

**GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA**  
Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:00 pm  
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

**The GSA acknowledges that the University of Alberta is situated on Treaty Six territory and Métis homelands.**

**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 (in accordance with the Standing Orders of Council). Any additional substantive material received after this mailing will be emailed as soon as possible.

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

**Deputy Speaker Preshit Verma in the Chair**

A pizza dinner will be served at 5:15 pm.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Attached Numbered Pages**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the 15 May 2017 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 24 April 2017 GSA Council Meeting  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 24 April 2017 GSA Council Meeting **3.0 - 3.9**
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
  - i. Introduction of New Councillors (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
  - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

**Councillor Announcements**

5. Councillor Announcements

**Action Items**

6. Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council, GSA Officers, and GSA Standing Committees  
**Babak Soltannia (GSA President and GSA Governance Committee Chair) and Sasha van der Klein (GSA Vice-President Labour and GSA Governance Committee Vice-Chair) will present the item**  
*Attachments:*
  - i. Cover Letter from the Former GSA Governance Committee Chair and Former GSA President to GSA Council **6.0**
  - ii. Outline of Issue: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council, GSA Officers, and GSA Standing Committees **6.1**
  - iii. GSA Council: Double Column of Proposed Changes **6.2**
  - iv. GSA Officers: Double Column of Proposed Changes **6.3 - 6.6**
  - v. GSA Standing Committees: Double Column of Proposed Changes **6.7 - 6.16**

**Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates**

7. GSA Council Elections  
**Radim Barta (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item**

GSA Senator (1 vacancy)

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for GSA Senator 7.0 - 7.1

**For Discussion: None at this time**

**Reports**

8. President (**Babak Soltannia, GSA President**)
- i. President's Report
    - a. 2016-2017 President 8.0 - 8.2
    - b. 2017-2018 President 8.3 - 8.4
  - ii. GSA Board 8.5
  - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
  - iv. GSA Governance Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
9. Vice-President Academic (**Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic**)
- i. Vice-President Academic's Report 9.0
10. Vice-President External (**Masoud Khademi, GSA Vice-President External**)
- i. Vice-President External's Report 10.0 - 10.1
  - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
11. Vice-President Labour (**Sasha van der Klein, GSA Vice-President Labour**)
- i. Vice-President Labour's Report 11.1 - 11.2
  - ii. GSA Negotiating Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
  - iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
12. Vice-President Student Services (**Royle Feng, GSA Vice-President Student Services**)
- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report
    - a. 2016-2017 Vice-President Student Services 12.0
    - b. 2017-2018 Vice-President Student Services 12.1 - 12.2
  - ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
13. Senator (**Jane Traynor, GSA Senator**)
- i. Senator's Report (**no written report at this time**)
14. Speaker (**Sulya Fenichel, GSA Speaker**)
- i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
15. Chief Returning Officer (**Carolina Martinez, GSA Chief Returning Officer**)
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**no written report at this time**)
16. GSA Nominating Committee (**Radim Barta, GSA Nominating Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report 16.0 - 16.1
17. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (**no meetings this reporting period**)
18. GSA Management (**Courtney Thomas, GSA Executive Director**)

i. Executive Director's Report

**18.0 - 18.3**

**Question Period**

**19. Written Questions (none at this time)**

**20. Oral Questions**

**Adjournment**

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6:00 pm  
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sarah Ficko (President)	Graham Little (Biomedical Engineering)	Neil Prather (History & Classics)	Ashley Barry (Paediatrics)
Firouz Khodayari (VP Academic)	Trent Nabe (Business MBA)	Mohammed Abdul-Bari (Human Ecology)	Hanin Aburasayn (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Sasha van der Klein (VP Labour)	Beth Richardson; Karl Roesner (Cell Biology)	Jocelyn Beyer (Humanities Computing)	Jay Worthy (Philosophy)
Masoud Khademi (VP External)	Mengqi Fang (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Shivam Srivastava (Internetworking)	Stephen Hunter (Phys Ed & Rec)
Sulya Fenichel (Speaker)	Anis Fahandej-Sadi; Michael Armstrong (Chemistry)	Faisal Hirji (Laboratory Medicine and Pathology)	Drew Shepherd (Physics)
Darcy Bemister (Deputy Returning Officer)	Diana Abdulhameed (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Atticus Harrigan (Linguistics)	Brayden Whitlock (Physiology)
Jane Traynor (Senator)	Natalie Mahé (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Michelle Michelle; Jude Kong (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Justin Leifso (Political Science)
Michelle Campbell (Councillor-at-Large)	Melissa Woghiren; Shrimanti Ghosh (Computing Science)	Masoud Aliramezani (Mechanical Engineering)	Michal Juhas (Psychiatry)
Colin More (Councillor-at-Large)	Dorian Lang (Drama)	Fahed Elian; Allison Lewis (Medical Genetics)	Joshua Yong (Psychology)
Nicole Noel (Councillor-at-Large)	Benjamin Gruber (Earth & Atmo Sciences)	David Fast (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Kevin Lien (Public Health)
Phil Oel (Councillor-at-Large)	Melody Li (East Asian Studies)	Melissa Silva (Medicine)	Maryse Ndilu Kiese (Religious Studies)
Dasha Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large)	Marcia East (Ed Policy Studies)	Jay Friesen; Derya Cinar (MLCS)	Ryan Stanfield (Renewable Resources)
Cristina Poletto (Anthropology)	Amanda Radil; Chantal Labonté (Ed Psych)	Mischa Bandet (Neuroscience)	Liam Lin (Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Meghan Pohlod (Arts and Design)	David Li (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Updinder Singh (Nursing)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Swai Mon Khaing (Biochemistry)	Lorna Sutherland (Elementary Education)	Kelsey Peterson (Occupational Therapy)	Antonio Bruni; Wenlong Huang (Surgery)
Francesca Jean; Michele DuVal (Biological Sciences)	Shaina Humble (English & Film Studies)	Daniel Kryz (Oncology)	Paige Gorsak (Women's and Gender Studies)

**Guests:** Sylvester Agbo, Spencer Balay, Okoloekwe Chike, Sachin Kaushik, Kerolous Messeha, Kim Nguyen-Phuoc, Gabriel O. Ojakovo, Hossein Hosseiniarvar, Andrews Tawiah, Mostafa Tawfeek.

Acting Speaker Roy Coulthard in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. R Coulthard acknowledged that the University of Alberta is situated on Treaty Six territory and Métis homelands. R Coulthard noted that, as per the GSA Council Standing Orders, the GSA President asked him to Chair the Council meeting as the GSA Speaker had a last-minute injury and was unable to attend GSA Council, and that the Deputy Speaker was currently out of the country. R Coulthard indicated he was a former GSA President and former GSA Deputy Speaker.

**Roll Call**

## 1. Roll Call of Council Members in Attendance

### Approval of Agenda

#### 2. Approval of the 24 April 2017 Consolidated Agenda

Members had before them the 24 April 2017 Consolidating Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 21 April 2017. S Ficko **MOVED**; T Nabe **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

### Approval of Minutes

#### 3. Minutes from the 20 March 2017 GSA Council meeting

Members had before them the 20 March 2017 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 13 April 2017. S Ficko **MOVED**; M Khademi **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**; 2 Abstained (A Bruni and A Talaei).

### Changes in Council Membership

#### 4. Changes in GSA Council Membership

##### i. Introduction of New Councillors

This was the first meeting for a number of Councillors, including M Armstrong, R Piazza, D Cinar, M Woghiren, and M Pohlod.

##### ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors

This was the last meeting for a number of Councillors, including M Campbell, A Capello, C More, A Ahola, N Noel, P Oel, N Onwugbufor, R Reklow, A Radil, and M DuVal. R Coulthard thanked them for their service. F Khodayari noted it was the last meeting for S Ficko as GSA President and A Talaei as GSA VP Student Services and on behalf of the 2016-2017 GSA Directly-Elected Officer team, thanked them for their mentorship and support. A Talaei thanked the GSA Directly-Elected Officers, GSA Council, and GSA office for their support over the last two years.

### Councillor Announcements

#### 5. Councillor Announcements

A Bruni announced that the Department of Surgery was hosting its inaugural Graduate Student Research Day on May 3, 2017. He specified that theregistration would open at 8:30 AM and that the event would be open to the public. A Bruni indicated that there would be a door prize for an iPad mini and that the prize winner would have to be present at the time of the draw to collect the prize.

D Lang announced on behalf of the GSA Board that the GSA won an Unwind Your Mind grant and was using the grant to host an improv workshop called Let Go of Your Mind. D Lang encouraged GSA Councillors to attend the event on Tuesday, April 25, and noted that a graduate student in the Department of Drama, Cristian Badiu, would be leading the workshop. It was also noted that the event was advertised through the GSA Newsletter and would be held in 1-16 Triffo Hall.

### Action Items

#### 6. Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council, GSA Officers, and GSA Standing Committees

Sarah Ficko (GSA President) presented the item.

**MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL:** That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee, **APPROVE** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council, GSA Officers, and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column documents and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy.

S Ficko noted that this was the first reading of GSA Bylaw and the proposed changes to GSA Policy were presented for information. She indicated that the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) discussed these proposals at length at their meeting of March 30, 2017 and then voted to recommend them to GSA Council unanimously via email vote on April 3, 2017. She added that at their April 5, 2017 meeting, members of the GSA Board reviewed the proposed changes prior to their onward transmission to GSA Council. She highlighted that the major changes were included in the cover letter submitted to GSA Council, and could be summarized as follows:

- Insertion of a mandate statement and associated duties for Councillors-at-Large (CALs); the mandate that was proposed builds on ongoing discussions concerning CALs since 2015, and the mandate that is now proposed reflects the roles that CALs already play in practice, such as adding a diversity of voices, and rising above departmental concerns. In the proposals, CALs were added to the jurisdiction of the GSA ACB, as it the case already with all other GSA representatives elected either by all graduate students or by GSA Council;

- Adding general statements to selected Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) portfolios concerning broad areas of responsibility reflective of those that they currently focus on, such as noting that the VPL focuses on health and wellness issues;
- Ensuring that all Standing Committees had an identified Chair and Vice-Chair;
- Moving the GFC Campus Law Review Committee (GFC CLRC) to the President's portfolio, which reflected recent practice, though the President always has the option to delegate;
- Specifying that the President oversees GSA events in consultation with other DEOs, which reflects actual practice;
- Dissolving the GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (GSA SAAC), as this committee had not met in over five years, and if this removal was approved, the GSA SAAC would also be removed from the portfolios of the Vice-President Student Services and Vice-President External (VPE), who are members of the GSA SAAC. This committee wasn't seen as necessary given that the GSA now runs town halls and solicits feedback via the newsletter; *and*
- Clarifying and amending the number of graduate students on the GSA Awards Selection Committee (minimum of 8 and up to 12 whereas no minimum was included before), GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) (minimum of 4 and up to 8, whereas before no number was specified), and GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), where following the recommendation of the GSA ERC, it was proposed moving from 8 to 6 members.

D Smirnow thanked the GSA GC for the work that went into the proposals and noted that there were a few items being moved to the President's portfolio. She noted that the President's portfolio was already quite large and asked S Ficko whether these proposed changes made sense in light of this fact. S Ficko responded that general practice was to include big picture items in the GSA President's portfolio given that the President was the first point of contact for events, and that the President took these items to the GSA Board for further discussion. She noted that with the proposal to shift the GFC CLRC to the President's portfolio, that in practice this committee had been, and could continue to be, delegated to a GSA Vice-President.

D Smirnow noted that the proposal included moving health and safety issues under the GSA VP Labour portfolio and asked how much room there was for different Directly-Elected Officer responsibilities to move around once they were elected. She asked what would happen if the next GSA VP Labour did not want to handle health and safety issues. S van der Klein responded that if this change was made to GSA Bylaw and Policy that the next GSA VP Labour would be required to continue with this work, as it would be part of their portfolio. She noted that this particular area of work required dedication, that its importance to the portfolio could be highlighted during the Early Call events, and that the GSA VP Labour portfolio did require the individual to be a helper in a sense in the areas of mental health and wellness.

D Smirnow asked why the proposal included the removal of the general statement indicating that a quorum by default for GSA Standing Committees and whether this change would be easy to implement. S Ficko responded that the proposal specified a quorum for each GSA Standing Committee, and that this would be easy to implement.

