

## GSA Council Meeting AGENDA

Monday, 19 June 2023 at 6:00 pm

Held in-person in Council Chamber and electronically via Zoom

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

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

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

**Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair**

### OPEN SESSION

**Attached  
Numbered Pages**

1. Approval of the 19 June 2023 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 15 May 2023 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 15 May 2023 GSA Council Meeting **2.0 - 2.4**
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*)

### GSA Council Member Announcements

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

### Presentation

5. Days of Action  
**Tiffany Kung (Vice-President Student Life) will present the item and introduce the guest.**

**Guest:** Heather Ritz (Community Social Worker, Student Services - Wellness Supports)

### Action Item

6. GSA Recommended Changes to GSA Policy, Sections I and J  
**Sophie Shi (GSA Chief Returning Officer) will present the item.**

*Attachment:*

- i. Outline of Issue **6.0**
- ii. Recommended Changes to GSA Policy, Sections I and J – Track Changes **6.1 - 6.6**

## Elections

7. GSA Council Elections (*suggested time: to be determined*)  
**Elisabeth Widjaja (GSA Nominating Committee Member) will present the item.**

### GSA Council-Elected Officer Positions

- a. Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO), and Senator  
*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for Speaker (1 GSA Member vacancy) and Deputy Speaker (1 GSA Member vacancy) **7.0 - 7.2**
- ii. Nominees for CRO (1 GSA Member vacancy) **7.3 - 7.5**
- iii. Nominees for Senator (1 GSA Member vacancy) **7.6 - 7.9**

### GSA Standing Committees

- b. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Renewal  
*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSA ACB (1 renewal of a GSA member; 2 renewals of GSA Councillors) **7.10 - 7.12**

- c. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)  
*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSA ERC (1 GSA Councillor vacancy) **7.13 - 7.14**

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

8. President (**Bishoi Aziz, President**)
- i. President's Report **8.0 - 8.1**
  - ii. GSA Board Report **8.2**
  - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
  - iv. GSA Governance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
9. Vice-President Academic (**Rija Kamran, Vice-President Academic**)
- i. Vice-President Academic's Report **9.0 - 9.1**
10. Vice-President External (**Hamid Hassani, Vice-President External**)
- i. Vice-President External's Report **10.0 - 10.1**
  - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
11. Vice-President Student Life (**Tiffany Kung, Vice-President Student Life**)
- i. Vice-President Student Life's Report **11.0 - 11.2**
  - ii. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
12. Vice-President Student Services (**Haseeb Arshad, Vice-President Student Services**)
- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report **12.0 - 12.3**
13. Associate Vice-President Labour (**Muneeb Masood Raja, Associate Vice-President Labour**)
- i. Associate Vice-President Labour's Report **13.0 - 13.1**
  - ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report **13.2**
14. Speaker (**Farhan Khalid, Speaker**)
- i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
15. Chief Returning Officer (**Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer**)
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**no written report at this time**)
16. GSA Nominating Committee (**Elisabeth Widjaja, GSA Nominating Committee Member**)
- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report **16.0 - 16.1**

**17. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Devansh Patel, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Vice-Chair)**

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

**18. GSA Management (Lewie Moodley, Executive Director)**

- i. Executive Director's Report

**18.0 - 18.4**

**Question Period**

**19. Written Questions (none received)**

**20. Oral Questions**

**Adjournment**

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, 15 May 2023 at 6:00 pm  
Held in-person in Council Chamber and electronically via Zoom

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bishoi Aziz (President)	Laura Manerus (Councillor-at-Large)	Guadalupe Montserrat Rodriguez Cornejo (Educational Policy Studies)	Nancy Hammer (Nursing)
Rija Kamran (VP Academic)	Rajdeepsinh Solanki (Councillor-at-Large)	Karen Fraser (Human Ecology)	Rebecca Reif (Obstetrics & Gynecology)
Hamid Hassani (VP External)	Goldy T.R. (Councillor-at-Large)	Jillian Ames (IGSA)	Constantin Mouzaabar (Ophthalmology)
Tiffany Kung (VP Student Life)	Emmy Marks (Anthropology)	Taylor Walsh (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Christian Faig (Pharmacology)
Haseeb Arshad (VP Student Services)	Andrew Pohlka (Biochemistry)	Kylie Day (Library & Information Studies)	Eduardo Melo de Andrade Lima (Philosophy)
Muneeb Masood Raja (AVP Labour)	Carly Weber (Biomedical Engineering)	Natasha Daley (Linguistics)	Rubio Atonal (Physiology)
Farhan Khalid (Speaker)	Rajdeep Mukharjee (Business MBA)	Pouneh Mohammadi Nejad (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Telisa Courtney; Victoria Young (Political Science)
Sophie Shi (CRO)	Zain Patel (Cell Biology)	Kineshta Pillay (Mechanical Engineering)	Huda Al-Shamali (Psychiatry)
Ola Mabrouk (Senator)	Meghana Jois (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Michaela Morrow (Media & Technology Studies)	Cheryl Pan (Psychology)
Eric Beaudry (Councillor-at-Large)	Amanda Tran (Chemistry)	Connor Oborn (Medical Genetics)	Wendy Amoako (Rehab Science)
Arseniy Belosokhov (Councillor-at-Large)	Victor Ladewig (Dentistry)	Calvin Gordon (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Nicole Lau (Renewable Resources)
Shubham Goswami (Councillor-at-Large)	Ben Smith (Drama)	Laya Soleymanzadeh (MLCS)	Yan Xue (Sociology)
Sandeep Kumar (Councillor-at-Large)	Jonathan Spence (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	

Guests: Brianna Bucalo (National Standard Project Coordinator, Wellness Supports, Dean of Students); Jordan Zacher (Graduate Intern, National Standard Working Group); Violet Sun (GSA Nominating Committee Chair); Nastaran Khavarilangeroudi (Nominee, GSA ERC and GSA NoC).

Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

**Approval of Agenda****1. Approval of the 15 May 2023 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 15 May 2023 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2023. Z Patel **MOVED**; C Oborn **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

**Approval of Minutes****2. Minutes from the 17 April 2023 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 17 April GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 5 May 2023. B Aziz **MOVED**; H Hassani **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** Unanimously.

**Changes in GSA Council Membership**

### 3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

- i. **Introduction of New Councillors:** T Walsh (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology); N Lau (Renewable Resources); R Reif (Obstetrics & Gynecology); L Soleymanzadeh (Modern Languages & Cultural Studies).

- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members**

There were no departing GSA Council Members present.

#### GSA Council Member Announcements

#### 4. GSA Council Member Announcements

B Aziz reminded members that there were a number of GSA committee vacancies specifically for members of GSA Council and encouraged members to consider filling these positions. It was important to fill these seats to ensure quorum and the proper functioning of GSA Standing Committees. The workload would not be significant and most work would be conducted via email. Vacancies would be emailed on Fridays prior to the second mailing of GSA Council materials.

#### Presentation

#### 5. National Standard for Mental Health and Well-being for Post-Secondary Students

Haseeb Arshad (Vice-President Student Services) presented the item and introduced guests, Brianna Bucalo (National Standard Project Coordinator, Wellness Supports, Dean of Students) and Jordan Zacher (Graduate Intern, National Standard Working Group).

B Bucalo provided an overview of the project for those newer to GSA Council who were hearing this information for the first time and requested feedback to incorporate graduate student voices in student consultations. The National Standard was a set of flexible, voluntary guidelines for post-secondary campuses that were community-based, student centred, informed, health-promoting, harm reducing, and inclusive. The first steps of implementation was coming up with an action plan that could be re-evaluated every year. Mental well-being in academia was not as good as it should be. The National Standards goal was based on the premise that academic success improved through timely access to mental health supports.

Campus-wide consultations were focused around a 6-pillar approach, grounded in student surveys and engagement work (raise awareness and decrease stigma, enhance relational connections and sense of belonging, increase access, promote life and resiliency skills, provide healthier institutional environments, and improve opportunities for success). B Bucalo also outlined the process and timelines for the work, which started last summer with gathering committees and was now planning student engagement for fall in the form of world cafes, tabling events, student group outreach, and staff/faculty engagement. J Zacher presented the initial themes that emerged from engagement so far: supportive, safe, and inclusive post-secondary environment; literacy, education, and stigma reduction; accessibility; early intervention; mental health supports; and crisis management.

GSA Council members then participated in a Jamboard brainstorming session focused on three questions: what were the current barriers and gaps facing students for mental health and well-being; what was going right that we can build on; what were the priorities for addressing first.

Members then shared their thoughts including, but not limited to, the idea of a multidisciplinary crisis team that could be deployed in crisis moments (B Bucalo noted that this was something they were considering and that this work was already being undertaken by D Eerkes around gender-based violence along with other important equity, diversity, and inclusion work happening on campus, specifically the Student Experience Action Plan; goal was to bring all groups together for those pieces); increasing sessions offered from Psychology students training to be counselors, which was not currently available during spring/summer sessions (B Bucalo agreed that the sessions were affordable and increased access but were difficult to cover during spring/summer); that coverage in the GSA Health Plan was minimal and needed to be increased; the perceived stigma that negatively affected international student in particular (B Bucalo agreed this was a critical issue they have received feedback on and needed to attend to, especially at the graduate level); the possible benefit of group-style therapy to reduce barriers and stigma; the benefit of including resources such as workshops or consultations in the GSA newsletter to inform; the benefit of events to help with isolation; the importance of services specifically targeting graduate students; the issue of isolation and loneliness (B Bucalo agreed that much of their understanding of the issues points back to this issue, which would continue to be a priority); and pros and cons of different communication methods and strategies.

Finally, members were encouraged to watch for further engagement in September, and to reach out to B Bucalo at [natstand@ualberta.ca](mailto:natstand@ualberta.ca).

#### Discussion Items

## 6. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Consultation

Bishoi Aziz (President) presented the item and noted that each year, the GSA Board developed a Strategic Work Plan (SWP) to guide their work for their term. In order to best inform the GSA's advocacy priorities for the year, a town hall was held the week prior and a feedback survey was sent to all graduate students in the GSA newsletter. He noted that the information gathered will be used to form a guiding document that would inform advocacy priorities, the GSA's budget, and the organization's operations for the year. This was a living document and would be updated as new issues or priorities arose throughout the year. B Aziz then invited members to provide feedback on tuition and alternative financial priorities, and members requested more clarity and transparency around tuition fees, participating in the upcoming provincial election, expanding professional development opportunities, diversifying mental health resources, accessibility of GSA services, and guaranteed minimum funding packages. B Aziz encouraged members to fill out the survey and to share this information with their departments.

## Elections

### 7. GSA Council Elections

Violet Sun (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) presented items a, b, and c; Farhan Khalid (Speaker) presented item d.

#### GSA Standing Committees

- a. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (1 GSA Councillor vacancy; 4 GSA member vacancies)  
Nastaran Khavarilangeroudi (MBA)  
Ibrahim Khodabocus (Pediatrics)  
Md Reazul Islam (Chemistry)

The nominees for GSA ERC were not all present to address GSA Council.

