

**GSA Council Meeting AGENDA**  
Monday, 16 May 2022 at 6:00 pm  
Held electronically via Zoom

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

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

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

**Speaker Lauren Hill in the Chair**

**OPEN SESSION**

**Attached  
Numbered Pages**

1. Approval of the 16 May 2022 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 25 April 2022 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 25 April 2022 GSA Council Meeting
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership (*suggested time: 1 min*)
  - i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
  - ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

**2.0 - 2.4**

**GSA Council Member Announcements**

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

**Discussion Items**

5. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Consultation (*suggested time: 10 min*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item**  
*Members will be asked to provide feedback on the strategic priorities that the GSA Board will be focusing on in the upcoming year and outlined in the Strategic Work Plan (SWP). For reference, the 2021-2022 SWP can be found [here](#). The 2022-2023 SWP will be developed in the coming months following workshops with the GSA Board, a survey to all graduate students, and a townhall. The SWP will then be presented to GSA Council over the summer months.*

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

6. President (**Anas Fassih, President**)
  - i. President's Report
  - ii. GSA Board Report
  - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
  - iv. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
  - v. GSA Governance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

**6.0**

**6.1**

Prepared by E Heiberg for GSA Council 16 May 2022

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|---|--|
| <p><b>7. Vice-President Academic (Bishoi Aziz, Vice-President Academic)</b></p> <p>i. Vice-President Academic's Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. 2020-2021 Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. 2021-2022 Report</p>  | <p><b>7.0</b></p> <p><b>7.1 - 7.3</b></p>    |
| <p><b>8. Vice-President External (Janmejaya Rao, Vice-President External)</b></p> <p>i. Vice-President External's Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. 2020-2021 Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. 2021-2022 Report</p> <p>ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b></p> | <p><b>8.0</b></p> <p><b>8.1</b></p>          |
| <p><b>9. Vice-President Labour (Hiren Kaklotar, Vice-President Labour)</b></p> <p>i. Vice-President Labour's Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. 2020-2021 Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. 2021-2022 Report</p> <p>ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b></p>      | <p><b>9.0</b></p> <p><b>9.1</b></p>          |
| <p><b>10. Vice-President Student Services (Monisha Vinod, Vice-President Student Services)</b></p> <p>i. Vice-President Student Services' Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. 2020-2021 Report</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. 2021-2022 Report</p>  | <p><b>10.0</b></p> <p><b>10.1 - 10.2</b></p> |
| <p><b>11. Senator (Peter Iselele, Senator)</b></p> <p>i. Senator's Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b></p>   |  |
| <p><b>12. Speaker (Lauren Hill, Speaker)</b></p> <p>i. Speaker's Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b></p>   |  |
| <p><b>13. Chief Returning Officer (Muneeb Mohiuddin, Chief Returning Officer)</b></p> <p>i. Chief Returning Officer's Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>14. GSA Nominating Committee (Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Chair)</b></p> <p>i. GSA Nominating Committee Report</p>  | <p><b>14.0 - 14.1</b></p>                    |
| <p><b>15. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)</b></p> <p>i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b></p>   |  |
| <p><b>16. GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, Executive Director)</b></p> <p>i. Executive Director's Report</p>  | <p><b>16.0 - 16.2</b></p>                    |

#### Question Period

- 17. Written Questions (none received)**
- 18. Oral Questions**

#### Adjournment

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, 25 April 2022 at 6:00 pm  
Held online via Zoom

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Kathy Haddadkar (VP Academic)	Jennifer Sloan (Business PhD)	Luthfia Friskie (Media and Technology Studies)	Telisa Courtney (Political Science)
Jessica Grenke (VP Labour)	Brenna Hourigan (Cell Biology)	Kara Goodkey (Medical Genetics)	Emilie Desnoyers (Psychiatry)
Paresh Kumar (VP Student Services)	Karen Hoy (Chemistry)	Calvin Gordon (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Angela Ma (Psychology)
Lauren Hill (Speaker)	Nathalia Fernandes Fagundes (Dentistry)	Billy Wang (Medicine)	Nazif Mahbub (Public Health)
Sana Amjad (Deputy Speaker)	Avni Patel (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Shahab Nadimi (MLCS)	Kathryn Lambert (Rehabilitation Science)
Sophie Shi (DRO)	Nicole Patrie (Educational Policy Studies)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	Elena Schaefer (Renewable Resources)
Peter Isesele (Senator)	Kapil Gangwar (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Alicia Chichak (Occupational Therapy)	Hotaka Kobori (REES)
Amber Ali (Councillor-at-Large)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Benjamin Schultz (Oncology)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Laura Manerus (Councillor-at-Large)	Anita Amir Labonno (Human Ecology)	Shubham Soni (Paediatrics)	Rebekah McNeilly (Sociology)
Sabrina Rashid Sheonty (Councillor-at-Large)	Teresa Kumblathan (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Fadumo Isse (Pharmacy)	Kasra Shayeganpour (Surgery)
Devyn Caldwell (Anthropology)	Maia Trotter (Library & Information Studies)	Avontay Williams (Philosophy)	
Andrew Cook; Ish Jain (Biological Sciences)	Hannah Lam (Linguistics)	Hamid Hassani (Physics)	
Kodi Cheng (Biomedical Engineering)	Alain Gervais (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Isha Ralhan (Physiology)	

