

GSA Council Meeting - List of Reports Circulated
Monday, 15 August 2022
Cancelled

Attachments	Attached Numbered Pages
1. Minutes from the 18 July 2022 GSA Council Meeting	1.0 - 1.4
2. President (Anas Fassih, President)	
i. President's Report	2.0 - 2.1
ii. GSA Board	2.2
iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (no meetings this reporting period)	
iv. GSA Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee	2.3
v. GSA Governance Committee (no meetings this reporting period)	
3. Vice-President Academic (Bishoi Aziz, Vice-President Academic)	
i. Vice-President Academic's Report	3.0
4. Vice-President External (Janmejaya Rao, Vice-President External)	
i. Vice-President External's Report	4.0
ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee (no meetings this reporting period)	
5. Vice-President Labour (Hiren Kaklotar, Vice-President Labour)	
i. Vice-President Labour's Report	5.0
ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee (no meetings this reporting period)	
6. Vice-President Student Services (Monisha Vinod, Vice-President Student Services)	
i. Vice-President Student Services' Report	6.0 - 6.1
7. Senator (Md Habibur Rahaman, Senator)	
i. Senator's Report (no written report at this time)	
8. Speaker (Dweej Shah, Speaker)	
i. Speaker's Report (no written report at this time)	
9. Chief Returning Officer (Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer)	
i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (no written report at this time)	
10. GSA Nominating Committee (Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Chair)	
i. GSA Nominating Committee Report	10.0 - 10.1
11. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Vice-Chair)	
i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (no written report at this time)	
12. GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, Executive Director)	
i. Executive Director's Report	12.0 - 12.3

Prepared by E Heiberg and C Thomas for the Cancelled GSA Council 15 August 2022

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GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 18 July 2022 at 6:00 pm
Held online via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Anas Fassih (President)	Sam Deakin (Biological Sciences)	Maia Trotter (Library & Information Studies)	Bryanna Chan (Physical Therapy)
Bishoi Aziz (VP Academic)	Kodi Cheng (Biomedical Engineering)	Hannah Lam (Linguistics)	Hamid Hassani (Physics)
Janmejay Rao (VP External)	Teddy Carter (Business PhD)	Yurij Salmaniw (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Isha Ralhan (Physiology)
Hiren Kaklotar (VP Labour)	Kazuki Ueda (Cell Biology)	Andy Zhang (Media & Technology Studies)	Telisa Courtney (Political Science)
Dweej Shah (Speaker)	Helia Dehghan Harati (Chemistry)	Kara Goodkey (Medical Genetics)	Emilie Desnoyers (Psychiatry)
Sophi Shi (CRO)	Sana Homsy (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Calvin Gordon (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Angela Ma (Psychology)
Eric Beaudry (Councillor-at-Large)	Uduak Ituen (Computing Science)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	Nazif Mahub (Public Health)
Md Saiful Hoque (Councillor-at-Large)	Nathalia Fernandes Fagundes (Dentistry)	Farrell Bryenton (Nursing)	Beckett Stark (Renewable Resources)
Jeremie Mahaux (Councillor-at-Large)	Xavia Publius (Drama)	Alicia Chichak (Occupational Therapy)	Julia Poissant (Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Laura Manerus (Councillor-at-Large)	Yan Sun (Educational Policy Studies)	Benjamin Schultz (Oncology)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Riya Midha (Councillor-at-Large)	Rachel Hislop-Hook (Educational Psychology)	Shubham Soni; Alyssa Wiedemeyer (Pediatrics)	Yan Xue (Sociology)
Mandeep Rainu (Councillor-at-Large)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Christian Faig (Pharmacology)	Kasra Shayeganpour (Surgery)
Devyn Caldwell (Anthropology)	Jillian Ames (Indigenous Graduate Students' Association)	Kunyan Yang (Pharmacy)	
Madeleine Fleming (Biochemistry)	Kristin Carroll (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Avontay Williams (Philosophy)	

Guests: Elisabeth Kezia Widjaja (Member, GSA Nominating Committee and GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) and Md Habibur Rahaman (Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science; GSA Senator nominee).

