

**GSA Council Meeting AGENDA**  
Monday, 23 January 2023 at 6:00 pm  
Held in-person in Council Chamber  
**(Item 9 Amended Monday, 23 January)**

*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 Dweej Shah in the Chair**

**OPEN SESSION**

**Attached Numbered  
Pages**

1. Approval of the 23 January 2023 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 21 November 2022 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 21 November 2022 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 mins*)

**Presentations**

5. Graduate Student Supports and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Unit Review (*suggested time: 30 mins*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item and introduce the guests.**  
  
**Guests:** Dr Verna Yiu (Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic); Melissa Padfield (Deputy Provost, Students and Enrolment); Dr Roger Epp (Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR))
6. Student Experience Action Plan (*suggested time: 30 mins*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item and introduce the guests.**  
  
**Guests:** Sarah Wolgemuth (Assistant Dean, Student Life, Student Services); Melissa Padfield (Deputy Provost, Students and Enrolment); Gail Breum (Sr. Project Manager, Registrar Office Enrolment Systems and Service Innovation)

## Discussion Items

7. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP): Update to GSA Council (*suggested time: 20 min*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item.**

*Attachment:*

- i. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2022-2023: Update to GSA Council **7.0 - 7.2**

## Elections

8. GSA Council Elections (*suggested time – to be determined*)  
**Elisabeth Widjaja (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item.**

GSA Standing Committee

- a. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominee for the GSA BFC (1 member vacancy) **8.0 - 8.1**

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

9. President (**Anas Fassih, President**)
- i. President's Report (**submitted Monday, 23 January 2023**) **9.0 - 9.3**
  - ii. GSA Board Report **9.4**
  - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
  - iv. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report **9.5**
  - v. GSA Governance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
10. Vice-President Academic (**Bishoi Aziz, Vice-President Academic**)
- i. Vice-President Academic's Report **10.0 - 10.1**
11. Vice-President External (**Janmejaya Rao, Vice-President External**)
- i. Vice-President External's Report **11.0 - 11.1**
  - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
12. Vice-President Labour (**Hiren Kaklotar, Vice-President Labour**)
- i. Vice-President Labour's Report **12.0**
  - ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
13. Vice-President Student Services (**Monisha Vinod, Vice-President Student Services**)
- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report **13.0 - 13.1**
14. Senator (**vacant**)
- i. Senator's Report (**no written report at this time**)
15. Speaker (**Dweej Shah, Speaker**)
- i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
16. Chief Returning Officer (**Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer**)
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report **16.0**
17. GSA Nominating Committee (**Elisabeth Widjaja, GSA Nominating Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report **17.0 - 17.2**
18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report **18.0**
19. GSA Management (**Erika Heiberg, Acting Executive Director**)
- i. Acting Executive Director's Report **19.0 - 19.4**

**Question Period**

- 20. Written Questions (**none received at this time**)
- 21. Oral Questions

**Adjournment**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

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

Speaker Dweej Shah in the Chair.

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

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

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

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

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

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

Motion **PASSED**.

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

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

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

### **GSA Council Member Announcements**

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

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

### **Discussion Items**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 7. Campus Food Bank

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

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

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

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

### Action Items

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

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

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

Motion **PASSED** Unanimously.

#### 9. GSA Officer Portfolio Restructuring

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

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

Motion **PASSED**.

### Elections

#### 10. GSA Council Elections

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

GSA Standing Committees

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

Prepared by M Toghrai and F Robertson for GSA Council 21 November 2022

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The nominees were not all present to address GSA Council.

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

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

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

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

## **Reports**

### **11. President**

#### **i. President’s Report:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No written report at this time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No written report at this time.

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

No written report at this time.

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

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

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

**ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No written report at this time.

**15. Vice-President Student Services**

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

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

**16. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

**17. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**18. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.

**19. GSA Nominating Committee**

**i. GSA Nominating Committee Report**

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

**20. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

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

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

**21. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

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

**Question Period**

**22. Written Questions**

**23. Oral Questions**

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

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

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

## 2022-2023 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 23 January 2023 Update to GSA Council

Each spring the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (hereafter referred to, informally, as the student executive team) work with the GSA Board to produce a Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The SWP is the document that steers and prioritizes the work and initiatives of the GSA, and is subject to revision as opportunities arise, shifting directions as needed. The SWP reflects the GSA's vision and mission to advocate for all graduate students to the University of Alberta and the Alberta Government for a safe, supportive, respectful, accessible, and inclusive community that fosters the multi-faceted roles played by graduate students.

This year's consultation initiatives were carried out in Summer 2022 and yielded a significant amount of feedback which helped shape the 2022-2023 SWP. The final document was then approved by the GSA Board and received by GSA Council for information at their July meeting. It can be viewed [on the GSA website](#). As in previous years, updates are scheduled to be brought to GSA Council in October 2022, January 2023, and April 2023. This is the second of these updates. The first can be viewed [on the GSA website](#).

A selection of ongoing work and new initiatives pursued and undertaken by the 2022-2023 student executive team (President Anas Fassih, VP Academic Bishoi Aziz, VP External Janmejay Rao, VP Labour Hiren Kaklotar, and VP Student Services Monisha Vinod), in accord with the 2022-2023 SWP, can be found below.

