

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

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

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

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

**Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair**

**OPEN SESSION**

**Attached  
Numbered Pages**

1. Approval of the 15 May 2023 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 17 April 2023 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 17 April 2023 GSA Council Meeting
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership (*suggested time: 1 min*)
  - i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
  - ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

**2.0 - 2.5**

**GSA Council Member Announcements**

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

**Presentation**

5. National Standard for Mental Health and Well-Being for Post-Secondary Students (*suggested time: 30 min*)  
**Haseeb Arshad (Vice-President Student Services) will present the item and introduce the guests.**

**Guests:** Brianna Bucalo (National Standard Project Coordinator, Wellness Supports, Dean of Students) and Jordan Zacher (Graduate Intern, National Standard Working Group)

*Attachment:*

- i. National Standard for Mental Health & Well-Being for PSI Students Briefing Note

**5.0 - 5.2**

**Discussion Items**

6. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Consultation (*suggested time: 10 min*)  
**Bishoi Aziz (President) will present the item**  
*Members will be asked to provide feedback on the strategic priorities that the GSA Board will be focusing on in the upcoming year and outlined in the Strategic Work Plan (SWP). For reference, the 2022-2023 SWP can be found [here](#). The 2023-2024 SWP will be developed in the coming months following workshops with*

the GSA Board, a survey to all graduate students, and a townhall. The SWP will then be presented to GSA Council over the summer months.

## Elections

### 7. GSA Council Elections (*suggested time: to be determined*)

**Violet Sun (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item.**

GSA Standing Committees

#### a. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSA ERC (1 GSA Councillor vacancy; 4 GSA member vacancies) **7.0 - 7.2**

#### b. GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSA GC (1 GSA Councillor vacancy) **7.3 - 7.4**

#### c. GSA Board (GSAB)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSAB (1 Councillor vacancy) **7.5 - 7.6**

**Farhan Khalid (GSA Speaker) will present the following items.**

#### d. GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSA NoC (1 GSA member vacancy) **7.7 - 7.8**

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

### 8. President (**Bishoi Aziz, President**)

- i. President's Report
  - a. 2022-2023 President (**no written report at this time**)
  - b. 2023-2024 President **8.0 - 8.1**
- ii. GSA Board Report **8.2**
- iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
- iv. GSA Governance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

### 9. Vice-President Academic (**Rija Kamran, Vice-President Academic**)

- i. Vice-President Academic's Report
  - a. 2022-2023 Report **9.0**
  - b. 2023-2024 Report **9.1 - 9.2**

### 10. Vice-President External (**Hamid Hassani, Vice-President External**)

- i. Vice-President External's Report
  - a. 2022-2023 Report (**no written report at this time**)
  - b. 2023-2024 Report **10.0 - 10.1**
- ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

### 11. Vice-President Student Life (**Tiffany Kung, Vice-President Student Life**)

- i. Vice-President Student Life's Report **11.0 - 11.1**
- ii. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report **11.2**

### 12. Vice-President Student Services (**Haseeb Arshad, Vice-President Student Services**)

- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report
  - a. 2022-2023 Report **12.0**
  - b. 2023-2024 Report **12.1 - 12.2**

13. Associate Vice-President Labour (**Muneeb Masood Raja, Associate Vice-President Labour**)
- i. 2022-2023 Vice-President Labour's Report (**no written report at this time**)
  - ii. 2023-2024 Associate Vice-President Labour's Report
  - iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
14. Speaker (**Farhan Khalid, Speaker**)
- i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
15. Chief Returning Officer (**Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer**)
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**no written report at this time**)
16. GSA Nominating Committee (**Violet Sun, GSA Nominating Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report
17. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
18. GSA Management (**Lewie Moodley, Executive Director**)
- i. Executive Director's Report

13.0 - 13.1

16.0 - 16.2

18.0 - 18.5

#### **Question Period**

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

20. Oral Questions

#### **Adjournment**

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, 17 April 2023 at 6:00 pm  
Held in-person in Council Chamber (2-100 Van Vliet Complex)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bishoi Aziz (VP Academic)	Karla Cristina Cruz (Biochemistry)	Karen Fraser (Human Ecology)	Alyssa Wiedemeyer (Pediatrics)
Janmejy Rao (VP External)	Samantha Tan (Biological Sciences)	Jillian Ames (IGSA)	Christian Faig (Pharmacology)
Monisha Vinod (VP Student Services)	Christopher Keen (Biomedical Engineering)	Kristin Carroll (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Kunyan Yang (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Farhan Khalid (Speaker)	Nahid Shaikh (Business MBA)	Kylie Day (Library & Information Studies)	Eduardo Melo de Andrade Lima (Philosophy)
Camila Rodrigues de Freitas (Deputy Speaker)	Zain Patel (Cell Biology)	Pouneh Mohammadi Nejad; Alain Gervais (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Hamid Hassani (Physics)
Sophie Shi (CRO)	Meghana Jois (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Kineshta Pillay (Mechanical Engineering)	Telisa Courtney (Political Science)
Ola Mabrouk (Senator)	Helia Dehghan Harati (Chemistry)	Luthfia Friskie (Media & Technology Studies)	Emilie Desnoyers (Psychiatry)
Eric Beaudry (Councillor-at-Large)	Zia van Blankenstein (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Connor Oborn (Medical Genetics)	Cheryl Pan (Psychology)
Jeremie Mahaux (Councillor-at-Large)	Shuai Yu (Educational Policy Studies)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	Clinton Ekaeze (Public Health)
Laura Manerus (Councillor-at-Large)	Rachel Hislop-Hook (Educational Psychology)	Alicia Chichak (Occupational Therapy)	Beckett Stark (Renewable Resources)
Emmy Marks (Anthropology)	Jane Allred (History, Classics, & Religion)	Constantin Mouzaabar (Ophthalmology)	

Guests: Roger Epp (Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research); Logan Mardhani-Bayne (Strategic Development Manager); Kat Black (Student Life, Student Services); Brandon Simmons (ab-GPAC Executive Director); Lewie Moodley (Incoming GSA Executive Director); Muneeb Masood Raja (2023-2024 GSA Associate Vice-President Labour).

Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair.

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

**Approval of Agenda****1. Approval of the 17 April 2023 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 17 April 2023 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2023. Z Patel **MOVED**; B Aziz **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**. 1 Abstention.

**Approval of Minutes****2. Minutes from the 20 March 2023 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 20 March 2023 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 6 April 2023. T Courtney **MOVED**; M Jois **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**. 2 Abstentions (B Aziz).

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

- i. **Introduction of New Councillors:** S Yu (Educational Policy Studies); P Mohammadi Nejad (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences).

- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** L Friskie (Media & Technology Studies); K Carroll (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology); T Courtney (Political Science); R Hislop-Hook (Educational Psychology); A Chichak (Occupational Therapy); B Stark (Renewable Resources).

### **GSA Council Member Announcements**

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

B Aziz introduced the new GSA Executive Director, Lewie Moodley, who would be starting with the GSA on 19 April 2023.

Speaker reminded GSA Council members to fill out the survey circulated with the meeting materials regarding the Council format for Spring and Summer 2023, which would remain open until 30 April 2023.

### **Presentations**

#### **5. Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Unit Review**

Bishoi Aziz (Vice-President Academic) presented the item and introduced guest, Dr Roger Epp (Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR).

R Epp explained that FGSR was soliciting an external review of the faculty for the first time since 2008. They had invited three external reviewers from Queens University, the University of Toronto, and the University of Calgary to perform the review. After preliminary meetings, the review would be held 26-28 April 2023, with a very full schedule planned for the reviewers. The first meeting planned was with GSA executives. Graduate students were invited to an open session with the reviewers on 26 April at 5:30 pm to provide input on what role FGSR should play in the University, how to improve the graduate student experience, and what was being done well.

R Epp outlined the primary question for the reviewers: what was the place of FGSR inside of a University undergoing restructuring that has moved to the college model, where do we fit and how could we work best? This was not a discussion about whether or not FGSR should exist; the review was intended to be fulsome and involve all the moving parts of the University of Alberta, with the hopes of getting strong, actionable directives to work on improving the graduate student experience. The University had changed significantly in the past 5 years, with changes to support staff having a significant impact on students. How could FGSR respond most effectively and encourage the University that this was a time to invest in graduate students, who R Epp expressed were vital to the research and teaching mission of the institution. The review in 2008 resulted in positive changes such as FGSR's commitment to Professional Development. FGSR anticipated that the review could provide focus areas for improvement.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions, including but not limited to, the anxiety around the ongoing existence of FGSR and what might happen if the review did not favour FGSR (R Epp stated that would come as a great surprise and not be consistent with the direction given by the Provost. Nothing about an external review was binding; due consideration would be given to all suggestions but this was not an expected outcome); if the external reviewers would understand the context of this institution enough for a focused review (R Epp explained that the reviewers were provided an extensive information package including the results from the last Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey, which would give them insight into the specific challenges our graduate student population faced. The U of A responses to that survey were aligned with the results from other institutions; two of the reviewers were Deans of Graduate Studies themselves who would have a very good idea of the issues as well as possible solutions); the urgency for increased financial support and how this would be considered (R Epp agreed this was one of the biggest issues; financial support could take a number of forms, including minimum funding); what aspects of FGSR other than the financials that members should be attentive to (R Epp discussed processes, which were something students might not see but administrators do. Admissions were a shared service between departments and FGSR where understanding the grad student experience would be valuable. What were the positive changes and what were the gaps? The experience had become far less relational and more transactional).

#### **6. Student Experience Action Plan and University Strategic Plan**

Monisha Vinod (Vice-President Student Services) presented the item and introduced guests, Logan Mardhani-Bayne (Strategic Development Manager) and Kat Black (Student Life, Student Services).

L Mardhani-Bayne presented on the University Strategic Plan, noting that this document would be providing the umbrella direction for the institution for the next 10 years. The consultation process began last Fall, and a "What We Heard" document was available to view on the USP website. He noted that the plan was based on key commitments to Indigenization and

decolonization; equity, diversity, and inclusion; sustainability; creativity; and collaboration, and that the plan focused on three key areas – learners, research, and engagement. The consultation draft would be released that week, with opportunities to engage in further consultation sessions and opportunities to request meetings with members of the steering committee. The steering committee was aiming to have the proposed plan come to General Faculties Council for endorsement on 29 May.

K Black presented on the Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) and noted that they were evaluating the student experience on campus to find out what was working well and what could be improved by the institution. A survey was sent to 28,000 students and they had already received around 5,000 responses, which was quite high for consultation results. M Vinod noted that the survey was open to all students and would close on 21 April and encouraged members to complete the survey.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions, including but not limited to, whether or not the team engaged with students in Katz (K Black explained the challenges of consultations including accessing suitable spaces in restricted buildings but stated that feedback from these students was important and they would work to find a way to access those voices); what Indigenization and decolonization meant in regards to strategic planning (L Mardhani-Bayne clarified that the work of the strategic plan was to set up the big picture context so that concrete work could be developed; these plans included high-level performance measures but more detail could be expected in the implementation plan phase); how this plan would be shared back once the consultation process was complete (L Mardhani-Bayne expressed that the work would be transparent; the Student Experience Action Plan was one example of what this could look like in the latter stages); if the work was drawing from other institutions for examples (L Mardhani-Bayne confirmed that they conducted a robust environmental scan but also that the context at the U of A was unique).

## **7. Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)**

Janmejy Rao (Acting President and Vice-President External) presented the item and introduced the guest, Brandon Simmons (ab-GPAC Executive Director).