Guests: Deb Eerkes (U of A Sexual Violence Response Coordinator)

Observers: Bishoi Aziz (incoming Vice-President Academic); Hiren Kaklotar (incoming Vice-President Labour); Monsuru Suara (Civil and Environmental Engineering).

Speaker Lauren Hill in the Chair.

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

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

Members had before them the 21 March 2022 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 2022. A Patel **MOVED**; A Cook **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes****2. Minutes from the 28 February 2022 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 28 February 2022 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2022. J Sloan **MOVED**; A Gervais **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**. 3 Abstentions.

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

Prepared by M Toghrai and F Robertson for GSA Council 25 Apr 2022

- i. **Introduction of New GSA Council Members:** None
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** None

#### **GSA Council Member Announcements**

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

#### **Presentations**

##### **5. University of Alberta Sexual Violence Response**

J Grenke (Vice-President Labour) presented the item and introduced the guest, D Eerkes, University of Alberta Sexual Violence Response Coordinator. D Eerkes was the first to hold this new position, which the student associations had advocated for and was funded through a Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee, and was appointed in January.

D Eerkes outlined her approach to creating a robust and survivor-centered sexual violence response framework at the University that was consistent across campus. This framework would include aligned training available across units and also will fulfill the Minister of Advanced Education's request for sexual violence policy and the Code of Student Behaviour to be reviewed, revised, and updated.

As Sexual Violence Response Coordinator, D Eerkes was committed to engaging with the University community and soliciting feedback from all stakeholders; she was tasked with ensuring consistency in response across the institution, connecting with community, coordinating training, and reviewing and updating policy. D Eerkes was focusing on the University's academic mission to provide a 'supportive environment' and noted that sexual violence and gendered violence should be viewed as an impediment to this mission; it was antithetical to the learning environment and a barrier to full participation for survivors. Harassment and violence cause fear, mistrust, and exclusion.

The goal should be to restore full access to University activities for survivors. Responses to reporting should always examine the context, and conditions that allowed the sexual violence to happen. Our framework should offer means for course correction, and refocus our efforts toward a survivor-driven response. This approach would create space for other forms of accountability and provide clarity of purpose. It aligned with both human resources and occupational health and safety practices; it would clarify the authority to act, set reasonable expectations, and could guide resource allocation. This shift away from a criminal or legal mindset could also be applied to other forms of violence such as racism and bullying. This approach was aspirational; it was forward looking and preventative in nature. A framework like this could also offer options for those who disclose. There have been many reasons for not wanting to report incidents and this approach would focus on non-disciplinary accountability options, which could prioritize learning and growth rather than punishment. We could meet the needs of survivors first and foremost.

D Eerkes further explained that the Code of Student Behaviour would be broken down into its constituent parts to create separate policy and procedures for academic and non-academic misconduct (ie, plagiarism should not be treated the same as sexual violence). When new drafts were ready, they would be brought forward to GSA Council for feedback.

GSA Council members then posed a series of questions including, but not limited to: if any examples could be provided for what this approach could look like in practice (still too early to say; this approach was a hybrid of styles so there was no specific example to draw from. Focus was on the survivor, rather than the perpetrator. The incident needed to be addressed but the approach was more like a workplace process than a criminal process); what would restorative justice look like for each individual survivor (the outcome might look similar but the road to the outcome would be different. Each situation would be dependent on what the survivor wanted, rather than being dictated to); how the process for disclosing and handling complaints could be more transparent, which it currently was not (D Eerkes agreed with this and explained her plan for a disclosure network to work within existing units where staff would receive enhanced training on processes and how they work. Transparency was key); what reporting might look like within this disclosure network (this was incomplete at this stage but so far would involve any unit that wanted to participate, such as the Ombuds Service, the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights, the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (ISMSS), which were places people would go to disclose anyway. They were asking for directors or chairs to commit every staff member to get training so there would always be someone present with knowledge); concern for resistance for training demonstrated by faculty members in the past, and the need for greater awareness and outreach (D Eerkes agreed there was a variety of responses; planned to return to GSA Council in future for feedback from members as this moved forward); if any of this would be defensible in court for the University in terms of liability (D Eerkes explained that these were considered together in this approach. The University's liability would come down to reputation; if the University was protecting itself at the expense of survivors, that would be counterproductive. If our policies

were survivor-driven, then our institution would have the same interests as survivors); and if any action was being taken to prevent sexual violence on and around campus (including transit) or make spaces safer (often there was a lack of jurisdictional clarity around spaces near or on campus, where the University and transit authority meet. This was certainly an issue to be raised with Protective Services).

