

**GSA Council Meeting AGENDA**  
Monday, 10 May 2021 at 6:00 pm  
Held electronically via Zoom

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

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

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

**Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair**

**OPEN SESSION**

**Attached  
Numbered Pages**

1. Approval of the 10 May 2021 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 19 April 2021 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 19 April 2021 GSA Council Meeting
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership (*suggested time: 1 min*)
  - i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
  - ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

**2.0 - 2.4**

**GSA Council Member Announcements**

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

**Discussion Items**

5. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Consultation (*suggested time: 15 min*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item**  
*Members will be asked to provide feedback on the strategic priorities that the GSA Board will be focusing on in the upcoming year and outlined in the Strategic Work Plan (SWP). For reference, the 2020-2021 SWP can be found [here](#).*
6. Academic Restructuring Update (*suggested time: 10 min*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item.**

**Elections:** None at the time

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

7. President (**Anas Fassih, President**)
  - i. President's Report
    - a. 2020-2021 President

**7.0 - 7.1**

Prepared by E Heiberg for GSA Council 10 May 2021

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b.	2021-2022 President	7.2
ii.	GSA Board Report	7.3
iii.	GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	
iv.	GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report	7.4
v.	GSA Governance Committee Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Vice-President Academic (Kathy Haddadkar, Vice-President Academic)</b>	
i.	Vice-President Academic's Report	
a.	2020-2021 Report	8.0
b.	2021-2022 Report	8.1 - 8.2
<b>9.</b>	<b>Vice-President External (Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, Vice-President External)</b>	
i.	Vice-President External's Report	
a.	2020-2021 Report	9.0 - 9.1
b.	2021-2022 Report	9.2
ii.	GSA Awards Selection Committee Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Vice-President Labour (Jessica Grenke, Vice-President Labour)</b>	
i.	Vice-President Labour's Report	
a.	2020-2021 Report	10.0
b.	2021-2022 Report	10.1
ii.	GSA Labour Relations Committee Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Vice-President Student Services (Paresh Kumar, Vice-President Student Services)</b>	
i.	Vice-President Student Services' Report	
a.	2020-2021 Report	11.0
b.	2021-2022 Report	11.1
<b>12.</b>	<b>Senator (Marla Palakkamanil, Senator)</b>	
i.	Senator's Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Speaker (Pranidhi Baddam, Speaker)</b>	
i.	Speaker's Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Chief Returning Officer (Michael Huang, Chief Returning Officer)</b>	
i.	Chief Returning Officer's Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	
<b>15.</b>	<b>GSA Nominating Committee (Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Chair)</b>	
i.	GSA Nominating Committee Report	15.0 - 15.1
<b>16.</b>	<b>GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)</b>	
i.	GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report <b>(no written report at this time)</b>	
<b>17.</b>	<b>GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, Executive Director)</b>	
i.	Executive Director's Report	17.0 - 17.3

#### **Question Period**

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

**19. Oral Questions**

#### **Adjournment**

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, 19 April 2021 at 6:00 pm  
Held online via Zoom

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Marc Waddingham (President)	Zhiying Wang (AFNS)	Matt Ormandy (KSR)	Shubham Soni (Paediatrics)
Sachiketha Reddy (VP Academic)	Kyla Cangiano (Anthropology)	Teresa Kumblathan (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Erika Poitras (Pharmacology)
Anas Fassih (VP External)	Allan Yarahmady (Biochemistry)	Tim Nessim (Law)	Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Umesh Nimmathi (VP Labour)	Jessica Grenke (Biological Science)	Kim Jones (Library & Information Studies)	Spencer Hayden (Philosophy)
Sridhar Parasharamatham (VP Student Services)	Georgio Cheruvelil; Kathryn MacDonald (Business MBA)	Matt Kelley (Linguistics)	Zoe Frank (Physical Therapy)
Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker)	Maggie Cascadden (Business PhD)	Alain Gervais (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Logan Cooke (Physics)
Priyanka Maripuri (Deputy Speaker)	Kazuki Ueda (Cell Biology)	David Gordon (Mechanical Engineering)	Robert Reklow (Physiology)
Michael Huang (Chief Returning Officer)	Omnath Ekambaram (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Jennifer McDevitt; Erin O'Neil (Media & Technology Studies)	Telisa Courtney (Political Science)
Sophie Shi (Deputy Returning Officer)	Arsh Hazrah (Chemistry)	Adrienne Watson (Medical Genetics)	Precious Amusan (Psychiatry)
Marla Palakkamanil (Senator)	Fernando Hernandez Garcia (Computing Science)	Quinten Kieser (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Connor Lambert (Psychology)
Paramita Chaudhuri Basu (Councillor-at-Large)	Collette Slevinsky (Drama)	Danielle Munsterman (Medicine)	Kathryn Lambert (Rehabilitation Science)
Nadia Daniel (Councillor-at-Large)	Avni Patel (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Treesa Friesen (MLCS)	Beckett Stark (Renewable Resources)
Tejasai Kommanpalli (Councillor-at-Large)	Jasen Aussant (Economics)	Leah Hrycun (Native Studies)	Michael Huang (REES)
Rakshith Reddy Gopu (Councillor-at-Large)	Lauren Trafford (Educational Psychology)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Yashita Singh (Councillor-at-Large)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Mary Olukotun (Nursing)	Manzah Yankey (Sociology)
Md Solimul Chowdhury (Councillor-at-Large)	Jessica Kennedy (Human Ecology)	Neha Jaswal (Occupational Therapy)	Lindy Schaffrick (Surgery)
Muhammad Zubair (Councillor-at-Large)	Sukhpreet Kaur Khalsa (Internetworking)	Shayla Mosley (Oncology)	

Guests: Heba Aref (GSA Labour Relations Committee); Alex Bunten-Walberg (GSA Labour Relations Committee); Andrew Cook (Biological Sciences); Luthfia Friskie (Media & Technology Studies); Girish (Councillor-at-Large candidate; Mechanical Engineering); Kathy Haddadkar (2021-2022 VP Academic); Paresh Kumar (2021-2022 VP Student Services); Laura Manerus (2021-2022 Councillor-at-Large); Sanhita Pal (2021-2022 Councillor-at-Large); Janmejay Rao (2021-2022 Councillor-at-Large); Sabrina Rashid Sheonty (Councillor-at-Large candidate; Civil & Environmental Engineering); Molly Swain (GSA Labour Relations Committee).