B Simmons outlined the structure ab-GPAC, which was a student-run organization composed of graduate students from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, Athabasca University, and Concordia University. As Executive Director, B Simmons oversaw operations and helped the designated student representatives accomplish their goals. ab-GPAC consisted of twelve board members, three from each of the four institutions. The organization's main purpose was to bring forward advocacy priorities to the provincial government through consultations; ab-GPAC worked to showcase the importance and success of graduate studies.

Some of the work undertaken by ab-GPAC this year included meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education and the NDP Opposition Critic for Advanced Education this past January during their Advocacy Week, collaborating with the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) and the Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC) on initiatives including a Get Out the Vote Campaign, and advocating for a graduate student stream in the Alberta Immigrant Nominee program. The political landscape in Alberta remained challenging for post-secondary but some wins this year included the increased student loan cap, capped domestic tuition, the increased student loan grace period, and the ongoing commitment to support student mental health initiatives. In the coming year, one focus area would be gaining traction on the issue of changes to the Alberta Immigrant Nominee program.

B Simmons noted that he was currently preparing for the Board transition, as well as the provincial election and any changes in government representation.

GSA Council members asked whether there was any new information about international tuition (B Simmons expressed that ab-GPAC consistently brought this up with the government throughout the year, with both political parties pushing back on the issue – international students were not the tax base – but ab-GPAC would continue to pursue this, as would CAUS, as more needed to be done to help international students); how ab-GPAC could remain non-partisan when issues were so polarizing (B Simmons explained that non-partisan did not mean you could not criticize policy, we were not there just to stand back. We would be happy to give credit to good policies but we would also push back; we would refrain from criticizing parties directly because we would like to maintain strong relationships with all parties); if there was any movement on advocacy for increased funding for public institutions (B Simmons assured members that this was one of the main topics brought forward during Advocacy Week and would remain a priority going forward; as the province moved into a more stable financial position we might see opportunities arise).

### **Discussion Items**

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

Janmejay Rao (Acting President and Vice-President External) presented the item and reminded members that the SWP was developed annually and three updates were brought forward to GSA Council over the course of the year, this being the last update for the 2022-2023 year. He noted that his priorities and focus had been primarily work through ab-GPAC, which focused on four priorities: affordability, immigration, mental health, and professional development. B Aziz then noted that the major projects for him had been guaranteed minimum funding packages for PhD students, the FGSR external review process, revisions to the student conduct policy, and the AI taskforce. M Vinod noted that the high usage of the Campus Food Bank and the National Standard for Mental Health for Post-Secondary had been her focus, and that there would be opportunities moving forward for students to provide feedback on Accessibility Resources.

### Reports

#### 9. President

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

No written report at this time.

##### ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2023. The report stood as submitted.

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

No written report at this time.

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

No written report at this time.

##### v. GSA Governance Committee

No written report at this time.

#### 10. Vice-President Academic

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Aziz stated that he attended the March 24, 2023, Board of Governors meeting in which he made a statement regarding financial issues of graduate students and that impact on enrollment growth. He also discussed minimum guaranteed funding packages and the environmental scan conducted by FGSR regarding this funding model.

Members discussed various issues around the minimum guaranteed funding package and how fund distribution was determined by department and how academic employment would fit into funding packages.

#### 11. Vice-President External

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, J Rao stated the tuition increase protest was a success, as well as the finalization of hiring the new GSA Executive Director, Lewie Moodley.

##### ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2023. The report stood as submitted.

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

No written report at this time.

#### 12. Vice-President Labour

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2023. The report stood as submitted.

**ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No written report at this time.

**13. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Vinod expressed her gratitude to GSA Council as she came to the end of her term as Vice-President Student Services.

**14. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

**15. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**16. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.

**17. GSA Nominating Committee**

**i. GSA Nominating Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2023. The report stood as submitted.

**18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2023. The report stood as submitted.

**19. GSA Management**

**i. Acting Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 April 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, E Heiberg extended her thanks to the outgoing elected officers.

**Question Period**

**20. Written Questions**

**21. Oral Questions**

GSA Council members asked some clarifying questions regarding the categorization of temporary employment under the Collective Agreement, confusion around having multiple strategic plans presented by different stakeholders, and the breakdown of instructional fees.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting moved into closed session at 8:15 pm. C Baaklini **MOVED**; Z Patel **SECONDED**.

**Reports**

**22. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair's Report**

The meeting was moved out of closed session at 8:29 PM. J Rao **MOVED**; C Baaklini **SECONDED**.

Motion Passed. 2 Abstentions (B Stark; C Faig).

**OPEN SESSION**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

# Briefing Note

<b>Date</b>	May 2023
<b>Subject</b>	National Standard for Mental Health & Well-Being for PSI Students - Overview
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The <a href="#">National Standard for Mental Health &amp; Well-Being for Post-Secondary Students</a> was officially released in October 2020. This standard is the first of its kind in the world and provides a set of flexible, voluntary guidelines to help Canadian post-secondary institutions support the mental health and well-being of their students. Since its release, the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services, in partnership with the Canadian Association of Standards, has been supporting Canadian post-secondary institutions to facilitate implementation of the standard on campuses across the country.</p>
<b>Current State</b>	<p>Under the auspices of the U of A's <a href="#">Healthy University Strategic Plan (HUSP)</a>, the National Standard Working Group is currently implementing the standard on our campuses. It is in the best interest of our students, faculty and staff that we implement the standard. It will ensure that our student mental health supports remain evidence informed, coordinated and relevant to the needs of today's students. It will also align student health and wellness efforts with the key principles of the HUSP and International <a href="#">Okanagan Charter</a>.</p> <p>The <a href="#">National Standard Working Group</a> has initiated a pan-campus engagement process to consult with our diverse students, faculty, staff and service-providers about their experiences with student mental health. This process has moved through the <a href="#">Student National Standard Engagement Survey</a>, World Cafe's at Augustana, Campus St John, North Campus, Virtual and Graduate focuses, data walks with voting of priority areas, student group conversations and tabling feedback sessions.. A Faculty and Staff engagement is planned for spring and summer terms. Together, these assessment tools will collect information from our community regarding student mental health experiences, opportunities, challenges and hidden barriers. That information will assist the National Standard Working Group and Advisory Committee in identifying key student mental health priorities to be addressed in Phase Two of the project.</p> <p>Alongside the National Standard Working Group, a Campus Advisory Group has been struck to bring together diverse student, faculty and staff voices that will inform the implementation of the standard and support the Working Group in its engagement efforts. It will ensure that we are accurately interpreting the</p>

data collected from our campus engagement process and identifying the priority mental health needs of our students.