Speaker Dweej Shah in the Chair.

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

Approval of Agenda**1. Approval of the 18 July 2022 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 18 July 2022 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. B Stark **MOVED**; J Mahaux **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes**2. Minutes from the 20 June 2022 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 20 June 2022 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 8 July 2022. X Publius **MOVED**; B Stark **SECONDED**.

Prepared by M Toghrai and F Robertson for GSA Council 18 July 2022

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

- i. **Introduction of New GSA Council Members:** K Carroll (Laboratory Medicine and Pathology); J Poissant (Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology); A Weidemeyer (Pediatrics); C Faig (Pharmacology); U Ituen (Computing Science); R Hislop-Hook (Educational Psychology); Y Salmaniw (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences).
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** S Soni (Pediatrics).

GSA Council Member Announcements

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

Action Item**5. Resolution Concerning GSA Council Composition**

Dweej Shah (Speaker) presented the item.

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

D Shah presented a resolution to freeze the number of GSA Council seats for representatives from the Faculty of Education at their June 2022 numbers. As the Faculty has moved to a non-departmentalized structure as of July 2022, the resolution prevents an immediate loss of representation at GSA Council (which is composed of representatives from each department on campus that offers a graduate program). The GSA will continue to wait to see the full impacts of the University's restructuring initiative in terms of whether other faculties also move to non-departmentalized structures, which may prompt a re-examination of the composition of GSA Council. In the interim, the resolution would stay in effect indefinitely, pending regular review with the impacted representatives and the Speaker.

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

Motion **PASSED**.**Information Item****6. 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan**

Anas Fassih (President) presented the item.

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

A Fassih presented the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP), noting the feedback previously sought from Council members and GSA members through online surveys and via the opportunity to attend a town hall. A Fassih explained that some of the priorities in the Plan built upon previous work done by the GSA, while others were the result of feedback received and discussion by the executive team. A Fassih further noted that he welcomed feedback from members on the initiatives outlined in the SWP, as well as the three pillars on which it was structured, as this was a living document that could change and grow in response to new developments or priorities as they arose.

A Fassih noted that major areas of focus included continuing to advance improvements to graduate student-supervisor relationships, advocating for guaranteed minimum funding packages and an equitable and sustainable funding model, ongoing advocacy at General Faculties Council and the Board of Governors, the negotiation of additional money for the Graduate Student Support Fund to support GSA grants, awards, and bursaries, the creation of new bursary programs, continued support for the Campus Food Bank, ongoing engagement with GSA members in the form of events and orientations, etc, external advocacy to the Government of Alberta and at the federal level, and the creation of professional development and career opportunities for graduate students.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. B Stark **MOVED;** J Ames **SECONDED.**

Motion **PASSED.**

Discussion Item

7. Campus Safety

Anas Fassih (President) presented the item and noted that there was a rising number of safety incidents on campus and a need to balance student concerns regarding safety on campus with concerns about the militarization of campus through the presence of additional police officers (coupled with the unjust manner in which equity-seeking groups were often treated by law enforcement). Safety was a serious concern that must be balanced with the issue of over-policing.

Members discussed concerns about increased police presence on campus, the need to address issues through increased supports, ongoing work on sexual violence prevention on campus, transit safety issues and whether that fell under the jurisdiction of the University or the city, and potential expansions to the Safewalk program.

Elections

8. GSA Council Elections

Kenzie Gordan (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) presented the items.