- With significant consideration for the many changing roles across University administration, the GSA student executive team continues to place significant attention upon the work of fostering collegial and productive relationships with stakeholders in all issues and areas that are crucial to the graduate student experience at the University of Alberta. Among others, regular meetings are held with the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), the University President, the Dean of Students, the Board of Governors Chair, the Interim University Provost and the two Deputy Provosts, colleagues at UAlberta International, and the City of Edmonton;
- Extensive collaboration continues with Dr. Roger Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR, on moving forward with a proposal on institutional minimum for doctoral funding packages. This pursuit has been of high priority for the GSA, and the Office of the Provost under Dr. Verna Yiu has also been a notable supporter of this initiative. FGSR recently circulated a survey to all graduate program coordinators in December and next steps will be articulated based on this feedback;
- Further to the GSA advocacy carried out on behalf of students impacted by political conflict in Ukraine and Iran, FGSR has committed to, 1) the waiving of application fees for Iranian students, and 2) admission deferrals that maintain funding offers for adversely impacted students;
- Increasing costs of living and education continue to adversely impact graduate students:
  - Tuition remains of utmost importance to advocacy efforts advanced by the GSA and by our partners at the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC). The GSA also continues to urge the University to prioritize the needs of graduate students as they pertain to academic offerings and services, and to reducing fees, and student funding and scholarships;
  - In advocating for affordable housing for graduate students, which is an issue that grows ever more pressing, the GSA President and VP External have continued to remain in close contact with Katherine Huisling (Associate Vice-President, Campus Services) and Andrew Sharman (Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)). The University is currently pursuing the possibility of a partnership with the City of Edmonton;



# Graduate Students' Association

## University of Alberta

- As previously indicated, the VP Academic, VP Labour, and VP Student Services have each dedicated time and effort to serving as representatives of the GSA on the respective selection committees for the three College Dean positions. This work is essential as it helps shape the future vision of the University;
- The VP Academic is currently serving as a member of the Academic Integrity Policy Working Group on a review of the policies underpinning the work of Student Conduct and Accountability, with the broad goal of decriminalizing them;
- Further collaborative work by the VP Academic relates to the pursuit of more interdisciplinary graduate program offerings;
- The team is continuing to engage the graduate student body through in-person events with the aim of advancing community building and wellness. The GSA Coffee Breaks are continuing to be held in Triffo Hall, and most recently October saw the return of the GSA Fall Social, held in Dinwoodie Lounge. The latter was a chance to bring a larger cohort of graduate students together for an evening of mingling, games, and food;
  - January also saw the return of a Winter term Welcome event in-person (the Winter Welcome Open House), for the first time since 2020.
- The GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC) is next scheduled to meet in late January 2023. Most recently, the committee was pleased to invite Dr. Lisa Purdy to join their October meeting as part of efforts out of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry to consult on their ongoing offering of a unique stream of community support and ombuds services to graduate students in that Faculty;
- The work of the University's Sexual Violence Response Coordinator culminated in a new policy suite including Student Conduct Policy and a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy, which were approved in November 2022. The Sexual Violence Response Coordinator position was created by the University after extensive advocacy from the GSA and the SU;
- The following efforts pertain to the role of the GSA as the union for Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs): The GSA Negotiating Team (which is composed of a subset of the GSA Labour Relations Committee) was pleased to reach a tentative agreement with the University on the next Collective Agreement in October. AEGSs voted to ratify this proposal in November, and the Board of Governors voted to ratify the agreement in December, allowing the new terms to come fully into play this January;
  - The new 2022-2024 GSA Collective Agreement includes (among others): salary increases, a designated leave period for attending academic conference, a designated leave period for traditional Indigenous practices, and more detailed language on vacation provisions and religious holidays;
- During the funding period spanning 1 October 2022 to 1 January 2023, the GSA disbursed \$156,644 as Academic Travel Grants, Child Care Grants, Emergency Bursaries, and Graduate Student Group Grants. Eligibility criteria and usage of GSA grants, awards, and bursaries are being closely monitored to continue to ensure they are in alignment with the needs of graduate students;
- The VP Student Services has continued to remain in close contact with our partners at Campus Food Bank (CFB), as this campus unit has proven increasingly essential in the past number of years. The GSA previously dedicated a surplus fund package in Summer 2022, in addition to our regular annual financial contribution. Further action will hinge on upcoming reports from CFB;
- The University's continued work to centralize student services continues to warrant significant attention from the GSA and from the VP Student Services, who serves as a member of the Student Services Service Management Committee. Here the ideal outcome is to sustain, as much as possible, the tailored support graduate students receive from their academic units/programs;

780-492-2175

[www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association](http://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association)

1-49 Triffo Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2E1



- The GSA is offering support to the Office of the Dean of Students on two fronts: firstly as part of their efforts to implement the [National Standard on Mental Health and Wellness for Post-Secondary Students](#), and secondly as part of their research project on the experience of [post-secondary student homelessness \(PSSH\)](#). The VP Student Services is dedicated to serving as representative of the graduate student voice in conversations with the Office of the Dean of Students;
- In November, the GSA President attended the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference in Montreal and—along with the GSA VP External—the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Advocacy Week in Ottawa. These events provided networking opportunities to connect with partner associations across the country, as well the chance to meet with federal government stakeholders. The GSA's priorities at the federal level include advocacy for increased Tri-Council funding and more comprehensive pathways to Permanent Residency for international students;
- The proposed restructuring to the GSA Directly-Elected Officer team was passed by GSA Council in November 2022. This change, which was brought forward in response to changes to the Alberta labour landscape and specifically the legislated responsibilities of the GSA as an organization that have manifested in the past number of years, will result in the addition of a new VP Student Life role and the evolution of the existing VP Labour role into an Associate VP Labour role. The Associate VP Labour would be elected through an electoral process parallel to the GSA General Election where Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs) serve as the pool of eligible voters; *and*
- The GSA Board is currently engaged in the process of hiring the new GSA Executive Director. The posting was circulated widely in December 2022 and interviews are expected to take place shortly. Further updates on the process will be brought to GSA Council in the President's reports.