### Roadmap & Expectations

Implementation of the standard at the U of A will allow us to further our cooperative work with students, campus service providers, faculty, and staff to strengthen how we foster student mental health. The benefits of doing so should be seen through the academic success of our students, so they have access to timely and appropriate mental health support when and where they need them most.

Key priorities to be addressed in the implementation include:

1. Undertake university-wide engagement process to assess student mental health needs, opportunities and gaps;
2. Collect data on current university mental health services and programs;
3. Set campus mental health priorities based on engagement and data;
4. Implement, evaluate and continuously improve the existing policies, service delivery, and programming coordination.
5. Review current U of A policies that support student mental health;

### Roadmap

With the engagement process currently underway, the implementation of the National Standard will proceed as follows:

Status	Timeline	Activity
✓	July - Aug 2022	Formulation of the National Standard Working Group and ASteering Committee
✓	Sept - Nov 2022	Advisory Committee Formation
✓	Oct-Jan 2023	National Standard Audit and Engagement Planning
✓	Feb-Apr 2023	Pan-Campus Engagement Activities
Pending	May 2023	Data Aggregation & Review
Pending	June 2023	Strategic Priority Identification
Pending	July - Aug 2023	Report and Submission of Action Plan
Pending	Oct 2023	Implementation of Identified Priorities and Development of Ongoing Assessment/Evaluation Criteria

**Resources**

[U of A National Standard Implementation Website](#)

[U of A Healthy University Strategic Plan \(HUSP\)](#)

[Okanagan Charter](#)

[U of A Okanagan Charter – Statement of Adoption](#)

**Implementation  
Contacts**

Brianna Bucalo, Coordinator - Office of the Dean of Students

Kevin Friese, HUSP Working Group Chair and Assistant Dean of Students,  
Office of the Dean of Students

Gurleen Kaur, Undergraduate Student

Jordan Zacher, Graduate Student

Grachella Garcia, Associate Director, Campus and Community Recreation

Randal Nickel, Executive Director Student Life, Augustana Student Services

Juste Kagisye, Chef de service, La Centrale / Service Head, Student Services  
& Learning Centre

Clint Galloway, Director, Wellness Supports

Sarah Flower, Senior Consultant - Health Promotion and Engagement,  
Well-being, Culture and Rewards, Human Resources, Health, Safety and  
Environment

## GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

**GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC) (THREE (3) POSITIONS FOR GSA MEMBERS): THREE (3) NOMINEES**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy for a GSA member was advertised in the GSA Newsletters of 21 and 28 April, and 5 May 2023 with a nomination deadline of 10 May 2023. Three (3) nominations were received.

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

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 15 May 2023 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 15 May 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gсанomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 15 May 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Nastaran Khavarilangeroudi (MBA)**
- 2. Ibrahim Khodabocus (Pediatrics)**
- 3. Md Reazul Islam (Chemistry)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, Section I.POL.16.1

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

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

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

**The names and biographies received for the three (3) nominees are BELOW on pages 7.1 – 7.2. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).**

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC)  
(THREE (3) VACANCIES FOR GSA MEMBERS)  
Three (3) Nominees**

**1. Nastaran Khavarilangeroudi (MBA)**

<b>Statement of Interest</b>
I have always liked to be part of the Graduate Student Association and contribute to their great causes, but I have never had this chance until recently, when I saw the GSA notice about several vacancies available. I like to be a member of the GSA Nominating Committee to help students find their right spot and use their full capabilities to serve on committees or councils.
<b>Bio</b>
I am an international, full-time MBA student at the University of Alberta. Before starting my studies here, I worked as a physiotherapist for public and private organizations for many years. I even had my own private clinic, where I was responsible for recruiting people for various roles. I also cooperated with charity associations to help people in need. Here in Canada, I volunteer for fundraising for Lois Hole Hospital for Women, Campus Food Bank, and The Steadward Centre.

**2. Ibrahim Khodabocus (Pediatrics)**

<b>Statement of Interest</b>
I would like to serve on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee to ensure that the interests of all graduate students are accurately represented by the GSA; of particular concern are the interests of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) students at the University of Alberta.
<b>Bio</b>
<p>During my research career, I have been consistently involved with student-run and student-impacted collectives. I am currently the President (Graduate) of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) and Allies Students' Association at the University of Alberta. The goal of the BIPOC and Allies Students' Association is to promote the recruitment, admission, and retention of BIPOC students at the University of Alberta. I am responsible for public outreach and event broadcasting on the behalf of the BIPOC-led student organisation. As an MSc student, I was a part of the Biology Graduate Students' Association (BGSA) throughout my program, serving as a Vice President (VP) and the President of the BGSA from September 2021 - April 2022 and April 2022 – December 2022, respectively. The BGSA is the student-run collective, interested in representing the academic, political, and social interests of graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. As a VP, I assisted in the arrangement of events, specifically: the Ethics and Professional Development seminar series. The goal of this event was to inform graduate students of the Ethics and Professional Development requirement set by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to ensure the timely completion of these courses prior to convocation/defense. As President, I directed and led meetings pertaining to the issues and interests of graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. I was the main point of contact between the BGSA and the Departmental Chair, facilitating collaboration between the BGSA and the department at large.</p> <p>Beyond my leadership responsibilities, I also served as a Graduate Student Representative in the department of Biological Sciences from April 2021 - December 2022. Here, I was a Biological Sciences Departmental Council voting member. I spoke on issues pertaining to the Biological Sciences graduate student body and provided meeting summaries to other Graduate Student Leaders (BGSA executives and R.E Peter Student organizers) on Departmental Council matters. Further, I volunteered as a Judge for the R.E. Peter Biology Conference (R.E. Peter 2022). R.E. Peter is a student-run conference designed to showcase the diverse research conducted by Biological Sciences students at the University of Alberta and institutions across the province. I judged live presentations at the graduate and undergraduate levels. I also worked as a graduate Journal Reviewer for the Eureka Journal from January 2021 - January 2023. Eureka is a student-founded and student-run journal,</p>