### Discussion Items

#### **6. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP): Update to GSA Council**

J Grenke (Vice-President Labour) presented the item and highlighted some of the things the Directly-Elected Officers had accomplished since the last update in January. The SWP was developed by the elected officials in consultation with GSA Council, to solidify their goals for the year and clarify their advocacy priorities; updates were provided periodically throughout the year.

Highlights included pandemic advocacy (including a survey circulated to members in February); academic restructuring and advocating for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to remain a standalone unit; increased labour outreach and engagement with events and development of videos and an eClass module for members to learn more about the Collective Agreement; subsidization of the GSA Health and Dental Plan for the coming year through utilization of the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund to reduce an increase in cost to graduate students; a rebate on the U-Pass program fee for the winter term as a result of classes being remote; and provincial advocacy regarding the cost of post-secondary in concert with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC).

GSA Council members then posed a series of questions including, but not limited to: if the GSA had any recommendations for student groups transitioning back to in-person events (J Grenke cited the recent Meet the GSA LRC event she hosted in Quad and explained that there were no shortcuts; make sure your group was aware of any safety requirements and engaged in dialogue with their membership to ensure peoples' comfort) and how the Labour eClass could be accessed (the link to self-enroll was available on [this page](#) of the GSA website).

#### **7. GSA Council Meeting Format**

Lauren Hill (Speaker) presented the item and noted that the GSA was looking at options for transitioning back to in-person GSA Council meetings over the next few months, including a potential hybrid option. GSA staff would observe the General Faculties Council meeting on 2 May to see how their hybrid setup functioned and if it would be compatible with GSA Council meetings; they would then meet with staff from the Governance Office and run a series of practice sessions to ensure a hybrid meeting style could work for GSA Council. Pending the results of this, it might be feasible for GSA Council meetings (beginning in June) to be held in a hybrid format so that those wanting to attend in-person in Council Chamber would be able to (however, food would not be served as was typical for in-person meetings), while others would still have the option of joining remotely. Further discussion on a return to full in-person meetings, perhaps in the fall, would then follow over the summer months.

GSA Council members were asked for their feedback and agreed that hybrid options should be investigated.

### Reports

#### **8. President**

##### **i. President's Report:**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 2022. The report stood as submitted.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 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 Report**

No written report at this time.

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

No written report at this time.

#### **9. Vice-President Academic**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, K Haddadkar expressed her gratitude to the members of GSA Council and to all graduate students for making it such an honour for her to serve as Vice-President Academic. She also expressed confidence in incoming Vice-President Academic, B Aziz, and wished him good luck.

**10. Vice-President External**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 2022. The report stood as submitted.

**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.

**11. Vice-President Labour**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, J Grenke expressed her gratitude to the GSA LRC and to E Heiberg as the labour support staff. She went on to share a year in review presentation, which served to highlight, among others matters, the service agreement with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC); a solidarity network that encapsulated our counterpart unions within the University community as well as at University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge; and the development of faculty steward positions.

**ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 2022. The report stood as submitted.

**12. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, P Kumar expressed his gratitude for the support he has received over the past year as Vice-President Student Services.

**13. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

**14. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**15. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.

**16. GSA Nominating Committee**

**i. GSA Nominating Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 2022. The report stood as submitted.

**17. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 2022. The report stood as submitted.

**18. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 22 April 2022. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas shared a warm thanks on behalf of the GSA office to the 2021-2022 student executives.

**Question Period**

**19. Written Questions**

**20. Oral Questions**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

**President  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
Date: 16 May 2022

The President has not attended any meetings since the last meeting of GSA Council. Please find below the list of meetings attended by the President leading up to the 25 April 2022 meeting of GSA Council. The President will report in full orally on 16 May 2022.

22 March	Meeting with K Chisholm, Board of Governors (BoG) Chair
23 March	Meeting with T Shandro, University of Calgary GSA President
23 March	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
24 March	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
24 March	Meeting with C Swindlehurst, Chief Strategy Officer
24 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Outreach Committee
25 March	Board of Governors (BoG)
29 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Presentation to the University of Calgary GSA Council
30 March	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
30 March	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
31 March	GSA Transition
31 March	Meeting with S Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)



**GSA Board  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 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 17 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 17.1-17.2.