The student executive team will continue to work diligently in accordance with the 2022-2023 SWP. The next and final update on this matter will be brought to GSA Council in April 2023.

## GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

**GSA BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (GSA BFC) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Member was circulated in the GSA Newsletters of 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. One (1) nomination was received.

The overall mandate of the GSA BFC “is to advise on the financial affairs of the GSA (including the long-term planning and priorities of the GSA in light of its strategic goals) and on the provision of the long-term financial health of the organization.” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee, Section K.POL.5.1).

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 23 January 2023 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 23 January 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 23 January 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. Eklovepreet Singh (Mechanical Engineering)**

**Jurisdiction:**

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 8.1. The biography and resume is presented as received (ie not edited).**

**Nominations for GSA BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (GSA BFC)**  
**(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR GSA A MEMBER)**  
**One (1) Nominee**

**1. Eklovepreet Singh**

<b>Statement of Interest</b>
My deep interest in finance and budgeting bolstered by my experience as a budget planner in one of the premier organizations in India “Hindustan Petroleum (Government of India undertaking)” pose a perfect fit for me to be part of the current committee. I was profoundly involved in planning and scheduling for more than \$10 million of capital expenditure of the organization, monitored and prepared MIS reports for the same.
<b>Bio</b>
I have more than 5 years of experience at my previous employment handling budgeting, planning and scheduling the capital expenditure of the organization. I believe my skills of negotiation and handling multiple government tenders and contracts of worth more than \$1 million would serve as an asset for me on the team.

**President**  
**Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting**

Anas Fassih  
23 January 2023

Dear Council colleagues,

Happy New Year and welcome back! Things have been busy since the last time I reported to the Council, but we have made considerable progress in our advocacy for graduate students in the University as documented by the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) that is before you for update in this Council meeting. Without going into many details about my work over the last month in this report, as I'll be reporting fulsomely during the Council meeting, I wish to provide a brief synopsis of the main highlights from the meetings I attended last month.

Predominant among the highlights is the outcome of our conversation with the University administration regarding tuition this year. Conversations have taken place in the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC) with the presence of senior administration members led by the interim Provost, Dr. Verna Yiu, and our colleagues from the Students' Union. The University is proposing a 5.5% increase in domestic tuition effective in 2023/2024 and a 6.5% increase in international tuition impacting international graduate students to start in the Fall of 2024. On behalf of the GSA, we voiced our discontent and disapproval of any increase this year, a principle we uphold as we represent the larger membership of graduate students. As a response, the University indicated that tuition at the UAlberta is low compared to the peer U15 institutions in Canada. They also committed to an increase in financial aids for students, removal of instalment fees, and to offering a guaranteed minimum funding package for graduate students, an initiative the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research is currently embarked on consultation for.

This proposed tuition increase has equally spurred discontent among some departmental students' groups on campus who have publicly disseminated letters calling on the GSA executive team to embark on some mobilization against tuition. These letters have been circulated to you as requested by those member groups, and I look forward to a conversation on tuition and to update you on what the GSA has done so far to advocate for a measure of relief for graduate students with the University.

As a matter of principle, we view tuition affordability as an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) issue, especially when it comes to international graduate students who are already, in financial, housing and food precarity. We hope that our advocacy for guaranteed minimum funding packages for doctoral students, affordable housing, and for an increase of funds to Campus Food Bank would mitigate some of this precarity and make graduate education an equitable experience on campus.

Within the same vein, I have been working with the President of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA), Jillian Ames, on some advocacy priorities for indigenous students on Campus. I recently invited Jillian for a meeting between me and Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), to discuss the opportunity of providing some physical space for indigenous students on campus. We also discussed opportunities for fundraising for IGSA to support initiatives that foster indigeneity on campus and raise awareness of truth and reconciliation in this country. Andrew expressed his staunch support for indigenous graduate students on campus, and I thought it was an extremely productive meeting. In addition, as I probably reported before, we are brainstorming ideas for the GSA EDI workplan and I am glad to say that we have garnered some feedback from EDIC members that center around the vitality of collaboration with the Landing and First Nations' House in organising events to raise awareness. The GSA staff are also tasked to do some research on EDI work in other GSAs and universities in Canada, as well as investigate if other GSAs have an EDI strategic workplan. This would of use for EDIC members as we collective aspire for finalizing the document sometimes this year.

Finally, I am happy to report on our progress to hire the GSA Executive Director. The process we have developed has proved successful so far as we have moved on with pre-selecting and pre-screening candidates for interviews that would likely take place within the next 10 days. We have received strong applications, and we plan to round off the hiring process by early February. Many thanks to the hiring committee members from both the executive team and staff.

This concludes my monthly report. I am happy to field any question in the Council meeting or in my email:  
[gsa.president@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.president@ualberta.ca)

Respectfully,

### **2022-2023 GSA President's Meetings Attended (Anas)**

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 13 December 2022 to 22 January 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing*