- a. GSA Senator (one (1) GSA Member position)
Md Habibur Rahaman (AFNS)

K Gordon asked the nominee the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve as GSA Senator” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

- b. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (two (2) GSA Member positions)
Eric Beaudry (Mechanical Engineering)

K Gordon asked the nominee the following: “please tell us why you’d like to serve on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

Reports

9. President

i. President’s Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, he emphasized current ongoing work to differentiate the role of the Vice-President Labour, as it stood currently, from the non-union operations of the GSA (by, for example, making the position an Associate Vice-President, elected by members of the bargaining unit (rather than all graduate students), with a stipend paid from union dues (rather than GSA membership fees), and with a non-voting seat on the GSA Board and GSA Council). He also noted the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC) was expecting to fill a number of vacancies at the GSA Council meeting of September 2022.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

No written report at this time.

iv. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

No written report at this time.

v. GSA Governance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted.

10. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Aziz wished to bring attention to current advocacy on institution-wide minimum funding packages. He also emphasized the University's interest in developing new interdisciplinary programs to suit commensurate market demand.

11. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, J Rao stated that there was a current focus on creating further part-time employment opportunities on campus. Another area for development was cultivating connections with employers through the Alumni Association, to better prepare graduate students, particularly International ones, for the labour market. Lastly, work was being done to pursue affordable and accessible child care for graduate students who were parents.

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.

12. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Kaklotar noted that a Labour 101 session was offered on July 23 and a number of graduate students were in attendance. There were also a number of vacancies for Faculty Stewards as part of the Collective Agreement stewardship network, and eligible members were encouraged to apply. Lastly, our colleagues at the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) were pursuing advocacy work with regards to the recent passing of the provincial Bill 17.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted.

13. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. AF spoke on her behalf and highlighted work to offer adequate supports to the Campus Food Bank.

14. Senator

i. Senator's Report

No written report at this time.

15. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

16. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

No written report at this time.

17. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition K Gordon again emphasized the great need for nominees for a number of vacancies on GSA Standing Committees, many of which were reserved for GSA Council members exclusively. She encouraged members to consider serving in this capacity.

18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report

No written report at this time.

19. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 July 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas thanked members for their patience as the meeting of GSA Council, which was expected to be held in a hybrid format, was unexpectedly shifted to virtual-only at the last moment.

Question Period

20. Written Questions

21. Oral Questions

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

President
Report to GSA Council for the CANCELLED 15 August 2022 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 12 August 2022

Dear Council members,

I am pleased to provide a report on my activities in the last month which have been a mix of attending to my GSA duties, working on my research, and enjoying the summer to recharge for the new academic year. Two weeks left before the Fall starts, and I hope you are all enjoying the remaining days of the summer and preparing yourself mentally to embark on the challenges and opportunities of the new year. With COVID-19 restrictions being lifted and the vast majority of the University community being vaccinated, we are now able to return to a full in-person University experience. I am excited for this experience and for returning to our in-person Council meetings that I hope you all attend to connect with your Executive team and Council colleagues in my time in the GSA as your President.

In the last Council meeting, we approved our 2022/23 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP), a blueprint document that dictates the GSA work for the year and guides its activities and budget. We have already started delivering on some priorities of the SWP, and scheduled meetings with a number of stakeholders inside and outside of campus to discuss our priorities for the year and to figure out areas of collaboration that benefit the graduate student community. I am pleased to report that I had a productive meeting with Dr Verna Yui, the new Interim Provost, to discuss the GSA's priorities for the year. Dr Yui showed staunch support for our advocacy goals to reimagine our funding model and to increase funding packages. She also agreed on the critical importance that the Graduate Student Support Fund plays and expressed willingness to work out ways to increase funding in that area. I am excited to work with Dr Yui and to report on solid advocacy wins this year, especially in the academic portfolio of the GSA.

To follow up on the GSA restructuring that I reported on last month, the GSA Board gave directions to the Executive Director Courtney Thomas and Associate Director Erika Heiberg on the potential new structure so they can draft the portfolio descriptions of the positions of Associate Vice-President Labour and Vice-President Student Life (and draft proposals concerning the various other sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy that will need to be updated to reflect these positions). So far, the GSA Board unanimously agreed on the creation of both positions but emphasized that the entire structure will be re-evaluated once it is put down on paper, taking into consideration workload balance between all the positions and the justification of the new position of VP Student Life. A large part of the latter position will focus on GSA outreach to departmental GSAs and organizing regular meetings to make sure that graduate student concerns at the local departmental level are brought forward to the GSA Board's attention. While we are yet to see how that portfolio will manifest and fit into the broader GSA mandate, we believe the position will be of value to the organization's core mission to advocate for a better student life and experience on campus.