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

Prepared by M Toghrai and F Robertson for GSA Council 19 April 2021

## Approval of Agenda

### **1. Approval of the 19 April 2021 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 19 April 2021 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 16 April 2021. L Hrycun **MOVED**; S Hayden **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

## Approval of Minutes

### **2. Minutes from the 15 March 2021 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 15 March 2021 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 9 April 2021. P Chaudhuri Basu **MOVED**; K Jones **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

## Changes in GSA Council Membership

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

- i. **Introduction of New GSA Council Members:** L Friskie (Media & Technology Studies); K MacDonald (Business MBA).
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** N Daniel (Councillor-at-Large); L Trafford (Educational Psychology); B Stark (Renewable Resources); G Cheruvelil (Business MBA); J McDevitt (Media & Technology Studies); E O'Neil (Media & Technology Studies); T Friesen (MLCS); S Kaur Khalsa (Internetworking).

## GSA Council Member Announcements

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

A Fassih announced that the GSA was organizing a year end event with Rapid Fire Theatre on 14 May. Members were encouraged to keep an eye out for more details and to invite constituents to join in the celebration of the end of another academic year.

M Waddingham announced that the [UTILE housing survey](#) for graduate students had been circulated and would be sent again over the next few weeks. Members were encouraged to check the GSA newsletter and associated special bulletins for details, and complete the survey to contribute to knowledge of student housing in Edmonton.

M Waddingham also invited members to join the [GSA Slack Channel](#), a way for members of GSA Council to connect and share information informally.

## Action Items

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

M Waddingham (President) presented the item. In doing so, he noted that the past year had presented no shortage of challenges, and that the student executive team pursued work in the areas of student-supervisor relationship oversight and regulation, relationship-building with other associations both within the University community and across the country, negotiation of a new collective agreement, and the betterment of graduate student housing. Some of these will remain priorities for the 2021-2022 team. Overall, he stated, he was proud and pleased with their record of strengthening services and supporting graduate students on a range of issues.

There were no questions raised. AF encouraged graduate students to take a close look at the document as the 2021-2022 team began their work of consulting for the development of the next SWP.

### **6. Labour Updates**

U Nimmathi (Vice-President Labour) presented the item and thanked GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) members for attending and for their work throughout negotiations. He noted that the Collective Agreement (CA) was ratified by academically-employed graduate students (AEGS) and the University Board of Governors and the new agreement would be available on the GSA website shortly.

In the coming year, the GSA LRC would work to establish a stewardship network, which the committee had been working on for the last several months. Additionally, the vote for labour union dues would be held on 23-25 April and circulated to all AEGS. Members were encouraged to vote if eligible and if not, to encourage those of their constituents who were eligible to do so.

M Swain (GSA LRC member) further explained the work of the committee and encouraged eligible voters to participate in the union due vote. She emphasized that, as a union, the GSA must strengthen how it represented members through a stewardship program and establishing a labour fund. The labour fund would have the potential to give AEGSs leverage in future negotiations. She also noted that instituting the labour fund would enhance the union's independence, autonomy, and power. She noted that labour conditions varied greatly across departments and a well-resourced steward network could provide a strong platform for student issues to be supported, something that a labour fund could help with.

Members then asked a series of questions, including but not limited to: how much of the labour fund would be allocated to the strike fund and how much would each student contribute (these were difficult to predict this early in the process but what could be shared was available in the attached briefing note; union dues would only apply to the salary portion of pay so it would not apply to GRAFs, who do not receive a salary portion); if there was any idea when fee collection – 1% of the salary portion – would start and how it will be collected over a number of different contracts (if the vote was approved, collection would start on 1 September 2021 and 1% would be collected from the salary portion of pay cheques for any contract that fell under the CA); how long would it take to build the fund (this is also difficult to predict as there was vast variation from year to year, and even month to month, in terms of how many contracts exist and how they were compensated, detailed forecasts would only be possible after a few terms of collection when patterns, average amounts collected, etc would be known); if the 1% was removed prior to fees and how this could negatively impact international students (deductions would be in installments on each pay cheque and, ultimately, having a labour fund would benefit everyone and future generations); if this would apply in course-based masters programs where students were employed as casual research assistants (this type of employment did not fall under the CA so would not be affected); if the labour fund would be held as cash or partly invested (the labour fund would be invested in the same manner as other GSA restricted funds so it could earn investment income).

### Discussion Items

#### **7. Academic Restructuring and Extraordinary Tuition Increases**

M Waddingham (President) presented the item. He noted work was ongoing on both the academic restructuring and Service Excellence Transformation (SET) initiatives. Regarding SET, graduate students would see transformations in administration and academic advising. New services and new access points for services would be implemented over the summer for launch in Fall 2021. On the restructuring side, the offices of the deans for the three colleges were being assembled now, through secondment.

In the ensuing discussion, members discussed the impact of the dissolution of departmental GSAs within the Faculty of Education, which was occurring independently from the wider restructuring work, and how this would impact representation at GSA Council (it was noted that, currently, GSA Council had a seat for every department or non-departmentalized unit that offered a graduate program and as such, there was no reason to expect that graduate students from Education would lose seats on GSA Council, even if their departmental GSAs were disbanded and merged, but a more detailed discussion could take place over the summer).