**4 May 2022 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Provisional Line of Succession for Chair of the GSA Board; Provisional Designation of Executive Vice-President and Line of Succession for Acting President; COVID-19 Update; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the provisional line of succession for Chair of the GSA Board as follows:

- 1) Vice-President Student Services,
- 2) Vice-President Academic, *and*
- 3) Vice-President Labour.

MV **MOVED**. JR Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the provisional designation of Executive Vice-President and the line of succession for Acting President as follows:

- 1) Vice-President Labour, as Executive Vice-President, *and*
- 2) Vice-President External.

MV **MOVED**. JR Seconded. **CARRIED**

**11 May 2022 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**2021-2022 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Kathy Haddadkar  
Date: 13 May 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

Here is my final report – wishing you and the GSA well as you embark on new adventures!

Please find a few important highlights from my brief meeting schedule this month:

**26 April – Campus Food Bank (CFB)**

- During this meeting (which I attended on behalf of the outgoing VP Student Services) the CFB board revisited its strategic planning initiatives and core organizational values in order to fulfil long-term plans for cross-campus users and stakeholders

**27 April – Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council**

- My final FGSR Council meeting encompassed the approval of the XJTU – MRM Alberta School of Business Agreement Amendment, which included changes pertaining to tax collection, remission of tuition tax, discussion on the thirteenth ethics civics course that is compulsory for all Chinese students enrolled as external U of A students in the program, as well as the program’s intentions to create a project management committee to oversee their progress accordingly
- Furthermore, the sole discussion item for this session focused on graduate academic and administrative tasks and how various campus stakeholders such as FGSR, academic leaders and local admin can assist in functions across the whole campus institution
  - The areas of focus for said stakeholders include and are not limited to: Academic Advising, Administrative Support to Unit, Admissions, Awards, Communications/Engagement/Recruitment, Data and Reporting, Examinations, Program Creation/Governance/Institutional and Strategic Objectives/QA, Program Progression, Program/Course Support, Research Support, Supervision and TA/RA/GRA Administration
- Finally, the Exam Policy Work item was brought forward as an explanatory memo to the Council members for early consultation. As mentioned in my 21 March GSA Council report, this pertains to changes regarding doctoral exam policies in collaboration with FGSR and a working group that has been struck to review such processes and propose appropriate amendments to the existing calendar regulations pertaining to graduate-level exam elements

Please address all correspondence regarding any academic-related matters to [gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca)

Respectfully,

Kathy Haddadkar, Vice-President Academic 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 26 April to 30 April 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

26 April	Campus Food Bank (CFB)
27 April	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
29 April	University Research Policy Committee (URPC)

**2022-2023 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Bishoi Aziz  
Date: 13 May 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I am really happy and proud to report on my first meetings as the GSA VP Academic. In the following lines, I will summarize the most important points from the meetings I attended.

**GSA General Faculties' Council (GFC) Caucus - May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- I had the privilege of starting my role as GSA VP Academic by chairing my first GSA GFC Caucus meeting.
- Two caucus members disagreed with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean's proposals regarding changes to Calendar language around the inability to transfer credits between degrees. They think that if students have already received course credits in a lower-level degree, this should be accounted for when students get into a higher level. They also disagreed with the limit on undergraduate courses in terms of credit number, levels, and being extra-to-degree.

**Meeting with Brooke Milne, Dean of FGSR - May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- Following the GFC Caucus meeting, I requested a non-scheduled meeting with Dr. Brooke Milne to discuss the items 9 and 10 from the 2 May 2022 GFC meeting agenda. Item 9 proposed a change to the graduate programs calendar language that stressed an inability to transfer course credits from an MSc to PhD if the MSc degree was awarded. Item 10 proposed a change to the graduate programs in the Calendar that limited the number of undergraduate credits a graduate student can take to 12 credits. It also limited the level of the undergraduate courses that can be taken to 300 and 400 levels only. The change proposes that any undergraduate courses taken to be counted as extra-to-degree.
- Dean Milne updated me that those two items were moved from the consent agenda to the discussion agenda upon request from Vadim Kravchinsky, Department of Physics Associate Chair, Research, to table them and have them further discussed with departments and students.
- I communicated to Dean Milne the sentiments shared in the GSA GFC Caucus. Dean Milne noted that the University Calendar was approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education and does not permit credit transfer or credit reduction for PhD students if they received their MSc from the U of A. However, this isn't currently the practice at the department level in many cases. This carries a liability risk, since the University Calendar is the legally binding document between students and the University, and it must be followed. Moreover, Dean Milne thinks that getting the required PhD courses fully benefits students by advancing their knowledge beyond the MSc level.
- Regarding item 10, I stated to Dean Milne that some students didn't agree that undergraduate courses should not be counted towards their degree. However, I don't agree with this opinion, and believe that graduate students should receive the knowledge from courses at the graduate level to receive their degrees. This is beneficial for both the students' success and the University's reputation. However, I mentioned that limiting the extra-to-degree undergraduate courses to only 300 and 400 levels would be risky. Students who need to learn skills from a different discipline would be prevented from accessing those courses. So, Dean Milne agreed to remove the limit for the level of the undergraduate courses allowed for the sake of interdisciplinarity. Although, she pointed out the need to build new courses that address targeted basic topics for graduate students to save them the trouble of going through basic general courses that may have additional information not needed for their degree.