- b. GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) (1 GSA Councillor vacancy)  
Guadalupe Montserrat Rodríguez Cornejo (Ed Policy Studies)

V Sun asked the nominee for GSA GC the following: "please tell us why you'd like to serve on the GSA Governance Committee" and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

- c. GSA Board (GSAB) (1 Councillor vacancy)  
Cheryl Pan (Psychology)

V Sun asked the nominee for GSAB the following: "please tell us why you'd like to serve on the GSA Board" and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

- d. GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (1 GSA member vacancy)  
Nastaran Khavarilangeroudi (MBA)  
Ibrahim Khodabocus (Pediatrics)

The nominees for GSA NoC were not all present to address GSA Council.

## Reports

### 8. President

#### i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Aziz gave a summary of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research's enrollment report received from the General Faculties Planning Committee identifying results such as low enrollment numbers, increase in international students, and gender, LGBTQIA+, and Indigenous student varying choices when it came to course-based versus thesis-based degrees. Members discussed the data presented and asked for the report to be shared, and B Aziz noted it could be distributed.

#### ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2023. The report stood as submitted.

#### iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

No written report at this time.

**iv. GSA Governance Committee**

No written report at this time.

**9. Vice-President Academic**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, R Kamran noted that a presentation was given on the Clean Air Strategy, that was looking to have a complete ban of smoking on campus. Due to lack of proper space concerning air flow to buildings and children on campus. R Kamran asked for feedback from Council. Members discussed issues with this such as space on campus, usage of vaping inside buildings, discrimination against smokers, moving to neighboring communities, ceremonious use of tobacco, and pushing campus culture further away.

**10. Vice-President External**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Hassani stated that he was working with Public Interest Alberta focused on the 'Get Out the Vote' Campaign, noting that the GSA is non-partisan, but we would like students to get involved and make an informed decision when voting.

**ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee**

No written report at this time.

**11. Vice-President Student Life**

**i. Vice-President Student Life's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, T Kung stated that in a meeting with Campus Services there was a discussion of creating a graduate students in residence association to allow residents to champion for themselves on change. T Kung also noted that after meeting with GSA Councillors, there were actionable items that were brought up. These were better communication, actionable equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiatives, fostering community on campus, decreasing the bureaucracy students have to face, decreasing the expenses students have to pay, and increasing funding. Members also discussed the cost of living, whose responsibility the safety of transit was on campus, and that an increased police service was not the only answer.

**ii. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report**

No written report at this time.

**12. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Arshad stated he had been working with the Campus Food Bank with respects to food security and a pilot project of a free snack truck on campus.

**13. Associate Vice-President Labour**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Raja requested that all members of Council review the Collective Agreement noting the GSA offers training (GSA Labour 101), and to pass that information onto their respective facilities. M Masood also encouraged members to reach out to him if they noticed any gaps to be included in future bargaining.

**ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No written report at this time.

**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 12 May 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, V Sun stated that there were many committee vacancies for Councillors, alternates, or Councillors-at-Large to serve on, and to please watch for the upcoming mailing of these vacancies and consider putting your name forward. J Ames requested that more information be included in the email with fewer links to open.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2023. The report stood as submitted.

**19. GSA Management****i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, L Moodley thanked the GSA Board and Staff for their work in onboarding and transition.

**Question Period****20. Written Questions****21. Oral Questions**

J Ames (IGSA) provided context and background for newer members around police presence on campus; not everyone felt comfortable with increased police presence so campus safety was a very complex issue. As graduate student leaders, it was important that we were well versed in the complexities. T Kung agreed that fostering community and increasing safety did not have to mean increased policing, particularly with the call to move away from punitive justice and toward restorative justice.

Z Patel asked if more advocacy related to better parking rates for students who must drive to campus was possible. T Kung noted that there was hope to build a parking lot where students could park at a reduced rate and then LRT to campus via South Campus.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

## Outline of Issue

### Recommended Changes to GSA Policy, Sections I and J

#### **Suggested Motion:**

That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the proposed changes to GSA Policy, Sections I and J, as shown in the attached tracked changed document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

#### **Background:**

The recommended changes were initially discussed by the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) on 22 March 2023, following the 2023 GSA General Election. GSA ERC reviewed a proposed set of editorial amendments that would provide greater clarity around the process for someone to appeal the decision of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) regarding an alleged or discerned breach. These changes arose from the CRO following the current processes in the most recent election, where it was discussed that there were elements in existing GSA Bylaw and Policy that would benefit from clearer language and the articulation of parallel processes related to all three scenarios noted above. The GSA ERC voted to recommend the changes to GSA Council on 22 March 2023.

#### **Jurisdiction:**

##### GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.2.2

*"GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council."*

##### GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.18.4

*"The GSA ERC will review GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda annually and make any recommendations to GSA Council."*

## 6.1

### I.POL.11 Breaches Discerned by the Chief Returning Officer, Alleged Breaches, and Complaints About Alleged Breaches

#### I.POL.11.1 Breaches Discerned by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

- I.POL.11.1.a When the CRO believes they have discerned a breach of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of an interpretation issued by the CRO, or of other applicable policies or laws, they will work to resolve the discerned breach through informal resolution.
- I.POL.11.1.b The goal of informal resolution is to arrive at countermeasures agreed upon by all parties.
- I.POL.11.1.c If the CRO is unable to resolve the discerned breach through informal resolution, or deems informal resolution to be inappropriate, they may, as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.1.b, discipline the candidate(s) by imposing the penalties or remedial actions noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections I.POL.11.4.c to I.POL.11.7.

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#### I.POL.11.2 Alleged Breaches

- I.POL.11.2.a Those with questions or concerns about alleged breaches are encouraged to contact the CRO in a timely fashion. The CRO will advise on associated processes.
- I.POL.11.2.b All alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws must be reported to the CRO as soon as possible.
- I.POL.11.2.c When an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of an interpretation issued by the CRO, or of other applicable policies or laws is reported to the CRO, they will work to resolve the alleged breach through informal resolution.
- I.POL.11.2.d The goal of informal resolution is to arrive at countermeasures agreed upon by all parties.
- I.POL.11.2.e If the CRO is unable to resolve the alleged breach through informal resolution, or deems informal resolution to be inappropriate, they may, as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.1.b, discipline the candidate(s) by imposing the penalties or remedial actions noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections I.POL.11.4.c to I.POL.11.7.

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#### I.POL.11.3 Complaints About Alleged Breaches

- I.POL.11.3.a While complaints may be brought forward at any point during campaigning, individuals have twenty-four (24) hours after the release of provisional results to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy. Complaints lodged after this deadline will not be considered.
- I.POL.11.3.b To be considered by the CRO, a complaint must include the following:
  - I.POL.11.3.b.i The name of the person filing the complaint and their University email address,

## 6.2

- I.POL.11.3.b.ii The name of the candidate who allegedly committed a breach,
- I.POL.11.3.b.iii The section of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, interpretation issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws that has allegedly been breached,
- I.POL.11.3.b.iv A description of what constitutes the alleged breach and associated evidence, and
- I.POL.11.3.b.v A list of the evidence submitted.
- I.POL.11.3.c Incomplete complaints will not be considered and complainants filing incomplete complaints will be notified as such.
- I.POL.11.3.d The CRO can dismiss a complaint if it is unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious.
- I.POL.11.3.e If a person provides information on an anonymous basis, that information and the request for anonymity will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- I.POL.11.4 Decision
  - I.POL.11.4.a If informal resolution is rejected or is not successful, the CRO will email the candidate concerned with the details of the complaint, and request a written response, setting a deadline of at least eight (8) hours.
  - I.POL.11.4.b Based on the complaint and the written response (or solely on the complaint if no written response was provided by the set deadline), the CRO will normally reach a decision on the complaint within seventy-two (72) hours. If more time is required to reach a decision, the CRO will make a decision regarding extensions.
  - I.POL.11.4.c The CRO may impose the following penalties, or remedial actions:
    - I.POL.11.4.c.i Verbal or written reprimands,
    - I.POL.11.4.c.ii Reduction of spending limits,
    - I.POL.11.4.c.iii Disqualification from the current election, and
    - I.POL.11.4.c.iv Any other penalty or remedial action.
  - I.POL.11.4.d All decisions on complaints [and decisions reached by the CRO](#) will include:
    - I.POL.11.4.d.i A summary of the alleged [or discerned](#) breach,
    - I.POL.11.4.d.ii A list of parties to the complaint [or breach](#) (unless anonymity was granted, see Section I.POL. 11.3.e, above),
    - I.POL.11.4.d.iii A summary of the reasons for the decision and the process by which it was reached,
    - I.POL.11.4.d.iv A listing of all applicable GSA Bylaw and Policy and interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws,
    - I.POL.11.4.d.v The decided upon penalties, and/or remedial actions, and
    - I.POL.11.4.d.vi The time limit for any appeal to be made.
- I.POL.11.5 Upon reaching a decision the CRO will email the decision to all parties, with a copy to the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC). The decision will then be posted on the GSA website.

## 6.3

- I.POL.11.6 Unless otherwise stated in GSA Bylaw or Policy on elections, decisions of the CRO are subject to appeal to the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB).
- I.POL.11.6.a The CRO will advise the parties that they have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO's email is deemed delivered for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB.
- I.POL.11.7 Throughout this process, the CRO will consult with the Deputy Returning Officer, available member(s) of the GSA ERC, and the Executive Director (or delegate).

## J.POL.12 Breaches Discerned by the Chief Returning Officer, Alleged Breaches, and Complaints About Alleged Breaches

### J.POL.12.1 Breaches Discerned by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

- J.POL.12.1.a When the CRO believes they have discerned a breach of GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda, of an interpretation issued by the CRO, or of other applicable policies or laws, they will work to resolve the discerned breach through informal resolution.
- J.POL.12.1.b The goal of informal resolution is to arrive at countermeasures agreed upon by all parties.
- J.POL.12.1.c If the CRO is unable to resolve the discerned breach through informal resolution, or deems informal resolution to be inappropriate, they may, as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.1.b, discipline the Campaign Representative(s) by imposing the penalties or remedial actions noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections J.POL.12.4.c to J.POL.12.7E

Commented [EH3]: Editorial change

### J.POL.12.2 Alleged Breaches

- J.POL.12.2.a Those with questions or concerns about alleged breaches are encouraged to contact the CRO in a timely fashion. The CRO will advise on associated processes.
- J.POL.12.2.b All alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda of interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws must be reported to the CRO as soon as possible.
- J.POL.12.2.c When an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of an interpretation issued by the CRO, or of other applicable policies or laws is reported to the CRO, they will work to resolve the alleged breach through informal resolution.
- J.POL.12.2.d The goal of informal resolution is to arrive at countermeasures agreed upon by all parties.
- J.POL.12.2.e If the CRO is unable to resolve the alleged breach through informal resolution, or deems informal resolution to be inappropriate, they may, as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.1.b, discipline the Campaign Representative(s) by imposing the penalties or remedial actions noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections J.POL.12.4.c to J.POL.7.