C More noted that a lot of the rationale provided in the double columns indicated that the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy were to reflect current practice and he asked what the reason to include these pieces in GSA Bylaw and Policy. He also asked why specific committees were listed in the Officer Portfolios instead of including broader statements about the different types of committees each Directly-Elected Officer served on. S Ficko responded that the proposed changes did include some broader statements about areas of focus alongside specific committee responsibilities within each portfolio, and that the specific lists allowed GSA Council to see the meetings the DEOs were supposed to attend. C Thomas noted that many of the specific committees, such as General Faculty Council (GFC) committees, would not change over the years. C More followed up by asking if these lists could be held somewhere else where a vote from GSA Council wasn't needed to change them. S Ficko responded that GSA Council was the body that the Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) must report back to, so it made sense for the GSA Council to know where the DEOs were spending their time.

C More indicated that he thought that the GSA LRC was a fairly labour heavy committee important for Collective Agreement negotiations and that it did not seem to relate to the GSA VP External role and asked why the VPE was proposed as the Vice-Chair of the GSA LRC when the portfolio was not aligned with the work of this committee. S Ficko responded that in the past the VPE had served on the GSA LRC and that they also had to balance officer portfolios. She further noted that an editorial change approved by the GSA GC clarified that all DEOs may serve as a delegate for another DEO on any GSA Standing Committee, if it was felt one year that a different DEO would be better suited for the Vice-Chair position it could be done that way. C More indicated that this response brought him back to his first point, which was that if something was in GSA Bylaw and Policy there should be a reason for it, rather than serving as a placeholder.

C More noted that the proposal listed the Vice-President Labour (VPL) as the Vice-Chair of the GSA GC and suggested that the Vice-President Academic would be a better fit, since the VPL was not as involved with governance. S Ficko responded that the proposal did not propose changes to the DEO membership on GSA Standing Committees, and did not propose changes to the Vice-Chairs of these committees. C More suggested that the GSA GC consider revisiting this in the future and to think carefully about the DEOs serving on each GSA Standing Committee with respect to their portfolios.

C More commented that he felt the proposed changes to the GSA Bylaw on GSA Council should have been a separate item from the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officers and GSA Standing Committees

D Smirnow asked why the proposal specified that Council-Elected Officer candidates could not run for multiple officer positions in the proposed D.BYL.3.2.f. C Thomas responded that this proposed change paralleled current policy whereby those running for DEO positions could not run for multiple positions. She added that this was to prevent a situation in which one candidate was elected to serve in multiple Council-Elected Officer positions.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee, **APPROVE** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council, GSA Officers, and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column documents and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy. S Ficko **MOVED**. F Khodayari **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**; 1 opposed; 2 Abstained (J Yong).

## Elections

### **7. GSA Council Elections**

Antonio Bruni (Vice-Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item.

#### **Councillor-at-Large By-Election**

A Bruni noted that in the 2017 GSA General Election, six out of ten Councillor-at-Large positions were filled. He added that the GSA NoC advertised for the remaining four vacant GSA Councillor-at-Large positions in the GSA newsletters of March 24, 31, April 7, and 13, 2017 and that the deadline to receive nominations was April 11, 2017. He indicated that nine nominations were received and that following regular procedure a call for additional nominations was emailed to Council and that no additional nominations were received.

A Bruni explained the ballot for these positions noting that GSA Council members could vote for up to four candidates to fill the and that alternately, GSA Council members could vote for the 'None of the Candidates' option, or abstained by submitting a blank ballot. He added that if GSA Council members casted a vote for any number of candidates in addition to the 'None of the Candidates' option, the ballot would be considered spoiled and that voting for more than four candidates would also render the ballot spoiled.

A Bruni invited the nominees to leave the room in preparation of their address to GSA Council as each nominee would have the opportunity to answer one question drafted by the GSA NoC and shared with the nominees in advance of the meeting.

The question was:

*Taking 45 seconds, please tell us why you would like to serve as a Councillor-at-Large.*

S Agbo noted that he would like to improve the welfare of all graduate students.

S Balay stated that he was interested in learning more about the governance structure and wanted to gradually be more involved.

H Hosseiniparvar noted that he wanted to be more involved in GSA Council.

S Kaushik stated that he wanted to help GSA Council solve problems by finding efficient solutions.

K Messeha noted that he wanted to help graduate students in different ways than departments.

N Noel noted that she learnt a lot in her first term and that she, as a CAL, would respect and consider the diversity and the complexity of the graduate student body.

M Taawfeek noted that he wanted to establish communication channel between graduate students and the GSA and that he wanted to ensure that graduate students were more informed about the services available to them.

A Tawiah noted that being a member of GSA Council would be a fantastic opportunity to learn public speaking and communication skills and that he would be able to share his experience as an international graduate student.

B Whitlock noted that he had been a GSA Councillor for three years and that he had the experience necessary for the positions and he also noted that he was not afraid to have the difficult conversation.

The nominees were asked back in the room and A Bruni invited GSA Council voting members to cast their ballots.

Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large Positions:

Sylvester Agbo (Civil Engineering)  
 Spencer Balay (Biological Sciences)  
 Hossein Hosseiniparvar (Music)  
 Sachin Kaushik (MINT)  
 Kerolous Messeha (Medicine)  
 Nicole Noel (Biological Sciences, Medical Genetics as of Sept 2017)  
 Mostafa Tawfeek (Civil Engineering)  
 Andrews Tawiah (Rehab Science)  
 Brayden Whitlock (Physiology)

**GSA Standing Committees**

- a. GSA Board – senior admin. Read from the item. First paragraph last.

A Bruni noted that the GSA Board (GSAB) was the senior administrative authority of the GSA. He indicated that that information regarding this vacancy was circulated via email to GSA Council on March 29, 2017 with a deadline of April 10, 2017 and that no nominations were received. He added that a call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on April 12, 2017 with a deadline of April 19, 2017 and that one additional nomination was received. A Bruni also noted that the responsibilities of the councillor position on GSAB are listed in the GSA Board Policy. He invited GSA Council to cast their ballots.

Nominee for GSA Board:

Gabriel O. Ojakovo (Music)

- b. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board – read the item. Stopped after naming Radim and Michele. Speaker noted that the results would be communicated via email.

A Bruni noted that the GSA NoC advertised for three vacant positions on the GSA ACB in the March 31, 2017 GSA newsletter with a deadline of April 10, 2017 and that no nominations were received. He added that a call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on April 12, 2017 with a deadline of April 19, 2017 and that two additional nominations were received. He then noted that the nominees were interviewed by Radim Barta and Michele DuVal. A Bruni invited GSA Council to cast their ballots. R Coulthard noted that the results of the elections would be communicated to GSA Council via email in the Council summary.

Nominees for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board:

Benjamin Gruber (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)  
 Atticus Harrigan (Linguistics)

**For Discussion**

**8. GSA Board 2016-2017 Strategic Work Plan: Final Update**

Sarah Ficko (GSA President) presented the item.

S Ficko noted that her team embarked on a redesign of the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan this year and tried to solicit feedback from graduate students and GSA Council and that they worked hard to achieve many of the noted goals and that other goals will continue to stay on the GSA's radar and carry over for future teams to consider. She also noted that following the feedback

received in January regarding the colour coding the material also included a non-colour coded version for those who find that easier to digest

S Ficko noted that the cover letter before GSA Council went into many details of the accomplishments of the 2016-2017 team. She then highlighted major completed initiatives: advocating against increases to international graduate student tuition; re-starting the conversation with senior administration around implementing sustainable funding packages that support an appropriate standard of living for graduate students; reviewing the GSA Health and Dental Plan utilizing graduate student feedback gathered through town halls and surveys; concluding the U-Pass Agreement Renewal; developing guiding questions to assist prospective graduate students in selecting a supervisor and making the decision to pursue graduate studies; assisting with finalizing the U of A Sexual Violence Policy; active participation on the newly created Residence Life Task Force; successful advocacy to and consultation with FGSR on mentoring, professional development, and internship programs and reviewing exam and supervisory policies in collaboration with the FGSR.

S Ficko thanked her team for all their hard work this year. She noted that one of the silent discussion this month was on what GSA Council members would like to see in the 2017-2018 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

T Nabe noted that the legend for the items marked in pink noted that these would *ideally* “remain in progress on an ongoing basis or will be initiated” and asked why these items not move forward and asked if it was fair to assume that they would be included in the 2017-2018 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. S Ficko noted that she could not guarantee that they would be as she did not have any input in the 2017-2018 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

D Smirnow thanked the 2016-2017 Directly-Elected Officers for their hard work.

B Richardson noted that the list of completed initiatives included advocating against the international graduate students tuition fee increase but that the increase was still approved and she asked if there was a difference between completed initiatives and initiatives that were undertaken but failed. S Ficko noted that she spent a lot of time this year advocating against the increase and that and she didn't want these advocating efforts to be lost. F Khodayari added that the team really did all they could to prevent the increase.

## 9. Bill 7 Information

Sarah Ficko (GSA President) and Sasha van der Klein (GSA VP Labour) presented the item.

S van der Klein that the Bill 7 – An Act to Enhance Post-Secondary Academic Bargaining passed its first two readings at the provincial legislature. She indicated some of the major highlights of Bill 7. She noted that Bill 7 repealed some sections of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)* and moved the negotiation of collective agreements within the University to be under the *Labour Relations Code*. She added that graduate students had the possibility of strike action during negotiations but that they retained the right to choose binding arbitration over striking. She specified that binding arbitration was the resolution mechanism if negotiations came to an end point that was build in the current collective agreement. She briefly explained binding arbitration. She noted that the GSA retained its exclusive authority to negotiate and enter into an agreement with respect to the employment of graduate students for a minimum of five years. She indicated that most likely the Graduate Research Assistant Fellowships (GRAFs) would not be covered under future agreements. She specified that these changes might entail that the GSA would consult directly with academically employed graduate students (rather than GSA Council) on bargaining issues and ratification. She noted that the Post Doctoral Fellows had been added to the PSLA and that they also be provided with the right to strike. She explained that lockout provisions were extended to post-secondary institutions. Finally, she noted that post-secondary institutions would have to negotiate essential services meaning that in case of a strike or lockout, which services would need to continue.

S van der Klein noted that the GSA would be consulting with their lawyers and that they would advise on the changes required. She noted that changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy might be necessary and that she would inform GSA Council further when the GSA would hear back from its lawyers. She invited councillors that had not met with her to book an appointment with her.

N Prather asked whether graduate students that were not academically employed would have the right to vote on the collective agreement. S van der Klein stated that it was a good question that would require the advices of GSA's lawyers for an answer.

A Harrigan asked if the GSA would have to register as a trade union. S Ficko answered that under Bill 7 the GSA was “deemed a trade union for the purposes of acting as a bargaining agent for the academically employed” and that the GSA was not sure of the full implications of this statement. She added that it was something else that the GSA's lawyers would be asked to look into.

A Lewis asked to confirm that GRAFs would not be included in future agreements. S van der Klein noted that GRAFs were not considered employees and that the answer was a preliminary yes. She added that she was hoping that the GSA's lawyers would be able to give the GSA a fuller reply to this question.

B Richardson asked if academically employed graduate students had the protection of the *Employment Standards Code*. S Ficko replied by the negative and specified that Bill 7 clearly stated that the *Employment Standards Code* did not apply to academically employed graduate students, academic staff members, and postdoctoral fellows.

D Smirnow asked if the GSA had discussed Bill 7 with University Administration and if so what their reaction was. S Ficko noted that University Administration was less concerned about academically employed graduate students and more about the impact of Bill 7 on their negotiations for the academic staff.

D Smirnow asked how the decision between binding arbitration and strike action would be made. S van der Klein noted that it would be part of the negotiation and that it would be done on the recommendation of graduate teaching assistants and graduate research assistants. S Ficko added that this was one of the things that the GSA was hoping to have clarification on specifically how the current structure would need to change. N Prather noted that, in his experience, the negotiating body came up with a position and then the general membership voted. S Ficko indicated that she thought that it needed to be decided before entering negotiations. N Prather replied that he had never seen it happen.

M Woghiren asked how the fact that there was currently no strike fund affected graduate students. S Ficko noted that in their position Alberta Graduate Provincial Advisory Council (ab-GPAC) recommended a five years grace period to allow GSAs to build up a strike fund. She noted that she was unsure what would happen if academically employed graduate students were to strike without a strike fund but this would be considered in the ongoing conversation.