**GFC meeting - May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- The GFC meeting started with a motion to table the item of disbanding the GFC Facilities Development Committee (GFC FDC). The member who suggested this thought that several councilors were new to GFC, so they needed time to discuss this item before making a decision given the importance and non-urgency of the item.
- GFC approved the proposed change to the Council on Students Affairs (COSA) membership criteria; GFC allowed that 50% of the student members to be at-large members, and for the co-chair of COSA to be a student rather than a faculty member.
- GFC approved a new Bachelor of Biomedicine Dual Degree with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and Wenzhou Medical University. I inquired whether graduates of the program would be considered Canadian or international medical graduates, as this would negatively impact the Canadian applicants to the limited residency spots. The presenter stated that graduates would be considered international medical graduates and that they would not receive an MD from the U of A but a BSc of Biomedicine from the U of A and an MD from Wenzhou Medical University.
- GFC discussed the proposal of setting an upper limit to extra-to-degree courses that graduate students can take to 12 credits. Dean Milne noted that this decision was reached after long consultations with different departments and within multiple committees. Faculty members of GFC were concerned that this would impede student progress and be an obstacle for education and bureaucracy. I commented that sometimes newly admitted students can get excited to take many courses which would result in them taking too many extra courses that distract them. Also, this would be a financial burden on the University as thesis-based students don't pay extra tuition for extra courses. I suggested that setting an upper limit was in favor of students. GFC decided to table the proposal for further discussions.

**Meeting with Brooke Milne, Dean of FGSR - May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- Dean Milne and I discussed the best time to bring back the tabled items from the last GFC meeting (credits transfer, undergraduate courses taken by graduate students, and the maximum extra-to-degree courses). Dean Milne is concerned to bring them back to discussion in June as it will be the last GFC in the academic year. She is seeking to delay them to the fall semester so the discussion around the proposal isn't interrupted. Dean Milne also suggested to meet with the GSA GFC Caucus to reach out to graduate students directly about the items proposed to listen to their concerns and to explain the rationale behind them. I welcomed her gesture and suggested that the best time to have her attend would be before the GFC meeting that will discuss the tabled items.

**GSA 101 - May 5<sup>th</sup>**

- I attended with the other DEOs, the GSA 101 meeting. It was an orientation session presented by the GSA executive team to orient on the structure of the GSA, the responsibilities and rights of DEOs, the executive team members and their duties, and the different services offered to the graduate students by the GSA.

**Governing Documents 101 - May 5<sup>th</sup>**

- I attended with the other DEOs, the governing docs 101 meeting. The GSA executive team gave us an orientation of the documents governing the GSA's structure and work.

**Policy Review Committee (PRC) meeting - May 11<sup>th</sup>**

## 7.3

- Irene Sywenky, Associate Chair (Graduate), Faculty of Arts, presented the termination of MA and PhD in Comparative Literature. Irene confirmed that there's only one PhD student in the program who has been contacted regarding the change and she can still graduate with the degree. The termination was approved.
- Scott Key, Director, Professional Learning, Faculty of Education, presented on courses in Education taken as open study courses as transfer credits to the Graduate Certificate in School Leadership. The transfer was approved.
- The School of Public Health (SPH) proposed a change in their admission requirements to add a non-credit course that addresses the Indigenous history and its relation to the modern reality of Canadian public health.
- Ruth Wolfe, Associate Dean, SPH, presented on the start of a Graduate Embedded Certificate (GEC) in Health Economic Evaluation to address a national need for expertise in health resource scarcity and allocation.
- The committee took time to go through early discussion regarding a new project of restructuring of the examination policy of MSc and PhD degrees including the notion that all examiners except one should have the same degree they are examining for (MSc or PhD), the chair of the PhD thesis exam should be an FGSR Dean representative, offering more clear language that replaces the "the arm-length examiner" with University examiner who isn't related to the student or the supervisor(s), "external examiner" which is a non-U of A examiner, and "specialized-knowledge examiner" who doesn't hold an academic position but has experience in the field.