14 December	Meeting with A Monteiro, Students' Union (SU) President
15 December	Meeting with V Yiu, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
16 December	Meeting with A Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities & Operations)
16 December	GSA Coffee Break
19 December	Meeting with B Flanagan, University President
19 December	Monthly Meeting with S Sulemana, UCalgary GSA President
20 December	Executive Director Hiring Committee
21 December	Meeting with R Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
4 January	Meeting with R Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
4 January	Meeting with B Flanagan, University President
5 January	GSA Winter Welcome Open House
9 January	Meeting with J Smith, Chief of Staff, President's Office
9 January	Meeting with S Wolgemuth Re: Student Experience Project Onboarding
10 January	Executive Director Hiring Committee
10 January	Discover Governance: Meet the Executives
11 January	Public Health Response Team (PHRT)
11 January	Meeting with A Monteiro, Students' Union (SU) President
12 January	Post-Secondary Student Homelessness Confidential Interview
12 January	Tuition and Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
13 January	Executive Director Hiring Committee
13 January	GSA Coffee Break
13 January	Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA)
13 January	Meeting with K Mundel re: Teaching, Learning and Evaluation (TLE) Policy Suite: Appendix A: Student Perspectives of Teaching (SPOT)
17 January	Meeting with R Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
17-19 January	Pre-Screen Calls with ED Candidates
18 January	Meeting with H Vallianatos, Associate Dean of Students
19 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy Week: Meeting with D Nicolaides, Advanced Minister of Education
19 January	Digital Wayfinding/Interactive Media
19 January	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) Oversight Committee
19 January	GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EDIC)
19 January	Meeting with V Yiu, Provost; M Padfield, Deputy Provost; and K Todd, Deputy Provost
20 January	Meeting with A Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities & Operations)
20 January	U of A Board of Governors, General Faculties Council & Senate Summit

To the graduate workers of the University of Alberta and our representatives at the Graduate Student Association with the Public Service Alliance of Canada:

We at the Graduate Psychology Association are emailing on behalf of the students in the Psychology department of both the Arts and Science faculties at the University. As you all know, following the 5-year U of A for Tomorrow restructuring initiative and the removal of the tuition freeze, graduate working conditions have suffered. This has included:

- 1) The centralization of contract distributions through the Shared Services AVP office in the Fall of 2022, resulting in students working illegally without contracts for up to a month following the start of the semester.
- 2) Locking students into teaching courses for Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 a year in advance, only to slash their promised salaries in half either shortly before, or a month after the Fall 2022 term began.
- 3) Delays of up to a month in receiving reimbursements for conference and travel-related expenses from Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 due to understaffed and unorganized administration.

Most recently, the University has opted to propose tuition increases for domestic and international graduate students of up to 5.5% in 2023, with a 6.5% increase for international students expected the following year.

This tuition hike follows several semesters in which multiple students in our department and others have experienced food and living expense insecurity due to insufficient university financial support. This has necessitated actions such as frequenting the campus food bank, skipping meals, or working additional jobs to make rent (an often impossible option for international students with limited work visas). Due to these working conditions, the GPA has polled our student population about the tuition hike. Almost all (93%) of students find the tuition increase unfair. All students were interested in indicating dislike for the tuition increase to the GSA, and an overwhelming majority (~75%) either support or are open to the possibility of striking.

Graduate student workers already exist in precarity, and this tuition hike will only force workers into more vulnerable positions. We at the GPA petition our GSA to advocate for graduate student wellbeing by strongly protesting this tuition increase; to inform the student population of our ability to strike and what it may entail; and to poll the student population campus-wide for interest in striking.

Sincerely,

The Graduate Psychology Association

## Tuition Hike

- [sgsa@ualberta.ca](mailto:sgsa@ualberta.ca)

Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 8:34 PM

To: - [gpsych <gpsych@ualberta.ca>](mailto:gpsych@ualberta.ca)

Cc: - [gsapresi <gsapresi@ualberta.ca>](mailto:gsapresi@ualberta.ca), - [gsagen <gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca>](mailto:gsagen@ualberta.ca)

The Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA) stands in solidarity with the Graduate Psychology Association and other departmental student organizations at the University of Alberta (UofA) to indicate our strong opposition to the University's recent plan of increasing graduate tuition.

As part of its ongoing and disastrous restructuring, the UofA is proposing to raise graduate tuition by 5.5% in 2023, with another increase of 6.5% in the following year. This is unacceptable, as graduate students are already struggling with the consequences of funding cuts, heightened living costs in Alberta, and various forms of labour exploitation exercised by the UofA.

Graduate students have been the prime victim of the restructuring and the financial irresponsibility of UofA's leadership. Just last term, hundreds of graduate students had experienced delays in receiving their employment contracts and salary payment as a result of the reduction in departmental staff and the centralization of administrative procedures to the understaffed Shared Services. Up to now, there are still students working without a contract.

The SGSA strongly condemns the plan to increase graduate tuition. The University must immediately stop any attempt to further the burdens of graduate students, who have been suffering and working in a highly precarious condition despite their continuous and significant contributions to the teaching and research of this institution.

We urge the Graduate Student's Association, the only official labour union representing all of us, and other grassroots level student organizations to stand up against this unjust plan and the university leadership. We will collaborate with other departmental student associations to take actions addressing such an oppression.

Executive Committee of the Sociology Graduate Student Association

[Quoted text hidden]

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SGSA

Facebook: [uofaSGSA](https://www.facebook.com/uofaSGSA) | Instagram: [uofa\\_sgsa](https://www.instagram.com/uofa_sgsa)

GSA Board  
Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting

The GSA Board (GSAB) reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. GSA Council members are always able to ask questions about items that were discussed in closed session. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The Directly-Elected Officers and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 19 (Acting Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 19.1 – 19.5.