A Harrigan asked about the Student Worker Action Group. S van der Klein noted that the GSA was not affiliated with this group and she added that she attended their last meeting on April 11.

A Lewis noted that, with the GRAFs not being included in the collective agreement, she was concerned that it would create multiple tiers of graduate students' representation. S van der Klein agreed and specified that this was the situation in most universities.

B Richardson asked if graduate students would have different rights to vote. S van der Klein replied that according to the legislation only academically employed graduate students would have a right to vote on the collective agreement.

D Smirnow noted that Bill 7 made the GSA the bargaining agent for the next five years and she asked what would happen in five years. S van der Klein noted that the GSA would move forward according to the wishes of the graduate student body. S Ficko specified that the government would review this section in five years and would make any necessary recommendations at that point.

C Poletto asked what happened for graduate students that were graduate teaching assistants or graduate research assistants but only for a term. S van der Klein noted that when a vote would be required only current graduate teaching assistants or graduate research assistants would have the right to vote. She added that a strike vote close to a change of term was on of the GSA's concerns as it could mean that the graduate students voting would not be the one striking. S Ficko noted that they intended to discuss with other GSAs to have a better understanding on how they dealt with similar issues.

A Barry asked when the GSA was expecting to hear back from the lawyers. C Thomas noted that the package contained some hundred pages of materials and that the GSA was not expecting to hear back from them for a month or a month and a half.

G Little asked what the plan was and noted that he was concerned that GSA Council was again in a waiting position. S van der Klein noted that she was still meeting with GSA councillors and that she wanted to meet with as many of them as possible. She added that she had meet with about 15 departments and again she encouraged GSA Council members to book an appointment with her. She also indicated that Bill 7 had many legal implications and that before making any brisk changes it was recommended to have a full understanding of all the ramifications of Bill 7.

J Leifso noted that he would encourage his department to continue being part in the ongoing discussion and asked if there were any opportunities to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education regarding Bill 7. S Ficko noted that ab-GPAC would be the organization to have a discussion with the government and that it would definitely be part of the discussion.

L Sutherland asked what the GSA plans were to better educate graduate students on this issue. S van der Klein noted that the GSA was hoping to hold town halls over the summer to discuss this. L Sutherland suggested also including some of the information in the GSA Newsletter. N Prather suggested including it in the GSA orientations. J Worthy wondered if it would be possible to send a report with the important information that could be shared widely. S van der Klein noted that it was a great idea but the GSA would need to hear back from their lawyers.

D Smirnow asked if Bill 7 would affect the current collective agreement. S van der Klein responded by the negative.

As further background, R Coulthard noted that that labour role was not something that the GSA started with and that this role had grown overtime. He added that Bill 7 included important changes that had been a long time coming.

## **Reports**

### **10. President**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 April 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition S Ficko stated that she and J Traynor served on the FGSR Dean Search Committee and that a Dean had been selected. She noted that the individual would be announced following the 12 May Board of Governors meeting.

S Ficko indicated that, since the Alberta government froze domestic tuition and fees for another year and since the University was facing increased costs, the Dean of Students' Office had decided to cut funding for student group grants instead of more essential services. She indicated that there were approximately 10 graduate student groups who had applied for this funding last year, and noted that the GSA had funding available for academically-related graduate student groups through the Academically-Related Graduate Student Group Awards. As it was her last meeting, S Ficko thanked GSA Council for all of their input and service.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 April 2017. The report stood as submitted.

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

No meetings this reporting period.

#### **iv. GSA Governance Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 April 2017. The report stood as submitted.

### **11. GSA Nominating Committee**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 April 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition A Bruni stated that pending the results of the elections for CAL, GSAB, and the GSA ACB, these positions would be advertised again if none of the candidates were elected. He indicated that on March 29, 2017, GSA Council members were notified via email of one vacancy on the GSA ERC for a GSA member of Council, and that a call for additional nominations was then sent out. A Bruni indicated no nominations were received and that the position would be re-advertised. He announced that M DuVal would be stepping down from her joint position on the GSAB and the GSA NoC and indicated that this position would be advertised shortly, ideally as a joint position, but that interested candidates could submit a nomination to serve on the GSAB, the GSA NoC, or both committees.

A Bruni highlighted that the GSA NoC was also currently advertising the GSA Senator position and thanked J Traynor for her service. He emphasized that the deadline to receive nominations was May 3, 2017 and that the deadline to receive additional nominations was May 11, 2017.

Finally, A Bruni reported that the GSA NoC had an in-person meeting on March 31 to meet the newest member of the committee, Ahsan Ahmed, and to provide context on the work of the GSA NoC, and that the GSA NoC had discussed changing the procedures with respect to the replenishment of GSA Standing Committees; details could be found in the written report and would be further elaborated on by R Barta at the May GSA Council meeting.

T Nabe asked why there were two deadlines for the CAL nominations and what prompted the extension. M DuVal responded that since the CAL positions were not filled during the 2017 GSA General Election and had to be filled via a By-Election,

overseen by the GSA NoC, that the same procedures as the replenishment for GSA Standing Committees were followed, which included both an original call for nominations to all graduate students, followed by an additional call for nominations to GSA Council, which explained the two different deadlines.

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

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 April 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition F Khodayari stated that as noted in his report, the FGSR Policy Review Committee was having their last meeting on April 25 to approve the changes to FGSR policies on examinations before they went forward to FGSR Council. He noted that the link to the material was sent out with the GSA Newsletter last week inviting graduate students to submit their feedback and that he had received 3 – 4 graduate student comments regarding practices in different departments. He indicated that he would bring this feedback forward to the FGSR Policy Review Committee and that the proposed changes would be brought forward to the 10 May FGSR Council meeting. He asked if any GSA Councillors had additional feedback and there were no further questions or comments. F Khodayari reported that the GFC Nominating Committee selected graduate student representatives for the various GFC committees and thanked the graduate students who put their names forward.

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

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 April 2017. The report stood as submitted.

### **ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee's Report**

No meetings this reporting period.

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

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 April 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition S van der Klein reminded GSA Councillors to schedule a labour consultation with her if they had not done so already.

### **ii. GSA Negotiating Committee**

No meetings this reporting period.

### **iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No meetings this reporting period.

## **15. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 April 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition A Talaei stated he had three items to highlight from his written report. First, he noted that the U-Pass negotiations were completed and that the new agreement would be signed soon. Second, he indicated that the City of Edmonton selected a vendor for Smart Fare but was still in negotiations with respect to the details of the contract with the selected vendor and that as a result the U of A had to put a hold on implementing Smart Fare into ONECards until the City of Edmonton could confirm the vendor's requirements. Third, he stated that this year the GSA revisited the types of writing services that GSA funding subsidizes for graduate students and he noted that the thesis writing retreat event received great feedback from its participants. A Talaei reported the Student Success Centre was hosting its next thesis workshop at the beginning of May and that the workshops were free for graduate students. He indicated that there have been discussions about having a professional writer to support graduate students in Triffo Hall and that these discussions would be continued in the fall. He noted that the Deputy Provost had circulated an invitation to the University community for a town hall on April 26 from 12 – 1 PM on the topic of the visibility of scholarly writing support at the U of A, and he encouraged GSA Council members to attend.

C More asked where the money for a writing support person in Triffo Hall would come from. A Talaei responded that there was a line in the GSA budget allocated to support the work of the Student Success Centre, and that this money was currently being used to fund discounted writing support services for graduate students. A Talaei noted that the current services were not being widely used, which prompted discussions about the GSA's current financial contribution being used to support new writing services to benefit graduate students.

**ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee**

No meetings this reporting period.

**16. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

J Traynor stated that there was a task force group meeting to discuss the dialogue on racism, and that the Senate Executive Committee might partner with the SU on some event programming on this topic. J Traynor thanked M DuVal for filling in for her at the Senate Plenary meetings in May and encouraged GSA Council members to consider running for the GSA Senator position.

**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 Elections and Referenda Committee**

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

No meetings this reporting period.

**20. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 April 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition C Thomas stated that her report included the full list of GSA corporate documents, which was circulated to GSA Council a few times each year. C Thomas noted that the GSA's agreement with Information and Services and Technology (IST), which was discussed in the GSA's budget, had been working well so far, and that the agreement ensured that there was a small team of IT staff who were able to come to the GSA to address any technical problems that arose.

**Question Period**

**21. Written Questions**

None at this time.

**22. Oral Questions**

M Armstrong indicated that he was elected as the new GSA Councillor for the Department of Chemistry and that it had come to his attention as a new graduate student that some graduate students were using nitrate gloves to handle acetone and he encouraged other students with similar concerns to contact him. S Ficko also invited GSA Councillors to email the GSA President, or the GSA VPL this issue in case it intersected with labour issues, including workplace health and safety concerns.

M Woghiren noted that, on the topic of IST, graduate students in the Department of Computing Science had their IST connected to the University, and in the case of IT outages, this caused major issues for graduate students who were in the process of experiments and who had to re-start their work. She asked who to get in contact with to try to gain remediate to this situation for graduate students in her department. B Richardson indicated that she had experience with IST issues and that her advice was to get the name of an individual in IST and to email them directly instead of trying to utilize the IST ticketing system; she noted that she would send a contact information to M Woghiren. T Nabe also suggested calling IST directly.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

April 13, 2017

The attached double column proposals before you for consideration relate to proposed changes to three sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy: GSA Council, GSA Officers, and GSA Standing Committees, changes first mentioned in my March 20, 2017 report to GSA Council. The GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) met on March 30, 2017 to discuss these proposed substantive changes, as well as some editorial changes to the Bylaws and Policies noted above and Policy on GSA Caucuses. These editorial changes are discussed in the GSA GC's report to GSA Council. The GSA Board also reviewed the proposed changes before you now at their April 5, 2017 meeting.

Over the past year, as member have heard from me before, the GSA GC has completed lots of review of the GSA's governing documents, preparing an integrated version of GSA Bylaw and Policy, as well as reviewing the governing documents for any needed editorial amendments. The proposed substantive changes before you now can be summarized as follows:

- Insertion of a mandate statement and associated duties for CALs. Discussions concerning CALs and their mandate/roles have been ongoing since 2015 and the mandate now proposed in the double columns builds upon earlier discussions of the GSA GC and GSA Council and serves to reflect in GSA Bylaw and Policy the roles that CALs already play in practice. The GSA GC is also proposing that CALs be added to the jurisdiction of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, as is the case already with all other GSA representatives elected either by all graduate students or by GSA Council.
- Proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Officers and Standing Committee include:
  - Adding general statements to selected DEO portfolios concerning their broad areas of responsibility reflective of those that they currently focus on.
  - Ensuring that all GSA Standing Committees have an identified Chair and Vice-Chair.
  - Moving serving on the GFC Campus Law Review Committee to the President's portfolio (the President can also delegate this) – this is currently listed in the Vice-President Academic portfolio but typically either the President or the Vice-President Labour serves on it.
  - Moving oversight of GSA events from the Vice-President External's portfolio to the President's portfolio. Events are in the Vice-President External's portfolio as a hold-over from when that position was known as the Vice-President Student Life. The proposed change also specifies that the President oversees GSA events in consultation with other DEOs.
  - Dissolving the GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (GSA SAAC), as this committee has not met in over 5 years. The mandate of GSA SAAC was to act as a sounding board for a wide range of matters relating to student services and student life, a function largely fulfilled by GSA Council. If this removal is approved, the GSA SAAC will also be removed from the portfolios of the Vice-President Student Services and Vice-President External, who are listed as members.
  - Clarifying/amending the number of graduate student members on the GSA ASC, GSA LRC, and GSA ERC.

I look forward to presenting these changes to you at the April meeting of GSA Council and welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Sarah Ficko  
Former GSA President and Former Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board

## Outline of Issue (GSA Council)

### Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council, GSA Officers, and GSA Standing Committees

#### Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee, **APPROVE** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council, GSA Officers, and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column documents and effective immediately.

**NOTE 1:** The proposed changes apply to Section C: GSA Council, Section D: GSA Officers, Section F: GSA Standing Committees, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complain Board, Section I: Elections, Section K: Finances, and Section O: GSA Recognition Awards.

**NOTE 2:** This is the second reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and the sole reading of proposed changes to GSA Policy.

#### Background:

Members of the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) discussed these proposals at length at their meeting of March 30, 2017 and then voted to recommend the attached proposed changes to GSA Council unanimously via email vote on April 3, 2017. The GSA GC also approved several editorial changes to the above-noted sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy, which were outlined in the GSA GC report to GSA Council for the April 24, 2017 meeting.