Commented [EH4]: Editorial Change

### J.POL.12.3 Complaints About Alleged Breaches

- J.POL.12.3.a While complaints may be brought forward at any point during campaigning, individuals have twenty-four (24) hours after the release of provisional results to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy. Complaints lodged after this deadline will not be considered.
- J.POL.12.3.b To be considered by the CRO, a complaint must include the following:
  - J.POL.12.3.b.i The name of the person filing the complaint and their University email address,

## 6.5

- J.POL.12.3.b.ii The name of the Campaign Representative who allegedly committed a breach,
- J.POL.12.3.b.iii The section of GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda, interpretation issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws that has allegedly been breached
- J.POL.12.3.b.iv A description of what constitutes the alleged breach and associated evidence, and
- J.POL.12.3.b.v A list of the evidence submitted.
- J.POL.12.3.c Incomplete complaints will not be considered and complainants filing incomplete complaints will be notified as such.
- J.POL.12.3.d The CRO can dismiss a complaint if it is unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious.
- J.POL.12.3.e If a person provides information on an anonymous basis, that information and the request for anonymity will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- J.POL.12.4 Decision
  - J.POL.12.4.a If informal resolution is rejected or is not successful, the CRO will email the Campaign Representative concerned with the details of the complaint, and request a written response, setting a deadline of at least eight (8) hours.
  - J.POL.12.4.b Based on the complaint and the written response (or solely on the complaint if no written response was provided by the set deadline), the CRO will normally reach a decision on the complaint within seventy-two (72) hours. If more time is required to reach a decision, the CRO will make a decision regarding extensions.
  - J.POL.12.4.c The CRO may impose the following penalties, or remedial actions:
    - J.POL.12.4.c.i Verbal or written reprimands,
    - J.POL.12.4.c.ii Reduction of spending limits,
    - J.POL.12.4.c.iii Disqualification of the campaign from the current referendum, and
    - J.POL.12.4.c.iv Any other penalty or remedial action.
  - J.POL.12.4.d All decisions on complaints and decisions reached by the CRO will include:
    - J.POL.12.4.d.i A summary of the alleged or discerned breach,
    - J.POL.12.4.d.ii A list of parties to the complaint or breach (unless anonymity was granted, see Section J.POL.12.3.e, above),
    - J.POL.12.4.d.iii A summary of the reasons for the decision and the process by which it was reached,
    - J.POL.12.4.d.iv A listing of all applicable GSA Bylaw and Policy and interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws,
    - J.POL.12.4.d.v The decided upon penalties, and/or remedial actions, and
    - J.POL.12.4.d.vi The time limit for any appeal to be made.

## 6.6

- J.POL.12.5 Upon reaching a decision the CRO will email the decision to all parties, with a copy to the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC). The decision will then be posted on the GSA website.
- J.POL.12.6 Unless otherwise stated in GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda, decisions of the CRO are subject to appeal to the GSA ACB.
  - J.POL.12.6.a The CRO will advise the parties that they have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO's email is deemed delivered for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB.
- J.POL.12.7 Throughout this process, the CRO will consult with the Deputy Returning Officer, available member(s) of the GSA ERC, and the Executive Director (or delegate).

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)**  
**SPEAKER (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): TWO (2) NOMINEES**  
**and DEPUTY SPEAKER (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, the GSA NoC will open nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO and DRO “on or about 1 May of every year” and nominations will be submitted in writing to the GSA NoC “by 30 May or the next working day” (Section D.BYL.3.1.b and Section D.BYL.3.1.d). These positions were advertised in the GSA newsletters of 26 May and 2 and 9 June 2023, with a deadline of 14 June 2023. Two (2) nominations were received for the position of Speaker and one (1) nomination was received for the position of Deputy Speaker.

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 19 June 2023 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 19 June 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 19 June 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

**Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name. ‘None of the Candidates’ will also be considered a nominee.**

**Speaker**

- 1. Farhan Khalid (Chemical and Materials Engineering)**
- 2. Eklovepreet Singh (Mechanical Engineering)**

**Deputy Speaker**

- 1. Camila Rodrigues de Freitas (Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science)**

**Jurisdiction:**

Section D.BYL.3.1.d

*“The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council.”*

Section E.POL.3.2.a

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

Section E.POL.3.2.b

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

**Biographies and brief resumes of the nominees for Speaker and Deputy Speaker are BELOW on pages 7.1 – 7.2. Biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).**

**Nominations for SPEAKER  
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER)  
Two (2) Nominees**

**1. Farhan Khalid (Chemical and Materials Engineering)**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA Speaker, VP Academic Affairs ISA UAlberta and VP Student Services CME GSA
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<b>Statement of Interest</b>
When I first applied to be a GSA speaker I hoped to gain student body experience. I think a speaker should guide the debate to a positive conclusion and they should be impartial and unbiased. My few months as a GSA speaker have been a very fruitful one. Being a speaker has helped me to enhance my communication and critical thinking skills. And I hope I can continue this position forward to serve the GSA.
<b>Bio</b>
I am a first-year international graduate student pursuing my MSc in Materials Engineering. I did my bachelors from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Mechanical Engineering. I have student body experience being the past Director of Academic Affairs at ISA UAlberta where I have successfully held two workshops focused on library resources and mental health. I am also involved with the Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP) as Graduate Chair of Edmonton Chapter. In my undergrad at Hong Kong I co-founded and served as Head of Events of South Asian Society which was composed of students from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Serving in all these positions and being an international student for the past 5 years has given me tremendous opportunities to serve students and to help them solve their collective issues. Currently I am serving as VP Academic Affairs ISA and VP Student Services CME GSA.

**2. Eklovepreet Singh (Mechanical Engineering)**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	
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<b>Statement of Interest</b>
I am writing to apply for the Speaker position that became open recently. I am confident that I have the skills and experience that you are looking for, and I am eager to put my abilities to work GSA. I have been a moderator at almost every event at my previous employment for the past five years, and during that time I have ensured strict adherence to the rules and dignity of the meeting. Not only as moderator, I have even hosted a number of meetings with government directors and convinced them to invest with us in the projects. I am confident in my ability to mediate meetings with utmost responsibility, no matter how large or small. I am also experienced in leading discussions.
I understand the importance of keeping the audience's attention to the written bylaws and rules & regulations, and I always work to ensure that meetings are not distracted and stay on agenda. In addition to my skills as a mediator, I am also a highly effective negotiator. I have a proven track record of working collaboratively with colleagues to achieve common goals and even train new hires of the organization. I am also an excellent listener, and I always take the time to understand the needs and wants of my clients and colleagues.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.
<b>Bio</b>
<p>I have more than 5 years of experience at my previous employment at “Hindustan Petroleum” in the field of project management which was not limited to management but included reading and preparing tenders. The tendering required critical review of documents, rules &amp; regulations, compliances and detailed list of expectations. The amalgamation of management experience with ability to engage with the audience through event moderation and training new hires would make me a perfect fit for the job.</p> <p>Moreover, Hindustan Petroleum is a Government of India Undertaking and being a project lead needed to handle a lot of meetings with government directors. The tracking and monitoring of minutes of minutes, feedbacks, remarks and comments of each government official was required to be managed effectively and the skill of multitasking would bring a perfect skill set at table for the job.</p>

**Nomination for DEPUTY SPEAKER  
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER)**

**One (1) Nominee**

- 1. Camila Rodrigues de Freitas (Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science)**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	
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<b>Statement of Interest</b>
I would like to be part of the University of Alberta students community. Volunteering as a deputy speaker is a chance to build connections, learn, share experiences and engage with this community.
<b>Bio</b>
<p>I am a Brazilian veterinarian with Msc. in Animal Reproduction, and nowadays, I am doing MSc. in Animal Science. My passion for communication and public speaking has come since I was a teenager, being involved in church and school community activities. My academic and work experiences and volunteer activities until now helped create a solid foundation for public speaking. During my BSc. I was the class leader, president of the degree ceremony organization team and Speaker at the graduation ceremony. Also, I was a volunteer lecturer talking about zoonosis for the women, farmers associations. After that, I worked as a poultry veterinarian, interacting with the different public, which helped me learn how to adapt my language to the audience.</p>

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER (CRO) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): TWO (2) NOMINEES**

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, the GSA NoC will open nominations for CRO and DRO “on or about 1 May of every year” and nominations will be submitted in writing to the GSA NoC “by 30 May or the next working day” (Section D.BYL.3.1.d and Section D.BYL.3.1.c). These positions were advertised in the GSA newsletters of 26 May, and 2 and 9 June 2023, with a deadline of 14 June 2023. Two (2) nominations were received.

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 19 June 2023 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 19 June 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 19 June 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

**Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name. ‘None of the Candidates’ will also be considered a nominee.**

- 1. Wajid Ali (Civil & Environmental Engineering)**
- 2. Sophie Shi (Chemical and Materials Engineering)**

**Jurisdiction:**

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

*“The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council.”*

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

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

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

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

**Biographies and brief resumes of the nominees for CRO are BELOW on pages 7.4 – 7.5. Biographies and brief resumes have been attached as received (i.e. not edited).**

**Nomination for CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER  
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER)  
TWO (2) Nominees**

**1. Wajid Ali (Civil & Environmental Engineering)**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	Program Committee, GFC, AAC of the GFC
<p><b>Statement of Interest:</b></p> <p>To become a volunteer for any position, one must have the desire and approach to work for the betterment of the community and bring about positive changes in the association/organization. I share the same intentions and goals for volunteering as the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) to promote transparency and fairness in the GSA elections process, which are fundamental for upholding democratic principles.</p> <p>Secondly, I am highly interested in public affairs and governance. Volunteering as the CRO will provide me with an opportunity to directly engage in the electoral process of the GSA, allowing me to gain firsthand experience and knowledge about the inner workings of GSA elections.</p> <p>Third, as a PhD student, I enjoy the flexibility to work at my own pace and have the freedom to allocate ample time for focused periods of work in the election weeks.</p> <p>Lastly, working with the GSA as the CRO will not only benefit me in developing my organizational, developmental, leadership, and decision-making skills, but it will also enable me to connect with fellow graduate students, build relationships while working for the students, and ultimately strive to have a positive impact on the overall functioning of the GSA's electoral systems.</p>	
<p><b>Bio:</b></p> <p>I am a second-year PhD student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Alberta (UoA). I hold a bachelor's and master's degree in chemical engineering. Currently, as a graduate student at UoA, I have an impressive academic track record both in my courses and research work.</p> <p>Prior to joining the University of Alberta, I served as a Lecturer at the University of Engineering &amp; Technology Peshawar, Pakistan. During my time there, I was the academic advisor for the student chapter of the Pakistan Institute of Chemical Engineers (PICH), UET Peshawar. My responsibilities included overseeing and monitoring their annual events, electoral system, and recommending proposals for further approval. Additionally, I served as the undergraduate semester coordinator, where I was the first point of contact for students' issues, grievances related to their academics, scholarships, and discipline. Furthermore, in 2018, I supervised the general elections as a presiding officer for members of parliament in Pakistan. This role demanded long hours of focused work alongside a diverse team, necessitating quick decision-making and adaptability.</p> <p>In another previous role as a program manager at a non-profit organization, I was responsible for coordinating and overseeing various activities. This involved meticulous planning, mapping out daily and monthly tasks, and assisting with task preparation for successful execution. I had to manage logistics and finances to ensure smooth operations. From initial planning stages to final implementation, I was actively involved and accountable for the successful completion of activities. As a result, I am proficient in planning and organizing daily or event-related activities in collaboration with a team, ensuring efficient and structured task completion.</p>	

Currently, at UoA, I am actively involved in working with the Residence Services Office as a Resident Assistant (RA) for the graduate residence. Furthermore, I am a member of the GFC Program Committee, the GSA nominee for GFC, and a member of the GFC AAC.

Considering my professional and academic experience, as well as my involvement and dedication towards volunteer activities, I believe I am amongst the most competent candidates for the position of CRA.