M Waddingham also provided an update on proposed extraordinary tuition increases in a number of undergraduate and graduate programs which had recently garnered media attention. There were four graduate programs impacted and the GSA had reached out to these programs. An area of particular concern was the seeming lack of adequate consultation in advance of increases slated for Fall 2022. Another point was legislation that prohibits exceptional increases without a commensurate improvement in program quality. The University had yet to provide evidence on either count. In the ensuing discussion, members discussed effective advocacy strategies and the relevant bodies with the most leverage to lead such efforts and it was noted that conversation would be ongoing.

### Elections

#### **8. GSA Council Elections**

NDaniel (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) presented the item.

- a. GSA Councillor-at-Large (CAL) (1 vacancy)
  - Girish (Mechanical Engineering)
  - Sabrina Rasha Sheonty (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

N Daniel asked the nominees the following: “please tell us why you'd like to serve as a GSA Councillor-at-Large.” Nominees were both present to respond.

### Reports

#### **9. President**

Prepared by M Toghrai and F Robertson for GSA Council 19 April 2021

**i. President's Report:**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 April 2021. In addition, M Waddingham shared that some headway had been made in terms of institutional improvement to student/supervisor relationships. This had been an advocacy issue for the GSA for over a decade and the recent suite of reforms and administrative tools introduced by Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Brooke Milne had now been brought forward to General Faculties Council (GFC). This was a watershed moment for the GSA; this initiative stood to correct and prevent a lot of issues between students and their supervisors.

Members expressed some concerns with the new measures, including but not limited to: how to ensure students were safeguarded (one problem was the lack of paper trail to support students, which these measures were designed to ensure and the purpose of the supervisory guidelines was to lay out expectations in black and white and to create a separate record; mechanisms to deal with maltreatment or malfeasance would be further addressed and were in progress); how the processes would work if there were no repercussions for bad behaviour (some provisions already exist so we would be looking for enforcement; the implementation of a structure where none previously existed would give us a basis to build other measures); if supervisors were not obligated to sign forms, were there plans to require mutual agreement for these documents to avoid putting the onus on vulnerable students (if the form was not completed, this was the first sign that something was wrong and would prompt investigation at the unit level; FGSR might have a role in supporting the unit in working through this process. This would codify and centralize this process across units); and the possibility of connecting with the Postdoctoral Fellows Association (this would be something for the incoming team to consider).

Additionally, as this was the final GSA Council meeting for the current team of executives, M Waddingham expressed his thanks and appreciation to members of GSA Council.

**ii. GSA Board**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 April 2021. 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.

**10. Vice-President Academic**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 April 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S Reddy noted that this was his final meeting and expressed his gratitude for the past year and wished the 2021-2022 team good luck. He also highlighted the latest General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC) meeting, and the latest meeting with Dr. Milne. Both of these meetings were also attended by the incoming Vice-President Academic and S Reddy wished her good luck in the upcoming year.

**11. Vice-President External**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 April 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Fassih noted that this was his final meeting as Vice-President External and that he was pleased to be returning next month as the 2021-2022 President. He then highlighted recent work pertaining to a graduate student housing survey, to be circulated shortly. He also noted ongoing work with regards to the Isolation Accommodation Program, and associated advocacy to the federal government for its recognition and use as an official quarantine for international students.

**ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee**

No written report at this time.

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

No written report at this time.

**12. Vice-President Labour**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 April 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, U Nimmathi reminded members that Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs) would shortly be asked to vote on the issue of a dedicated union due, and he encouraged eligible students to vote. He concluded by thanking GSA Council for their work over the past year and expressed wishes of good luck to the incoming team.

**ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No written report at this time.

**13. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 April 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S Parasharamatham expressed his thanks to GSA management and staff, as well as to the members of the 2020-2021 student executive team for all their work over the past year.

**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 16 April 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, N Daniel highlighted current vacancies on the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC), the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB), and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC).

**18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

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

No written report at this time.

**19. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 April 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas noted that the GSA office team were continuing to navigate the implications of Bill 32. She closed by thanking the 2020-2021 student executive team.

**Question Period**

**20. Written Questions:** none submitted

**21. Oral Questions:** none raised

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

**2020-2021 President  
Report to GSA Council for the 10 May 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Marc Waddingham  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear GSA Council,

As my final update encompassing the last two weeks of my term as GSA President, I have two brief items of note:

Alberta 2030 Technical Briefing

As was announced by the province towards the end of April, the AB 2030 consultation process was completed, and we were cautiously optimistic about the results. Our strategy to unify student groups at the provincial level to resist tuition deregulation at all costs was successful, and we have been given a commitment by the Minister of Advanced Education that the tuition cap will be restored to inflation after 2023. This coincides with a further promise to re-evaluate the student financial aid program in the province and dedicate more funding to needs-based financial aid in the form of non-repayable grants, and while student leaders will need to be vigilant against defunding of the system through this process, it is a promising development. Overall, it appears we managed to stave off the worst potential impacts of AB 2030, with the government being more conciliatory than previously expected. I believe this demonstrates the efficacy of our issues-focused, high-intensity style, which is quickly becoming the new standard in provincial student advocacy.

Exceptional Tuition Increases

After connecting with the incoming student executives from the affected units (Engineering, MBA, and Ed. Psych), my final actions before handing off this file to the incoming executive was to begin the scheduling process for organizational meetings between the impacted student leaders, as well as further conversations with the media and University administration regarding our perspectives and expectations of the process. Current VP Academic Kathy Haddadkar, and my successor, Anas Fassih, are well equipped to contend with the matter at hand.

By the time of my departure, the conversation hinged on two key pillars:

- Proper consultation by the relevant administrators as outlined in the Student Consultation Handbook, including full transparency of the consultation process, meeting minutes, and any relevant documents.
- Demonstrable quality improvements, able to be implemented on day one for the impacted 2022 student cohort, and all supporting documentation including previous quality assurance review results and scenario budgets.

