked about Sexual Violence Education in Residence.

Alumni Council Career Committee:

In this meeting we talked about professional development grants for Alumni. There were discussions about the frequency and sum of these grants. We also discussed the UAlberta Switchboard, an interactive platform for students and alumni.

Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC):

The GSA President and I are part of ab-GPAC's working group on international student immigration streams, where we contributed to researching and gathering data to develop arguments and rationale for this ask to the provincial government. I am taking the lead on this ask to present in front of the provincial government Ministers during ab-GPAC's Advocacy Week in January, where we will discuss our priorities with members at the Legislature.

Apart from these meetings, I also spent time on internal matters within the GSA along with the other Directly-Elected Officers.

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

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

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21 November to 12 December (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

21 – 25 November	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Advocacy Week, Ottawa ON
28 November	Alumni Career Committee
28 November	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC) Discussion with K Huising, Associate Vice President, Campus Services
30 November	University President's Holiday Reception
1 December	GSA Executive Director Hiring Committee
1 December	Senate/Alumni Council Holiday Party
6 December	Residence Advisory Committee
8 December	Alberta Student Post-Secondary Council
12 December	Meeting with K Huising, Associate Vice President Campus Services

**Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Hiren Kaklotar  
Date: 9 December 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone is doing well and keeping themselves warm. Last month was fairly quiet for me, as I had a few confidential meetings and one provincial joint labour meeting.

**Bargaining Update:**

We had organised two ratification sessions on 16<sup>th</sup> November and 18<sup>th</sup> November in hybrid format in the GSA Board Room in Triffo Hall and over Zoom. After which, the vote was sent to all current academically-employed graduate students. The vote passed with an overwhelming majority and the proposed Collective Agreement and then moved forward for ratification by the University Board of Governors, which passed today. We will let you know when the full agreement is available for members in print.

I met with graduate labour representatives from the University of Lethbridge and University of Calgary. We discussed current issues in the universities and how we can help each other to establish similar labour structures across the universities. We also discussed our current bargaining statuses, and it was found that we are well ahead from both Lethbridge and Calgary, in terms of resolving student concerns and gains made in the recently proposed Collective Agreement.

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

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

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 28 November and 22 December 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. I am also on academic leave intermittently from 28 November – 22 December.*

21 November	College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS) College Dean Selection Committee
23 November	Convocation
23 November	Hors d'Oeuvres Reception for Honorary Degree Recipients
25 November	GSA Provincial Joint Labour
1 December	GSA Executive Director Hiring Committee
6 December	College of Natural and Applied Sciences College Dean and Vice-Provost Interviews

**2022-2023 Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Monisha Vinod  
Date: 9 December 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope your finals and all other end of semester deliverables did not make these past few weeks too stressful. The break should be here soon and I wish you a happy holiday season with well-deserved time off. I will see you in the new year.

Here are some of the highlights from my meetings this past month. Most were confidential.

- The Student Services – Service Management Committee (SS-SMC) had their first meeting. The purpose of this committee is to ensure that student services provided to the University community are performing to, and aligned with, the University's expectations, strategy, and vision. The committee is responsible for identifying the overall mechanism for service delivery and serves as the oversight body for performance against service expectations for its service area.
- While I was not able to attend, the Dean's Advisory Committee met to give input on the Strategic Plan being worked on by the Dean of Students (DoS) office. The discussion identified a range of needs including communication, support, information, financial aid, information, motivation, culturally appropriate support/information, belonging, empowerment, etc.
- I was happy to see that the Board of Governors approved the revised Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy suite. "SVP 2.0", i.e., improvements. They also approved the Student Conduct Policy suite which replaces part of the Code of Student Behaviour. There will be an education and training rollout to support the new policies.
- The Selection Committee for the next College Dean and Vice-Provost of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities is looking to invite six graduate students to meet with potential candidates in January 2023. More information on that will be shared in the newsletter in the coming weeks, so please keep an eye out if you are interested.
- If you're interested in running a food drive or fundraiser in your workplace, the Campus Food Bank (CFB) is asking all holiday campaigns to [register](#) with them so that they can keep track. Interestingly, although November broke records for visits, CFB gave out slightly less food than in October (15,287lbs in Nov; 15,780lbs in October). This is an early indicator that the grocery model switch will be more efficient for food distribution. Erin O'Neil, Executive Director of CFB, is continuing to have a promising series of meetings with the Dean of Students Office, Students' Union and GSA executives, the Provost's Office, University Advancement (fundraisers), and Facilities & Operations - an informal working group of sorts to address the high need this fall by working with University administrators directly.