Thank you,

Bishoi Aziz, Vice-President Academic 2022 - 2023

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 1 May and 16 May 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

2 May	GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
2 May	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean re General Faculties Council (GFC)
2 May	General Faculties Council (GFC)
3 May	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
5 May	GSA 101
6 May	Governing Docs 101
11 May	General Faculties Council Policy Review Committee (GFC PRC)
16 May	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)

**2021-2022 Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
Date: 13 May 2022

The 2021-2022 Vice-President External was on leave from 12-30 April and did not attend any meetings following the April meeting of GSA Council.

**2022-2023 Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Janmejaya Rao  
Date: 13 May 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are all doing well. I attended meetings in April as the incoming VP External and a few meetings at the beginning of this month as VP External. Most of the meetings in the month of April and early May focused on the transition. Some crucial meetings I would like to update you on are mentioned here:

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Residence Advisory Committee (RAC): Discussed the changes to Augustana Campus' Ancillary Services. Augustana Ancillary Services is now with Campus Services and working towards the representation of Augustana in RAC. The unified Service Desk Model is implemented for residences. Lister's front desk, Peter Loughheed Hall desk & Residence Occupancy Desk in I-House are rolled into this model. Parking issues for graduate students near I-House are being resolved.

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Alumni Career Committee: Summarized the work being done by the alumni in the career cell.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board: Introduced myself to the previous board members of the ab-GPAC and provided suggestions on the transition documents made by the Chair of ab-GPAC.

April 25<sup>th</sup> – Edmonton Students' Alliance: Discussed the rebate of U-Pass for all the students at the University of Alberta. We decided a time to meet over the Spring/Summer to discuss advocacy issues for students in Edmonton.

April 26<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Associate Vice President, Campus Services: Discussed the previous work done together and how the GSA can continue advocating for graduate students efficiently.

May 9<sup>th</sup> – ab-GPAC Executive Director Introduction: Met one-on-one with Brandon Simmons, Executive Director, to understand the role of board members in ab-GPAC. Also, I provided suggestions on the transition documents that are in process.

These were the main highlights of the few meetings I attended. If you have any further questions, feel free to ask in the GSA Council meeting or reach out to me via [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,  
Janmejaya Rao, Vice-President External 2022-2023

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 1 May to 16 May 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

5 May	GSA 101
6 May	Governing Docs 101
9 May	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director Introduction
12 May	Campus Food Bank (CFB)

**2021-2022 Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
Date: 13 May 2022

The 2021-2022 Vice-President Labour was on leave from 11-29 April and did not attend any meetings following the April meeting of GSA Council.



**2022-2023 Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Hiren Kaklotar  
Date: 13 May 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying spring. Warmer days are finally here, so I encourage you to take a break and enjoy the pleasant weather outside.

The last month and a half went really well for me as I got to know more about the GSA as well as the University's governing bodies. Since I began my term from May 1<sup>st</sup>, apart from GSA transition meetings, I have attended a University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee (UASSC) meeting. Here are the important notes from that meeting:

- Security: Number of incidents reported increased in 2022 compared to 2021. The major reason behind this is increasing on-campus activities. University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) is planning to hire more peace officers. Enterprise Square LRT station incidents are a recurring conversation, as security in this area falls under Edmonton Transit Service and the City of Edmonton. Discussed to keep eye on it as we can't do much about it. Bike theft and thefts from SUB office space were intervened. Van Vliet theft from lockers is also a recurring conversation, because most lockers have been left open and not locked or secured.
- Infrastructure: Total 51 action items in the current list to enhance security across campus. There is no change in current funding. Outdoor lighting is being installed on the Biological Sciences building to address recurring incidents of breaking door glass. 25 Entrance exterior doors have been replaced or upgraded. Hard key systems are being upgraded (S2 being replaced with Alloy Key systems).

Building action plan:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YUFL17SRUblzviPecaczYhYyCzPK8PTedgcCwYR0Crs/edit#gid=1223908825>

I look forward to working with all of the members of GSA Council. Feel free to reach out to me for comments regarding any concerns you want to discuss with me.

In solidarity,

Hiren Kaklotar, Vice-President Labour 2022-2023

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 1 May and 16 May 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

5 May	GSA 101
6 May	Governing Docs 101
9 May	University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee (UASSC)
13 May	Labour and CA 101

**2021-2022 Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
Date: 13 May 2022

The 2021-2022 Vice-President Student Services was on leave from 26-30 April and did not attend any meetings following the April meeting of GSA Council.