In my view, these requirements are the very minimum the University would need to demonstrate in order to uphold the mandated requirements of the provincial Tuition and Fees Regulation, Sections 5 and 8. Should this not come to pass, I give my strongest recommendation to lobby the Ministry of Advanced Education to notify them of the potential contravention of the regulation, and by extension the Post-Secondary Learning Act. Furthermore, the opportunity to raise the matter with the media, should it get that far, should not be overlooked.

In any case, I hope you are all doing as well as can be expected, and are relatively safe. Any questions related to this report can be directed to the current executive.

Kind regards,  
Marc Waddingham, President 2020-2021

## 7.1

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 April to 30 April 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

20 April	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
20 April	Meeting with S Dew, Vice-President (Academic) and Provost
21 April	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
22 April	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
23 April	Canadian Graduate Student Alliance Special General Meeting
26 April	GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC)
26 April	Meeting with P Garritty, Chancellor
26 April	General Faculties Council (GFC)
27 April	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
28 April	Board Governance Committee (BGC)
28 April	Alberta 2030 Briefing for Student Leaders
28 April	GSA External Advocacy 101
29 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) End of Term Meeting
30 April	Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee (BLRSEC)

**2021-2022 President  
Report to GSA Council for the 10 May 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Council Members,

I hope you are doing well and keeping the spirit high in this unprecedented time. It has been less than 10 days since I assumed the role of GSA President, a position which I take on with tremendous energy, passion, and enthusiasm. The first week of my term as President has been quite busy for me. In addition to a couple of transition and one-on-one meetings to help with my onboarding, I attended some key meetings which I summarize in the following advocacy priorities:

**Student Supervisory Relationships**

On 5 May, I had a meeting with Dr. Brooke Milne, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), to talk about the Student-Supervisory Relationship proposal. Dean Milne expressed how determined she is to make this project a success. She does hope it passes through FGSR Council on 26 May and onto General Faculties' Council (GFC) for a vote in the Fall. Dean Milne also commended the work of the GSA in pursuing this advocacy front, as it has been in the pipeline for some time now. The next course of action for me, as President, is to engage in robust discussion with FGSR Council and (subsequently) GFC members, especially our colleagues from the Students' Union, about the importance of supervisory accountability for the success of students in their programs. This success hinges on improving the student-supervisor relationship, ensuring quality control, and (importantly) shortening the time spent in programs by helping students navigate through milestones in a timely manner. Dean Milne also expressed her willingness to attend one of our council meetings to talk about the student-supervisory relationship, and I will invite her to speak in our Council sometime this summer.

**Tuition Affordability and Funding Packages for Graduate Students**

Affordable tuition and competitive funding packages are indispensable for the success of students in their graduate studies. In my meeting with the Dean Milne, I pitched a plea to decrease tuition fees for advanced graduate students, both Masters and PhD. While I understand this is not the best time to make such an ask given the financial pressure on the University levelled by cuts in the budget, I still thought it is something to bring up with Dean Milne to see if there are possibilities to offset the soaring tuition costs by making funding packages available for students. Dean Milne agreed on the importance of funding, and it is a top priority for FGSR as they continues to work with individual departments to ensure graduate students who had been granted guaranteed funding packages are being funded in their program.

Feel free to ask in the GSA Council meeting or reach out to me via email ([gsa.president@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.president@ualberta.ca)) should you have any further questions.

Thank you,  
Anas Fassih, President 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 1 May to 10 May 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

4 May	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
4 May	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC) Working Group on Metrics
5 May	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
5 May	GSA Events 101
5 May	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
7 May	GSA 101
10 May	Killam Excellence in Mentoring Award Adjudication
10 May	GSA Governance 101

**GSA Board  
Report to GSA Council for the 10 May 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director; Erika Heiberg, Associate Director

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 President, Vice-Presidents, 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 18.0-18.3.

**21 April 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

Academic Success Centre Summary Report for 2020-2021; Career Centre Summary Report for 2020-2021; COVID-19 Update; GSA Council Debrief; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Academic Success Centre Summary Report for 2020-2021. MW **MOVED**. SR Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Career Centre Summary Report for 2020-2021. MW **MOVED**. AF Seconded. **CARRIED**

**28 April 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**5 May 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

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

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the line of succession for Chair of the GSA Board as follows: 1) Vice-President Labour, 2) Vice-President Student Services, and 3) Vice-President External. KH **MOVED**. PK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the designation of Executive Vice-President and the line of succession for Acting President as follows: 1) GSA Vice-President Academic, as Executive Vice-President, and 2) GSA Vice-President Labour. PK **MOVED**. MM Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 10 May 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

The brand new GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC) met for the first time on 26 April 2021. During this preliminary meeting, members discussed a number of salient issues that could help define the direction of future GSA EDIC initiatives, include the significance of the Black Lives Matter movement and financial barriers to accessing post-secondary education.

The GSA EDIC is next expected to meet by mid-to-early June 2021. I look forward to providing you with further updates throughout the summer as the committee works to identify their strategic priorities.

Sincerely,

Anas Fassih, President and Chair of the GSA EDIC

**2020-2021 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the 10 May 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sachiketha Reddy Paspula  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone are doing great. This is my last Council report as my term ended a week ago. I thank you all for all the support and my best wishes to the incoming team.

In my final days as VP Academic, I spent most of the time in the search committees for the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (VPRI) and the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Executive Director (ED). I participated in the interview sessions as a panel member, representing the GSA and graduate student point of view. Apart from these meetings I have attended couple of meetings and here are the highlights from those.