Last, I have been involved externally as part of my portfolio mandate, working closely with the VP External on ensuring the concerns of graduate students at the University of Alberta get to the ears of decision makers both at the provincial and federal levels. As I write this report, I am attending the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Policy and Strategy Conference to work on federal priorities for students in Canadian post-secondary. It has been productive, and I look forward to attending CASA's advocacy week in November that will take place in Ottawa, where student leaders meet federal ministers and Members of Parliament to advocate for all students in Canadian post-secondary institutions.

That concludes my monthly report. I am happy to field any questions you may have. Please reach out to me at gsa.president@ualberta.ca.

Respectfully,
Anas Fassih, President 2022-2023

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 July to 15 August 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings).
The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

19 July	Meeting with J Ames, President of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA), and O Salawu, Black Graduate Students' Association (BGSA), re EDI Initiatives
19 July	Lunch with A Monteiro, Students' Union (SU) President
20 July	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Consultation
21 July	GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC)
21 July	Meeting with V Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
22 July	GSA Health and Dental Plan Town Hall
25 July	Meeting with Y Abu-Laban, University Club Board Member
28 July	Meeting with C Swindlehurst, Chief Strategy Officer
28 July	GSA Coffee Break
28 July	Departmental Orientation
2 August	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
3 August	Meeting with C Hackett, Director, Student Services, Student Conduct & Accountability
4 August	Meeting with K Huising, Associate Vice President, Campus Services (Vice-President Facilities and Operations)
5 August	Meeting with an Students' Union (SU) Councillor re Government Cuts to Alberta Student Grant
8-11 August	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Policy and Strategy Conference

GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the CANCELLED 15 August 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 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 12.1-12.3.

20 July 2022 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Council Debrief; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

27 July 2022 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Campus and Community Recreation; Ombuds Strategic Plan; Recommended Changes to GSA Board Policy, Section Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

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

3 August 2022 GSA Board Meeting

Main Agenda Items:

Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

10 August 2022 GSA Board Meeting

Meeting cancelled.

GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
Report to GSA Council for the CANCELLED 15 August 2022 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 12 August 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA EDIC recently met on 21 July 2022 where they discussed the ongoing work currently being undertaken by me on behalf of the committee. This work involves connecting with stakeholders at First Peoples' House and The Landing, as well as the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) and the Black Graduate Students' Association (BGSA), to seek guidance and consultation on the unique needs of the vulnerable and/or equity-deserving demographics which they respectively represent. This work is currently ongoing and future reports will provide further information.

The other topic of discussion at this most recent meeting is the Individual Development Plan (IDP), which is one portion of the Professional Development requirement advanced by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). The IDP was introduced for the first time in 2015 and is currently undergoing a redesign to bring it in line with the institution's commitment to the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Our colleague Dr. Renee Polziehn, FGSR Director of Professional Development, was thus invited to attend the 21 July 2022 meeting where she engaged committee members in an open conversation on this redesign. The new draft of the IDP seeks to incorporate and acknowledge spiritual and Indigenous forms of knowledge, among others, and members were able to provide feedback. This was a fruitful discussion and we are grateful that Dr. Polziehn was available to join us.

Lastly, a number of vacancies have opened up on the GSA EDIC as members have understandably moved on since first being elected to this body back in January 2021. These vacancies will be advertised shortly with the intent that a vote will be brought to GSA Council in September 2022. GSA Council members are encouraged to consider serving on the GSA EDIC, or to encourage their colleagues and peers to consider doing so. The committee is expected to meet monthly for the 2022-2023 academic year.