**2022-2023 Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Monisha Vinod  
Date: 13 May 2022

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope all is well with you. It is with great pleasure and honor that I have started my term in serving the student body as Vice-President Student Services for the Graduate Students' Association. I would like to thank the graduate students who supported my candidacy and voted for me during the elections. I would also like to thank the outgoing Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) for ensuring that my transition process to this position was smooth. I'm extremely grateful to the GSA staff as well for their continuous support and encouragement.

April's transition period had me attending the below meetings:

- PAW Strategic Operating Committee (4 April)
- Student Mental Health Network (5 April)
- World Health Day Review (13 April)
- Studentcare Health and Dental Plan Survey Results Meeting (14 April)
- Monthly Meeting with K. Friese, Associate Dean of Students (20 April)
- Dean of Students and GSA Executive Monthly Meeting (20 April)
- U-Pass Administrative Committee (21 April)
- Campus Food Bank (CFB) Strategic Planning (26 April)
- Days of Action Committee (27 April)

I met twice with the Campus Food Bank (CFB) - the first meeting was to brainstorm on how this new year would look for them in terms of objectives and at the second meeting, we developed a draft of four goals focusing on Food Access, Food Education, Fiscal Sustainability and Relationship Development.

I also met with Days of Action for their Year End Review and was introduced to the team.

There was an introductory meeting with Karsten Mundel - Acting Associate Dean of Students and one with Kevin Friese, Assistant Dean of Students as well.

I met with the Student Mental Health Network twice - one was a review of Health Day and the other had a 10-minute educational theme on Naloxone Training.

Then, introductory meetings with Robyn Paches from Studentcare and the U-Pass Administrative Committee. I chaired my first GSA Board meeting the first week of May. The GSA 101 and Governing Docs 101 sessions I attended were very useful as I learnt about my responsibilities and duties towards the graduate student body. It was interesting to learn where I can find all resources that I would need to run my term successfully. They were very thorough training sessions held by the GSA Staff for the Executive Team.

The highlights of my meeting with the **Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights (VLHR)** are as follows

- There was a discussion on thoughts for who would be an ideal ambitious speaker who could come for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- A motion was carried, with all in favor, to invite Cindy Blackstock as the 2022/23 VLHR speaker.

## 10.2

- My action item for the next meeting is to have a conversation with students on who they would like to see come speak on relevant issues today, from an academic and not an activist point of view.
- Greta Thunberg was added to the list of speakers.
- Malala Yousafzai's office will be contacted to find out her availability and cost.

I look forward to working with each one of you this 2022-2023 academic year. As always, I am open to feedback and questions.

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

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 1 May and 16 May 2022 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

5 May	GSA 101
5 May	Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights (VLHR)
6 May	Governing Docs 101

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Kenzie Gordon  
Date: 13 May 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](mailto:mlgordon@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 position for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council 29 April, and 6 May 2022 with a nomination deadline of 11 May 2022. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

**2) GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) (Two (1) GSA Councillor Position)**

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA 29 April, and 6 May 2022 with a nomination deadline of 11 May 2022. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council GSA 29 April, and 6 May 2022 with a nomination deadline of 11 May 2022. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council GSA 29 April, and 6 May 2022 with a nomination deadline of 10 May 2022. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

External Committees: Vacancies**5) General Facilities Council (GFC) (Two (2) GSA member Positions)**

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA members was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 29 April and 6 May 2022 with a nomination deadline of 11 May 2022. **Rachel Hislop-Hook and Meruja Selvamanikkam were elected.**

**GSA Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the 16 May 2022 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Courtney Thomas  
Date: 13 May 2022

Dear GSA Council Members,

As the GSA's fiscal year ended on 31 March 2022, we are now in the process of planning for our annual audit. The audit, as well the preparation of the first term's budget and expenditure financial report of our new fiscal year, is expected to be completed in June. Following their review by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, both of these items will come forward to GSA Council at the July meeting. The GSA's audited financial statements will then proceed onward to the University Board of Governors, as per the requirements of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.

The office has also been engaged with the transition to a new team of elected graduate student leaders. A lot of behind the scenes work goes into this annually (training sessions are scheduled, announcements and associated communications are prepared, work spaces and email accounts are cleaned out, new passwords and security codes generated, bank paperwork is filed, etc), all of which occupies a good measure of staff time.

We are also working with the new team to support the development of the 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, which of course is on the agenda for the May meeting to hear feedback from members of GSA Council. The finalized version of the Plan will also come before GSA Council in the coming months. In addition to soliciting feedback from members of GSA Council at Monday's meeting, a short survey is also being circulated in the GSA newsletter. If you have not yet had a chance to do so, please take a few moments to fill out the online survey and share the link with your colleagues and friends – it helps greatly with identifying strategic priorities for the coming year.