offering student-scientists the unique opportunity to share their discoveries with the scientific community through a double-blind peer review process.

### 3. Md Reazul Islam (Chemistry)

<b>Statement of Interest</b>
I would like to represent the international graduate students of UofA at GSA so that I can try to mitigate the challenges faced by a international graduate student or a graduate student in general when they first start their program.
<b>Bio</b>
I am a motivated person with quick learning and people's skill and have few experience in working at different organizations as paid member and volunteer.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
**GSA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (GSA GC) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA COUNCILLOR): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

Information regarding the positions for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 21 and 28 April, and 5 May 2023 with a deadline of Friday, 10 May 2023. One (1) nomination was received.

The GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) is “to advise GSA Council on matters of GSA Bylaw and Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governance issues, and recommend changes to GSA Council.” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F: GSA Standing Committee, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Governance Committee, Section F.POL.4.2.a).

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 15 May 2023 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 15 May 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 15 May 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

**1. Guadalupe Montserrat Rodríguez Cornejo (Educational Policy Studies)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.POL.4.1.c

*“Three (3) Councillors or recent former Councillors elected by GSA Council as voting members.”*

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

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

**The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee is BELOW on page 7.4. The biography and resume is presented as received (ie not edited).**

**Nominations for GSA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (GSA GC)  
 (ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA COUNCILLOR)  
 One (1) Nominee**

**1. Guadalupe Montserrat Rodríguez Cornejo**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA Department Councillor
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
I am interested in working with governance issues and making any changes that are needed in the documents where policies are explained. I have been preparing myself in policy analysis following the approach of Carol Bacchi and theoretical frameworks related to justice and the colonial matrix. I would like to keep learning more about the processes that are involved for the policies to be applied and I am willing to be flexible and open to the perspectives that the University of Alberta has for the GSA Council.	
<b>Bio</b>	
I am a responsible and committed international graduate student (from Mexico) with an educational background in the areas related to teaching English as a foreign language and adapting learning environments for students with special needs. I have been involved in research related to teaching methodologies and issues related to social justice. I am a woman who has always been interested in getting involved in spaces where all voices can be heard and empowered. I make decisions following a holistic approach in order to consider all angles of particular circumstances. I consider the knowledge I have by now and the ongoing learning that I am acquiring would be appropriate for this position.	

SPEAKER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**GSA BOARD (GSAB) (One (1) POSITION FOR A GSA COUNCILLOR): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

Information regarding the position for GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 21 and 28 April, and 5 May 2023 with a deadline of Friday, 10 May 2023. One (1) nomination was received.

The GSAB is the senior administrative authority of the GSA. As set out in GSA Board Policy (GSA Board Policy, GSA Councillor Positions on the GSA Board: Mandate F.POL.3.2), the responsibilities of the GSA Councillor positions on the GSAB are:

1. Regular attendance at GSAB meetings, with regrets and reasons submitted to the GSA President.
2. Providing a link between the elected GSA Officers and the floor of GSA Council.
3. Participating and speaking up at GSA Council when GSAB business is discussed, from the member's own unique views.

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 15 May 2023 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 15 May 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 15 May 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Cheryl Pan (Psychology)**

**Jurisdiction:**

Section F.POL.3.1.e

The composition of the GSAB includes "up to three (3) members of GSA Council elected by GSA Council as non-voting members."

**The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee is BELOW on page 7.6. The biography and resume is presented as received (ie not edited).**

**NOMINATIONS FOR GSA BOARD  
(ONE (1) VACANY FOR A GSA COUNCILLOR) ONE (1) NOMINEE**

**1. Cheryl Pan**

<b>Statement of Interest:</b>
I am interested in serving on the GSA board since I have been a councilor in my department (psychology) for almost a year. This experience really has shown me the responsibility of being a councillor and what it means to be a councillor. In addition, I want to disseminate all the information and knowledge that my fellow grad students in our department should know! Therefore, I would like to work more closely with the GSA Board to foresee the advocacy and strategic plans the executive teams discuss. I believe this also benefit me to see different things from different perspectives and allows me to bring more comprehensive information and resources to the grad students in my department.
<b>Bio:</b>
My first experience relevant to this position is being a departmental councillor. As I mentioned above, this experience broadened my perspective of what a councilor should do as well as the value of being a councilor in the department. Besides, I have been a peer mentor for a year in my undergrad career. This experience has allowed me to pass along all the helpful resources related to mental health, coping skills, time management strategies, academic, and school policy to first and second-year undergraduate students. I also used my experience to help first-year undergraduate students better transition from high school to university. I am currently a peer guide counsellor in a mental health non-profit organization to help my peers deal with their life struggles, such as interpersonal relationships, coping strategies, and academic difficulties. These experiences provided a foundation for me to build stronger communication and leadership skills.