## 2. Sophie Shi (Chemical and Materials Engineering)

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GFC, FGSR Council
<b>Statement of Interest:</b>	
<p>I am passionate about community involvement and believe it is important to stay updated about important issues that concern me and my peers. After being involved with GSA elections for the past 3 years, I want to continue to contribute to ensuring a fair and equitable process. I will remain neutral and act impartially when making decisions and I have an excellent understanding of GSA Bylaw and Policy, specifically those pertaining to elections and referendums. I have dealt with many unique and complex situations during elections and have worked with GSA elections through the pandemic as well as changes to procedures.</p>	
<b>Bio:</b>	
<p>I attended the U of A for my undergraduate degree (BSc, 2016-2020) and am currently pursuing a PhD in Materials Engineering (2020-Present). I work as the Head Teaching Assistant for chemistry at the Engineering Student Success Centre (2020-Present). I work as a Research Advisor at the Undergraduate Research Initiative at the U of A, helping undergraduate students get involved in research and facilitating events. I served as the GSA CRO for one term (2022-2023) and DRO for two terms (2020-2022). I also serve on GFC (2021-Present) and FGSR (2021-Present). I volunteer for various organizations such as WISEST and FEM+ on campus. In my community, I serve on the board of my condo association. My experience working with people from various backgrounds, dealing with difficult situations, making time-sensitive decisions, and remaining impartial and professional throughout, makes me an asset to this position and to the GSA and allows me to succeed as the CRO.</p>	

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
SENATOR (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): THREE (3) NOMINEES**

Information regarding the vacancy for one (1) GSA Senator position was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 26 May, 2 and 9 June 2023 with a nomination deadline of 14 June 2023. Three (3) nominations were received.

**Duties**

“The Senator is the GSA’s representative to the University of Alberta Senate” (Section D.BYL.3.2.b)

“All GSA Council-Elected Officers and Deputies are non-voting members of GSA Council” (Section D.BYL.3.2.e)

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

**Qualifications**

“The Senator should have prior experience acting as a representative for the GSA and/or as a liaison with bodies external to the University” (Section D.POL.12.2.a)

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 19 June 2023 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 19 June 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 19 June 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

**Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name. ‘None of the Candidates’ will also be considered a nominee.**

- 1. Saad Iqbal (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)**
- 2. Zak Kaal (Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science)**
- 3. Ola Mabrouk (Chemistry)**

**Jurisdiction:**

**Section D.BYL.3.1.d**

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

**Section E.POL.3.2.a**

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

**Section E.POL.3.2.b**

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

**Biographies and brief resumes of the nominees for Senator are BELOW on pages 7.7 – 7.9. Biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).**

**Nominations for SENATOR  
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER)  
Three (3) Nominees**

**1. Saad Iqbal (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	Vice President of Academic Affairs, International Students Association, University of Alberta (2022-23 and 2023-24)
<b>Statement of Interest:</b>	
<p>Ever since I started my postsecondary education back in Pakistan, I've been extensively involved in student leadership and volunteering activities trying my best to improve the social and learning experiences of my fellow peers.</p> <p>Whether it's through my involvement in debates and Model UN conferences or participating at other national and international competitions and events, organizing conferences and seminars, leading student volunteers, or through my involvement with volunteering groups such as the Rotary international, I have always believed that apart from one's academic responsibilities, students also need to care for their mental health and wellbeing, social development as well as learning through co and extracurricular activities. Above all, I have learned how these experiences enrich one's skills and competencies and provide added support towards life-long learning.</p> <p>Working as a student leader under various capacities together with a strong sense of community services and commitment to students, I would like to further involve myself in matters related to the development of graduate students at the UofA and getting the chance to work as the GSA senator seems like a really good opportunity where I can utilize my organizational, management, and leadership skills as well as volunteering experiences to ensure that our graduate students are represented in all matters related to having a rich learning and social experience at this University.</p>	
<b>Bio:</b>	
<p>Throughout my life, I have gained plentiful hands-on experiences which have helped me gain multi-tasking &amp; leadership skills and develop an interdisciplinary approach in dealing with difficult situations. In my extensive organizational &amp; leadership opportunities, I have organized workshops, conferences &amp; festivals, supervised &amp;</p>	

lead organizing teams, negotiated sponsorship deals, offered media coordination at events, participated in and won photography competitions, acted and designed sets & costumes for dramatics, performed community services and debated in Model United Nations among many others. The skills & experiences gained through these involvements gave me an altogether new perspective on life.

Completing my studies and at the same time, managing a charity-based school in my native village while simultaneously serving as the Secretary of the Rotaract Club (International Voluntary Organization) for two years; providing extensive community services, and leading student teams in organizing events have all shaped me to be able to work under pressure, following intricate timelines and deliver the best utilizing available resources under any circumstances.

Over the span of around one and a half years at the Faculty of Education, I have worked for the betterment of both our graduate and undergraduate students and provided tailored support for international and domestic student populations. Some of the positions I have held previously involve working in the Educational Policy Studies Faculty Council, Educational Policy Studies Research and Scholarship Committee, Vice President of the Pakistani Students Association, and the Vice President, Academic Affairs of the International Students Association of the University of Alberta. During this time, I have contributed tremendously towards providing educational support, awareness issues related to mental health and wellbeing, as well as representing the international student community in areas such as the fee increase.

I have a presentable & friendly personality enabling me to work with others as a team. Self- motivation and a strong urge to learn and explore new endeavors have always been my strongest allies allowing me to surpass in any responsibility that I have undertaken.

**2. Zak Kaal (Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science)**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	AFNS GSA
<b>Statement of Interest:</b>	

<p>I would like to serve as senator because it would be an excellent way of both getting involved in student governance, and advancing the reputation of graduate students at the UofA within professional circles and the community. It would be a great opportunity to both inquire into issues faced by the grad community and strengthen the weak bridge connecting graduate students and the general public.</p>
<p><b>Bio:</b></p> <p>I am a Master of Science Student at the department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, currently researching sustainable aviation fuel and its production. I have experience in student governance at both the UofA and my alma mater. Having held the role of Secretary of Sustainability for my previous university and VP Finance at my departmental GSA at the UofA, I am well versed in a diverse range of roles in student governance. Public speaking is something I particularly enjoy, which will come in handy in ensuring that the voice of graduate students is well represented and heard in the Senate. I also work well in teams, having been a volunteer at multiple charities and organizations, and worked in roles ranging from public health, to forest conservation. These professional experiences have equipped me with the necessary skills to be able to interact with a broad spectrum of people with various backgrounds, which is a necessary skill when serving on the Senate.</p>

### 3. Ola Mabrouk (Chemistry)

<p><b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b></p>	N/A
<p><b>Statement of Interest:</b></p> <p>I think it will be a good experience and learning opportunity for me to act as a representative for the GSA. I have served as a GSA senator for almost two months now, and I think I need more time in this role to fully embrace and benefit from the experience. I still think there is a lot for me to learn.</p>	
<p><b>Bio:</b></p>	

I believe I have good experience acting as a representative for student associations. I have also previous experience as a member of the postgraduate committee at the Faculty of Pharmacy Ain Shams University-Egypt (where I got my Masters degree), this committee serves to develop and improve postgraduate programs and courses (September 2018 to August 2019). My role in the committee was to create surveys targeting the students and staff and collect feedback on the postgraduate courses and provide suggestions to improve the courses. I was also a member of the purchasing committee of the department of Pharmaceutical Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy Ain Shams University. This involved negotiating deals with several companies and publishing requests for tenders to purchase new equipment for the department and the faculty (May 2018 to August 2019). And a member of the Quality Assurance committee of the department of Pharmaceutical Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy Ain Shams University (January 2014 to August 2019). This committee helped achieve the Egyptian accreditation requirements for the faculty. My role was to monitor the implementation of these requirements within the Analytical Chemistry department. It involved reviewing documents and suggesting corrective actions, etc. I am currently Safety Officer for the McDermott research labs in CCIS at University of Alberta. This involves doing annual lab inspections, chemical inventory management and update, implementing preventive measures to control hazards and minimize risks, etc. (September 2021 to present).

## GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (Renewal of One (1) GSA Member Position and Two (2) Councillor Positions)**

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, terms of office for the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) may run for a one (1) or two (2) year term and members may stand for re-election (Section H.POL.7.4). Accordingly, as the terms of office for three (3) members of the GSA ACB has expired or is about to expire, those members were contacted to inquire if they wished to stand for re-election. All three (3) members indicated they wished to extend their service. Additionally, these members have been previously interviewed by GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) members who have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC (a member of GSA management was also present for said interviews) and have themselves, following their initial election to the GSA ACB, received training in the basic tenets of procedural fairness.

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 19 June 2023 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 19 June 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 19 June 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Eric Beaudry (Mechanical Engineering, Councillor-at-Large)**
- 2. Laura Manerus (Biological Sciences, Councillor-at-Large)**
- 3. Juliana Lasso Mendez (Pediatrics, GSA Member)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**

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

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

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H.POL.7.4

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

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H.POL.8.1

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

**The biographies and brief resumes received for the three (3) nominees is BELOW on pages 7.11 – 7.12. The biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).**

**NOMINATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A GSA ACB POSITION  
(THREE (3) POSITION RENEWALS FOR TWO (2) GSA COUNCILLORS AND ONE (1) GSA MEMBER)  
Two (2) Nominees for GSA Councillor, One (1) Nominee for GSA Member**

**1. Eric Beaudry (Councillor)**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA LRC, GSA ACB
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
I would like to continue my service on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board to ensure that the electoral process of the GSA is fair and democratic. I also have strong convictions to ensure that the members of the GSA feel safe, are protected from harm and harassment, are held accountable for their actions, and have pathways to seek justice. I believe the sanctity of the GSA relies on this committee, and I am whole-heartedly committed to serving on it.	
<b>Bio</b>	
Being a team member in a variety of environments has equipped me with great interpersonal, problem solving, and leadership skills. I have experience as an industry engineer, researcher, volunteer, international coach in para-sport, and provincial athlete. As a team member in these settings, I have been exposed to diverse perspectives and been forced to reach consensus on tough issues. My tenure as a GSA ACB member has endowed me with procedural experience that is invaluable to the function of the board.	

**2. Laura Manerus (Councillor)**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA Councillor-at-Large, Currently the chair of the ACB
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
As the current GSA ACB chair, and someone who has been on the ACB for 2 years already, I believe I can bring insight to how the GSA bylaws can protect its members while also ensuring the GSA can function smoothly.	
<b>Bio</b>	
Previously, as a member of the union body for University of Guelph TA's, I was the Women's Caucus Chair and established the first functioning caucus in union history. As a caucus chair I also sat on the equity committee which was responsible for mitigating diversity related issues for TA's as well as attending the Universities Human Rights bylaws meetings to advocate for union members. These positions gave me valuable experience organizing events, running meetings, liaising with Pl's, and working in partnership with the university and department financial administrators. Which I believe would be an asset to this GSA ACB position.	

**3. Juliana Lasso Mendez (GSA Member)**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA ACB
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
I would like to continue to volunteer in this committee to help graduate students. I want to contribute to a graduate student's experience by providing a support system in this committee. I also want to continue to acquire more experience in group and networking settings which I know I can achieve by being part of this committee.	