**14 December 2022 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR); Actual Expenses Associated with Attendance at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference, 31 October-4 November 2022 in Montreal, QC; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

Members **AGREED** that the GSA Board to **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary of actual expenses incurred through attendance at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference, 31 October-4 November 2022 in Montreal, QC. BA **MOVED**. MV Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**21 December 2022 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Board Strategic Work Plan Draft Update to GSA Council; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**11 January 2023 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Health and Dental Plan Change of Coverage Report Fall 2022 and Annual Claims Report 2021-2022; Actual Expenses Associated with Attendance at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Advocacy Week, 20-26 November 2022 in Ottawa, ON; GSA Board Strategic Work Plan Draft Update to GSA Council; GSA President's Citations; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION #1:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Change of Coverage Report Fall 2022, as prepared by Studentcare. AF **MOVED**. JR Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION #2:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Annual Claims Report 2021-2022, as prepared by Studentcare. JR **MOVED**. BA Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board to **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary of actual expenses incurred through attendance at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Advocacy Week, 20-26 November 2022 in Ottawa ON. AF **MOVED**. JR Seconded. **CARRIED**.

Members **MOVED** into **Closed Session**.

Board Members discussed **the President's Citations**.

Members **MOVED** out of **Closed Session**.

**18 January 2023 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

GSA President's Citations; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

Members **MOVED** into **Closed Session**.

Board Members discussed **the President's Citations**.

Members **MOVED** out of **Closed Session**.

**GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih  
Date: 20 January 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) was most recently scheduled to meet on 19 January 2023. While the meeting was not able to commence in an official capacity, I am pleased to report that members were able to have a fruitful informal discussion on potential projects to pursue. Most salient are initiatives aimed at fostering safe and healthy academic experiences for LGBTQPIANU+ graduate students, and for Muslim graduate students. I look forward to bringing you more details on our community-building efforts in the very near future.

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

**Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Bishoi Aziz  
Date: 20 January 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I sincerely hope that all of you had the chance to enjoy a great holiday break. It is a well-deserved break to all of you given the tedious effort you spend in both your studies and your work in governance and student representation. It is my pleasure to report on the significant outcomes of my advocacy work over the past month.

**Guaranteed PhD minimum funding package**

- GSA President, Anas Fassih, and I had several meetings with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean, Dr. Roger Epp. He informed us that FGSR had received the responses to the environmental scan that was circulated to the departments' heads regarding graduate funding. FGSR is yet to analyze the responses to provide a document. He stated that despite many departments supporting the initiative, many are skeptical about the project given the perceived financial risk. Many departments are concerned to either have to reduce the size of their PhD programs or to move funds for the initiative from the Masters programs. Dr. Epp is currently engaged with his counterpart at the University of Calgary to understand their strategy to mitigate these risks. I inquired about the possibility that the University's central administration could take part in alleviating that risk. Dr. Epp noted that this option was also being discussed.

**College of Health Sciences (CHS) College Dean Selection**

- I participated actively in the process of selecting the CHS Dean from the beginning, including the job description, job posting, interview questions, assessing candidates' applications, interviewing candidate/s, hosting a candidate meeting with university students, and the only candidate to move to the final interview stage (Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn), and making the recommendation to the University President on this candidate. It was an extreme honor to represent graduate students in the process of selecting such a crucial leader of the University.

**Tuition Proposal**

- I have been engaged with the Provost's office together with the GSA President and representatives of the Students' Union to negotiate the new tuition proposal for 2023-2024 for domestic students and 2024-2025 for international students. The Provost decided to present the proposal to the Board of Governors for approval to be announced later. We used that opportunity to assert the importance of the guaranteed PhD minimum funding package as a way to alleviate the tuition burden for graduate students. We also actively advocated for the redefinition of the different degrees' duration, which will have a significant impact on the total tuition paid by students. Dr. Epp, the FGSR Interim Dean, shared with us the median duration students needed for the different degrees. While the median PhD students needed around 6 years to graduate, median MSc thesis-based students complete in less than three years. These numbers will give us a strong tool to negotiate the redefinition with the Government of Alberta, who defines the program lengths.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

- The University is currently working on redesigning the Academic Integrity and Misconduct Policy. We are redefining academic misconduct and its delineation from professional misconduct. In that context, I raised the risks imposed by artificial intelligence (AI) tools in that realm. For example, how to approach a student using ChatGPT for assignments and projects submissions, and how to detect such acts. The working group identified that concern as an extremely challenging task for the University, given the fast pace of technology development in that field and the difficulty the University faces to follow that pace. We continue to discuss ensuring the credibility of the university degrees in the AI era.

**Engaging with graduate students and "Discover Governance"**

- During the past month, we successfully held social events to engage with graduate students. That included the GSA Winter Welcome Open House. In the event, all the Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) and the GSA staff were present to welcome new students, orient them on the GSA and services we offer, and mingle with the new students and make them feel at home. We also held an additional coffee break in the middle of the month to interact with graduate students and identify their problems and suggestions.
- In addition to the social events, we also held a Discover-Governance session to Meet the Executives. In that session, all the DEOs met with students considering running for the different DEO or Councilor-at-Large positions in the upcoming elections. We offered a thorough explanation of the duties, workloads, and benefits of the different portfolios. We encouraged students to consider running for this honorable task of representing their fellow graduate students.

#### **GSA Executive Director (ED) Hiring**

- Internally, we were busy with the process of hiring a new ED. We are very close to finalize the hiring committee terms of reference and interviewing questions. Given the extreme importance of the position, we strive to foster effective and fulsome communication in the committee. We are looking forward to start interviewing candidates soon.