In consultation with the Speaker, the staff team has also been investigating options for hosting hybrid meetings of GSA Council. We plan to follow the model used by General Faculties Council (which, while it certainly has its limitations and will likely not satisfy all, is feasible for the GSA to mimic). I am happy to provide further updates on this for those interested.

Finally, after hosting a well-attended and engaging end of term event with Rapid Fire Theatre, we are beginning to plan for the return of in-person GSA Coffee Breaks in Triffo Hall. Information about these small, informal events is available on the GSA website and will also be shared in the GSA newsletter.

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached (pages 17.1-17.2) and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 4 May 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 19 April 2022:

#### Strategic

- Discussing the logistics of hybrid meetings of GSA Council with the Speaker – we've also met with members of the University Governance office about how hybrid meetings of General Faculties Council, and observed their most recent hybrid meeting. We've booked Council Chamber a few times in May to try to do some text runs in advance of the June meeting of GSA Council.
- Developing a timeline for the development of next year's GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, as well as developing the 2021-2022 annual report (will be finalized shortly).
- Coordinating job shadowing and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Reviewing a legal opinion on the recently released regulations for Bill 32 and how they may impact the GSA, including potential changes to the structure of the GSA to make the Vice-President Labour an Associate Vice-President. We're hoping to move forward with planning next steps in the coming weeks (work will likely be ongoing to November/December). There have also been a few other legislative changes relating to the end of the GSA's exclusivity clause with respect to acting as the labour union for academically-employed graduate students (specifically, it looks the end date has been removed) that we are grappling with and discussing with the Public Service Alliance of Canada.
- Working on minor proposed revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda following a recent meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee. We hope to send these forward to the committee in the coming weeks.
- Planning next steps for the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (working to arrange meetings with equity seeking groups on campus, updating committee members, etc).
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (supporting the GSA Negotiating Team, the GSA Labour Relations Committee, meeting with graduate students, and soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network and hosting training sessions).

#### Operations

- Planning associated with hosting in-person GSA coffee breaks in the Triffo Hall lounge space later in May and starting to plan to solicit advertisers for the GSA handbook.
- 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), the Green and Gold Grant Adjudication Committee (advertised via GSA newsletter), and General Faculties Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter). Also assisting with elections for the Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences Graduate Students' Association (advertised directly to graduate students in the department) and the Pharmacy Graduate Students' Association (advertised directly to graduate students in the department).
- Facebook = 1,750 likes (down 1 from 19 April); Facebook posts reached 55 users since 19 April. Twitter = 1,296 followers (down 2 from 19 April); our tweets earned 124 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 812 followers (up 6 from 19 April); Instagram posts reached 6 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 April and there is an upswing in application numbers; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 April. We are seeing an increase in applications as pandemic prevention measures ease and all funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.



### Management Report to the GSA Board, 11 May 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 4 May 2022:

#### Strategic

- Continued discussion about the logistics of hybrid meetings of GSA Council with the Speaker – we accessed Council Chamber yesterday to test things and will be doing another test this afternoon.
- Developing a timeline for the development of next year's GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, as well as finalizing the 2021-2022 annual report (will be shared with the GSA Board on 25 May).
- Coordinating 101 training session scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Cleaning out files (electronic and hardcopy) in alignment with the GSA's document retention and destruction schedule.
- Starting to prepare briefing notes for review by the President and GSA Board concerning a potential restructuring of the GSA to make the Vice-President Labour an Associate Vice-President.
- Engaging with the GSA Labour Relations Committee and the Public Service Alliance of Canada about Bill 17 and its impact on the GSA's potential future relationships with external unions.
- Working on a second draft of minor proposed revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda. We hope to send these forward to the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee over the summer.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (supporting the GSA Negotiating Team, the GSA Labour Relations Committee, meeting with graduate students, and soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network and hosting training sessions).

#### Operations

- Planning associated with hosting in-person GSA coffee breaks in the Triffo Hall lounge space later in May and starting to plan to solicit advertisers for the GSA handbook.
- 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), the Green and Gold Grant Adjudication Committee (advertised via GSA newsletter), and General Faculties Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter). Also assisting with elections for the Pharmacy Graduate Students' Association (advertised directly to graduate students in the department) and soliciting nominations for the positions of Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, and Senator.
- Facebook = 1,752 likes (up 2 from 4 May); Facebook posts reached 375 users since 4 May. Twitter = 1,292 followers (down 4 from 4 May); our tweets earned 315 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 811 followers (down 1 from 4 May); Instagram posts reached 248 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 April and there is an upswing in application numbers; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 April. We are seeing an increase in applications as pandemic prevention measures ease and all funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.