At their April 5, 2017 meeting, members of the GSA Board reviewed the proposed changes prior to their onward transmission to GSA Council.

GSA Council voted to approve the attached proposed changes to GSA Bylaw (first reading) on April 24, 2017. At that meeting the attached proposed changes to GSA Policy were presented for information.

Please see the attached cover letter (first circulated to GSA Council for the April 24, 2017 meeting) for additional information.

#### Jurisdiction:

Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, Section F.POL.3.2.a  
*"The GSAB is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by GSA Council."*

Section F: Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.a  
 The GC will *"advise GSA Council on GSA Bylaw, matters of GSA Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governing issues and provide a report on recommended changes at the next scheduled GSA Council meeting."*

Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.b  
 The GSA GC will *"make any editorial changes (such as factual inaccuracies and other editorial issues) to the GSA's governing documents as deemed necessary by the GSA GC."*

**GSA Council: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw, GSA Council**

Current Bylaw (deletions noted by a strikethrough) and Proposed Changes (additions underlined)	Rationale/Background
<b>Section C: GSA Council</b>	
C.BYL.1 Mandate...	<i>No change.</i>
C.BYL.2 GSA Council Composition	<i>No change.</i>
C.BYL.2.1-C.BYL.2.3.a.i...	<i>No change.</i>
C.BYL.2.3.b <u>The duties of CALs will be:</u>	<p><i>An ongoing review of CAL positions and associated mandate began in 2015. The mandate proposed here builds upon earlier discussions of the GSA GC and GSA Council and provides a simple mandate statement to reflect what CALs are already doing in practice. In the proposed changes to Section F: GSA Standing Committee, CALs will also be added to the jurisdiction of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, as is the case already with all other GSA representatives elected either by all graduate students or by GSA Council.</i></p> <p><i>These proposed changes also ensure this section parallels C.BYL.2.2.b on Departmental Councillors.</i></p>
C.BYL.2.3.b.i <u>To attend all meetings of GSA Council,</u>	<i>To parallel C.BYL.2.2.b.ii on Departmental Councillors.</i>
C.BYL.2.3.b.ii <u>To ensure that the Speaker and GSA office are kept up to date with their names, departmental addresses, and contact information, and</u>	<i>To parallel C.BYL.2.2.b.iii on Departmental Councillors.</i>
C.BYL.2.3.b.iii <u>To provide additional voices on GSA Council from those offered by Departmental Councillors.</u>	<p><i>Clear mandate statement for CALs to reflect what they already do in practice. As they are elected either by all graduate students or by GSA Council, CALs provide additional voices to those offered by Departmental Councillors.</i></p>

## GSA Officers: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, GSA Officers

<b>Current Bylaw</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers</b>	
<b>D.BYL.1 General</b>	<i>No change.</i>
D.BYL.1.1-D.BYL.1.4.a...	<i>No change.</i>
D.BYL.1.4.b Any changes in the stipend above the Consumer Price Index are subject to explicit approval by GSA Council. <u>Any changes to the honorarium are subject to explicit approval by GSA Council.</u>	<i>Proposed addition to note that changes to honoraria beyond CPI require approval by GSA Council.</i>  <i>This section is cross-referenced as a note from GSA Management in Section K, Finances, GSA Policy: Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures, and will need to be changed there as well if this proposal is approved.</i>
<b>D.BYL.2 Directly-Elected Officers</b>	<i>No change.</i>
D.BYL.2.1 D.BYL.2.2.f ...	<i>No change.</i>
<b>D.BYL.3 Council-Elected Officers</b>	<i>No change.</i>
D.BYL.3.1.a – D.BYL.3.1.e ...	<i>No change.</i>
D.BYL.3.1.f <u>Candidates are not allowed to run for multiple positions and, if elected, may not hold other Council-Elected Officer positions.</u>	<i>New section to ensure that candidates for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO positions are not nominating themselves for multiple positions or holding multiple positions. Parallels GSA Policy with respect to DEOs.</i>
D.BYL.3.2 – D.BYL.3.3...	<i>No change.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios</b>	
<b>D.POL.4 General Information and Qualifications</b>	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.4.1-D.POL.4.11 ...	<i>No change.</i>

D.POL.4.12 DEOs will report monthly to GSA Council in writing; these reports will be shared publicly. Reports will include a list of all meetings attended, as well as highlights of work done, initiatives involved with, etc since previous reports. DEOs will also report orally to GSA Council at each meeting attended.	Proposed addition to specify the reporting procedures that DEOs currently do in practice.
<b>D.POL.5 President</b>	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.5.1 Duties	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.5.1.a – D.POL.5.1.i ...	<i>No change.</i>
<u>D.POL.5.1.j The President oversees, in consultation with other DEOs and the Executive Director (ED) or delegate, all GSA events.</u>	<i>Proposal to put into GSA Policy what is currently done in practice. The President currently oversees these matters, in consultation with other DEOs and the ED.</i>
<del>D.POL.5.1.j</del> <u>D.POL.5.1.</u> - <del>D.POL.5.1.m</del> <u>D.POL.5.1.n...</u>	<i>No change except to renumber.</i>
D.POL.5.2 Committees	<i>No change.</i>
<del>D.POL.5.2.a</del> <u>The President is a non-voting member of all GSA Standing Committees.</u>	<i>Proposed change to align with proposed changes to GSA Policy, Standing Committees, which would put into GSA Policy what is already done in practice, whereby DEOs can attend any GSA Standing Committee, pending approval from the relevant committee Chair.</i>
<del>D.POL.5.2.b</del> <u>D.POL.5.2.a</u> - <del>D.POL.5.2.e.vii</del> <u>D.POL.5.2.d.vii ...</u>	<i>No change except to renumber.</i>
<u>D.POL.5.2.-e.d.viii The GFC Campus Law Review Committee (GFC CLRC),</u>	<i>Moved from VPA; President typically delegates. Renumbering.</i>
<del>D.POL.5.2.e.viii</del> <u>D.POL.5.2.d.ix</u> - <del>D.POL.5.2.e.ix</del> <u>D.POL.5.2.d.xi ...</u>	<i>No change except to renumber.</i>
D.POL.5.3 Qualifications	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.5.3.a ...	<i>No change.</i>
<b>D.POL.6 Vice-President Academic</b>	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.6.1-D.POL.6.1.e...	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.6.2 Committees	<i>No change.</i>

D.POL.6.2.a The VPA is a member of the GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC) <u>(as Vice-Chair)</u> .	<i>Change to parallel proposed changes to GSA Policy, Standing Committees, if approved.</i>
D.POL.6.2.b - D.POL.6.2.c.vix...	<i>No change.</i>
<del>D.POL.6.2.c.x The GFC Campus Law Review Committee (GFC CLRC).</del>	<i>Moved to President's portfolio, see above D.POL.5.2.d.viii. In practice, the President has delegated this to a VP and the VPA has not served.</i>
<del>D.POL.6.2.c.xi - D.POL.6.2.c.xvi</del> <u>D.POL.6.2.c.x - D.POL.6.2.c.xv ...</u>	<i>No change except to renumber.</i>
D.POL.6.3 Qualifications	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.6.3.a	<i>No change.</i>
<b>D.POL.7 Vice-President External</b>	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.7.1.-D.POL.7.1.a.iii	<i>No change.</i>
<del>D.POL.7.1.b The VPE is responsible for consulting with the GSA Board and the ED or delegate on matters related to Orientation, Awards Night, and similar activities, with the ED responsible for delivery of these events.</del>	<i>Proposal to move this to the President's portfolio as, in current practice, the President has oversight of GSA events and consults with the DEOs. Events are still located in the VPE portfolio as a holdover from when the VP Student Life position underwent a title change to VP External.</i>
<del>D.POL.7.1.e</del> <u>D.POL.7.1.b - D.POL.7.1.e</u> <del>D.POL.7.1.d</del>	<i>No change except to renumber.</i>
D.POL.7.2 Committees	<i>No change.</i>
<del>D.POL.7.2.a The VPE chairs the GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC), and co-chairs the GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (GSA SAAC) with the VPSS.</del>	<i>Proposed deletion to removing reference to the VPE membership on GSA SAAC, if the proposed change to remove SAAC is approved by GSA Council.</i>
D.POL.7.2.b The VPE is a member of the GSA LRC <u>(as Vice-Chair)</u> .	<i>Change to parallel proposed changes to GSA Policy, Standing Committees, if approved.</i>
D.POL.7.2.c - D.POL.7.2.c.vi ...	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.7.3 Qualifications	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.7.3.a - D.POL.7.3.b	<i>No change.</i>
<b>D.POL.8 Vice-President Labour</b>	<i>No change.</i>

D.POL.8.1.a-D.POL.8.1.g ...	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.8.2 Committees	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.8.2.a ...	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.8.2.b The VPL is a member of the GSA ASC ( <del>as Vice-Chair</del> ), the GSA GC (as Vice-Chair), the GSA BFC (as Vice-Chair), and the GSA FGSR Council Caucus.	<i>Change to parallel proposed changes to GSA Policy, Standing Committees, if approved.</i>
D.POL.8.2.c – D.POL.8.2.c.i...	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.8.2.c.ii The Protective Services Advisory Committee, <u>and</u>	<i>Editorial change.</i>
<u>D.POL.8.2.c.iii Committees related to workplace health and safety issues, campus alcohol issues, and mental health and wellness issues.</u>	<i>Proposed addition to clarify that the VPL currently and historically represents the GSA on mental health and wellness issues.</i>
D.POL.8.3 Qualifications	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.8.3.a – D.POL.8.3.b ...	<i>No change.</i>
<b>D.POL.9 Vice-President Student Services</b>	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.9.1.a-D.POL.9.1.j ...	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.9.2 Committees	<i>No change.</i>
<del>D.POL.9.2.a The VPSS co chairs the GSA SAAC with the VPE.</del>	<i>Change to parallel proposed changes to GSA Policy, Standing Committees, if approved.</i>
<del>D.POL.9.2.b D.POL.9.2.b.ix</del> <u>D.POL.9.2.a – D.POL.9.2.a.ix...</u>	<i>No change except to renumber.</i>
D.POL.9.3 Qualifications	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.9.3.a ...	<i>No change.</i>