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 13 December 2022 to 23 January 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

15 December	College of Health Sciences (CHS) College Dean Selection Committee Public Forum
15 December	College of Health Sciences (CHS) College Dean Selection Committee Interview
19 December	Meeting with a Graduate Student
20 December	Executive Director Hiring Committee
21 December	Meeting with a Graduate Student
21 December	Meeting with R Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
4 January	Meeting with R Epp, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
5 January	GSA Winter Welcome Open House
10 January	Executive Director Hiring Committee
10 January	Discover Governance: Meet the Executives
12 January	General Faculties' Council Program Committee (GFC PC)
12 January	Academic Integrity Policy Working Group
12 January	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC) Meeting
13 January	Executive Director Hiring Committee
13 January	GSA Coffee Break
13 January	Meeting with K Mundel re: Teaching, Learning and Evaluation (TLE) Policy Suite: Appendix A: Student Perspectives of Teaching (SPOT)
16 January	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
18 January	2023 Festival of Teaching and Learning (FoTL) Steering Committee
18 January	General Faculties Council Policy Review Committee (GFC PRC)
20 January	U of A Board of Governors, General Faculties Council & Senate Summit
23 January	General Faculties Council Executive Subcommittee on Governance and Procedural Oversight (GFC EXEC GPO)

**Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Janmejay Rao  
Date: 20 January 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well. I wish to extend my felicitations on the advent of the New Year and trust that you had a delightful winter break. The schedule for this month is relatively sparse in terms of engagements. However, the preceding two months were primarily devoted to facilitating the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council's (ab-GPAC) Advocacy Week.

The Board of Directors at ab-GPAC were able to compile a comprehensive advocacy document that highlights the paramount issues pertinent to graduate students, such as Mental Health, the International Immigration Stream for Graduate Students, and Post-Secondary Education Affordability. I oversaw the preparation of this document and drafted a subtext that specifically addressed the critical concerns of international students and advocated for creating a dedicated immigration stream as part of the advocacy document by ab-GPAC.

Here are my updates on the meeting with the New Democrat Party (NDP) Caucus and Minister of Advanced Education as a part of the Advocacy Week.

In 2017, the Alberta government announced that it would provide "\$25.8 million over three years to protect and improve mental health resources for colleges and universities." To date, post-secondary institutions have continued to receive these grants. In advocating for mental health, ab-GPAC recommended the provincial government ensure long-term mental health funding to Alberta post-secondary institutions to support graduate student mental health services. The NDP Caucus and the Minister of Advanced Education were quite receptive to this issue and championed continuing funding mental health in Alberta post-secondary institutions.

Furthermore, ab-GPAC also recommended that the Government of Alberta expand the eligibility criteria for the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program to allow more opportunities for international graduate students to remain in the province after graduation. The response from both the NDP and Government was quite positive, as during times of labour shortages, it is crucial to retain and bring more international talent to Alberta. A meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education and Minister of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism is being planned to put this into motion.

An intense discussion was conducted regarding post-secondary education affordability. The Minister of Advanced Education provided reasons to justify the budget cuts over the past few years. However, the Minister also talked about increasing or maintaining funding for high-demand programs to expand enrollment, and to help Alberta's economy.

Apart from the aforementioned updates, I spent time on internal meetings as listed below. Additionally, I worked diligently alongside the other Directly-Elected Officials for matters within our GSA.

These were the main highlights in terms of external advocacy. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask in the GSA Council meeting or reach out to me via ([gsa.vpexternal@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vpexternal@ualberta.ca)). I hope to bring a positive change in external advocacy and look forward to working with you all.

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

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 13 December 2022 to 22 January 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

16 December	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)
16 December	United Way Committee

20 December	Emergency Bursary (EB) Appeal
16 December	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)
16 December	United Way Committee
20 December	Emergency Bursary (EB) Appeal
9 January	Meeting with K Huising, Associate Vice-President, Campus Services
5 January	GSA Winter Welcome Open House
10 January	Executive Director Hiring Committee
10 January	Discover Governance: Meet the Executives
11 January	Post-Secondary Education Task Force
11 January	University Strategic Planning (USP) Steering Committee
13 January	Executive Director Hiring Committee
13 January	GSA Coffee Break
17 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy Week: Meeting with an NDP Constituent
19 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy Week: Meeting with D Nicolaidis, Advanced Minister of Education
20 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board

**Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Hiren Kaklotar  
Date: 20 January 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the beautiful weather. Last month was not so busy for me, as most of my meetings were confidential.

**Collective Agreement Update:**

As I updated in the last month's report, the ratification vote was passed by academically-employed graduate students (AEGSs) as well as the University Board of Governors. We are now working on publishing the new collective agreement, which will be available on our website for members to reference soon.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, a GSA Labour 101 session was organised in the hybrid format. I discussed the major points related to the collective agreement and gave the opportunity for AEGSs to ask questions. I can also organize another session in the future should any member require more information or have any concerns, and am happy to come to your department or group to host a Labour 101 if you are interested.

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

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

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 13 December 2022 and 23 January 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

14 December	College of Natural and Applied Sciences College Dean and Vice-Provost Selection Committee Public Forum
14 December	College of Natural and Applied Sciences College Dean and Vice-Provost Selection Committee Interviews
20 December	Executive Director Hiring Committee
5 January	Meeting with a Graduate Student
9 January	Meeting with a Graduate Student
13 January	Executive Director Hiring Committee
13 January	GSA Coffee Break
17 January	GSA Labour 101
17 January	University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee (UASSC)
18 January	Meeting with H Vallianatos, Associate Dean of Students

**2022-2023 Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Monisha Vinod  
Date: 20 Jan 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope the new year is off to a great start for you! I wish you all the very best with everything you do this new year.