## SPEAKER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

Information regarding this position for a GSA member was circulated in the GSA newsletters on 21 and 28 April, and 5 May 2023 with a nomination deadline of 10 May 2023. Two (2) nominations were received.

The GSA NoC is charged with selecting graduate student representatives to serve on councils, committees, and other bodies requiring such representation. The GSA NoC also leads an annual initiative in October during which graduate students interested in running for elected office are invited to attend a series of events and training sessions (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections E.POL.8.2 and E.POL.8.7).

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 15 May 2023 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 15 May 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 15 May 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Nastaran Khavarilangeroudi (MBA)**
- 2. Ibrahim Khodabocus (Pediatrics)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E.POL.4

*"Vacancies on the GSA NoC will be advertised by the ED or delegate and GSA Speaker. The ED or delegate and GSA Speaker will provide GSA Council with the names of nominees for the GSA NoC who meet the criteria set out in Section E.POL.5, below. These vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E.POL.5.1

The GSA NoC is composed of *"a total of five (5) graduate student members, including at least two (2) voting members of GSA Council (who may be alternates) elected by GSA Council, and three (3) additional graduate student members elected by GSA Council, as voting members."*

**The names and biographies received for the two (2) nominees is BELOW on page 7.8. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).**

**Nominations for the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)**  
**ONE (1) VACANY FOR A GSA MEMBER**  
**Two (2) Nominees**

**1. Nastaran Khavarilangeroudi (MBA)**

<b>Statement of Interest</b>
I have always liked to be part of the Graduate Student Association and contribute to their great causes, but I have never had this chance until recently, when I saw the GSA notice about several vacancies available. I like to be a member of the GSA Election and Referenda Committee to help them in planning of the election events and contribute to their great causes. It will definitely be a valuable experience for me as well.
<b>Bio</b>
I am an international, full-time MBA student at the University of Alberta. Before starting my studies here, I worked as a physiotherapist for public and private organizations for many years. I even had my own private clinic, where I was responsible for recruiting people for various roles. I also cooperated with charity associations to help people in need. Here in Canada, I volunteer for fundraising for Lois Hole Hospital for Women, Campus Food Bank, and The Steadward Centre.

**2. Ibrahim Khodabocus (Pediatrics)**

<b>Statement of Interest</b>
I would like to serve on the GSA Nominating Committee to ensure that the interests of all graduate students are accurately represented by the GSA; of particular concern are the interests of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) students at the University of Alberta. I hope work with the body at large to ensure that BIPOC persons are equitably represented within Governance bodies within the boundaries of the GSA.
<b>Bio</b>
<p>During my research career, I have been consistently involved with student-run and student-impacted collectives. I am currently the President (Graduate) of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) and Allies Students' Association at the University of Alberta. The goal of the BIPOC and Allies Students' Association is to promote the recruitment, admission, and retention of BIPOC students at the University of Alberta. I am responsible for public outreach and event broadcasting on the behalf of the BIPOC-led student organisation. As an MSc student, I was a part of the Biology Graduate Students' Association (BGSA) throughout my program, serving as a Vice President (VP) and the President of the BGSA from September 2021 - April 2022 and April 2022 – December 2022, respectively. The BGSA is the student-run collective, interested in representing the academic, political, and social interests of graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. As a VP, I assisted in the arrangement of events, specifically: the Ethics and Professional Development seminar series. The goal of this event was to inform graduate students of the Ethics and Professional Development requirement set by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to ensure the timely completion of these courses prior to convocation/defense. As President, I directed and led meetings pertaining to the issues and interests of graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. I was the main point of contact between the BGSA and the Departmental Chair, facilitating collaboration between the BGSA and the department at large.</p> <p>Beyond my leadership responsibilities, I also served as a Graduate Student Representative in the department of Biological Sciences from April 2021 - December 2022. Here, I was a Biological Sciences Departmental Council voting member. I spoke on issues pertaining to the Biological Sciences graduate student body and provided meeting summaries to other Graduate Student Leaders (BGSA executives and R.E Peter Student organizers) on Departmental Council matters. Further, I volunteered as a Judge for the R.E. Peter Biology Conference (R.E. Peter 2022). R.E. Peter is a student-run conference designed to showcase the diverse research conducted by Biological Sciences students at the University of Alberta and institutions across the province. I judged live presentations at the graduate and undergraduate levels. I also worked as a graduate Journal Reviewer for the Eureka Journal from January 2021 - January 2023. Eureka is a student-founded and student-run journal, offering student-scientists the unique opportunity to share their discoveries with the scientific community through a double-blind peer review process.</p>

**2023-2024 President  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Bishoi Aziz  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

It gives me honor to have the trust of the graduate students renewed in me this year. I am humbled to serve all of our community in the President role, and I hope to be able to progress your priorities this year. It's my pleasure to report to you my work in the first couple of weeks as the GSA President.

**Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Enrolment Report**

- This month, FGSR submitted its enrolment report to the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC). As the report is extensive, I would like to highlight some important information from that report. The overall enrolment growth was low this year (<1%). We are witnessing a slight increase in enrolment of international students. International students are forming > 40% of the graduate student population.
- The report also showed that female students make up more than half of the graduate student population, while male students make up less than 40%, and students identifying as LGBTQ form less than 5%. The report showed that female students form the majority of students in course-based masters programs compared to thesis-based masters and PhD programs that are dominated by male students. The report shows a similar pattern in Indigenous enrolment, as most Indigenous graduate students are enrolled in course-based masters programs.
- The timing of the report is perfect for the GSA to provide us insight as we prepare the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. I really encourage everyone of you to review that report and reflect on how this can direct our advocacy effort.

**Vice Provost and Dean of Students Selection (DoS) Committee**

- I am currently busy with the DoS Selection Committee. While most of the process is confidential, we decided on two candidates to proceed to the public forum and second interview step. The two candidates are Dr. Ravina Sanghera and Dr. Anthony Singhal. I encourage all of you to attend the [public presentations](#) (Monday, 15 May and Tuesday, 16 May) that the candidates will give, and to provide us your insight to help guide the GSA opinion during the final selection phase.

**Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Town Hall**

- We tried to improve advertising for the town hall this year by advertising through different venues and offering incentives to the students to have better engagement. I am happy that our strategy succeeded this year and increased student attendance.
- The engagement yielded a plethora of ideas for advocacy and services that spans international students, domestic students, Indigenous students, students from equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) seeking groups, students who parent, and many other student groups. We are currently analyzing this consultation discussion together as part of the full consultation process that continues to decide on the direction for the SWP this year.

**Provost's Task Force AI Meeting**

- The task force is currently in the process of preparing a recommendation document to the Provost on AI in education. We discussed the main themes that we need to cover. Regarding graduate education, I advocated for encouraging critical thinking about the role of AI in classes. I also asserted the need for training for first-year Teaching Assistants (Tas) on how to approach AI in their classes and how to preserve the integrity of the education process. I also highlighted the importance of having discussions between instructors and students around the allowed level of usage of generative AI in assignments.

## 8.1

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

1 May	Meeting with H Vallianatos, Interim Dean of Students
3 May	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
4 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Interviews
4 May	U of A Festival of Teaching and Learning: Keynote Panelist
5 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Interviews
5 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Committee Debrief
9 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Town Hall
9 May	Provost's Task Force AI Meeting
10 May	Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Update with the Associations
10 May	Meeting with B Simmons, ab-GPAC Executive Director
11 May	GSA Health and Dental Plan 101
12 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Session #1
15 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Public Forum
15 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Public Interview

**GSA Board  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

The GSA Board (GSAB) reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. GSA Council members are always able to ask questions about items that were discussed in closed session. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The Directly-Elected Officers and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 18 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 18.2 – 18.5.

**19 April 2023 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Recommended Changes to GSA Board Policy, Section 7: Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave; Council Debrief; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Board Policy, Section 7: Directly-Elected Officer Vacation and Leave as noted in the attached document with amendment, effective immediately. JR **MOVED**. BA Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**26 April 2023 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Academic Success Centre 2022-2023 Annual Report; ATB Signing Authority; Graduate Conference on AI Technologies; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary report, as submitted by the Academic Success Centre. BA **MOVED**. JR Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **APPROVE** Llewelyn Moodley, as GSA Executive Director, as a signing authority on GSA accounts with ATB. JR **MOVED**. BA Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**3 May 2023 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Provisional Line of Succession for Chair of the GSA Board; Provisional Designation of Executive Vice-President and Line of Succession for Acting President; Meeting Reports

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the provisional line of succession for Chair of the GSA Board as follows: 1) Vice-President Student Life; 2) Vice-President Student Services; *and* 3) Vice-President External. RK **MOVED**. TK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

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

**3 May 2023 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Enrolment Report; GSA Board Strategic Work Plan Survey; Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**2022-2023 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Bishoi Aziz  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

It is unbelievable how time runs that fast. I still remember my first day in the office as if it was yesterday. Here, I am giving you a report of my final duties as the 2022-2023 VP Academic. You will find a summary of my work as the 2023-2024 GSA President in a separate report

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

- At the end of April, three external reviewers visited UofA to conduct a review of FGSR. The reviewers had the chance to meet with different stakeholders over the duration of three days. In one of the meetings, the external reviewers met with representatives of the GSA Board and Council. I was pleased to participate in that discussion and bring my experience as a VP Academic who worked closely with FGSR over the past year.
- The discussion provided such a multifaceted view around FGSR from the student perspective. We discussed how important it is to the students for the FGSR to retain its current structure and responsibilities. The rationale behind that is the current instability at the college level in providing different services to students. However, the discussions brought to light several deficiencies in FGSR, particularly communication with students. The discussion revealed a level of misinformation being provided to the students from FGSR. This is most apparent when FGSR has tried to help answer students' questions that's did not directly related to FGSR's responsibilities. This is a direct result of the complex structure of the University. We identified the pressing need of improving communication between FGSR and students. We ended suggesting that this could be a task for the new education office of the colleges. The education office can assume the role as an intermediate point of contact between FGSR as a central unit with high level responsibilities, and the students with their supervisors.

**Meeting with R Sanghera, Acting Associate Dean of Students**

- I had the chance to meet with Dr. R Sanghera, Acting Associate Dean of Students (DoS), who is preparing a transition document as she is leaving her role. She discussed with me an important advocacy topic that graduate students need. I highlighted how crucial it was at this point in institution history to pay great attention to the communication and engagement with the students. Currently, the University already offers a plethora of services to students, many of which students aren't aware. I pointed out that this wasn't the case in previous years before the restructuring. Dr. Sanghera replied that DoS had lost their communication expert during the restructuring.
- Apart from communication, I mentioned to her that improving mental health services and providing more internship opportunities were among important priorities for graduate students. We also discussed AI and how it was impacting education.

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

26 April	FGSR Unit Review
26 April	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
27 April	Meeting with R Sanghera, Acting Associate Dean of Students
27 April	Team Dinner
28 April	Festival of Teaching and Learning Artificial Intelligence (FoTL AI) Keynote Pre-Meet
28 April	University Research and Innovation Advisory Committee (URIAC)
28 April	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) Oversight Lunch
28 April	GSA Coffee Break
28 April	Vice-Provost and Dean of Students Selection Committee

**2023-2024 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Rija Kamran  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are all keeping well. I am honoured to have started my term as the VP Academic for the 2023-2024 term. I would like to express my gratitude to the graduate students who supported my candidacy and voted for me during the elections. I would like to thank Bishoi Aziz for supporting my transition into the role of VP Academic. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to the GSA staff for their continuous support and guidance as I begin my new role.