- I attended the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Program Support Team (FGSR GPST). In this committee there was a proposal to replace the star symbol (\*) with “units,” starting with the 2022-2023 draft of the University Calendar in course and program descriptions. Multiple academic advisors and student services advisors have noted that some students, especially those new or transferring into the U of A, require additional explanation and assistance in understanding the meaning of the star symbol. In conversation with student representatives from Accessibility Resources, a few noted that screen readers for those with visual impairments read out every star symbol as “black star.” This change will allow for a more direct reading of “units” by the screen reader.
- Marc Waddingham (2020-2021 President) and I attended our final meeting with Dr. Brooke Milne, Dean of FGSR. Our incoming members Kathy and Anas also joined the meeting.
- As I approached the end of my term as a VP Academic, we were participating in the job shadowing process with the incoming GSA team. As the part of transition, I attended a one-on-one meeting with Kathy, our incoming VP Academic.

If you have any concerns about this report/concerns regarding any academic related issue, feel free to reach my successor, Kathy, at [gsavpaca@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsavpaca@ualberta.ca). I will be more than happy to answer your questions.

Regards,  
Sachiketha Reddy Paspula, Vice-President Academic 2020-2021

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 April 2021 and 30 April 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

20 April	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
20 April	Remote Learning Task Force
21-23 April	Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Executive Director Selection Committee – Interviews
22 April	Graduate Program Support Team (GPST)
26 April	General Faculties Council (GFC)
28 April	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)

**2021-2022 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for 10 May 2021**

To: GSA Council  
From: Kathy Haddadkar  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to be in this space with each of you and for the opportunity to speak at this month's GSA Council meeting in my official capacity as Vice-President Academic. I look forward to serving the graduate student community at the University of Alberta with sincerity and passion.

In that respect, my main highlights from meetings attended are as follows:

- **5 May – Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean**
  - Pertinent discussion and reflection of previous FGSR Council conversations (21 April) took place regarding the U of A Ethics Policy and the U of A's professed Values; some FGSR members requested revisions to the proposed wording of the policy and the Values;
  - This discussion was pertinent with respect to the aforementioned revisions, as the [University of Alberta Values](#) states "freedom of inquiry and expression" – which is a basic right and privilege for persons residing in this country and this academic institution; additionally, the expressed Values are not representative of any particular religious belief, although there was some discussion that the term "value" could imply this;
  - The Student Supervisory Initiative was also addressed as an important item for the GSA to speak in support of; we need to promote this initiative as one which will create a cordial working relationship with graduate students and supervisors alike;
  - Dr. Milne also spoke to the idea of guaranteed funding via FGSR for all graduate students following Anas' prompt about PhD tuition rates for those past their candidacies; this idea has not been pursued for many years – it had been originally suggested and then declined and we will hopefully discuss it more over the coming year.
  
- **5 May – Remote Learning Task Force Working Group**
  - Discussion began with respect to an overview of conditions for the Fall as it pertains to learning circumstances for in-person, remote, and hybrid learning environments;
  - Emphasis was placed on faculty, staff, and students needing decisions made ASAP regarding alternative course streams as it effects every individual at the institution;
  - Members of the committee spoke to how these issues intersected with faculty collective agreements and how taking on preparations of teaching in-person and online courses is a substantial workload for instructors – they would need training for technology (ie, how to set up multiple webcams and troubleshoot accordingly etc);
  - This led to a discussion of 1<sup>st</sup> year students with a focus on those who cannot return to Canada or their domestic home, which may put course enrollment and admission on the decline;
  - To that end, members agreed that the most difficult circumstance is to teach experiential courses online; this opened doors to discussion of potential online engagement including such options as lecture capturing, in-video quizzes, and anonymous confusion flagging for interactive videos;
  - I put forward the suggestion to create new Graduate Teaching Assistant positions to assist with this work and as a means for creating additional funding and a valuable mentorship

opportunities, recognizing that graduate students can help unburden instructors with the juggling act of online and in-person teaching;

- There is no firm deadline for these actions to take place – a member from FGSR mentioned the possibility of August 2021;
  - Committees involved in this decision-making process will include the Remote Learning Task Force Working Group and the Fall 2021 Readiness Working Group.
- **5 May – Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC)**
    - A new course-based initiative Master of Arts in Community Engagement (MACE) was approved; the full-time (1 year)/part-time program engages focus on the study and practice of collaborative relationships to address societal issues and creative positive change;
    - Dr. Milne stressed the importance of having GSA voices on these proposals and in attendance at the upcoming FGSR Council (26 May) meeting to offer support for the Student Supervisory Initiative.

I warmly welcome further discussion and correspondence on this report, as well as any other academic-related matters and can be reached at [gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca).

Respectfully,

Kathy Haddadkar, Vice-President Academic 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 1 May 2021 and 7 May 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

3 May	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC) <i>ad hoc</i> Governance and Procedural Review Committee
4 May	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
4 May	Remote Learning Task Force Working Group
5 May	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
5 May	GSA Events 101
5 May	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC)
7 May	GSA 101
10 May	GSA Governance 101
10 May	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)

**2020-2021 Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for 10 May 2021**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all doing well. I attended a couple of meetings in April as the last month of my term as Vice-President External. While a big bulk of the meetings centered on job shadowing and ensuring a smooth transition between the outgoing and incoming teams, I concluded my term as VP External with some important meetings that I would like to update you on.