**GSA Standing Committees: Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees**

<b>Current Bylaw</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Bylaw, Section F: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
F.BYL.1 General	
F.BYL.1.1 – F.BYL.1.3.c...	<i>No change.</i>
F.BYL.1.3.d <del>Student Affairs Advisory Committee,</del>	<i>Obsolete Committee – has not met in many years.</i>
F.BYL.1.3.e <u>F.BYL.1.3.d</u> GSA Awards Selection Committee,	<i>Renumbering.</i>
F.BYL.1.3.f <u>F.BYL.1.3.e</u> GSA Negotiating Committee,	<i>Renumbering.</i>
F.BYL.1.3.g <u>F.BYL.1.3.f</u> GSA Labour Relations Committee,	<i>Renumbering.</i>
F.BYL.1.3.h <u>F.BYL.1.3.g</u> GSA Elections and Referenda Committee,	<i>Renumbering.</i>
F.BYL.1.3.i <u>F.BYL.1.3.h</u> GSA Nominating Committee, and	<i>Renumbering.</i>
F.BYL.1.3.j <u>F.BYL.1.3.i</u> GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
F.BYL.1.4 <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committees	<i>No change.</i>
F.BYL.1.4.a ...	<i>No change.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
<b>F.POL.2 General</b>	<i>No change.</i>
F.POL.2.1 <del>Unless otherwise specified, quorum of Standing Committees will be four (4) members of that Committee.</del>	<i>Proposed changes below introduce a quorum for each GSA Standing Committee.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
F.POL.2.2 F.POL.2.1 If <del>the Chair (or Chairs)</del> of a GSA Standing Committee is absent or has a conflict of interest, the Vice-Chair will assume the responsibilities of the Chair (as per GSA Policy, Performance and Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Conflict of Commitment). <del>may delegate their responsibilities as chair to another member of the committee, subject to the approval of the committee.</del> <u>The Chair and Vice-Chair are voting members of all GSA Standing Committees of which they are members.</u>	<i>Proposed change to introduce a Vice-Chair for each GSA Standing Committee and renumbering.</i>
F.POL.2.3 F.POL.2.2 In the absence of the Chair <u>and Vice-Chair</u> <del>(or Chairs)</del> , the members of a GSA Standing Committee may select an interim Chair from its membership by majority vote, with such an appointment to last for the duration of the Chair's absence.	<i>To accord with the proposed change above and renumbering.</i>
F.POL.2.4 F.POL.2.3 ...	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
F.POL.2.4 <u>Any Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) may attend any GSA Standing Committee meetings as a guest following approval from the Chair of the committee.</u>	<i>Proposed addition to enable DEOs to attend any GSA Standing Committee meeting as a guest following approval from the Chair of the committee. GSA Policy for BFC (K.POL.2.3) currently specifies that all DEOs are welcome to attend GSA GFC meetings. Proposal to expand this to other GSA Committees as well.</i>
F.POL.2.5 – F.POL.2.9.e ...	<i>No change.</i>
<b>F.POL.3 GSA Board</b>	<i>No change.</i>
F.POL.3.1-F.POL.3.1.c ...	<i>No change.</i>
F.POL.3.1.d <del>All Council-Elected Officers</del> <u>The Speaker and Senator,</u> (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3) as non-voting members.	<i>In practice, the CRO, in order to maintain neutrality, does not attend GSAB meetings. Likewise, in practice, the Deputy Speaker does not attend GSAB meetings unless acting in the role itself.</i>
F.POL.3.1.e – F.POL.3.3.c...	<i>No change.</i>
<b>F.POL.4 GSA Governance Committee</b>	<i>No change.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
F.POL.4.1-F.POL.4.2.c ...	<i>No change.</i>
<u>F.POL.4.3 Meetings</u>	<i>Editorial change to standardize language throughout the GSA Standing Committees Policy.</i>
<u>F.POL.4.3.a Quorum is three (3) voting members including either the Chair or Vice-Chair.</u>	<i>Addition of a quorum for GSA GC, as it is proposed to remove the general statement in the current F.POL.2.1 that “Unless otherwise specified, quorum of Standing Committees will be four (4) members of that Committee.”</i>
<b>F.POL.5 GSA Budget and Finance Committee</b>	<i>No change.</i>
<i>See Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
<b>Section K: Finances, GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee</b>	<i>No change.</i>
K.POL.2 Composition	<i>No change.</i>
K.POL.2.1 – K.POL.2.5 ...	<i>No change.</i>
<del>K.POL.2.6 All Directly Elected Officers (DEOs) are welcome to attend GSA BFC meetings.</del>	<i>Proposed change to expand this statement so that DEOs are welcome to attend any GSA Standing Committee, following approval from the Chair of the committee. Deletion pending approval of new general statement in K.POL.2.4, above.</i>
K.POL.3 – K.POL.4.1 ...	<i>No change.</i>
<b>F.POL.6 GSA Negotiating Committee</b>	<i>No change.</i>
F.POL.6.1 – F.POL.6.2.g ...	<i>No change.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
F.POL.6.3. Meetings	<i>Editorial change to standardize language throughout the GSA Standing Committees Policy.</i>
F.POL.6.3.a Quorum is three (3) voting members including either the Chair or Vice-Chair.	<i>Addition of a quorum for GSA NC, as it is proposed to remove the general statement in F.POL.2.1 that “Unless otherwise specified, quorum of Standing Committees will be four (4) members of that Committee.”</i>
<b>F.POL.7 GSA Awards Selection Committee</b>	<i>No change.</i>
<i>See Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Awards Selection Committee.</i>	<i>No change.</i>
<b>GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Awards Selection Committee</b>	<i>No change.</i>
<b>O.POL.3 Composition</b>	<i>No change.</i>
O.POL.3.1 ...	<i>No change.</i>
O.POL.3.2 The Vice-President Labour (VPL) <del>serves on the GSA ASC as Vice-Chair,</del> and	<i>Proposed change to formalize VPL as Vice-Chair of this committee. Renumbering.</i>
O.POL.3.3 <u>A minimum of eight (8) and up to twelve (12) graduate student members</u> –elected by GSA Council as voting members. The GSA ASC Chair, in consultation with <u>the GSA ASC Vice-Chair and</u> the Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee, can decide to increase the number of graduate student members on the GSA ASC.	<i>A minimum of eight members, while allowing for the composition to include more members as determined by the Chair, better reflects the workload of the committee with respect to the number of members needed, while still allowing for increased membership in the event that a significant number of award applications are received in a given year.</i>
O.POL.3.4 <del>The VPE will designate a member of the GSA ASC to act as Chair in their absence or in the case of a conflict of interest.</del>	<i>To align with proposed substantive changes to GSA Officer Portfolios, and O.POL.3.2 above, which names the VPL as Vice-Chair of the GSA ASC.</i>
O.POL.4 – O.POL.6.1 ...	<i>No change.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
<b>F.POL.8 GSA Labour Relations Committee</b>	<i>No change.</i>
F.POL.8.1 Composition	<i>No change.</i>
F.POL.8.1.a - F.POL.8.1.b ...	<i>No change.</i>
F.POL.8.1.c <u>A minimum of four (4) and up to eight (8) graduate student members, elected by GSA Council, as voting members. The GSA LRC Chair, in consultation with the GSA LRC Vice-Chair and the Chair of the GSA NoC, can decide to increase the number of graduate student members on the GSA LRC.</u>	<i>Proposed change to specify the composition of the GSA LRC as this was missing.</i>
F.POL.8.2 Mandate	<i>No change.</i>
<del>F.POL.8.2.a The GSA LRC will discuss issues of concern regarding graduate student assistantships.</del>	<i>See below: clarification concerning the broad mandate of the GSA LRC.</i>
<del>F.POL.8.2.b The GSA LRC will assist the VPL on issues with graduate student assistantship as well as with the interpretation of the CA(s).</del>	<i>See below: clarification concerning the broad mandate of the GSA LRC.</i>
<del>F.POL.8.2.c The GSA LRC, in consultation with the GSA NC, will educate graduate students about the CA.</del>	<i>See below: clarification concerning the broad mandate of the GSA LRC.</i>
F.POL.8.2.a <u>Advise the VPL and the GSA NC with respect to the development of the Opening Position for CA negotiations and other issues related to negotiations as requested by the VPL.</u>	<i>Clarification concerning the broad mandate of the GSA LRC.</i>
F.POL.8.2.b <u>Advise and assist with respect to educating graduate students on the CA as requested by the VPL.</u>	<i>Clarification concerning the broad mandate of the GSA LRC.</i>
F.POL.8.2.c <u>Advise on labour related matters and the CA as requested by the VPL.</u>	<i>Clarification concerning the broad mandate of the GSA LRC.</i>
F.POL.8.3 – F.POL.8.3.a ...	<i>No change.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
<p>F.POL.9 GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee</p> <p>F.POL.9.1 Composition</p> <p>F.POL.9.1.a The GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC) is co-chaired by the Vice President External and Vice President Student Services.</p> <p>F.POL.9.2 Mandate</p> <p>F.POL.9.2.a The GSA SAAC will act as a sounding board for a wide range of matters relating to student services and student life.</p>	<p><i>Obsolete committee that has not met in many years.</i></p>
<del>F.POL.10</del> <b>F.POL.9 GSA Elections and Referenda Committee</b>	<p><i>No change except renumbering.</i></p>
<b>Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee</b>	<p><i>No change.</i></p>
I.POL.18 Composition	<p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.18.1 Two (2) members from amongst the <del>eight (8)</del> <u>six (6)</u> voting members of the GSA ERC will be elected by the GSA ERC to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the duration of their time on the GSA ERC or until they resign their positions. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA ERC will normally occur at the beginning of the fall term and the persons elected will be reported to GSA Council,</p>	<p><i>A minimum of six members better reflects the requirements for the committee, in order to provide a plurality of voices without the committee membership being unwieldy in terms of scheduling. This proposed change was discussed by the GSA ERC at their March 14, 2017 meeting and they were supportive of lowering the membership from 8 members to 6 members.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.18.2 A total of <del>eight (8)</del> <u>six (6)</u> graduate student members, including at least one (1) member of GSA Council elected by GSA Council, as voting members,</p>	<p><i>See above rationale.</i></p>
I.POL.18.3 – I.POL.18.21.1 ...	<p><i>No change.</i></p>
<del>F.POL.11</del> <b>F.POL.10 GSA Nominating Committee ...</b>	<p><i>No changes to F.POL.11 or Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Nominating Committee, except renumbering to F.POL.10, if</i></p>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
	<i>GSA Council decides to remove the GSA SAAC.</i>
<b><del>F.POL.12</del><u>F.POL.11</u> GSA Appeals and Complaints Board</b>	<i>Renumbering, if GSA Council decides to remove the GSA SAAC.</i>
<b>Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board</b>	<i>No change.</i>
<b>H.POL.1 Performance and Conduct of GSA Officers</b>	<i>No change.</i>
H.POL.1.1 The GSA expects GSA Officers <u>and CALs</u> to contribute to the carrying out of the GSA's fiduciary duty to represent the interests of graduate students at the University of Alberta through conduct that exhibits the highest ethical and professional standards. These graduate student representatives are expected to observe GSA Bylaw and Policy, and are expected to perform their duties with diligence.	<i>Addition of CALS to the jurisdiction of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, as is the case already with all other GSA representatives elected either by all graduate students or by GSA Council.</i>
H.POL.1.2 GSA Officers <u>and CALs</u> can be held accountable for their conduct (including conflict of interest or conflict of commitment) and/or the performance of their duties and related matters (including attendance and confidentiality), and may be removed from office (see <u>Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, C.POL.5 and Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board</u> ).	<i>See above rationale.</i>
H.POL.2 – H.POL.5.9...	<i>No change.</i>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board</b>	<i>No change.</i>
<b>H.POL.6 Jurisdiction...</b>	<i>No change.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
H.POL.6.1 The GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) is responsible for hearing and deciding appeals of GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO) decisions and complaints about GSA Officers <u>and CALs</u> as allowed by Section 94(3) of the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> .	<i>See above rationale.</i>
H.POL.6.2...	<i>No change.</i>
H.POL.6.2.a Complaints about the performance or conduct of GSA Officers <u>and CALs</u> or about conflict of interest or commitment relating to GSA Officers or <u>CALs</u> (see Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, Performance and Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Conflict of Commitment and Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committee Members, and Representative on University Governing Bodies and Committees)	<i>See above rationale.</i>
H.POL.6.2.b- H.POL.8.8 ...	<i>No change.</i>
<b>H.POL.9 Composition of GSA ACB Hearing Committees</b>	<i>No change</i>
H.POL.9.1 For the purpose of hearing appeals of CRO decisions, the composition and quorum is three (3) members of the GSA ACB. For the purpose of hearing complaints about GSA Officers <u>and CALs</u> , the composition and quorum is five (5) GSA ACB members of which at least two (2) must be Departmental Councillors, alternates, or recent former Departmental Councillors.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
H.POL.9.2- H.POL.14.1...	<i>No change.</i>
<b>H.POL.15 Complaints About the Performance or Conduct of GSA Officers <u>and CALs</u>, Including Complaints About Conflict of Interest or Commitment</b>	<i>See above rationale.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
H.POL.15.1 Receipt of Complaints and Setting the Hearing Date(s)	<i>No change.</i>
H.POL.15.1.a Complaints about a GSA Officer(s) <u>or CAL(s)</u> will be directed to the GSA ACB Chair and copied to the ED.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
H.POL.15.1.b Complaints may be made by any person(s).	<i>No change.</i>
H.POL.15.1.c Complaints about the performance or conduct of <u>a</u> GSA Officer(s) <u>or a</u> CAL(s), or about conflict of interest or commitment relating to GSA Officer(s) <u>or</u> CAL(s) must be in writing (ie not oral), and signed. They must provide a complete description of the circumstances that have prompted the Complaint, a list of any known witnesses the Complainant intends to call, and any suggested remedy or action.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
H.POL.15.1.d – H.POL.15.2...	<i>No change.</i>
H.POL.15.2.a The GSA ACB Chair will send the Complaint to the GSA Officer(s) <u>or to the CAL(s)</u> being complained about, copied to the ED. The GSA ACB Chair will require a Response, to be received within fifteen (15) working days, and will ask about the possibility of informal resolution; the deadline for a Response may be adjusted accordingly.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
H.POL.15.2.b – H.POL.15.7...	<i>No change.</i>
H.POL.15.8 Powers of a GSA ACB Hearing Committee Concerning GSA Officer(s) <u>and</u> CAL(s).	<i>See above rationale.</i>
H.POL.15.8.a - H.POL.15.8.b...	<i>No change.</i>
H.POL.15.8.c If the Complaint is upheld, the GSA ACB Hearing Committee may	<i>See above rationale.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	
<p>issue a letter of warning to the GSA Officer(s) <u>or the CAL(s)</u> related to performance, conduct, or conflict of interest/commitment; may set out clear expectations for future performance, conduct, or conflict of interest/commitment; or make any other decision appropriate to the circumstances. The GSA ACB Chair will monitor the situation. If there is a further complaint about the same GSA Officer(s) <u>or CAL(s)</u>, the written decision of the initial GSA ACB Hearing Committee will be made available for any further hearing together with a report on the monitoring of the situation by the GSA ACB Chair.</p>	
H.POL.15.8.d...	<i>No change.</i>
<u>H.POL.15.8.e The GSA ACB Hearing Committee may remove the CAL(s) from their position, and declare the position vacant.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<del>H.POL.15.8.e</del> <u>H.POL.15.8.f</u>	<i>No change except renumbering.</i>
<del>H.POL.15.8.f</del> <u>H.POL.15.8.g</u> The GSA ACB Chair will attend GSA Council and report briefly, in closed session, on Complaints concerning GSA Officer(s) <u>and CAL(s)</u> that have been heard and decided.	<i>See above rationale and renumbering.</i>
<b>H.POL.16 Appeals of a CRO Decision...</b>	<i>No change.</i>

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
**GSA SENATOR (1 POSITION):**  
**2 NOMINEES**

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, “nominations for Senator will open on or about April 1 of every year” and will normally remain open for “one (1) month” (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.2.a). This position was first advertised in the March 31, 2017 GSA newsletter. The deadline to receive nominations was May 3, 2017 and two (2) nominations were received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on May 5, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was Thursday, May 11, 2017 and no additional nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote.