**Bio**

This is my second year as a graduate student in the department of pediatrics. I currently conduct clinical research where I constantly work with a team of professionals and patients which has allowed me to learn about collaboration and teamwork. I obtained my BSc in human physiology at McGill University in 2019. Also, over the years, I have developed discipline and skills of accountability that have allowed me to gain a reliable work ethic. Also, having a scientific background I have learned to develop critical thinking skills necessary for decision making. From 2019 to 2021, I volunteered full-time in an ecclesiastical position in Tahiti and Vancouver where I was able to provide services in the community, especially to immigrants and I was also able to participate in various councils to provide support to young adults. I truly enjoy meeting new people and learning from people who have different viewpoints. Thus, I know that due to my volunteer and academic experiences I will be an asset to the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) and help in the representation of the faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

## GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

**GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA COUNCILLOR): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy for a GSA Councillor was advertised via email to GSA Council on 26 May, and 2 and 9 June 2023, with a deadline of 14 June 2023. One (1) nomination was received.

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

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 19 June 2023 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 19 June 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 19 June 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

**Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name. ‘None of the Candidates’ will also be considered a nominee.**

- 1. Andrew Polholka (Biochemistry)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section I.POL.16.1

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

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

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

**The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee is BELOW on page 7.14. The biography and resume is presented as received (i.e. not edited).**

**NOMINATIONS FOR GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC)  
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA COUNCILLOR)  
One (1) Nominee**

**1. Andrew Polholka (Biochemistry)**

<p><b>Statement of Interest:</b> I would like to sit on this committee because I have an interest in serving my fellow graduate students and doing my part to improve their quality of life. I hope that by volunteering on this committee I can assist in maintaining the GSA so it can continue to advocate for students.</p>
<p><b>Bio:</b> I have served as a GSA councilor for Biochemistry since the fall of 2022 and served on the Budget and Finance Committee during the development of the 2023-2024 budget, giving me experience acting as a representative for my fellow graduate students as well as experience serving on a committee. I have a history of academic excellence, as for my undergraduate degree I received an honors biochemistry degree with first class standing, which demonstrates my willingness to obtain the necessary skills and knowledge to serve on a GSA committee. I have acted as a tutor for years, assisting students with a variety of subjects, developing my skills in understanding the problems of my fellow students and assisting them in their studies. I have also demonstrated my dedication to serving my community through two years of volunteering at my local food bank and for my rugby club.</p>

**President  
Report to GSA Council for the 19 June 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Bishoi Aziz  
Date: 16 June 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying the summertime and the nice sun of Edmonton despite the wildfires and smoke. I am happy to provide you with a report on my work over the past month.

**GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP)**

- Over the past month, we embarked on wider consultations to build the GSA Board SWP for the next year. That consisted of a town hall, survey, and extensive meetings between the VP Student Life, Tiffany Kung, and different student groups. This year, we changed our communication strategy when advertising consultation events. We advertised the townhall and the survey in separate emails in addition to our newsletter. We also offered gift cards to encourage student participation. I was happy to see that student engagement increased. For instance, students' response to the survey hiked from 108 last year to 268 this year.
- As part of the consultation process, we met with Indigenous leaders on-campus to ensure that the SWP serves the purpose of Indigenization and decolonization. The Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) President expressed that their priority is to increase their funds to expand their activity. We also brought forward the idea of translating the SWP into different Indigenous languages for the purpose of language revitalization. We wanted to make sure that we approach this matter in a respectful way.
- The GSA Board held multiple workshops to discuss the outcomes from the consultation process and to decide on our priorities for the coming year, and the plan will be brought to Council in July.

**Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) External Review**

- The university released the report from the FGSR external review process. In the report, the external reviewers were able to accurately capture the assets and the weaknesses of FGSR. They highlighted a high level of bureaucracy and difficulty in communication between students and the faculty. However, the report highlighted the perceived significant importance of FGSR to remain a powerful central unit.
- The report provided several guidelines including changing FGSR's name to reflect the addition of post-doctoral fellows under the responsibility of FGSR. The guidelines also include revision to FGSR policies, simplifying communication procedures, having a working group to establish a sustainable funding standard for graduate students, and having another working group to lead innovation in graduate programs.

**Meeting with A Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)**

- I brought forward student and councillor concerns regarding the complete smoking ban on-campus. A Sharman explained that the matter was already studied heavily including all the concerns I raised, and that having designated smoking areas isn't feasible. He expressed that the proposal will come for a vote in General Faculties Council (GFC) probably next October and we can either vote with or against it.
- We also discussed the new Indigenous center in the Education Library. He explained that the place will house several services for Indigenous Peoples, including a community kitchen, ceremonies venues, offices for tuition support, and support for single mothers. The university is currently applying for a grant from the Government of Canada to be able to fund all these services.

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 May 2023 to 19 June 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

16 May	Meeting with Dean of Students Candidate
16 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Town Hall
16 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Interview

17 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) #2
17 May	External Advocacy 101
17 May	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
19 May	Meeting with A Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
19 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students Selection Committee
19 May	Meeting with H Vallianatos, Interim Dean of Students
19 May	Meeting with J Ames Re: Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)
23 May	Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
26 May	Indigenous Graduate Student Meeting
29 May	Board of Governors Financial Statements
29 May	General Faculties Council (GFC)
30 May	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
31 May	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
2 June	Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee (BLRSC)
5 June	Provost's Task Force (AI) Meeting
5 June	Strategic Work Plan Meeting (SWP)
6 June	Meeting with R Epp, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
13 June	Meeting with V Yiu, Provost and Vice-President Academic
16 June	Board of Governors
16 June	Meeting with A Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
19 June	Student Group Administration Consultation Meeting with the Students' Union
19 June	Budget 101

**GSA Board  
Report to GSA Council for the 19 June 2023 Meeting**

The GSA Board (GSAB) reports regularly to the 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 18 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 18.1 – 18.4

**17 May 2023 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Career Centre 2022-2023 Summary Report on Use of the GSA's Subsidy; Recommended Changes to GSA Policy, Sections I and J; Council Debrief; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **receive for information** the attached summary report, as submitted by the Career Centre. TK **MOVED**. HH Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION:** The GSA Board is asked to review, prior to onward transmission to GSA Council, recommended changes to GSA Policy, Sections I, J, and D, as shown in the attached document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. TK **MOVED**. HH Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**24 May 2023 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**31 May 2023 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Graduate Students in Residence Survey; Meeting Reports

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**7 June 2023 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**2023-2024 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for 19 June 2023**

To: GSA Council  
From: Rija Kamran  
Date: 16 June 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well. I have shared some highlights from the advocacy work I have been involved in since the last council meeting.

**May 16, 2023- Meeting with Dean of Students (DoS) Candidate**

I had the opportunity to meet DoS candidate, Dr. Anthony Singhal, along with other representatives from the GSA and Students' Union (UASU). There was some important discussion around Dr. Singhal's vision for DoS, leadership with the new dyad model, challenges, and opportunities for the DoS.

**May 17, 2023- Strategic Work Plan (SWP) #2**

I attended the SWP workshop all along with other Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) and GSA staff. We are continuing discussion on various key issues faced by graduate students that will inform the GSA's advocacy plan for the coming year. We went over the responses from the SWP member survey. We worked to ensure that pertinent issues brought up in the survey results are reflected in the SWP draft.

**May 23, 2023- Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean**

I met R. Epp along with the GSA President, B. Aziz. We discussed the statistics from the FGSR enrollment report, and potential areas and opportunities for enhancement in enrollment. We also discussed the PhD guaranteed funding package. We put forward some concerns from graduate students around the implementation of the guaranteed minimum funding.

**May 29, 2023- General Faculties Council (GFC)**

I attended the GFC meeting. Some key discussion items were the University Strategic Plan, Undergraduate Embedded Certificate Framework, and FGSR graduate exam committee membership changes. B. Aziz asked about the potential of a similar framework for graduate embedded certificates and K. Todd and J. Dunn mentioned that it is in the works and will be put forward once the undergraduate embedded certificate is approved.

**May 31, 2023- Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council**

I attended the FGSR Council meeting. Some key discussion items were changed in language and clarification around course-based maintenance of registration, Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC) report and timelines for completion of program.

**June 2, 2023 - GSA Events 101**

I attended the Events 101 session with other DEOs. This session, organized by the GSA Executive team, provided an orientation on the events offered by GSA through the year and the expectations from DEOs in preparation for these events.

**June 1, 13, 14, 2023- Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Search Committee Interviews**

I am participating in the search and selection process interviews for FGSR Vice-Provost and Dean. The proceedings from this meeting are confidential until made public.

Please feel free to reach out to me at [gsavpaca@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsavpaca@ualberta.ca) if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Thank you,

**Rija Kamran, Vice-President Academic 2023-2024**

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 May to 19 June 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

16 May	Standing Committee on Convocation (16 May)
16 May	Meetings with Dean of Students Candidate
16 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Town Hall
17 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) #2
18 May	General Faculties Council Academic Programs Committee (GFC PC)
18 May	Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Meeting
23 May	Meeting with K Peters, GFC Secretary and H Richholt, Assistant Secretary to GFC
23 May	Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
24 May	General Faculties Committee Nominating Committee (GFC NC)
25 May	GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
29 May	General Faculties Council (GFC)
30 May	Killam Mentoring Adjudication
30 May	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
30 May	Meeting with K Peters, GFC Secretary and H Richholt, Assistant Secretary to GFC
31 May	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
1 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Search Committee
2 June	GSA Events 101
5 June	Grad Program Support Team
5 June	Strategic Work Plan Meeting (SWP)
6 June	Engineering Convocation
8 June	Business, Law and Rehabilitation Medicine Convocation
9 June	Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy Convocation
13 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Search Committee Interviews
14 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Search Committee Interview
14 June	Vice-Provost and FGSR Dean Search Committee Debrief
14 June	Hors d'Oeuvres Reception
19 June	General Faculties Council Executive Committee
19 June	GSA Budget 101

**2023-2024 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the June 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Hamid Hassani  
Date: 16 June 2023

Dear Council Members,

I hope this report finds you well. As the Vice President External of the GSA, I am pleased to provide an update on recent activities and initiatives.

I would like to begin by mentioning that I was out of the country attending a series of conferences where I had the opportunity to present my PhD research at various universities. Specifically, I presented my PHANGS-JWST research at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and the Observatorio Astronómico de Madrid. It was an enriching experience to share my work with the academic community abroad and engage in fruitful discussions.

One of the key areas of focus during this period was collaborating with the GSA board members on the draft of the Strategic Work Plan (SWP). We are placing special emphasis on highlighting our work with ab-GPAC (Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council). We believe that ab-GPAC plays a crucial role in representing the interests and concerns of graduate students across the province. In light of this, we have identified the following objectives for the coming months:

1. Bringing students' concerns to the ab-GPAC board to improve the graduate student experience: We aim to act as the voice of graduate students, ensuring that their concerns, ideas, and suggestions are heard and addressed effectively by the ab-GPAC board.
2. Working collaboratively with the provincial government through ab-GPAC to address the concerns of international students and ensure support for any immigration plans: We recognize the unique challenges faced by international students and will actively engage with ab-GPAC and government stakeholders to advocate for their needs and provide necessary support.