If you have questions about this group, or the work of the GSA EDIC more generally, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

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

**Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the CANCELLED 15 August 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Bishoi Aziz
Date: 12 August 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I can't believe that the summer semester is about to come to an end, and that we are approaching the fall. I am writing to keep you informed of the work I have done over the past month.

Meeting with Gurleen Kaur, Students' Union Vice President Academic – July 18th

- We discussed having an event for 1st year undergraduate and graduate international students to educate them on the history of the Indigenous people.

Meeting with Dilini Vethanayagam, General Faculties Council Member – July 18th

- We discussed the representation PGME students within the University structure and the possibility for the GSA to support PGMEs in gaining further representation in various University committees and bodies. We asked Dr. Vethanayagam if there was interest demonstrated by PGMEs regarding GSA membership and possibilities regarding career development opportunities for PGMEs.

Meeting with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean, B Milne – Aug 2nd

- We discussed the restructuring project of FGSR that was presented to GSA Council in June. The Dean informed me that the project was paused despite receiving approval from the previous Provost. Instead, the project will be piloted to gather more information. The Dean expressed her concerns about that move negatively affecting standardization of examinations and other matters in the University.

Meeting with the Director of the Student Conduct and Accountability Office, Chris Hackett – Aug 3rd

- We discussed updates to the Students' Academic Code of Conduct. This initiative is necessary after the separation and development of the Sexual Violence Code, as mandated by the provincial government. Chris discussed the development of the Academic Code to be mainly non-punitive with having punitive options if needed. The rationale behind that is to prevent harm in cases where misconduct is the result of lack awareness rather than deliberate action.

18 July	Meeting with G Kaur, Students' Union Vice-President Academic
18 July	Meeting with D Vethanayagam, General Faculties Council Member re: Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) Representation on Campus
26 July	2022 COVID-19 Remote Teaching Awards Adjudication
2 August	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
3 August	Meeting with C Hackett, Director, Student Services, Student Conduct and Accountability

Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the CANCELLED 15 August 2022 meeting

To: GSA Council
 From: Janmejay Rao
 Date: 12 August 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying summer. This month has been pretty light due to summer break. Here is a brief summary of updates regarding external advocacy.

Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Retreat:

The GSA submitted four priorities that we would like to advocate for this year to the provincial government. They are International Immigration, Professional Development, Housing, and Financial Aid. I am glad to inform you that all of the priorities we submitted were included in the priorities of ab-GPAC and will be brought forward to the provincial government. A detailed report about the retreat will be submitted to the GSA Board.

25 July - Meeting with Y Abu-Laban, University Club Board Member:

Along with the GSA President and Vice-President Student Services, we discussed the potential membership of graduate students in the University Club.

Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations (CASA) Policy and Strategy Conference:

CASA is a student-member-driven organization that focuses on federal advocacy. The University of Alberta GSA is not a full member of CASA but maintains observership. This allows us to observe the work being done by CASA for post-secondary students and graduate students in particular. This year CASA plans to put forward an ask regarding a non-repayable student grant for graduate students. This policy is in the development stage, and I will update Council on a regular basis about this ask in the future.

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

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

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 July to 15 August 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

20 July	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Consultation
25 July	Meeting with Y Abu-Laban, University Club Board member
28 July	GSA Coffee Break
4 August	GSA Emergency Bursary Appeal
5 August	Meeting with an Students' Union (SU) Councillor re Government Cuts to Alberta Student Grant
8-11 August	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Policy and Strategy Conference

**Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the CANCELLED 15 August 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Hiren Kaklotar
Date: 12 August 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

On 22 July, a GSA Health and Dental Plan Town Hall was organised and nearly 10 students attended. Students got an opportunity to raise their concerns about the current Plan, as well as get more details about their coverage.

On 28 July, I met with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) and individuals from other graduate student associations and post-doctoral fellow associations across Alberta concerning responding to Bill 17. We discussed progress on the actions that we developed during last meeting and we scheduled another meeting to keep on track.