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

Thank you and with Warm Regards,  
Monisha Vinod, Vice-President Student Services 2022-2023

## 6.1

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21 November to 12 December (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

23 November	Convocation
24 November	Student Services - Service Management Committee (SS-SMC)
25 November	Campus and Community Recreation
28 November	Meeting with K Friese, Dean of Students Office
25 November	GSA Hello Day Coffee Break
30 November	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) Oversight Committee
1 December	Executive Director Hiring Committee
1 December	College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) College Dean Selection Committee
5 December	Student Housing Stability Working Group
5 December	Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre Strategic Operating Committee
6 December	NASA December 6 Commemoration Event
7 December	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Scoping Group Committee
8 December	Student Group Mental Health Network
8 December	Farewell for A Costopolous, Dean of Students
8 December	Campus Food Bank Board
12 December	Student Services - Service Management Committee (SS-SMC) Meet and Greet
12 December	Studentcare



**GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO)  
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sophie Shi  
Date: 9 December 2022

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

I met with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) on 25 November 2022. As reported by Jennifer in the GSA ERC report, the committee is discussing an array of matters related to the 2023 General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour. The nomination forms and communication timeline for the 2023 General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour were approved by me on the recommendation of the GSA ERC following this meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me: [gsacroff@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsacroff@ualberta.ca).

Sincerely,  
Sophie Shi, GSA Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Elisabeth Widjaja  
Date: 9 December 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,  
Elisabeth Widjaja, Chair of the GSA NoC

**Memorandum to GSA Councillors**

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

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

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

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

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

Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 4 and 10 November 2022 with a nomination deadline of 15 November 2022. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**2) 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 4 and 10 November 2022 with a nomination deadline of 16 November 2022. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

**3) GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) (One (1) GSA Councillor Positions)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council 4 and 10 November 2022 with a nomination deadline of 16 November 2022. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be readvertised.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council 4 and 10 November 2022 with a nomination deadline of 16 November 2022. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council 4 and 10 November 2022 with a nomination deadline of 16 November 2022. **One nomination was received and Hamid Hassani was elected; the remaining vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 4 and 10 November 2022 with a nomination deadline of 16 November 2022. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 4 and 10 November 2022 with a nomination deadline of 16 November 2022. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 4 and 10 November 2022 with a nomination deadline of 16 November 2022 with a nomination deadline of 19 October 2022. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Jennifer Bertrand  
Date: 9 December 2022

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) met on 25 November 2022 to continue planning the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour.

At this meeting, members reviewed and recommended to the Chief Returning Officer the 2023 GSA General Election Directly-Elected Officer, Associate Vice-President Labour, and Councillor-at-Large Nomination Forms. Members discussed poster and social media strategies to remind graduate students of the GSA General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour, and a series of communications which will ultimately be circulated by the CRO. The GSA ERC also discussed various issues related to the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour All-Candidates Meeting and Forum.

The GSA ERC will next meet in January 2023 to continue the process of planning the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Bertrand, Chair of the GSA ERC

**Acting Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the Cancelled 12 December 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Erika Heiberg  
Date: 9 December 2022

Dear GSA Council Members,

Things have been very challenging in the GSA office, and most of my time has been spent managing conflict, and attempting to settle disputes regarding authority and the roles and responsibilities of GSA Management, Staff, and Directly-Elected Officers. This has resulted in very low morale, and may begin to impede the functional operations of the organization. This has been very concerning for me and should be of concern to GSA Council, and I encourage you to contact me at [gsaad@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsaad@ualberta.ca) if you have questions.