In line with these objectives, I had the privilege of meeting with Jillian Ames, President of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA), on May 19th. Jillian is Métis from Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Human Geography in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

As part of our commitment to inclusivity and amplifying diverse perspectives, the GSA, as a member of ab-GPAC, ensures representation of various groups. Following discussions between myself and the GSA President, we have decided to invite Jillian to join our ab-GPAC team. By including an Indigenous leader like Jillian, we aim to incorporate an Indigenous lens within the most critical advocacy venues. This will enable us to pursue solid advocacy efforts for decolonization and effect real change rather than merely engaging in discourse. We believe that Jillian's valuable insights and experiences will contribute significantly to our collective endeavors. I am pleased to inform you that Jillian has agreed to join a member of ab-GPAC, and we are excited about the prospect of working together.

During the May 17th SWP meeting, we discussed various initiatives to enhance the graduate student experience. Our key goals include:

1. We are committed to working with the Campus Food Bank to offer a wider variety of meal options for students.

2. Increasing our visibility beyond Triffo Hall areas to create a stronger presence in the university community and engage more students in GSA activities and services.
3. Addressing student loneliness by fostering networking opportunities and creating platforms for students to connect, socialize, and form meaningful relationships.
4. Collaborating with EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) groups to promote inclusivity and ensure that all students feel supported and represented within the university community.
5. Advocating for co-op opportunities, for international students in particular, providing them with valuable workplace education experiences in Canada and supporting their career development.

By focusing on these goals, we aim to improve food security, enhance student well-being, foster community engagement, and address the unique needs of our diverse graduate student population.

Thank you for your attention and support. If any of you are interested in learning more or engaging in a discussion about our initiatives, we would be delighted to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Hamid Hassani, Vice-President External 2023-2024

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 May and 19 June 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). Please note the Vice-President External was on leave 22 May – 16 June 2023. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

17 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) #2
19 May	ab-GPAC Discussion with J Ames
19 June	Meeting with AIESEC
19 June	GSA Budget 101

**2023-2024 Vice-President Student Life  
Report to GSA Council for the 19 June 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Tiffany Kung  
Date: 16 June 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope your Spring semester has been going smoothly, and everyone is enjoying the warm weather. Please find attached my report regarding the meetings I've attended this month.

Meeting with Kumarie Achaibar-Morrison, Director of International Student and Visitor Services (May 16)

I met with K Achaibar-Morrison to discuss concerns brought up by the International Students' Association (ISA), and to discuss potential collaborations between our two offices. Various issues that were brought up will be discussed with other offices (i.e., Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) about inaccurate cost of living estimates and supervisor abuse/neglect; Carrie Smith Vice Provost, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) for bias in campus-wide Teaching Assistant competitions; Student Financial Support for increasing funding). Various supports currently offered were discussed (online orientation to adjust to life in Canada, English conversational club for learning social norms and English)

I have sent an email out to the ISA to poll their members regarding how effective the "Prepare for UAlberta" online checklist was; I have completed this checklist and noted minor improvements that could be made, however since I'm a domestic student, my insights are limited. Due to this, this work will move mostly to the VP Student Services (H Arshad), who will be working with K Achaibar-Morrison to revamp the UAlberta Plus orientation.

University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee (UASSC) (May 16)

The UASSC discussed the increased funding that will be used to increase the number of peace officers on campus, and go towards building more bike cages. This increase in the number of peace officers equates to varying personnel on shifts, not necessarily an increase in patrolling on campus. A second navigator is being hired to assist with University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) in offering support to those in crisis. Since UAPS already has one navigator from the Mustard Seed, the second navigator will come from a different organization to diversify the amount and types of support provided.

Meeting with the Dean of Students (DoS) (May 19)

The GSA team (VP Student Services, President, VP Student Life) met to discuss collaborations between the GSA and the DoS office. Work to improve communications, professional development opportunities, and possible social events were discussed. After collecting information on what is common among the U15 regarding instructional fees after finishing courses, further discussion will be held about potentially reducing instructional fees for students not taking courses. For example, it was brought up that the University of Calgary decreases instructional fees for PhD students after candidacy.

Meeting with the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) and Trevor Phillips, Office of the Registrar-Indigenous Recruitment (May 26)

The IGSA and GSA met to discuss potential collaborations and support the GSA could offer the IGSA. Following this discussion, I am in the process of reaching out to potentially set up meetings with First People's House, Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE), Florence Glanfield (Vice Provost, Indigenous Programming and Research), and Supporting Indigenous Language Revitalization (SILR) to discuss how the GSA can support these offices and the IGSA in their work. At this time, most of my efforts are focussed on beginning to build relationships for future work, which will be a major focus of my work this year. If you have any thoughts or comments on indigenization or other related Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) concerns, please feel free to email me at any time (gsavpsi@ualberta.ca).

Meeting with Heather Ritz, Days of Action Committee Organizer (May 29)

I met with Heather Ritz to discuss volunteering on a Days of Action subcommittee. Haseeb and I will both be attending the main committee meetings, and I will attend subcommittee meetings to help plan the Social Justice Day in Winter. For more details on Days of Action, please email me or see Haseeb (VP Student Services) report. Heather will also be joining us for this month's Council meeting to discuss Days of Action in more detail.

#### Meeting with Michael Griffiths, University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU) (May 31)

I met with Michael Griffiths, the UASU VP Student Life for 2023-2024. We discussed our portfolios and potential for collaboration, as many aspects of our portfolios overlap (e.g., residence and security), and we sit on many other committees together. We have agreed to stay in touch and discuss potential collaborations with each other as opportunities arise.

#### Meeting Regarding a Restorative Justice Presentation with Dini Van Eck (May 31)

I met with D Van Eck from the Office of Student Conduct & Accountability to discuss the possibility of giving a presentation to GSA Council on restorative justice. The presentation will be a very high-level overview of what restorative justice is, as well as actions the University has taken to move towards it. The presentation is tentatively planned for the July 17 Council meeting.

#### Meeting with Sarah Wolgemuth, Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) (June 5)

I met with S Wolgemuth from the SEAP team to discuss their work since the co-creation workshop in May. She mentioned that ideas are being scored based on impact (e.g., strong impact to a small community, smaller impact to a larger community), feasibility (e.g., can it be implemented within 2-3 years), and how to measure outcomes. An accountability framework is being created to ensure transparency in the project. The SEAP team will be creating a report at the end of June, which will be brought to Council to ask for feedback. I will meet with Sarah in 2 weeks to discuss updates, and potentially set up recurring meetings.

#### Meeting with Carrie Smith, Vice Provost, EDI (June 5)

I met with Carrie Smith for introductions and to discuss potential collaborations between the GSA and the EDI office. We discussed some of the initiatives coming out of her office. These included the creation of a course on the black diaspora experience, that may come for student feedback late summer / early Fall, and a black collective steering group made up of black faculty. She also mentioned work that her office is doing to address systemic ableism. For now, I will be joining the EDI Scoping group that meets quarterly, and we are in the process of setting up recurring meetings to touch base regularly on our initiatives and collaborations. At her suggestion, I will also be meeting with L Adam from the Dean of Students Office who works on EDI matters.

#### Meeting with Katherine Huising, Associate Vice President, Campus Services (June 12)

I met with K Huising from Campus Services to discuss a number of matters. Since the survey probing interest in a Graduate Students in Residence association (GSRA) was only sent out at the end of last week, I will summarize data on this survey next week to allow students ample time to respond and express interest. We discussed parking prices, where K Huising noted that parking is a profit center for the University, but once again mentioned the Saville parking lot pilot that will be launched in June. We also briefly discussed improving security in parking lots, and I encouraged her to continue to view security in a holistic way as she moves forward with discussions with UAPS on that topic.

#### EDI Scoping Group (June 14)

I met with the EDI scoping group which features many members of the University working on EDI initiatives in different sectors and faculties of the University. The group mentioned the first of many [EDI training modules](#) which will be an optional resource for students and professors. Translated captions are currently underway. Data about the make-up of employees in regards to EDI is [available now](#)—these data are collected via quarterly surveys that are sent out to new staff. Not many changes in staff makeup have been seen. Lastly, we discussed the [EDI strategic plan](#), its ['final' closing report](#) and [other reports](#). The group discussed the "What's Next" project that should be launched in February that will work to incorporate the [Scarborough charter](#), [Braiding the Past, Present, and Future](#), [Dimensions: EDI](#), and the [University's Strategic Plan](#). The group briefly discussed the importance of ensuring EDI work is centered rather than being treated as auxiliary, framing EDI work as 'righting wrongs' rather than 'doing

good', ensuring accountability in future work, and how the University and upper administration can be held accountable for their commitment to EDI.

If you're interested in sharing the EDI training module with your Department chairs or other relevant groups and would like assistance in preparing an email requesting that professors take this training, etc., please reach out to [gsavpsi@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsavpsi@ualberta.ca), and I would be more than happy to help you with this process.

In solidarity,  
Tiffany Kung, Vice President Student Life 2023-2024

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 May and 19 June 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

16 May	Meeting with K Achaibar-Morrison, Director, International Student and Visitor Services, University of Alberta International
16 May	University of Alberta Security and Safety Committee (UASSC)
16 May	Meeting with Dean of Students Candidate
16 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Town Hall
17 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) #2
19 May	Meeting with H Vallianatos, Interim Dean of Students
26 May	Indigenous Graduate Student Meeting
29 May	Meeting with H Ritz, Community Social Worker
30 May	Meeting with M Griffiths, SU VP Student Life
31 May	Meeting with D Van Eck, Student Conduct Officer
31 May	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
31 May	Social Media Plan Discussion
2 June	Events 101
5 June	Meeting with S Wolgemuth, MAPS Admin Manager
5 June	Strategic Work Plan Meeting (SWP)
8 June	Meeting with C Smith
12 June	Meeting with K Husing AVP Campus Services
13 June	Nursing, Public Health Convocation
13 June	Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences, Kinesiology, Sports and Rec Convocation
14 June	EDI Scoping Group
15 June	Native Studies and Education Convocation
19 June	Meeting with Students' Union (SU) re: student groups

**2022-2023 Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for 19 June 2023**

To: GSA Council  
From: Muhammad Haseeb Arshad  
Date: 16 June 2023

Dear Council Members,

I hope this report finds you with the best of health. For my meetings since 15 May 2023, I will use the following space to summarize some of the important ones.