**Qualifications as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officers, Section D.POL.11.2.a**

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

**Duties as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.3.b**

“The Senator is the GSA’s representative to the University of Alberta Senate.”

**Duties as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.3.e**

“All Council-Elected Officers and Deputies are non-voting members of GSA Council.”

**There will be an anonymous paper ballot vote held at the May 15, 2017 GSA Council meeting to elect the GSA Senator for 2017-2018.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the May 15, 2017, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday May 15, 2017, 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 and will be presented in *reverse alphabetical* order on the ballot. ‘None of the Candidates’ will also be considered a nominee.**

- 1. Joshuha Connauton (Educational Policy Studies)**
- 2. Trent Nabe (MBA)**

**Jurisdiction:**

**Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.2.b**

“The GSA NoC will follow its legislated process in forwarding one or more nominations to GSA Council except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process allows for Councillors to make additional nominations.”

**Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.2.c**

“The Senator will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council, normally for a one (1) year term, at the May meeting of GSA Council.”

**The names and biographies received for the two (2) nominees are BELOW on page 7.1. Biographies are presented as received (ie not edited).**

## Biographies and Resumes of Nominees (2 Nominees)

### 1. Joshuha Connauton

#### Joshuha Connauton's Bio

Currently I am a full time masters thesis student in Educational Policy Studies in Adult, Community, and Higher Education. I also work full time as the Program Lead (manager) of Student Group Services with the University of Alberta Students' Union. During my undergraduate degree, I was heavily involved with the new student Orientation program, both volunteering and working as a coordinator from 2011-2013. I was also heavily involved with my Fraternity as an undergrad, Delta Chi, serving as the Vice-President and President of the Chapter. Currently I continue to volunteer with my fraternity as the President of our Alumni Board of Trustees and as the Treasurer for our Alumni Social Chapter.

#### Joshuha Connauton's Resume

My thesis focuses on the relationship and partnerships between Universities and Community-Based Organizations in relation to the support of marginalized students on campus. Although I have not yet served on the GSA, I have had previous experience as a liaison to, and a member on different professional boards from my volunteer and professional life. I am familiar with University governance, specifically the role and duties of the senate. I am interested in this position because I am looking to get more involved as a Graduate Student and with the GSA. I am also looking forward to the opportunity to be involved with an organization such as the Senate who does a lot of really great work in the community. My schedule is very flexible, and I am able to make all of the meeting times as listed above in this application. Thank you for your consideration for this position.

### 2. Trent Nabe

#### Trent Nabe's Bio

Good evening! I'm very excited to apply for the GSA Senator position. Having been involved in governance for over ten years and the UofA campus community for five years, I'm eager to serve the University and our graduate students in this unique position.

My work experience both as an undergrad up until now has focused on University Student Services. This work experience will allow me to leverage my past interactions with students, staff, and faculty to benefit the GSA.

Over the past year I have been active on GSA Council as the GSA Representative for the MBA Program as well as the Governance Chair for the MBA Program. Both of these experiences have been extremely impactful to me and my development as a graduate student. They have also given be a unique opportunity to serve graduate students and engage with them on a daily basis.

Part of this position also involves sitting on the GSA Board in addition to sitting on GSA Council. As many of you have likely seen this year, I'm not shy about jumping in with both feet and participating in the dialogue at these bodies as part of our duty to serve graduate students. I firmly believe that the successful nominee should be willing and able to participate, actively on both the GSA Board, GSA Council, as well as the Senate. This is something I'm willing and excited to do!

#### Trent Nabe's Resume

My education which focuses on team development and team dynamics will be very valuable to this position. The Senate (like any governing body) relies upon the participation of its membership to have a functional and effective organization. My education and past experience will allow me to positively contribute to that.

My interest in the Senate is not just about serving graduate students in this new capacity but in the Senate itself. Specifically, I'm interested in the U School program and the Community Engagement Committees. Both of these opportunities give me an opportunity to represent the GSA and the University to stakeholders and future prospective graduate students.

Another important part of my application: at the last GSA meeting we were promised that the Senate serves amazing food to its members at the four annual meetings of the organization. This would be awesome as a starving graduate student, I haven't ate a good meal since I started my graduate studies.

**2016-2017 GSA President  
Report to GSA Council for the May 15, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sarah Ficko  
Date: May 12, 2017

Dear Everyone,

This report will be pretty brief as there were only six days left in my term after the April Council meeting! The three main highlights are:

First, I finally signed the Chopped Leaf agreement with the SU. This agreement has taken over a year of going back and forth between the GSA, SU, and an assortment of lawyers, so it is great that it is finally done!

Second, the GSA hosted our Let Go of Your Mind event – an improv style event sponsored by an Unwind Your Mind Grant. Cristian Badiu and Marguerite Lawler from the U of A Drama Department led the attendees through a variety of fun activities and exercises (nothing scary or embarrassing!) and it was a great stress reliever.

Third, I attended the Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada (SWAAC) Conference April 27 – 29, where various speakers discussed different aspects of being a woman in leadership roles. It was interesting to hear how things have both changed significantly in some ways for women (the Right Honourable Kim Campbell spoke about her early days in politics) as well as how they have not, and areas that still need improvement. I was also honoured to receive a SWAAC Graduate Student Award of Merit at the gala dinner for all of my leadership and community service while at the U of A (see picture below!). Saturday ended with another improv-style event called 'Cops in Your Mind' which reminded me of the movie Inside Out, whereby focusing on the voices in our own heads may hinder our ability to lead, and reflecting on where/who they come from. It was really well done and I learned a lot!

And now it is time to pass the torch on to your new team! The GSA has gone through some significant changes over the last number of years into its current state as a mature organization with continuity provided by an informed, dedicated, and hardworking office team, and new vision and ideas provided annually from the elected leaders. As I mentioned last month at GSA Council, it has been a great experience being your representative for the last two years! I've learned a lot, and hope my team has made some positive changes on behalf of current and future grad students.



Receiving the SWAAC Grad Student Award of Merit!

Warmest regards,

Sarah  
2016-2017 GSA President

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 25, 2017 and April 30, 2017, and May 9, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

/Users/gsaassist/Google Drive/320 - Council/Meetings/2017-2018/May 2017/Second Mailing/GSA Council 15 May 2017 Item 8 - 2016-17 President's Report to Council.docx

## 8.2

April 25	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
April 25	Meeting with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
April 25	GSA Let Go of Your Mind Event
April 27	Meeting with Heather Zwicker, Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
April 27	Meeting with Kevin Friese, Assistant Dean of Students, and Jason Murray, Interim Director, Clinical Counselling Services
April 27-29	Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada Conference
May 9	Student Leaders Meeting with Government

**2017-2018 GSA President  
Report to GSA Council for the May 15, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Babak Soltannia  
Date: May 12, 2017

Dear Valued Council Colleagues,

Please accept my sincere greetings for a very Happy Spring to everyone!

It is an immense pleasure and high honour for me to serve all graduate students, and the Graduate Students' Association, as President. I am very excited about my new role as GSA President, and also aware of the huge responsibilities and difficulties. This is a rigorous task, like anything of value and meaning, and comes with its own price and sacrifice – there is also a steep learning curve! Having said that, I ponder that fame, glory, success, acknowledgement do not build a good name from one day to other, but fighting for principles does. All of us have plans and expectations for the future, however fate sometimes surprises us. It is necessary to have unquenchable perseverance, courage, enthusiasm, creativity, and persistence. Time passes, new obstacles arise, and new goals come into the picture, and it only take us to avoid the fear and arrogance, and be confident in fairness. Difficulties never end, and the only important thing is our approach in how to tackle various circumstances that arise. Only through facing adverse challenges can we explore and activate our capabilities to create new strategies and promote positive alliances based on ethics, experiences, and friendship, with the awareness that agility and strength reside in true team work. While first impressions are important, and I hope my team and I all make a good one on you as we start our terms, we will all, of course, work hard throughout the year to retain your confidence.

As some of you may know, I previously served as the President of the Mechanical Engineering GSA in 2015-16 and I have noticed that a notable difference between that role and my new role as GSA President is the increase in emails and material to read, process, and make a decision on. I am also participating in numerous meetings and other events that are important for the GSA to play a role in. Moreover, being physically away from campus on academic leave for a visiting scholar opportunity with the IBM Almaden Research Center, in San Jose, made everything tougher and more challenging as I started my term – but not impossible. Besides meeting with the GSA management team to discuss the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy before you at this meeting, discussing upcoming items that had occurred during the week, and phoning into the weekly GSA Board meetings, I have had a few other meetings via internet, phone, and in person. Here are some highlights:

**Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)**

On Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, I participated in, via phone, the ab-GPAC transition meeting. The outgoing and incoming representatives from the GSAs of the U of A, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge, and Athabasca University got together from 9 am to about 5 pm on Saturday and 9 am to 2:30 pm on Sunday (the Vice-President External, Masoud, also reports on this meeting). At the start of the meeting the strategic goals of ab-GPAC for this year were discussed, and we also reviewed what has been done over the past year. In terms of presentations, Lisa Fox, Director of Policy and Engagement from the Ministry of Advanced Education, presented on several matters, including the post-secondary system and post-secondary programs more broadly. During this meeting, the ab-GPAC Directors of the Executive Board for 2017-2018 were elected, and each of the aforementioned universities has one representative among them. From the U of A, I was elected as Vice-Chair. In addition to my position on the Executive Board, the U of A has two other members who serve as Directors on ab-GPAC. They are Nicole Hill, from the Department of Sociology (appointed by myself) and, continuing his role from last year, Masoud. During this meeting, we also discussed the possibility of a \$1 increase in the membership fee for ab-GPAC. It was a very informative and productive weekend, and it was useful to make personal connections with the other GSAs in the province.

### Student Leaders Meeting

On Tuesday, May 9, I took part in a Student Leaders Meeting with the Ministry of Advanced Education, via phone. This meeting served mainly as an orientation for new ab-GPAC members and it was a useful opportunity for me to learn about ab-GPAC's interactions with government.

### Community Connections Awards

On Monday morning, May 15, I will be representing the GSA at the Community Connections Awards and also meeting with members of the GSA office support team in advance of GSA Council. The Community Connections Awards recognize members of the campus community who have committed to community engagement more broadly and I am excited to meet the recipients and honour their work. You can learn more about these awards here: <https://www.ualberta.ca/university-relations/about-us/community-connections-awards>.