- On 21 and 27 April I attended the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee to discuss transition. The GSAs from both UAlberta and UCalgary have settled on the three appointed directors for the ab-GPAC Board. The other two member associations (Athabasca and Concordia) are still in the process of identifying individuals they wish to appoint to the ab-GPAC Board. This has made the transition from the outgoing team to the incoming team a bit slow, but it is our hope to appoint all directors and get the ball rolling by early June. The discussion also revolved around the response to the release of the Government of Alberta's AB 2030 Strategy.
- On 22 April I had a meeting with Dr. Costopoulos, Dean of Students, to talk about exceptional tuition increases the U of A proposed to the government, combatting sexual violence on campus, and student groups on campus in the pandemic, among other things.
- On 28 April I attended a meeting with the Ministry of Advanced Education where Alberta student leaders received a presentation from the Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaidis, about the AB 2030 Strategy. The Minister outlined the six central goals of AB 2030: improve access and student experience, develop skills for jobs, support innovation and commercialization, strengthen internationalization, improve sustainability and affordability, and strengthen system governance. The Minister then opened the space for questions and emphasized how his government is keen on diversifying Alberta's economy by encouraging university programs that foster critical thinking, communication, leadership, and digital literacy in the post-pandemic era. Things flagged by student leaders were 1) the reluctance of the government to release the AB 2030 report, and 2) ensuring the successful implementation of the work-integrated learning goal as a pillar of the strategy.

These were the main highlights from the few meetings I attended last month. Should you have any further questions, feel free to ask in the GSA Council meeting or reach out to my successor, Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, via email ([gsa.vpexternal@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vpexternal@ualberta.ca)).

That also concludes my term as your VP External. It has been a pleasure serving you, and I look forward to serving you in my advanced role as your president.

Thank you!

Anas Fassih, Vice-President External 2020-2021

## 9.1

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 April to 30 April 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

21 April	Alumni Council
21 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
22 April	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
23 April	Canadian Graduate Student Alliance Special General Meeting
26 April	Meeting with Incoming VP External
27 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
28 April	Meeting with the Ministry of Advanced Education
29 April	Public Interest Alberta (PIA) Post-Secondary Education Campaign

**2021-2022 Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for 10 May 2021**

To: GSA Council  
From: Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I attended two meetings (excluding the GSA Board Meeting) since the beginning my term on 1 May 2021. The first meeting was with Clean Air Committee on 4 May 2021. They are working towards a smoke free campus and as such have come up with three possible options to present to the General Faculties Council (GFC) for consideration. One of the options is a complete ban on smoking inside the university campus, which would ensure the greatest reduction of second-hand smoking. However, users would need to take long walks and a lot of communication would be required to manage it. It may also raise safety issues for marginalized and resident students, who may need to take long walks in adverse weather conditions. Moreover, since Indigenous students have a higher rate of smoking, they may feel unwelcome by the University if there were a complete ban on smoking on campus. The second option is setting up designated smoking zones inside the campus, which would consider both users and non-users. However, defining boundaries of designated smoking zones may turn out to be challenging. And it may raise complications where different types of smokers (tobacco, cannabis, and vape) may not want to be near each other in a close space. The last option is to improve the status quo by ensuring that the rules are being followed and installing more signs, but the objective of a smoke-free campus would ultimately fail if they go in this direction. The committee is planning to meet with GFC on 7 June 2021 with hopes of reaching a decision.

My second meeting was with my fellow Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs); GSA Executive Director, Courtney Thomas, and GSA Outreach Coordinator, Fiona Robertson. Fiona presented a timeline of upcoming GSA events and we discussed GSA events for the coming year and ongoing work to deliver them remotely. In response to one of my questions, we discussed the possibility of small scale in-person coffee breaks in the coming Fall term, depending on the public health restrictions at that time. We also discussed strategies to improve event participation.

Thank you,  
Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, Vice-President External 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 1 May to 10 May 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

4 May	Campus Clean Air Update
5 May	GSA Events 101

**2020-2021 Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the 10 May 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Umesh Nimmathi  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

Since my term as Vice-President Labour ended last week, I wanted to share that my journey with GSA was great; I learned a lot from the outgoing DEOs and GSA Staff. I would like to thank everyone at the GSA for their support. This is my last report to Council, which highlights some of the meetings and updates.

**Negotiations & Union Due Vote:** The University's negotiation team shared a draft version of the Collective Agreement 2020-2022 with us. We have reviewed and shared our comments. The final version will be available on our website once these comments have been addressed.

Please keep an eye out for a Labour 101 session to help you understand your rights and responsibilities under our new Collective Agreement 2021-2022. This will be scheduled once we have the final version.

I'm very happy to let you know that the collection of a union due has been approved by Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs). We will start collecting union dues from 1 September 2021. If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to email the current VP Labour, Jessica Grenke.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach my successor, Jessica, at [gsavplab@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsavplab@ualberta.ca). If you have any questions related to my report, please reach out to me at [nimmathi@ualberta.ca](mailto:nimmathi@ualberta.ca).

Best wishes,  
Umesh Nimmathi, Vice-President Labour 2020-2021

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 April to 30 April 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

21 April	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
22 April	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
22 April	Meeting re GSA Collective agreement
27 April	Meeting with the Incoming VP Labour

**2021-2022 Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the 10 May 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Jessica Grenke  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

To begin my first report as GSA Vice-President Labour, I first thank the dedicated communities of graduate student activists who have supported me along the way. I look forward to a busy and impactful term of service! My priority for this term is the advancement of graduate student advocacy priorities through listening, learning, and upholding our Collective Agreement. In the first week of my term, this has involved gathering further information on the possibilities for our labour fund; attending necessary training sessions; and meeting with students to address concerns related to the Collective Agreement.

**Union Due Vote:**

As many of you know, the Union Due vote recently passed and collection of this due will commence 1 September 2021. My thanks to the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC), Erika Heiberg (GSA Associate Director), and the previous VP-Labour Umesh Nimmathi for their hard work on this initiative. Additional thanks to all of you who took the time to vote. This is a huge step forward in our growth as a union and opens many exciting possibilities. We take the privilege of collecting this due very seriously. In these early stages I am working closely with the administrative team to ensure all possibilities for management of this due are understood. We are guided by a commitment to ensuring our actions represent the student body and are legitimate in a changing political environment. Information on our options is still incoming and I will keep Council updated as we move forward.