On 28 July, I attended a Building a Safety Culture: Incident Management Lunch and Learn series, where I learned about resources available on campus for hazard management, a Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) policy primer, incident management, inspections and maintenance matters, program management, and leadership, training and competency.

On 28 July, the other Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) and I along with the GSA staff organised a GSA Coffee Break to give students an opportunity to meet with their leaders in-person and talk freely while having coffee and snacks. Around 15 students showed up during the event and we got a chance to listen to their concerns.

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 19 July and 15 August 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

22 July	GSA Health and Dental Plan Town Hall
28 July	Meeting with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)
28 July	Building a Safety Culture: Incident Management Lunch and Learn
28 July	GSA Coffee Break
4 August	GSA Health and Dental Plan Town Hall
15 August	GSA Bargaining Caucus
15 August	GSA Faculty Steward Meet and Greet

**Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the CANCELLED 15 August 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Monisha Vinod
Date: 12 August 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

The summer has so far been quieter than spring, but I can assure you that I have been continuing to work with the GSA Board, the Students' Union, and the Dean of Students on my Strategic Work Plan priorities and brainstorming solutions for different projects with certain stakeholders on campus. Here are some of the important points to note from my meetings the past month.

- The GSA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC) had their first meeting of my term and members reviewed the new Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Individual Development Plans that acknowledge EDI and Indigenous world views. A next point of discussion was regarding filling the membership of the committee before our next meeting.
- The GSA Health and Dental Plan Town Hall was a success, and we will continue to hold more of them in the Fall since we had a good turnout of students raising their concerns and getting clarifications from the StudentCare representative present at these meetings.
- Speaking of successful gatherings where the GSA has connected with the broader student body, the GSA Coffee Break had students from different departments mingling and sharing experiences. Campus Food Bank representatives were also invited and left with a couple of grad students signing up to volunteer with them.
- The GSA had an interesting conversation with Professor Abu-Laban on how the University Club is hoping to open its doors to more grad students and how they want to increase their customer base. Ideas were exchanged and I am looking forward to taking it up further as an opportunity for grad students to be able to network and collaborate at events that can be held there, from workshops to industry leaders getting together or even simple team building activities.
- Campus and Community Recreation were invited to the GSA Board to present a proposal on whether there was a need for grad students to apply for the existing Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund currently being funded by undergrad students. After some deliberation, I encouraged them to come back with a detailed request for funds that demonstrates the activity of graduate students over the past few years to gauge the demand before we discuss further taking any steps forward.

I am preparing for orientation next month and setting up upcoming plans of actions with different committees that have their goals set for Fall, including the Days of Action committee and working committees for projects like the Student Homelessness Project, as well as the Students Who Parent Project.

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

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

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 July to 15 August 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). I was away on leave from 2-4 August. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

19 July	Meeting with J Ames, President of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA), and O Salawu, Black Graduate Students' Association (BGSA), re EDI Initiatives
19 July	U-Pass Advisory Committee and Exemptions Discussion
21 July	U-Pass Administrative Committee
21 July	GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC)
22 July	GSA Health and Dental Plan Town Hall

6.1

25 July	Meeting with Y Abu-Laban, University Club Board member
28 July	GSA Coffee Break
29 July	Meeting with G Garcia, Associate Director of Programming, Campus and Community Recreation and C Harwardt, Director, Campus and Community Recreation
15 August	Meeting with R Paches, Studentcare

**GSA Nominating Committee
Report to GSA Council for the CANCELLED 15 August 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Kenzie Gordon
Date: 12 August 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,
Kenzie Gordon, Chair of the GSA NoC

Memorandum to GSA Councillors

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

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

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

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

External Committees: Vacancies

1) Arts Faculty Council (Five (5) Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the position for five (5) vacancies on the Arts Faculty Council was circulated via email directly to Faculty of Arts graduate students on 30 June, and 8 and 15 July 2022 with a nomination deadline of 20 July 2022. **Two (2) nominations were received; Riddhi Patel and Telisa Courtney were elected. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.**