In closing, let me say that the new team of DEOs, made up of a mix of experienced and novice members, is ready for a strong start, and since summer is (in many ways) a slower period for everything at the University, the new team will spend it building a strong foundation for a productive and efficient fall with a mission of bringing graduate students together more than before, and continuing the excellent work of previous GSA teams, while also working on several new initiatives. We heard your voice during our campaign, and we are eager to take action on several matters that were raised. We would like to thank the graduate students and their representatives for allowing us the privilege of service, also I would like to thank the previous GSA DEOs as well as the GSA office for all their effort and hard work. We are looking forward to working hard for you.

Babak Soltannia, GSA 2017-2018 President

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 1, 2015 to May 15, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

May 6-7	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Transition Meeting via phone
May 9	Student Leaders Meeting via phone
May 15	Meeting with Executive Director and Associate Director
May 15	Community Connections Awards

**GSA Board  
Report to GSA Council for the May 15, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
 From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director and Coordinator of the GSA Board; Heather Hogg, Director of Operations; Julie Tanguay, Associate Director; and Lisa Hareuther, Assistant Director  
 Date: May 12, 2017

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. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The President, Vice-Presidents, Director of Operations, Associate Director, and I will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 18 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 18.1-18.3.

**26 April 2017 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Writing Resources Summary Report on the GSA Sponsored Winter Writers' Retreat; Bill 7; Residence Association Fees Collection; and Learning Outcomes

Motions and Agreements:

Members **AGREED** to approve the Agenda of April 26, 2017, which had been previously distributed, after adding "Learning Outcomes" as a discussion item. SF **MOVED**. SvK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**Motion:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary report, as submitted by the U of A Writing Resources. AT **MOVED**. SF Seconded. **CARRIED**.

Members **AGREED** to move in **CLOSED SESSION**.

Members discussed **Killam Award for Excellence in Mentoring Adjudication**.

Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**

Members **AGREED** to move in **CLOSED SESSION**.

Members discussed **Proposed Changes to Student Group Policies and Procedures**.

Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

**3 May 2017 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; and Bill 7

Motions and Agreements:

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

- 1) GSA Vice-President Academic,
- 2) GSA Vice-President Labour, and
- 3) GSA Vice-President External.

SvK **MOVED**. MK Seconded. **CARRIED** (1 abstention: SvK)

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

SvK **MOVED**. MK Seconded. **CARRIED** (1 abstention: SvK).

**10 May 2017 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Bill 7

Motions and Agreements:

No motions at this time

**GSA Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the May 15, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Firouz Khodayari  
Date: May 12, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

Spring is finally here! Let's make sure that we all enjoy it while working on our grad studies. As Vice-President Academic, I have attended several meetings and been involved with discussions during the last month; I will share the highlights with you in this report.

**Teaching Evaluation and the Use of the USRI as an Evaluation Tool**

This past year, the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE), of which I am a member, reviewed the use of the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRIs) and how they are used in the evaluation of teaching. The outcome is a report and a series of recommendations which were circulated to the General Faculties Council (GFC). The report will be added to the agendas of the GFC Executive Committee and GFC for September 2017. With GFC approval, the GFC CLE will continue its work to examine teacher assessment and evaluation across campus. As outlined in the report, the GFC CLE believes that "robust supports, tools, and training to assess teaching quality, using qualitative and quantitative criteria that are fair, equitable, and meaningful across disciplines" is an attainable goal towards fulfilling Objective 13 in For the Public Good: "To inspire, model, and support excellence in teaching and learning" (GFC CLE Report). Two of the recommendations in the work plan included re-examining the goals of teaching assessments to ensure that these goals "provide the instructor with feedback to improve their teaching (formative evaluation) [and] provide administrators with evidence of effective teaching for merit, promotion and tenure decisions (summative evaluation)" (GFC CLE Report).

None of these goals can be efficiently be achieved without providing all students (including those with accommodation requirements or those who have withdrawn from a course) with a fair opportunity to provide feedback to their instructors and ensuring that USRIs receive high response rates from students. I encourage all graduate students to participate in USRIs for the courses they take, and also to encourage their students to participate in USRIs for the courses where they serve as TAs or instructors.

I am happy to answer any questions or comments that you might have regarding this report. Also, I would be more than happy if you would like to share your suggestions or concerns regarding any academic related issues you have encountered at the University.

Thanks,

Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 25, 2017 and May 15, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

April 25	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Policy Review Committee
April 25	GSA Let Go of Your Mind Event
April 26	GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
April 28	Transition Lunch
May 11	Alberta Open Education Summit
May 12	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
May 15	GFC Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)

**GSA Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the May 15, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Masoud Khademi  
Date: May 12, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well in each and every aspect of your lives and that you are enjoying the beautiful sunny weather that we have had during the past few days. Since this is my first report in my new term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all once more for putting your trust in me for one more year. Also, I would like to say that I promise to do my best to serve all graduate students to the best of my knowledge and skills. Now let's get on to my meetings!

During the past month I attended a few transition meetings for Alumni Council and the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC), where we said goodbye to the previous executive teams and welcomed new members.

At the Alumni Council meetings the current executive team and committee chairs went over their strategic plan and reported on the progress they have made. Following the election of the new executive roles, the slate for the 2017-2018 Alumni Council Executive Committee was unanimously approved.

The other meeting I have attended this month was the ab-GPAC transition meeting, which was held at the University of Lethbridge (Babak also reports on this). During the two days of meetings, the former executive team explained the roles and mandates of the organisation. We also met with Lisa Fox, from the Ministry of Advanced Education, and she gave us a short presentation regarding the structure of the ministry and the role and importance of graduate students' representation in the decision-making process. An election for the 2017-2018 ab-GPAC executive roles was also held. The results are as follows:

Chair: Willem Klumpenhauer (University of Calgary)  
Vice-Chair: Babak Soltannia (University of Alberta)  
Treasurer: Elizabeth (Betty) Wanjiru (University of Lethbridge)  
Secretary: Lindsay McNena (Athabasca University)

At the end of the meeting the new directors and executives talked about the organization's strategic plan for the next 2 to 3 years.

Finally, this past month I attended the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC) as a delegate. During this meeting, most of the discussion surrounded the annual report for the institution that will be submitted to the government. Moreover, the budget for the upcoming year was discussed in detail, and committee members were informed that the University is in the process of developing a new budget model.

As always, if you need more information or have any question regarding the meetings I have attended this past month, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Masoud Khademi, GSA Vice-President External

## 10.1

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 25, 2017 and May 15, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

April 25	GSA Let Go of Your Mind Event
April 26	Alumni Council
April 28	Transition Lunch
May 6-7	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Transition Meeting
May 10	GFC Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
May 12	Board of Governors

**GSA Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the May 15, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sasha van der Klein  
Date: May 12, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

Finally! Weather arrived with which farmers can get the 2016 harvest off the land, just before 2017 seeding starts. This feels about the same as the changeover of my VP Labour term, where I am carrying forward the work from my first term into my second term...

In my reports for this year I will continue to give you monthly updates on **Bill 7**. The GSA developed and sent a package of materials for review to the GSA lawyers and we expect to hear back from them in the next couple of weeks. Then we will meet with them in-person to discuss the next steps. We might have to make major changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and there might be changes to our negotiating process as well. Again, I urge you to **meet with me** and discuss **your opinions, suggestions, and views on the current Collective Agreement**. Please consult with your colleagues in your department, or gather some experiences your colleagues have had. If you have met with me already, but you feel like Bill 7 has generated additional feedback from your constituents, or has shaped your own opinion on how graduate student labour practices can be improved, please don't hesitate to [book a meeting](#) with me again. So far, I have met with **21 of the 58** currently filled seats on GSA Council, so there are still a few of you that I would love to meet!

Heather Hogg and I have made some great progress with a **maternity leave** issue. The student has now received confirmation that she will be paid the entitled benefits, and the next step is to get her a compliant contract. Other news regarding the Collective Agreement is that the **2017/2018 pay rates** have been confirmed by the University and can be found in the GSA CA [here](#). I have been continuing to work on the **Graduate Students' Rights Document**, specifically the portion on graduate student labour rights. I will meet with the FGSR, the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights, and the Office of the Student Ombudservice soon to discuss the content of the pamphlets and the website. In addition, this document will include hyperlinks and contact info if students want to have more information about the main points.

Regarding the **Mental Health Portfolio**, this month was relatively quiet. Our office staff and I attended the **Front Line Worker Crisis Training**, which provided a short introduction on how to help students in distress. This training was provided by the Community Social Work Team and Counselling and Clinical Services (CCS). After the training, we had a short discussion with CCS about some issues graduate students have had trying to book initial consultations through CCS. CCS confirmed that though graduate students have access to counselling through the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP), CCS will always book an initial consultation with graduate students if they wish to access CCS. The GSA also provided some suggestions for ways to improve CCS communications to clarify this information. As a follow up, a meeting has been scheduled to further discuss how to better communicate with graduate students on mental wellness services available to them.

Again, I will keep the [link](#) to the labour consultations calendar in my reports for now, so if you haven't booked a meeting yet, it's easy to access.

That was May! Let me know if you have questions, and feel free to contact me at any time.

Thanks,

Sasha van der Klein, GSA Vice-President Labour

## 11.2

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 25, 2017 and May 15, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

April 25	GSA Let Go of Your Mind Event
April 26	Meeting with Graduate Students
April 28	Meeting about Graduate Students' Rights Document
April 28	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
April 28	Transition Lunch
April 28	GSA Coffee Break
April 28	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
May 1	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
May 2	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
May 3	Meeting with a Graduate Student
May 4	Front Line Worker Crisis Training
May 9	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
May 9	Meeting with a Graduate Student
May 11	Meeting about Graduate Students' Rights Document
May 15	VP Research Advisory Search Committee Meeting

**2016-2017 GSA Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the May 15, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Ali Talaei  
Date: May 12, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope all is fine and that you are all enjoying the summer. I am reporting on the meetings I attended between the April GSA Council meeting on April 24, and the end of my term in office on April 30, 2017.

The last week of my term in the office was all about transition with the incoming GSA VP Student Services (VPSS). Royle and I attended several meetings with the different stakeholders Royle will work closely with in 2017-18 on ongoing and emerging initiatives.

Other than that, it was a quiet week for the VPSS portfolio.

Thanks for having me as your VPSS for the past two years and have a nice summer.

Sincerely,

Ali Talaei, Vice-President Student Services 2016-2017

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between April 25, 2017 and April 30, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

April 25	Meeting with Dean of Students
April 25	GSA Let Go of Your Mind Event
April 26	Meeting with Campus Food Bank Chair and Executive Director
April 27	Meeting with Ben Louie, University Architect
April 28	Transition Lunch

**2017-2018 GSA Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the May 15, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Royle Feng  
Date: May 12, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

It's nice to meet you all! I am the new GSA Vice-President Student Services and it will be a great honour for me to meet all of you at my first GSA Council meeting. A year is not a long time but it is not short either and I hope that, during this term, we will get to know each other better. During my term as GSA Vice-President Student Services, I hope to tackle lots of issues and am excited to collaborate with you to help graduate students!

I started my term on May 1, 2017, and I was lucky to have great support not only from the current and previous DEOs (especially 2016-2017 GSA Vice-President Student Services, Ali Talaei), but also from the GSA office support team, who gave me an overview of ongoing issues during the job shadowing period.

In the past few weeks, I was involved in the following activities:

**Writing Resources Meeting, U-Pass Advisory Meeting, United Way Campaign Meeting:**

Last month I attended three important meetings with Ali: Writing Resources Meeting, U-Pass Advisory Meeting and United Way Campaign Meeting. During these meetings, I was introduced to the committee members who I will be working closely with this year. Also, after observing Ali this month, I developed a better understanding of the role I will need to play as the Vice-President Student Services. For example, in addition to attending meetings, I will be involved in carefully reviewing meeting materials and consulting with the GSA office support team regarding any relevant institutional knowledge that I need to be aware of in advance of the meetings I attend. During all committee meetings, I will focus on any issues or topics that emerge that could affect graduate students. On behalf of all graduate students, I will propose suggestions that benefit my constituents when discussing issues at meetings. I look forward to attending and reporting to GSA Council, answering questions about graduate student concerns, and hearing suggestions for new ideas or new directions in the future. I am excited to take my first steps in this new journey and I will take my role to represent graduate students seriously. I am really grateful for Ali's helpful and patient guidance during transition.