**Union Stewardship Program:**

We are also in the early stages of implementing our Union Stewardship program recently ratified in the current Collective Agreement. Our office is currently drafting appropriate Bylaws and Policies and finalizing our consultative process. Further details will be coming soon.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any labour and Collective Agreement related questions or concerns at [gsavplab@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsavplab@ualberta.ca). I would be happy to hear from you. Stay safe!

Sincerely,  
Jessica Grenke, Vice-President Labour 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 1 May to 10 May 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

4 May	Meeting re GSA Union Stewardship
5 May	GSA Events 101
5 May	Meeting with student
7 May	GSA 101
10 May	GSA Governance 101

**2020-2021 Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the 10 May 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sridhar Parasharamatham  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

Hope you all are doing well. I am happy to share my activities for the remaining part of April.

I attended the U-Pass Working and Administrative Committee meetings, where there was a discussion on the implementation of Edmonton Transit Service's (ETS) Smart Fare pilot starting 27 April with NAIT.

I attended a Mental Health Day Working Group review meeting where we discussed how the event went and what changes should be made for next year's event to make it reach more people.

Also, I attended the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) meeting, which is a new committee within the GSA, chaired by the President and co-chaired by the VP Student Services.

There was a presentation given by TD insurance for the last GSA Brunch and Learn session and several students joined to learn about topics related to financial literacy.

This will be my last Council report. I would like to thank all the Councillors for their support, insights, and suggestions throughout my term. Good luck to all of you for your future endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Sridhar Parasharamatham, Vice-President Student Services 2020-2021

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 April to 30 April 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

20 April	U-Pass Working Committee
21 April	Mental Health Day Working Group
22 April	U-Pass Administrative Committee
22 April	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
26 April	GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC)
27 April	GSA Brunch and Learn
28 April	Days of Action Committee

**2021-2022 Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for 10 May 2021**

To: GSA Council  
From: Paresh Kumar  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

Hope you all are doing well. I am delighted to start my position as Vice-President Student Services for the Graduate Students' Association. Before I start my report, I would like to thank all the graduate students who voted and supported me during the election. I also want to thank the GSA staff and outgoing Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) for their continuous support throughout my transition process.

During the transition period in April, I attended several meetings which I have listed below:

- Return to Campus Safety and Logistics Committee (8 April)
- Student Equity Survey Meeting (8 April)
- Campus Food Bank Board Meeting (8 April)
- PAW Strategic Operating Committee (12 April)
- U-Pass Working Committee (20 April)
- Mental Health Day Working Group Review (21 April)
- Dean of Students & GSA Executive Monthly Meeting (22 April)
- Suicide Prevention Working Group Review (22 April)
- Days of Action committee meeting (28 April)

In the first week of May, I attended a GSA Board meeting and a GSA Events 101 session, where the executive team learned about the GSA events plan and timeline. Expectations of DEOs at these events were also discussed. Apart from that, DEOs suggested some career focussed events for graduate students in the upcoming year and we discussed University offices that we could potentially collaborate with in relation to this (I believe Tahsin will look into this matter further). That's all I have for this report. As a part of my portfolio, I will continue to support and assist any graduate students who have had any concerns related to student services.

I look forward to working with all of you in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Thank you,  
Paresh Kumar, Vice-President Student Services 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 1 May to 10 May 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

5 May	GSA Events 101
6 May	Return to Campus Safety and Logistics Committee
7 May	GSA 101
10 May	GSA Governance 101

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 10 May 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Kenzie Gordon  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,

Kenzie Gordon, Chair of the GSA NoC

**Memorandum to GSA Councillors – PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING**

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

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

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

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

### GSA Standing Committees

**1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Committee (GSA ACB) (One (1) GSA Councillor Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 23 and 30 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 4 May 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 23 and 30 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 5 May 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**3) GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) (Three (3) GSA Councillor Positions)**

Information regarding the position for three (3) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 23 and 30 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 5 May 2021. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

### External Committees: Vacancies

**1) Faculty of Arts Council (One (1) Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) Faculty of Arts graduate student was circulated via email on 9 and 16 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 21 April 2021. **One nomination was received; Shashi Kumar was elected.**

**2) Faculty of Arts Academic and Grade Appeals Committee (One (1) Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) Faculty of Arts graduate student was circulated via email on 9 and 16 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 21 April 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**3) Faculty of Arts Academic Affairs Committee (One (1) Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) Faculty of Arts graduate students was circulated via email on 9 and 16 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 21 April 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**4) General Faculties Council (Eight (8) Graduate Student Positions)**

Information regarding the position for eight (8) graduate students was circulated via the GSA Newsletter 23 and 30 April and 7 May 2021 with a nomination deadline of 12 May 2021. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

**GSA Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the 10 May 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Courtney Thomas  
Date: 7 May 2021

Dear GSA Council Members,

As the GSA's fiscal year ended on 31 March 2021, we are now in the process of planning for our annual audit. The audit, as well the preparation of the first term's budget and expenditure financial report of our new fiscal year, is expected to be completed in June. Following their review by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, both of these items will come forward to GSA Council at the July meeting. The GSA's audited financial statements will then proceed onward to the University Board of Governors, as per the requirements of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.

The office has also been engaged with the transition to a new team of elected graduate student leaders. A lot of behind the scenes work goes into this annually (training sessions are scheduled, work spaces and email accounts are cleaned out, new passwords and security codes generated, bank paperwork is filed, etc) and it always occupies a good measure of staff time. We are also working with the new team to support the development of the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, which will also come before GSA Council in the coming months. In addition to soliciting feedback from members of GSA Council at Monday's meeting, a short survey is also being circulated in the GSA newsletter. If you have not yet had a chance to do so, please take a few moments to fill out the online survey and share the link with your colleagues and friends – it helps greatly with identifying advocacy priorities for the coming year and conveying the importance of them to University administration and government.