2) Faculty of Arts Standing Committees (Seven (7) Graduate Student Positions on Five (5) Committees)

Information regarding the position for one (1) vacancy on the Faculty of Arts Research Committee, one (1) vacancy on the Faculty of Arts Teaching Awards Committee, one (1) vacancy on the Faculty of Arts Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, three (3) vacancies on the Faculty of Arts Academic Affairs Committee, and one (1) vacancy

on the Faculty of Arts Academic and Grade Appeals Committee, was circulated via email directly to Faculty of Arts graduate students on 30 June, and 8 and 15 July 2022 with a nomination deadline of 20 July 2022. **One (1) nomination was received for the Faculty of Arts Research Committee; Olajide Salawu was elected. No nominations were received for the Faculty of Arts Teaching Awards Committee. Six (6) nominations were received for the Faculty of Arts Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Rachel Zukiwski was elected. No nominations were received for the Faculty of Arts Academic Affairs Committee. One (1) nomination was received for the Faculty of Arts Academic and Grade Appeal Committee (due to no nominations coming forward initially, the vacancy was scheduled to be advertised again but, before the re-advertising of this vacancy was scheduled, the Faculty of Arts asked that the position be filled by 5 August 2022 as they had a hearing scheduled; tThe Faculty also reached out directly to several students and encouraged them to submit nominations, even though the set deadline had passed); as a result of this work Josh Passey was elected. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.**

3) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Committee (Twenty-Five (25) Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the twenty-five (25) vacancies (twenty (20) Councillors and five (5) Alternates) on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Committee was circulated via the GSA Newsletter graduate students on 8, 15, 22, and 29 July 2022 with a nomination deadline of 3 August 2022. **Sixteen (16) nominations were received for the twenty (20) Councilor positions: Telisa Courtney, Allison Bihari, Bhavneet Kaur, Erza Ketema, Colleen Knechtel, Peyman Mazandarani, Hadi Mokarizadeh, Babalola Olabode, Olawunmi Olagundoye, Md Habibur Rahaman, Nayyar Shahid, Sophie Shi, Megan Sommerfeld, Emilee Storfie, Qiuyu Sun, and Emma Takeuchi were elected. No nominations were received for the alternate positions. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.**

Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the CANCELLED 15 August 2022 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 12 August 2022

Dear GSA Council Members,

The big projects for the office staff over the past month have related to preparing for the start of the fall semester and the various orientation programming that the GSA provides. Most importantly, we are preparing to host our annual orientation and information fair in-person for the first time in two years. We are also working with individual departments to schedule in-person GSA departmental orientations and hope to visit as many departments as possible. We also completed the design of the annual GSA planner and got that sent out to the printers so that we will have ample copies available for new graduate students. And, finally, we will be hosting weekly GSA Coffee Breaks throughout September to welcome new and returning graduate students.

Operationally, we are also in the process of finalizing our annual audit and arranging for a meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee. The audit and the GSA's most recent term financial report will come forward to GSA Council in September. We are also engaged, in the office, with developing some proposals related to the restructuring of GSA officer portfolios, which also eventually come before GSA Council for consideration.

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached (pages 12.1-12.3) and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Best,

Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, 20 July 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 13 July 2022:

Strategic

- Finalizing the content and design of the GSA Planner for review prior to sending to the printer.
- Drafting an additional briefing note on potential portfolio restructuring.
- Arranging a meeting of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee and preparing meeting materials.
- Action associated with the most recent meeting of GSA Council.
- Mapping out timelines associated with the development of the upcoming Term Financial Report.
- Preparing for GSA Health and Dental Plan halls beginning later this week.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (supporting the GSA Negotiating Team (bargaining will be occurring at the end of August), the GSA Labour Relations Committee, circulating updates to members of the bargaining unit, meeting with graduate students, soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, and arranging for a meeting of stewards).