**Presentations on GSA, Governance, GSA Services, GSA Health and Dental Plan**

In May, the GSA office support team provided me with two training sessions. The content was comprehensive, and covered a basic introduction to the GSA, an overview of governance at the University of Alberta and a detailed review of items within my portfolio, such as GSA services and the GSA Health and Dental Plan. Following these two training sessions, I have a deeper understanding of the operations and history of the GSA and the University of Alberta. I also learned many details about GSA services and the GSA Health and Dental Plan, which makes me more familiar with my portfolio. Thank you for the great efforts of the GSA office in offering these information sessions to incoming DEOs and GSA Council members.

Best regards,  
Royle Feng, 2017-2018 GSA Vice-President Student Services

## 12.2

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 1, 2017 and May 15, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

May 10	United Way Campaign Committee Meeting
May 15	Community Connections Awards

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the May 15, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Radim Barta  
Date: May 12, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

The report from the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) this month is a summary of discussions/decisions the GSA NoC 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,

Radim Barta, Chair, GSA NoC

**GSA Council-Elected Officers**

**1) GSA Senator (1 Graduate Student Position)**

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, "nominations for Senator will open on or about April 1 of every year" and will normally remain open for "one (1) month" (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.2.a). This position was first advertised in the March 31, 2017 GSA newsletter. The deadline to receive nominations was May 3, 2017 and two (2) nominations were received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on May 5, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was Thursday, May 11, 2017 and no additional nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item 7 – Nominees for GSA Senator.**

**GSA Standing Committees**

**2) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (1 Graduate Student Position)**

In the April 28, 2017 GSA newsletter, the GSA NoC advertised for one (1) vacant position on the GSA ACB. The deadline to receive nominations was May 3, 2017 and no nominations were received. The call for additional nominations was then emailed to GSA Council with a deadline to receive additional nominations on May 10, 2017. No additional nominations were received. This vacancy will be advertised again in late June.

**3) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (1 GSA Council Member)**

On April 28, 2017, GSA Council members were notified via email of one (1) vacancy on the GSA ERC for a GSA member of Council. The deadline to receive nominations was May 4, 2017 and no nominations were received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on May 5, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was May 11, 2017 and no additional nominations were received. This vacancy will be advertised again.

**4) GSA Board (GSAB) and GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (1 GSA Council Member for the Joint Position)**

Michele DuVal has stepped down from her joint position on the GSAB and the GSA NoC, leaving a vacancy for a non-voting member on GSAB and a voting member on GSA NoC. Information regarding this vacancy was circulated via email to GSA Council on April 28, 2017 with a deadline of May 4, 2017. No nominations were received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on May 5, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was May 11, 2017 and no additional nomination was received. This vacancy will be advertised again.

### Bodies External to the GSA

GSA Council has delegated to the GSA NoC the responsibility of filling positions on all committees external to the GSA. Normally, all vacancies are advertised. According to GSA Policy, “advertising may be waived in instances where, in the GSA NoC’s view, it is urgent to fill a vacancy” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.5.2).

#### **1) University Cup Selection Committee (1 GSA Directly-Elected Officer or Delegate Position)**

This committee required a GSA Directly-Elected Officer or delegate to adjudicate applications for the University Cup, which is the highest honour of the U of A granted to those individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction in each of the areas of scholarly research, teaching, service to the University and the community at large. In consultation with the GSA Vice-President Academic, **Wade Michaelchuk (Physical Education and Recreation)** was selected to serve on this committee (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.6.2).

#### **2) Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee (1 GSA Directly-Elected Officer or Delegate Position)**

This committee requires a GSA Directly-Elected Officer or delegate to adjudicate applications for the title of Distinguished University Professor and Distinguished University Professor Emeritus to those individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction and scholarship in each of the areas of research, teaching, and service to the academy and the community at large. In consultation with the GSA Vice-President Academic, **Benjamin Denga (Educational Policy)** was selected to serve on this committee (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.6.2).

#### **3) Vargo Teaching Chair Selection Committee (1 GSA Directly-Elected Officer or Delegate Position)**

This committee requires a GSA Directly-Elected Officer or delegate to adjudicate applications for the Vargo Teaching Chair. Vargo Teaching Chairs were created to foster excellence in teaching at the University. In consultation with the GSA Vice-President Academic, **Hossein Hosseiniparvar (Music)** was selected to serve on this committee (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.6.2).

#### **4) Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights (VLHR) Selection Committee (1 Graduate Student Position)**

This position was advertised in GSA newsletters of April 13 and 21, 2017 with a nomination deadline of April 28, 2017. One (1) nomination was received and **Aryan Karimi (Sociology)** was elected by GSA NoC to serve on this committee.

### Current Vacancies

#### **1) Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO (4 Graduate Student Positions in Total)**

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, nominations for these positions will open “on or about May 1 of every year” and will close “by May 30 or the next following working day” (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.1.b and D.BYL.3.1.c). As such, these positions were first advertised in the GSA newsletter of May 5, 2017 with a nomination deadline of May 29, 2017.

**GSA Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the May 15, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Courtney Thomas  
Date: May 12, 2017

Dear GSA Council Members,

Below are some highlights of what the office support team has been engaged with over the past month. I, and the other members of the team, am happy to answer questions and, as usual, the detailed reports submitted to the GSA Board are also attached below.

#### **Fiscal Year End and Annual Audit**

Our Accountant and our Financial Manager are very busy reconciling all our accounts with the official end of the GSA's fiscal year on March 31. They are also working to prepare for our annual audit, as required by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (once the audit is completed we submit the GSA's audited financial statements to the Board of Governors). The auditors will be in the office at the beginning of June and the audit itself will come forward to GSA Council in July; our auditor, Tom Gee, will be in attendance.

#### **GSA Agenda/Handbook**

While the printing of the GSA Agenda/Handbook does not occur until August, we begin the process of designing it and selling advertising space (the ad revenue generated, by and large, determines the final number of agenda/handbooks printed) in May and June.

#### **Orientations for New Senator and New Councillors-at-Large**

As was reported previously, this year we developed some orientation sessions for new Councillors-at-Large (consisting of a review of the Standing Orders of GSA Council, a Budget 101, and an overview of GSA Council's annual work plan). Accordingly, and following on the election of several new Councillors-at-Large last month, we are working to schedule orientation sessions and will also work with the current and incoming GSA Senator to arrange a transition meeting for them.

I'd like to remind members of GSA Council that if they want, at any time, to arrange for a 101 session (Budget 101, Health and Dental 101, GSA Services 101, Governance 101, or GSA 101), they are welcome to contact the office.

#### **GSA Fall Orientation and Departmental Orientations**

While these events are not executed until the fall (September is an exceptionally busy as the GSA typically visits over 35 departments to provide orientations), the planning starts over the summer and occupies a great measure of staff time and energy.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Courtne

### Management Report to the GSA Board, April 26, 2017

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the two weeks since the last GSA Board meeting on April 26, 2017:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** PAW Sublease with the SU; ongoing strategic thinking re Bill 7; second mailing of GSA Council material; GSA Council meeting and associated action; preparation, planning, and execution of the Let Go of Your Mind event; appeal of a decision concerning a denial of a GSA Academically-Related Graduate Student Group Award; preparing for the GSA 2016-2017 audit and associated meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee; human resources work; preparing for GSA ACB and CAL training sessions; forward thinking re support for the drafting of the 2017-2018 GSA Board SWP and mechanisms to consult with graduate students.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Follow up work associated with the GSA Nominating Committee's recent review of GSA Policy on Nominating (drafting potential proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and planning for a second meeting of the GSA NoC over the summer) and initiating a review of current GSA Bylaw and Policy on the Legal Defense Fund.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to student groups and residence associations and relationship building and maintenance with Student Group Services.

#### Grants and Office Operations

- Final GSA Coffee Break for the spring term and the GSA Let Go of Your Mind event.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee, as well as finding a delegate for the Vargo Chair, Distinguished University Professor, and University Cup Selection Committees).
- Transfer of content to Sitecore 3 (to be completed in early May) and associated internal review prior to sending the designs to IST for final review.
- Facebook = 944 likes (down 2 from April 12); Facebook posts reached 665 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 570. Twitter = 744 followers (up 10 from April 12); our tweets earned 1,200 "impressions" over the last week.

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period (Post-Processing)	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>ATAs</b>	\$118,196.36	\$68,067.36	76	113 (12 pending processing)
<b>CCGs</b>	\$110,512.38	\$512.38 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	60 (0 pending processing)
<b>ASGAs</b>	\$5,668.15	\$476.15 <b>CLOSED</b>	2	7 (1 pending processing)
<b>EBs</b>	\$128,952.00 (no periods)	\$128,952.00	0	0 (0 pending processing)

### Management Report to the GSA Board, March 3, 2017

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on 26 April 2017:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** PAW Sublease with the SU (final review and signing completed); ongoing strategic thinking re Bill 7 and getting materials to the GSA's lawyers for a legal opinion; transition to a new team of DEOs (updating the GSA website, new alarm codes, transferring signing authorities, transition training sessions, etc); preparing for the first mailing of GSA Council material; preparing for the GSA 2016-2017 audit and associated meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee; human resources work; preparing for GSA ACB and CAL training sessions; forward thinking re support for the drafting of the 2017-2018 GSA Board SWP and mechanisms to consult with graduate students; office clean up and thinking about how to clean up "the cave" once and for all.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Follow up work associated with the GSA Nominating Committee's recent review of GSA Policy on Nominating (reviewing and redrafting potential proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy in advance of a meeting of the GSA NoC over the summer) and initiating a review of current GSA Bylaw and Policy on the Legal Defense Fund.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to student groups and residence associations and relationship building and maintenance with Student Group Services.

#### Grants and Office Operations

- Final GSA Coffee Break for the spring term and forward planning for fall events.
- Report on use of funding for the Let Go of Your Mind event.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee, election of the GSA Senator, as well as finding a representatives for the Vargo Chair, Distinguished University Professor, Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights Selection Committee, and University Cup Selection Committees).
- Transfer of content to Sitecore 3 (to be completed in early May) and associated internal review prior to sending the designs to IST for final review.
- Facebook = 950 likes (up 6 from April 26); Facebook posts reached 1725 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 781. Twitter = 744 followers (up 0 from April 26); our tweets earned 655 "impressions" over the last week.

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period (Post-Processing)	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>ATAs</b>	\$118,196.36	\$58,576.56	36	129 (37 pending processing)
<b>CCGs</b>	\$110,512.38	\$3,512.38 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	60 (1 pending processing)
<b>ASGAs</b>	\$5,668.15	\$0 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	5 (1 pending processing)
<b>EBs</b>	\$128,952.00 (no periods)	\$108,209.00	4	4 (0 pending processing)

### Management Report to the GSA Board, May 10, 2017

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 3, 2017:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** transition training, review of the terms of reference of the GFC Academic Standards Committee; thinking re the collection of Residence Association fees; ongoing strategic thinking and discussions re Bill 7; preparing for the second mailing of GSA Council material; preparing for the GSA 2016-2017 audit and associated meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee; training sessions for newly elected CALs; forward thinking re support for the drafting of the 2017-2018 GSA Board SWP and mechanisms to consult with graduate students; thinking about how to clean up "the cave" once and for all (we had flooding in April).
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Follow up work associated with the GSA Nominating Committee's recent review of GSA Policy on Nominating (reviewing a second draft of potential proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy in advance of a meeting of the GSA NoC over the summer) and initiating a review of current GSA Bylaw and Policy on the Legal Defense Fund (discussions with the Financial Team).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to student groups and residence associations and relationship building and maintenance with Student Group Services.

#### Grants and Office Operations

- Forward planning for fall events and report on use of funding for the Let Go of Your Mind event.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (arranging training sessions for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board members and newly elected CALs; election of the GSA Senator; beginning the replenishment process for the GSA Chief Returning Officer, GSA Deputy Returning Officer, GSA Speaker, and GSA Deputy Speaker).
- Transfer of content to Sitecore 3 (to be completed in late May) and associated internal review prior to sending to IST for final review.
- Facebook = 951 likes (up 1 from May 3); Facebook posts reached 682 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 194. Twitter = 744 followers (up 0 from May 3); our tweets earned 1,100 "impressions" over the last week.

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period (Post-Processing)	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>ATAs</b>	\$118,196.36	\$39,896.56	38	167 (41 pending processing)
<b>CCGs</b>	\$110,512.38	\$3,512.38 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	60 (0 pending processing)
<b>ASGAs</b>	\$5,668.15	\$0 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	5 (0 pending processing)
<b>EBs</b>	\$128,952.00 (no periods)	\$104,593.00	2	6 (0 pending processing)