We've also been doing a lot of work related to providing support for the Vice-President Labour and GSA Labour Relations Committee with respect to beginning the collection of a union due and the creation of a steward system. Part of this will involve some recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, which GSA Council can likely expect to see come forward over the coming months.

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached (pages 17.1-17.3) and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

## Management Report to the GSA Board, 21 April 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 14 April 2021:

### Strategic

- Developing a timeline for the development of the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan and compiling the 2020-2021 Annual Report.
- Action associated with the most recent meeting of GSA Council.
- Preparing for ongoing conversations with the Students' Union over the summer concerning how we will work with them with respect to the U-Pass program (distribution, processing of eligible opt-outs, etc) – looking to arrange a preliminary meeting.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (advising individual graduate student workers and planning to share details of the recently ratified collective agreement on the website and via a Labour 101), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due (if approved, revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning the existence of the GSA Labour Fund will be needed to ensure compliance with Bill 32), and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee are ongoing and revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy will be needed once the details of the steward network (selection of stewards, roles and responsibilities, training, etc) are worked out).

### Operations

- Circulation of special bulletins related to the Utile housing survey.
- Planning a spring/summer engagement event (scheduled for mid-May) and a Brunch and Learn with TD.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the newsletter), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), as well as an open position for the GSA Senator (advertised via the newsletter), the replenishment of the Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised via email to Arts students) and the General Faculties Council (advertised via newsletter), and assisting with elections for the Sociology Graduate Students' Association (advertised via email to Sociology students) and the Renewable Resources Graduate Students' Association (advertised via email to Renewable Resources students).
- Facebook = 1,662 likes (up 2 from 14 April) and 1,804 followers (up 2 from 14 April); Facebook posts reached 316 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 9. Twitter = 1,171 followers (down 1 from 14 April); our tweets earned 1,300 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 621 followers (up 6 from 14 April); Instagram posts reached 386 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 July (not accepting applications for travel outside the province but online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 July. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related

supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 28 April 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 21 April 2021:

#### Strategic

- Developing a timeline for the development of the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan and compiling the 2020-2021 Annual Report.
- Soliciting a legal opinion regarding the consultation mechanism around the proposed exceptional tuition increases.
- Preparing for ongoing conversations with the Students' Union over the summer concerning how we will work with them with respect to the U-Pass program (distribution, processing of eligible opt-outs, etc) – arranging a preliminary meeting and also finalizing with the University the means by which the associated fee will be collected.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (advising individual graduate student workers and planning to share details of the recently ratified collective agreement on the website and via a Labour 101), circulating the results of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due (revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning the existence of the GSA Labour Fund will be needed to ensure compliance with Bill 32 and conversations with the University around collection and remittance of the due will now commence), assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee are ongoing and revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy will be needed once the details of the steward network (selection of stewards, roles and responsibilities, training, etc) are worked out), and arranging for representatives of the Public Service Alliance of Canada to present to the GSA Labour Relations Committee concerning service agreements and resources that they offer.

#### Operations

- Circulation of special bulletins related to the Utile housing survey.
- Finalizing transition plans and associated tasks.
- Planning a spring/summer engagement event (scheduled for mid-May) and beginning the development of the GSA planner for 2021-2022.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the newsletter), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), as well as an open position for the GSA Senator (advertised via the newsletter), the replenishment of the Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised via email to Arts students) and the General Faculties Council (advertised via the newsletter), and assisting with elections for the Sociology Graduate Students' Association (advertised via email to Sociology students) and the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (advertised via email to members of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association).
- Facebook = 1,665 likes (up 3 from 21 April) and 1,808 followers (up 4 from 21 April); Facebook posts reached 214 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 11. Twitter = 1,174 followers (down 3 from 21 April); our tweets earned 580 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 626 followers (up 5 from 21 April); Instagram posts reached 15 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 July (not accepting applications for travel outside the province but online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 July. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are

being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### **Management Report to the GSA Board, 5 May 2021**

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 28 April 2021:

#### **Strategic**

- Developing a timeline for the development of the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan and compiling the 2020-2021 Annual Report.
- Soliciting a legal opinion regarding the consultation mechanism around the proposed exceptional tuition increases (waiting for a draft).
- Preparing for ongoing conversations with the Students' Union over the summer concerning how we will work with them with respect to the U-Pass program (distribution, processing of eligible opt-outs, etc) – arranging a preliminary meeting.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (advising individual graduate student workers and planning to share details of the recently ratified collective agreement on the website and via a Labour 101), developing revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning the existence of the GSA Labour Fund to ensure compliance with Bill 32, conversations with the University around collection and remittance of the due, developing revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy to establish a steward network (selection of stewards, roles and responsibilities, training, etc, reviewing proposals with the Vice-President Labour, legal counsel, and the GSA Labour Relations Committee, and arranging for representatives of the Public Service Alliance of Canada to present to the GSA Labour Relations Committee concerning service agreements and resources that they offer.

#### **Operations**

- Grants processing and preparing for the second mailing of GSA Council.
- Finalizing transition plans and associated tasks.
- Planning a spring/summer engagement event (scheduled for 14 May) and beginning the development of the GSA planner for 2021-2022.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the newsletter), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), as well as an open position for the GSA Senator (advertised via the newsletter), the replenishment of the Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised via email to Arts students) and the General Faculties Council (advertised via the newsletter), and assisting with elections for the ALES Graduate Students' Association (advertised via email to Sociology students) and the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (advertised via email to members of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association).
- Facebook = 1,671 likes (up 6 from 28 April) and 1,814 followers (up 6 from 28 April); Facebook posts reached 241 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 16. Twitter = 1,179 followers (up 5 from 28 April); our tweets earned 580 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 625 followers (down 1 from 28 April); Instagram posts reached 477 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 July (not accepting applications for travel outside the province but online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 July. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are

being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.