- **Meeting with Dean of Students (DoS) Candidate:** On May 16th, a productive individual meeting was held with Dr. Anthony Singhal, during which an insightful discussion took place regarding his vision for the role he applied for. Representatives from the Students' Union (UASU), GSA, and Council on Student Affairs (COSA) were invited to participate. Attendees posed inquiries to Dr. Singhal concerning his perception of the position of DoS and the specific priorities he intended to establish. Dr. Singhal displayed a composed demeanor throughout the meeting; however, certain responses indicated a potential lack of comprehensive understanding regarding the responsibilities associated with the applied role.
- **Vice-Provost and Dean of Students (DoS) Selection Town Hall:** On May 16th, Dr. Singhal delivered a presentation outlining his perspective and vision for the role of DoS. Following the town hall presentation, a brief question and answer session was held, providing an opportunity for students and faculty members to inquire further about Dr. Singhal's proposed approach. During this session, attendees had the opportunity to seek clarification and express their queries regarding Dr. Singhal's vision for the DoS position. This interactive exchange allowed for a deeper understanding of his ideas and provided an avenue for open dialogue between the participants.
- **Meeting with H Vallianatos, Interim Dean of Students:** On May 19th, an introductory meeting was conducted with Helen Vallianatos, during which me, Bishoi and Tiffany engaged in a discussion regarding our respective portfolios and the key priorities we intend to focus on. I had the chance to discuss topics, including the reporting of Professional Development statistics concerning student reviews, Campus Food Bank, implementation of new initiatives for mental health, more tailored social events, and the Graduate Student Internship Program. Additionally, we engaged in an informal conversation regarding the idea of how the university can aid international students with their permanent resident applications. The meeting provided an opportunity to establish common ground and explore potential collaborative avenues to support the diverse needs of graduate students.
- **Vice-Provost and Dean of Students (DoS) Selection Committee:** On May 19th, a confidential meeting was held among the committee members, with the objective of recommending a suitable candidate to the Board of Governors for the position of DoS. The meeting involved a thorough deliberation process, during which the two publicly announced candidates were carefully assessed and extensively discussed. It is my understanding that Dr. Ravina Sanghera accepted the role, and I would like to extend my congratulations and well wishes to her. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Sanghera in enhancing the overall student experience on campus.
- **Days of Action (DOA):** On May 23rd, this was also an introductory meeting, with Heather Ritz, Wellness Supports and Days of Action Coordinator, for student interns on the DOA project, indicating that out of a pool of 47 candidates, she has shortlisted eight individuals for the final interview stage. As of my report, Aria has accepted the position as student intern with DOA. During the meeting, Heather expressed her desire to have increased student representation on the DOA committee, which currently has three or four vacant seats. I have proposed the inclusion of Tiffany, GSA Vice-President Student Life given that Michael, Vice President Student Life from the Students' Union, is a committee member. This decision was motivated by the committee's focus on initiatives related to mental health and equity, diversity, and inclusion.

- **GSA Grants 101:** On May 25th, Fiona Robertson, GSA Outreach Coordinator, provided a comprehensive overview of the academic travel grants, childcare grants, and emergency bursaries that are funded by the GSA. The presentation was highly informative and addressed certain misconceptions I had regarding the eligibility criteria for the childcare grants. Fiona clarified that contrary to my previous belief, it is not mandatory for one's child to be physically present in Edmonton in order to apply for this grant. Moreover, Fiona highlighted the process for emergency bursaries, explaining that the Student Financial Support team conducts an evaluation of the student's financial situation. If a recommendation is made by the SFS' team, the GSA staff subsequently approves the emergency grant. This ensures a comprehensive assessment of each student's circumstances, allowing for targeted financial support to be provided when needed.
- **Student Services-Student Management Committee Meeting (SS-SMC):** On May 31st, Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost, Students and Enrollment, chaired the meeting and explained the primary focus of the committee. She emphasized the importance of fostering a transformative relationship between the university and its students, rather than maintaining a transactional approach, which she believed was the prevailing scenario for most students. Melissa further acknowledged that the committee possessed the capacity to provide recommendations on the implementation of FreshService, a frontline service triaging software, and its potential in reducing wait times for various services. During the meeting, the committee proposed a suggestion to allocate dedicated time slots for different services offered by the university aimed to enhance staff management and ensure more efficient service delivery.
- **Campus Food Bank (CFB) Student Leader Forum:** On May 31st, Erin O'Neil, Executive Director of the CFB, organized an introductory meeting to provide an overview of the services offered by the CFB, its operational structure, and its funding sources. The meeting also included the sharing of noteworthy statistics pertaining to the monthly client base and the ethnic diversity of CFB users. Notably, it was revealed that approximately 70% of CFB clients are graduate students, prompting a critical question about whether adequate support is being provided to CFB by the GSA. This raised the need to consider further actions, particularly in light of the growing number of CFB visits and the potential for surpassing pre-pandemic figures. It is crucial to explore the possibility of intensifying efforts to accommodate this increasing demand, particularly as the university aims to enhance international student enrolment figures in the next academic years.
- **National Mental Health Standard GSA Onboarding:** On June 1st, I met with Kevin Friese, Assistant Dean, Health and Wellness, to facilitate my understanding of the National Standard for Mental Health and their approach to its implementation. During the meeting, it was announced that Bri Bucalo, National Mental Health Standard Project Coordinator, who was present in the previous council meeting, would be stepping down from her position as project coordinator. In her stead, Chelsea Butler, Wellness Supports, will assume the role starting in July. The purpose of this meeting was to enable both Chelsea and I to familiarize the work undertaken by Kevin and Bri in relation to data collection. It is my understanding that by the end of August, a draft document will be prepared, serving as an action plan for the implementation of the National Standard. This document will outline the necessary steps and strategies to ensure compliance with the standard and promote mental health across the university community.
- **Strategic Work Plan Meeting (SWP):** On June 5th, we reviewed the draft language of the SWP. Additionally, the meeting highlighted the possibility of promoting inclusivity by making the SWP accessible to Indigenous communities through translation efforts and engaging in further conversations with Indigenous groups on campus.
- **Engineering Convocation:** On June 6th, I had the privilege of representing the GSA in the Chancellor's platform party during the convocation ceremony. This was my first time attending such an event, and it was a remarkable experience to participate as a non-graduating student representing the GSA. The convocation ceremony was truly enriching, and one of the standout moments was the speech delivered by Dr. Scott Graham, the recipient of the honorary degree. His address resonated with the audience, conveying a powerful message. He emphasized that while everyone is striving for success, it is essential to remember to live, laugh, and enjoy the journey during these peak years of personal growth. Dr. Graham's words served as a valuable takeaway for all in attendance, reminding us to find joy, embrace life's moments, and not solely focus on accomplishments. It was a meaningful and uplifting experience that added depth and perspective to the convocation ceremony.

- **Events 101:** On June 6th, Fiona Robertson, GSA Outreach Coordinator, presented an overview of the major events hosted by the GSA throughout the academic year, including their respective budgets and her planning strategies. During the meeting, I raised the question of providing food options for students based on their specific ethnic and religious preferences. Fiona acknowledged that this idea had been on her radar, but implementation presented challenges due to the existing contract with Horowitz catering company, which offered limited options. However, Fiona expressed her commitment to addressing this issue by discussing the possibility of setting up a separate snack station that could cater to special dietary needs. This approach would allow for greater flexibility in providing food options that align with diverse cultural and religious requirements.
- **Hors d'Oeuvres Reception:** On June 7th, I attended the Arts Convocation. Following the convocation ceremony, an honorarium was presented to the honorary degree recipients by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor/President of the University of Alberta. The reception provided a valuable occasion to advocate for the GSA and engage in networking opportunities, as numerous high-level administrative staff members were in attendance.
- **Campus Food Bank (CFB) Board Meeting:** On June 8th, Erin O'Neil, submitted her Executive Director report, highlighting the new challenges faced by the CFB, including the mandatory accreditation from the National Standard of Food Bank of Canada. The CFB has a timeframe of 18 months to implement all the necessary changes. Failure to do so would result in the loss of their membership with Canada Food Banks, which would significantly impact their budget, accounting for approximately one-third of their funding. Erin emphasized the need for passionate individuals to join the CFB board and take on responsibilities. She also proposed the idea of hiring a specialist who could assist with bylaw and policy rewrites. Discussions were held regarding potential changes to the timing of the annual group meeting, as the Annual General Meeting traditionally takes place in September. More time is required to make necessary amendments to the bylaws and policies of the CFB.  
During the board meeting, it became evident that Erin is concerned about the challenges faced by the CFB and expressed the desire for advocacy on behalf of the organization. Erin believes that the current Times Education Ranking owes much of its success to the hard work of the CFB, and it is important for the university to acknowledge and credit their efforts. Furthermore, it was surprising to discover that there is no budget allocation from the university to the CFB and I will continue to gather more information on this.
- **Campus Food Bank (CFB) Meeting Review:** On June 9th, I met with Michael (VP Student Life from the UASU), and Erin O'Neil from the CFB. The primary focus of the meeting was to explore ways in which the CFB board could be improved and address the underlying tensions experienced during board meetings. Erin displayed openness to suggestions and expressed disappointment in some board members who were underperforming. However, she acknowledged that many of these positions are voluntary, respecting that individuals may have other commitments that limit their involvement. Nonetheless, there is a pressing need for motivated individuals who can actively contribute to the planning and operations of the board. We discussed the possibility of seeking financial support from the Dean of Students to secure one or two staff members for the CFB. This initiative aims to enhance the resources and capabilities of the CFB. Furthermore, I would like to extend an invitation to all council members to contemplate strategies for transforming the current visionary board into an operational board. This shift would involve fostering an environment where the board actively engages in practical planning and execution, leading to tangible outcomes.
- **U-Pass Administrative Committee:** On June 15th, the UPASS administration meeting took place, where several issues related to delayed ARC card activation were discussed. Jason Lorenz from Information Services and Technology (IST) explained that there is a delay of 16-24 hours for card activation with the City of Edmonton's system. Additionally, there is a backlog of card activations, meaning that in certain cases, delays of a week or two may occur. While real-time activation is technically possible with the system acquired by ETS, there appears to be a lack of motivation to implement it. Discussions also revolved around ARC card distribution for the upcoming fall semester, which will primarily be conducted through vending machines and retailers as students will be required to purchase ARC cards moving forward, as the system has been rolled out to the general public. We will be working to build communications to ensure students know how to get an ARC card come the Fall.

These were the highlights of the meetings that I have attended up until the submission of this report. I look forward to working with all the members of GSA Council. Please feel free to reach out to me at vpsse@ualberta.ca if you have any concerns or would like to discuss any matters with me.

Thank you,

**Muhammad Haseeb Arshad,**  
Vice-President Student Services 2022-2023

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 1 May to 15 May 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

16 May	Meeting with K Achaibar-Morrison, Director, International Student and Visitor Services, University of Alberta International
16 May	Meeting with Dean of Students (DoS) Candidate
16 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students (DoS) Town Hall
16 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students (DoS) Committee Debrief
17 May	SWP Session #2
18 May	U-Pass Administration
19 May	Meeting with H Vallianatos, Interim Dean of Students
19 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students Selection (DoS) Committee
23 May	Meeting with H Ritz
24 May	Days of Action
25 May	GSA Grants 101
31 May	Student Services-Student Management Committee Meeting (SS-SMC)
31 May	Campus Food Bank (CFB) Student Leader Forum
1 June	National Standard GSA Onboarding
5 June	Strategic Work Plan Meeting (SWP)
6 June	Engineering Convocation
6 June	GSA Events 101
7 June	Arts Convocation
7 June	Hors d'Oeuvres Reception
8 June	Campus Food Bank (CFB) Board Meeting
9 June	Campus Food Bank (CFB) Meeting Review
15 June	U-Pass Administrative Committee
19 June	GSA Budget 101

**2023-2024 Associate Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for 19 June 2023**

To: GSA Council  
From: Muneeb Masood Raja  
Date: 16 June 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I have attended several meetings since 15 May 2023, which are listed in the table below. The details of these meetings are stated below.

**Meeting with K Gunn, Public Service Alliance Canada (PSAC) (18 May):**

We discussed planning for the upcoming year to increase labour outreach on campus and the role of PSAC in this regard. The dates for the first outreach table and planning meeting were also finalized in this meeting.

**U of A Joint Worksite Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) (19 May):**

The focus of this meeting was around the university's safety action plan 2023-2025, which states the different health and safety initiatives taken by the university along a timeline. The supervisor safety declaration was also introduced, in which all supervisors will be required to sign a declaration to make sure that they know and understand what their responsibilities are as a supervisor regarding the safety of their team members. Recent safety incidents and potential incidents were also reported in this meeting. In the end, everyone was encouraged to wear green on 05 July 2023 to celebrate National Injury Prevention Day.