Operations

- Processing payroll.
- Preparing for the next GSA Coffee Break (none scheduled for August owing to the heavy departmental orientation schedule but then we will have weekly Coffee Breaks for the month of September).
- Fall orientation and departmental orientations planning (first departmental orientation scheduled for 28 July), as well as updating the orientation e-class material.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council). Also soliciting nominations for the positions of Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer (advertised via the GSA newsletter), positions on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), and positions on the Faculty of Arts Council and associated standing committees (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty).
- Facebook = 1,754 likes (up 3 from 13 July); Facebook posts reached 247 users since 13 July. Twitter = 1,307 followers (up 5 from 13 July); our tweets earned 132 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 813 followers (up 4 from 13 July); Instagram posts reached 2 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. We continue to see an increase in applications as pandemic prevention measures ease and all funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is; funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 27 July 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 20 July 2022:

Strategic

- Beginning to draft proposals related to the restructuring of Officer portfolios.
- Drafting an additional briefing note on potential portfolio restructuring.
- Mapping out timelines associated with the development of the upcoming Term Financial Report and scheduling tasks to be completed.
- Annual review of the files associated with the GSA's various contracts and agreements.
- Facilitating GSA Health and Dental Plan halls and reviewing feedback received.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (supporting the GSA Negotiating Team (bargaining will be occurring at the end of August), the GSA Labour Relations Committee, circulating updates to members of the bargaining unit, meeting with graduate students, soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, and arranging for a meeting of stewards).

Operations

- Website updates and printing of the GSA planner.
- Follow up from the recent meeting of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.
- Cleaning out office files (done annually over the summer).
- Preparing for the next GSA Coffee Break (none scheduled for August owing to the heavy departmental orientation schedule but then we will have weekly Coffee Breaks for the month of September).
- Fall orientation and departmental orientations planning (first departmental orientation scheduled for 28 July), as well as updating the orientation e-class material.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council). Also soliciting nominations for the positions of Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer (advertised via the GSA newsletter), positions on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), and positions on the Faculty of Arts Council and associated standing committees (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty).
- Facebook = 1,756 likes (up 2 from 20 July); Facebook posts reached 612 users since 20 July. Twitter = 1,310 followers (up 3 from 20 July); our tweets earned 179 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 814 followers (up 1 from 20 July); Instagram posts reached 186 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. We continue to see an increase in applications as pandemic prevention measures ease and all funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is; funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 3 August 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 27 July 2022:

Strategic

- Drafting proposals related to the restructuring of Officer portfolios.
- Mapping out timelines associated with the development of the upcoming Term Financial Report and scheduling tasks to be completed (the GSA Budget and Finance Committee will meet on 22 August).
- Human resources work (processing staff vacation requests, performance reviews, etc).
- Facilitating GSA Health and Dental Plan halls and reviewing feedback received (next town hall scheduled for 4 August).
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (supporting the GSA Negotiating Team (bargaining will be occurring at the end of August), the GSA Labour Relations Committee, circulating updates to members of the bargaining unit, meeting with graduate students, soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, and arranging for a meeting of stewards).

Operations

- Sending the GSA planner to the printer.
- Hosting a GSA Coffee Break and scheduling coffee breaks for the fall term.
- Continued work on cleaning out office files (done annually over the summer).
- Fall orientation and departmental orientations planning (finalizing arrangements for 1 September).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council). Also soliciting nominations for the positions of Deputy Speaker and Deputy Returning Officer (advertised via the GSA newsletter), positions on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), positions on the Faculty of Arts Council and associated standing committees (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty), and positions on the Faculty Councils for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Faculty of Native Studies, and the Faculty of Science (advertised directly to graduate students in those faculties).
- Facebook = 1,754 likes (down 2 from 27 July); Facebook posts reached 131 users since 27 July. Twitter = 1,311 followers (up 1 from 27 July); our tweets earned 132 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 813 followers (down 1 from 27 July); Instagram posts reached 3 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. We continue to see an increase in applications as pandemic prevention measures ease and all funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is;

funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.