The office, following a meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC), is beginning to prepare a draft budget for 2023-2024. Following further review by the GSA BFC and the GSA Board (GSAB), the proposed GSA 2023-2024 operating budget will come before GSA Council in February. We remain in a good financial position but it will be prudent for the GSA to continue to proceed with caution in the upcoming fiscal year as we continue to grapple with increasing inflation. The winter term financial and expenditure report will also come forward to GSA Council in February and we will host some Budget 101 sessions in advance of that for anyone interested in learning more about the GSA's budget.

We are also working with the Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, and members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee to prepare for the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour. In advance of the nomination period opening, the office will be working with the GSA Nominating Committee to host several Discover Governance sessions in January for those interested in running for elected office. The schedule for those events is available on the GSA website.

The office is accepting applications for the GSA Recognition Awards, training members of the GSA Awards Selection Committee concerning the adjudication of said applications, and preparing for orientation events at the start of the winter term.

As always, the detailed weekly reports from the management team to the GSAB are attached for your review and I hope everyone has a restful and safe holiday break.

Best,  
Erika Heiberg, Acting Executive Director

## Management Report to the GSA Board, 30 November 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 30 November 2022:

### Strategic

- Finalizing office closure dates over the holiday break and working on a long planned reconfiguration of staff space in the GSA office.
- Continued human resources work associated with staff transition and leaves.
- Beginning to plan the development of the 2023-2024 operating budget (reviewing the current budget, setting up meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC), etc) and embarking on a review of the GSA's investment policy the GSA BFC.
- Drafting the second Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council for review by the GSA Board.
- Continued support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it plans the 2022 GSA General Election (the committee met recently and will meet again in the new year).
- Planning for Winter Orientation in January. Aiming for an in-person session and exploring possible spaces.
- Beginning to plan the 2023 GSA Awards (setting up training and meeting with GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC), timeline for nominations and adjudication, etc)
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward, advising individual graduate student workers, communicating ratification vote results).

### Operations

- Hosting Discover Governance sessions and end of term coffee breaks
- Finalizing Council remuneration for 2021-2022
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council and via GSA newsletter), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Budget and Finance Committee (advertised directly to Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to Council), Senator (advertised via GSA newsletter), Deputy Speaker (advertised via GSA newsletter), Deputy Returning Officer (advertised via GSA newsletter), Student Services Service Management Committee (advertised via Newsletter), Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science Dean Review Committee (advertised directly to Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science graduate students), and Alberta School of Business Dean Selection Committee (advertised directly to Business graduate students)
- Facebook = 1,951 followers (up 1 from 16 November); Facebook posts reached 303 users in the past week. Twitter = 1,324 followers (down 1 from 16 November); our tweets earned 3646 "impressions" in the last week. Instagram = 948 followers (up 8 from 16 November); Instagram posts reached 408 users in the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = ongoing, slowing down, which is normal this time of year; GSA Child Care Grants = closed; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = ongoing; quite a few applications this week. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 7 December 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 30 November 2022:

#### Strategic

- Preparing for the office closure dates over the holiday break (prepping January GSA Council and GSA Board material, etc).
- Development of the 2023-2024 operating budget (following the review of various recommendations with the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)).
- Drafting the second Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council for review by the GSA Board.
- Continued support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it plans the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour (the committee will next meet in the new year to finalize things).
- Hosting Discover Governance sessions for those interested in potentially running in the 2023 GSA General Election.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee).

#### Operations

- Hiring process for a temporary, part-time position in the office is ongoing and advertised in the GSA newsletter.
- Opening of the application period for GSA Recognition Awards and planning a Recognition Awards 101 session.
- Planning for Financial Literacy Lunch and Learn Series with ATB starting in January.
- Forward planning for Winter Orientation events.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and Alberta School of Business Dean Selection Committee (advertised directly to graduate students in the School of Business).
- Facebook = 1,951 followers (up 0 from 30 November); Facebook posts reached 140 users in the past week. Twitter = 1,325 followers (up 1 from 30 November); our tweets earned 232 “impressions” in the last week. Instagram = 961 followers (up 13 from 30 November); Instagram posts reached 543 users in the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = ongoing, slowing down, which is normal this time of year; GSA Child Care Grants = closed and new granting period will open 1 January; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = ongoing. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of supplementary bursaries for graduate students.