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

- I am continuing to help with the work of the Days of Action Committee, where the first day to be acknowledged this new year is World Social Justice Day, where we're having programming from Feb 14<sup>th</sup> to Feb 16<sup>th</sup> to recognise what this day means in the form of 'living books' sharing their stories. Details on speakers and registrations for each event will go out next week so please keep an eye out for that.
- We had a Discover Governance session where attendees asked questions of the GSA executive team on their roles to better understand the requirements of each role and how they would find a fit if they considered running for elections.
- The interview process for the College of Social Sciences and Humanities Dean Selection has been very interesting and a great learning experience. I facilitated a discussion between a few GSA councillors from the faculties of Business, Law, Arts and Education with the two candidates that were up for consideration. Deliberations are ongoing.
- There may be some issues with Arc cards loading the U-Pass funds sufficiently and so Edmonton Transit Service is allowing students who experience this issue to show their student ID along with an Arc card on transit for proof that they have a U-Pass.
- I'm looking forward to a couple of projects this month that I'm involved in, one of which is the Student Experience Action Plan where the U of A is consulting with students, faculty, staff and alumni to develop this plan to support the University Strategic Plan. We need your perspectives and input to do this well! Feel free to do so [here](#), and they will also be joining us for this Council meeting to gather feedback.
- The Campus Food Bank (CFB) is always a priority in my strategic work plan initiatives and so I am gathering more information on how the Campus Food Bank pantry project is going, as well as its future expansion and use of campus space. As part of the advocacy plans and work for CFB, there may be some discussions on creating focus groups. More on that in my report next month.

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

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

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 13 December 2022 to 22 January 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). Monisha was on leave from 6 - 13 January. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

14 December	Living Library Planning Meeting
16 December	GSA Coffee Break
19 December	College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) College Dean Selection Committee Interviews
20 December	World Social Justice Day Meeting
20 December	Executive Director Hiring Committee
4 January	Campus Climate Survey Working Group

5 January	GSA Winter Welcome Open House
10 January	Discover Governance: Meet the Executives
16 January	Student Housing Stability Working Group
16 January	College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) College Dean Selection Committee Public Forum
16 January	College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) College Dean Selection Committee Meetings/Interviews
17 January	Students Who Parent
17 January	College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) College Dean Selection Committee Interviews
18 January	College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) College Dean Selection Committee
19 January	U-Pass Administrative Committee
	General Faculties Council Student Conduct Policy Committee(GFC SCPC)
19 January	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) Oversight Committee

**Chief Returning Officer  
Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sophie Shi  
Date: 20 January 2023

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

I met with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) on 12 January 2023. As reported by Jennifer in the GSA ERC report, the committee is discussing an array of matters related to the 2023 General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour. The agenda for the All-Candidates Meeting was also approved by me on the recommendation of the GSA ERC at this meeting.

The full timeline is available on the [GSA website](#). Below are some highlights:

**Tuesday, 31 January 2023:** The nomination period for the General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour opens

**Tuesday, 14 February 2023 at 2 PM MST:** Nominations close for the General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour

**Monday, 27 February 2023 at 12 PM MST:** GSA Candidates Forum – Located in SUB (Alumni Room)

**Tuesday, 28 February 2023 at 10 AM MST to Thursday, 2 March 2023 at 10 AM MST:** Voting period for the General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour

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

Sincerely,  
Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer 2022-2023

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Elisabeth Widjaja  
Date: 20 January 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 e-mail.

Sincerely,  
Elisabeth Widjaja, Chair of the GSA NoC

**Memorandum to GSA Councillors**

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

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

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

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

### GSA Standing Committees

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

Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 17 January 2023. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**2) GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (One (1) GSA Member Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. **One nomination was received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 8 – Nominee for GSA Budget and Finance Committee).**

**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 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be readvertised.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

**6) GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (GSAB/NoC) (One (1) Joint GSA Councillor Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. **No nominations were received; these vacancies 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 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

External**1) Chancellor Joint Committee (One (1) Position for a GSA Member)**

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. **One nomination was received; Joseph Nanda was elected.**

**2) Chief Librarian Review Committee (One (1) Position for a GSA Member)**

Information regarding this position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 6 and 13 January with a nomination deadline of 18 January 2023. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Jennifer Bertrand  
Date: 20 January 2023

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) met on 12 January 2023 to continue planning the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour.

At this meeting, members reviewed and recommended to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour All-Candidates Meeting agenda, the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour Forum questions, and the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour ballots. The GSA ERC also discussed social-media communications graphics and election procedures for the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Bertrand, Chair of the GSA ERC

**Acting Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the 23 January 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Erika Heiberg  
Date: 20 January 2023

Dear GSA Council Members,

As reported last month, the office, following a meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) in December and with another scheduled for this week, is beginning to prepare the 2023-2024 GSA operating budget. The budget will come before GSA Council in February. When the operating budget comes forward, it will be accompanied by the most recent term financial report so that GSA Council members can also be kept apprised of where the organization's finances currently sit. A Budget 101 session will also be offered in advance of the February meeting to help familiarize members with the GSA's budget.

We are also continuing work with the Chief Returning Officer and members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee to prepare for the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, which will happen in February. In advance of the General Election nomination period opening (31 January 2023), the office hosted Discover Governance sessions in December and January for those interested in running for elected office. If you were unable to attend any of these sessions but are interested in participating, please let me know and we can arrange for a separate session to be held.

With the start of a new term, we have recirculated the online GSA orientation e-class and are also planning the organization of various in-person events to be held in the coming months. Finally, the office has been accepting applications for the GSA Recognition Awards and staff are supporting the GSA Awards Selection Committee as it adjudicates applications.

We continue to work through the process of hiring a new Executive Director. This process has taken longer than anticipated and the staff shortage has not gone unnoticed. To assist with this vacancy, we have temporarily hired an Office Support staff to get us through this busy time of year.