**Meeting with Shared Services (23 May):**

The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss the issue of contract delays and the steps taken by Shared Services to eliminate this problem. Shared Services has held several meetings with departments and given them a deadline for each term to finalize and send academically-employed graduate student (AEGS) contracts to Shared Services. These deadlines are 25 April for Summer/Spring, 18 August for Fall, and 4 December for Winter term. They have also advised faculties to send contracts on a rolling basis instead of sending bulk all at once. It was assured that if Shared Services receives the contracts from faculties before the above deadlines, there will be no more contract delays on their part. It is advised to all council members to encourage students to complete all the requirements on their part as soon as possible for appointments.

**GSA/Public Service Alliance Canada (PSAC) Labour Outreach and Strategic Planning Meeting (29 May):**

To increase awareness of the GSA labour union, an outreach table was set up in collaboration with PSAC in the main Quad area. We met several academically-employed graduate students (AEGSs) and had a conversation with them about different issues that they are facing, and their feedback related to the collective agreement. Later the same day, a planning meeting was also held in which members of the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) committee and PSAC representatives were present. The focus of this meeting was to discuss this year's priorities including outreach and engagement, strengthening our union, learning opportunities, and potentials for professional development.

**Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Triennial Convention (9-11 June):**

I had the opportunity and pleasure to attend the PSAC Triennial Convention Prairie Region held in Regina between 9 and 11 June 2023 where I got to interact and connect with labour representatives from the University of Calgary, Postdoctoral Association members from the University of Lethbridge, and delegates from different locals. Based on the recent experience of the biggest strike in Canadian history and the discussions around it, it was concluded that better communication and education, transparency, and accountability are the most important aspects that make a union strong. Also, it was heart-warming to see the union supporting the ones in need. Finally, the delegates re-elected Marianne Hladum as the Regional Executive Vice-President of the Prairie Region Council of PSAC.

Finally, I would really appreciate any feedback from the respected council members related to any labour related matters.

Thank you,  
Muneeb Masood Raja, Associate Vice-President Labour 2023-2024

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 May and 19 June 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

17 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) #2
18 May	Meeting with K Gunn, Public Service Alliance Canada (PSAC)
19 May	U of A Joint Worksite Health and Safety Committee (JHSC)
23 May	Meeting with Shared Services
26 May	University Research and Innovation Advisory Committee
29 May	GSA/Public Service Alliance Canada (PSAC) Labour Outreach and Strategic Planning Meeting
1 June	Meeting with a Graduate Student
5 June	Strategic Work Plan Meeting (SWP)
6 June	GSA Events 101
7 June	Arts Convocation
7 June	Hors d'Oeuvres Reception
8-12 June	Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Triennial Convention
19 June	GSA Budget 101

**GSA Labour Relations Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 19 June 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Muneeb Raja  
Date: 16 June 2023

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC), with assistance from the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), hosted a labour tabling event on 29 May in the Quad for members to come and meet who is behind the scenes on the GSA labour front. We were able to connect with many graduate student workers to talk about the collective agreement and hand out swag. We look forward to hosting similar events in the future.

Members of the GSA LRC and the PSAC then gathered to discuss priorities for the upcoming year, including outreach and engagement, learning opportunities, and potentials for professional development.

The GSA continues to recruit Faculty Stewards, and the GSA LRC has been reviewing applications and appointing individuals to these roles. We are still looking for individuals to fill these roles and encourage applications from any faculty, and are looking for individuals from the following faculties in particular: Business, Campus St. Jean, Kinesiology and Recreation, Law, Public Health, and Rehabilitation Medicine. If you know of any academically-employed graduate students (AEGSs) that could be a good fit in any of these faculties, please encourage them to reach out to me.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,  
Muneeb Raja, Associate Vice-President Labour and Chair of the GSA LRC

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 19 June 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Violet Sun  
Date: 16 June 2023

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 email.

Sincerely,  
Violet Sun, Chair of the GSA NoC

**Memorandum to GSA Councillors**

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

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

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

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

### GSA Standing Committees

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

Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 26 May and 2 and 9 June with a nomination deadline of 13 June 2023. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the terms of office of three (3) GSA ACB members coming to an end were emailed to current GSA ACB members on 16 May 2023. **Two (2) GSA Councillors and one (1) GSA member were interested in seeking an additional term and nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 7 – Nominees for Renewal of Positions on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board).**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 26 May and 2 and 9 June with a nomination deadline of 14 June 2023. **One nomination was received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 7 – Nominee for GSA Elections and Referenda Committee).**

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

Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 26 May and 2 and 9 June with a nomination deadline of 14 June 2023. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

### GSA Officers

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

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 26 May and 2 and 9 June with a nomination deadline of 14 June 2023. **Three (3) nominations were received; There will be an electronic vote (see Item 7 – Nominees for GSA Senator).**

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

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 26 May and 2 and 9 June with a nomination deadline of 14 June 2023. **Two (2) nominations were received; There will be an electronic vote (see Item 7 – Nominees for GSA Speaker and Deputy Speaker).**

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

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 26 May and 2 and 9 June with a nomination deadline of 14 June 2023. **One (1) nomination was received; There will be an electronic vote (see Item 7 – Nominees for GSA Speaker and Deputy Speaker).**

**4) GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO) (One (1) Position for a GSA Member)**

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 26 May and 2 and 9 June with a nomination deadline of 14 June 2023. **Two (2) nominations were received; There will be an electronic vote (see Item 7 – Nominees for GSA Chief Returning Officer).**

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

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 26 May and 2 and 9 June with a nomination deadline of 14 June 2023. **No nominations were received; the vacancy will be advertised again.**

**GSA Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the 19 June 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Lewie Moodley  
Date: 16 June 2023

Dear GSA Council Members,

As the GSA's fiscal year ended on 31 March 2023, we are now in the process of planning for our annual audit. The audit, as well as the preparation of the first term's budget and expenditure financial report of our new fiscal year, is expected to be completed in the coming months. Following their review by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, both of these items will come forward to the GSA Council. 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 been working to complete 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 2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, which of course is on the agenda for the July meeting to hear feedback from members of GSA Council. The finalized version of the Plan will also come before GSA Council at next month's meeting.

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached (pages 18.1 – 18.4) and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Lewie Moodley, GSA Executive Director

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 17 May 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 10 May 2023:

#### Strategic

- Developing a timeline for the development of next year's GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, as well as developing the 2022-2023 annual report.
- SWP workshops and townhall part of the development for GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement).

#### Operations

- Finalising transition plans and associated tasks.
- Staff onboarding
- Finalising the PD for the "Strategic Research Coordinator", job ad to go out after May long weekend
- Organising training for VP's in the areas of jurisdiction and workplace harassment and bullying.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to Council and advertised via Newsletter), General Faculties Council (GFC) (advertised via Newsletter), and Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA graduate students).
- Facebook = 1981 followers (up 3 from 1 May); Facebook posts reached 580 users since 24 April. Twitter = 1,342 followers (up 1 from 1 May); our tweets earned 120 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1016 followers (down 2 from 1 May); Instagram posts reached "317" users over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods, new fiscal year started 1 April; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 April. Only two applications remain from the prior fiscal year.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 24 May 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 17 May 2023:

#### Strategic

- Developing a timeline for the development of next year's GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, as well as developing the 2022-2023 annual report.

- SWP workshops and townhall part of the development for GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement).

### Operations

- Finalising transition plans and associated tasks.
- Finalising the PD for the “Strategic Research Coordinator “, job ad to go out after May long weekend. This is on target for release at the end of the week.
- Spoke with Salopek, pricing proposal expected this week on training for VP’s in the areas of jurisdiction and workplace harassment and bullying.
- Contacting advertisers for the 2023-2024 GSA Planner, including Studentcare (as part of agreement) and Dean of Students (annual funding)
- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to Council), and Faculty of Arts Council. Green and Gold Grant Adjudication Committee (advertised via newsletter), Senator, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) (all advertised via newsletter), and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA graduate students).
- Facebook = 1985 followers (up 6 from 17 May); Facebook posts reached 119 users since 17 May. Twitter = 1,343 followers (up 2 from 17 May); our tweets earned 131 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 1027 followers (up 9 from 17 May; Instagram posts reached “300” users over the last week.
- Processing grants – new funding period opened 1 April for Academic Travel Grants (ATGs), Child Care Grants (CCGs) – next period starts 1 July.

### **Management Report to the GSA Board, 31 May 2023**

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 24 May 2023:

### Strategic

- Developing a timeline for the development of next year’s GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, as well as developing the 2022-2023 annual report.
- SWP workshops and survey results for the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation

- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement, outreach and strategic planning with PSAC).

### Operations

- Finalising transition plans and associated tasks.
- PD has been finalized for the new role known as the Strategic Operations Coordinator, it has been sent to NASA for approval. Once approved the ad will go out.
- Received the pricing proposal training for VP's in the areas of jurisdiction and workplace harassment and bullying. Further to this we will also have received the quote for training VP's on working with Indigenous peoples.
- Contacting advertisers for the 2023-2024 GSA Planner, including Studentcare (as part of agreement) and Dean of Students (annual funding).
- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to Council), and Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA students), General Facilities Committee (advertised via newsletter), Green and Gold Grant Adjudication Committee (advertised via newsletter), Senator, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) (all advertised via newsletter), and Pharmacy Graduate Student Association (advertised directly to PGSA students).
- Facebook = 1987 followers (up 2 from 22 May); Facebook posts reached 201 users since 22 May. Twitter = 1,340 followers (down 3 from 22 May); our tweets earned 79 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1028 followers (up 1 from 22 May); Instagram posts reached "8" users over the last week.
- Processing grants – new funding period opened 1 April for Academic Travel Grants (ATGs), Child Care Grants (CCGs) – next period starts 1 July.

### **Management Report to the GSA Board, 7 June 2023**

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 31 May 2023:

### Strategic

- Developing a timeline for the development of next year's GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, as well as developing the 2022-2023 annual report.
- Ongoing SWP workshops and survey results for the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Ongoing Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement, outreach and strategic planning with PSAC).

**Operations**

- Finalising transition plans and associated tasks.
- PD has been finalized for the new role known as the Strategic Operations Coordinator, it has been sent to NASA for approval. Once approved the ad will go out.
- Review the workplace bullying and harassment policy, Laura will book into VP's calendars a time to do this online module. Laura will be booking the training related to working with indigenous peoples as well.
- Contacting advertisers for the 2023-2024 GSA Planner, including Studentcare (as part of agreement) and Dean of Students (annual funding).
- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to Council), and Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA students), General Facilities Committee (advertised via newsletter), Green and Gold Grant Adjudication Committee (advertised via newsletter), Senator, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) (all advertised via newsletter), Pharmacy Graduate Student Association (advertised directly to PGSA students), and Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science (advertised directly to AFNS students).
- Facebook = 1988 followers (up 1 from 29 May); Facebook posts reached "338" users since 29 May. Twitter = 1,341 followers (up 1 from 29 May); our tweets earned 61 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1026 followers (down 2 from 29 May; Instagram posts reached "329" users over the last week.
- Processing grants – new funding period opened 1 April for Academic Travel Grants (ATGs), Child Care Grants (CCGs) – next period starts 1 July.