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

Best,  
Erika Heiberg, Acting Executive Director

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 14 December 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 7 December 2022:

#### Strategic

- Preparing for the office closure dates over the holiday break (prepping January GSA Council and GSA Board material, etc).
- Circulating materials for the cancelled 12 December meeting of GSA Council
- Development of the 2023-2024 operating budget (following the review of various recommendations with the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)).
- Drafting the second Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council for review by the GSA Board.
- Continued support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it plans the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour (the committee will next meet in the new year to finalize things).
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee).

#### Operations

- Opening of the application period for GSA Recognition Awards, hosting a Recognition Awards 101 session, and providing training sessions for adjudicators.
- Council remuneration for 2021-2022.
- Hiring process for a temporary, part-time position in the office as advertised in the GSA newsletter.
- Forward planning for Winter Orientation events; GSA eClass is active for new students to access now.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and Alberta School of Business Dean Selection Committee (advertised directly to graduate students in the School of Business).
- Facebook = 1,953 followers (up 2 from 6 December); Facebook posts reached 649 users in the past week. Twitter = 1,326 followers (up 1 from 6 December); our tweets earned 495 “impressions” in the last week. Instagram = 961 followers (up 0 from 6 December); Instagram posts reached 355 users in the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = ongoing, slowing down, which is normal this time of year; GSA Child Care Grants = closed and new granting period will open 1 January; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = ongoing. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 21 December 2022

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 14 December 2022:

#### Strategic

- Finalizing the office closure dates over the holiday break (prepping January GSA Council and GSA Board material, etc).
- Development of the 2023-2024 operating budget (following the review of various recommendations with the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)).

- Drafting the second Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council for review by the GSA Board.
- Continued support for the GSA Nominating Committee in offering Discover Governance sessions and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it plans the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour (the committee will next meet in the new year to finalize things).
- 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, planning for Labour 101s in January re: new agreement).

### Operations

- Council remuneration for 2021-2022.
- Hiring process for a temporary, part-time position in the office as advertised in the GSA newsletter.
- Forward planning for Winter Orientation events; GSA eClass is active for new students to access now.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies will be advertised again in January for GSA Standing Committees.
- Facebook = 1,958 followers (up 5 from 13 December); Facebook posts reached 189 users in the past week. Twitter = 1,326 followers (up 0 from 13 December); our tweets earned 371 “impressions” in the last week. Instagram = 974 followers (up 13 from 13 December); Instagram posts reached 309 users in the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = ongoing; GSA Child Care Grants = closed and new granting period will open 1 January; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = ongoing. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### **Management Report to the GSA Board, 11 January 2023**

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 21 December 2022:

### Strategic

- Preparing for the first mailing of GSA Council on Friday.
- Discover Governance programming, with first event on 10 January.
- GSA Winter Welcome Open House event wrap up; successful event with about 35 people in attendance
- Development of the 2023-2024 operating budget.
- Continued support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it plans the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour.
- 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, planning for Labour 101 in January, distribution of new agreement).

### Operations

- Receiving applications for GSA Recognition Awards and providing training sessions for adjudicators.
- GSA Executive Director Hiring Committee work is ongoing – finalizing Terms of Reference and workshopping interview questions.

- Council remuneration for 2021-2022.
- Forward planning for GSA Volunteer Appreciation (early March) and GSA Awards Night (mid-March).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council). Also soliciting nominations for the positions of Senator, Deputy Speaker, and Deputy Returning Officer (advertised via the GSA newsletter), positions on the Nomination of Chancellor Joint Committee and Chief Librarian Review Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), and assisting the Elementary Education Graduate Students' Association (EEGSA) GSA Councillor election.
- Facebook = 1958 followers (up 2 from 20 December); Facebook posts reached 507 users since 20 December. Twitter = 1,321 followers (down 5 from 20 December; our tweets earned 1,300 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 972 followers (down 2 from 20 December); Instagram posts reached 538 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 January (\$54,966 disbursed in the last period); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 January (\$78,000 disbursed in the last period); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods (\$28,254 disbursed since 1 April 2021); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 January (\$8,578 disbursed in the last period). All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 18 January 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 11 January 2023:

#### Strategic

- Preparing for the second mailing of GSA Council on Friday.
- Planning and hosting Discover Governance programming.
- GSA Winter Welcome Open House event wrap up; successful event with about 35 people in attendance
- Development of the 2023-2024 operating budget and most recent term financial report in advance of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) on 27 January.
- Continued support for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it plans the 2023 GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour and preparing for the opening of nominations on 31 January.
- 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, planning for Labour 101 in January, distribution of new agreement).

#### Operations

- Received applications for GSA Recognition Awards and preparing for the adjudication process. 110 applications received this year, compared to 118 received last year (last year saw higher than usual numbers; typically 100-120 applications are received, so we are on target this year).
- GSA Executive Director Hiring Committee work is ongoing – finalizing Terms of Reference and workshopping interview questions.
- Council remuneration for 2021-2022.
- Forward planning for GSA Volunteer Appreciation (early March) and GSA Awards Night (mid-March).

- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council). Also soliciting nominations for the positions of Senator, Deputy Speaker, and Deputy Returning Officer (advertised via the GSA newsletter), positions on the Nomination of Chancellor Joint Committee and Chief Librarian Review Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), and assisting the Elementary Education Graduate Students' Association (EEGSA) GSA Councillor election.
- Facebook = 1961 followers (up 3 from 11 January); Facebook posts reached 137 users since 11 January. Twitter = 1,323 followers (up 2 from 11 January; our tweets earned 331 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 976 followers (up 4 from 11 January); Instagram posts reached 34 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 January (travel applications remain open, with links to Travel Directive and Field Research Office; uptake on travel option remains very low); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 January. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.