I attended a number of meetings in April as a part of the transition, along with Bishoi, which are covered under his 2022-2023 VP Academic Report. Please find some highlights from my meeting schedule since starting my term (May 1, 2023)

**May 1, 2023- Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Search and Selection Process**

I joined the first meeting for the FGSR Dean Search and Selection Process as a GSA representative. The proceedings from this meeting are confidential until made public at the completion of selection process.

**May 2, 2023- FGSR Dean Search and Selection Process Town Hall**

The town hall introduced the selection committee members to the attendees. There were some key questions around the FGSR unit review and the possible changes to the role of FGSR Dean. The chair of the selection committee ensured that at this time the role of FGSR Dean would remain unchanged and the FGSR review report would be shared with the applicants and the University community upon completion. There was a discussion about challenges and opportunities for the new FGSR Dean.

**May 2, 2023 - GSA 101**

I attended the GSA 101 session with other DEOs. This session, organized by the GSA Management team provided an orientation of the structure of the GSA, responsibilities and portfolios of DEOs, executive team members and staff in GSA and their roles, and services governed and provided by GSA for graduate students.

**May 9, 2023 - Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Town Hall**

I attended the SWP town hall along with other DEOS and GSA staff. It was a productive meeting with good discussion around various key issues faced by the graduate students and will inform GSA's advocacy plan for the coming year.

**May 9, 2023 - GSA Governance 101**

I attended the Governance 101 with other DEOs. This session organized by the GSA Management team provided an overview of the University of Alberta governance structure and responsibilities distributed and governed by the President and Vice Chancellor, and the Vice-Presidents, amongst others. We were oriented on the various committed across university governance where the GSA hold seats.

**May 11, 2023 - FGSR Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC)**

This was the last FGSR PRC meeting of the academic year. There was some discussion on the FGSR Unit review draft that will be coming for review in the next few weeks before a final draft is made available to the public. Changes in examiner categories, that had been previously approved by the committee were discussed. There were two items for approval and vote: changes in language around admission requirements for the Digital Humanities program, and clarification in language around maintenance of registration for course-based programs. Some key

changes include changes in language around entrance requirements for Digital Humanities program, requirement for students to complete at least a semester before picking a major, and individuals admitted to course-based programs will have the opportunity to switch to thesis-based program after year 1 if a supervisor has been secured. There was discussion around any fee detriment coming from this change to the thesis-based program since course-based programs are assessed fees per course, which is different than thesis students. Both items were approved for recommendation to FGSR Council.

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

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

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

1 May	FGSR Dean Search and Selection Process
2 May	FGSR Dean Search and Selection Process Town Hall
2 May	GSA 101
9 May	Meeting with R Epp, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
9 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Town Hall
9 May	GSA Governance 101
11 May	FGSR Policy Review Committee (PRC)
12 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Session #1
15 May	Governing Docs 101

**2023-2024 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Hamid Hassani  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I am thrilled to have recently begun my role as the VP External with the GSA, starting on May 1, 2023. This position provides an outstanding opportunity to advocate for students and work towards improving their experience at the university. I am eager to collaborate with the GSA board members, as well as students and other stakeholders, to ensure that the needs and interests of graduate students are represented and addressed. I believe that with a strong commitment to our goals and a collaborative spirit, we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for graduate students at the university.

On May 2, I had the privilege of having a one-on-one meeting with the President of the GSA where we delved into a range of important topics that relate to the organization's priorities. We began by discussing the need for a graduate immigration stream program, as well as the Career Center's role in supporting graduate student career development. We also brainstormed ways to connect alumni to current graduate students to provide mentorship and internship opportunities. During our meeting, we also talked about the importance of supporting the Campus Food Bank. We discussed the idea of expanding GSA coffee break events beyond Triffo Hall to include other halls, which was well-received by the President.

In addition to these topics, we shared our thoughts on how to advocate for affordable education for students and support the use of AI tools for students. As the newly appointed VP External, I emphasized my commitment to focusing on ab-GPAC and exploring ways to establish a robust relationship with the government. We briefly touched on the topic of affordable housing for students. Overall, it was a productive meeting where we exchanged ideas on a wide range of topics related to the GSA's priorities, and I left the meeting with a clear understanding of what needs to be done to improve the graduate student experience at the university.

On May 3, as the GSA VP External, I attended a University Strategic Planning (USP) Steering Committee meeting where the final version of the USP document was submitted for approval. The meeting discussed feedback from previous reviews, including the importance of clarity in the impact of the goals and the significance of alumni engagement. Additionally, there were consultations held on the plan's focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). The meeting also mentioned upcoming consultations and the need to acknowledge the past and build on previous plans. Lastly, the group discussed upcoming events, including a soft launch in June and a big launch in September with alumni meetings. The final document will be submitted to General Faculties Council (GFC) for consideration in June. As a representative of the GSA, I emphasized the importance of considering the needs and priorities of graduate students in the strategic plan. Overall, the meeting provided valuable insights into the final stages of the University Strategic Planning process.

During the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan Town Hall on May 9, which was attended by the GSA board members and three other attendees, valuable feedback and suggestions were provided on how GSA can improve its services and support student engagement. Attendees expressed a desire for GSA to provide more opportunities for students to connect with each other and engage in meaningful activities, particularly in light of the ongoing pandemic and the associated challenges of remote learning. Others emphasized the importance of ensuring that GSA remains responsive to the evolving needs of students and continues to advocate for their interests in the post-secondary education sector.

Furthermore, some attendees expressed appreciation for the Valentine's Day event organized by GSA and suggested that GSA should continue to plan similar events in the future. Additionally, a few attendees recommended that GSA should not limit its Coffee Break events to just Triffo Hall and should consider hosting

them in other locations to increase participation and accessibility for students. These suggestions were well-received by the GSA board members, and they will be taken into consideration in the planning of future events. Overall, the meeting served as a valuable forum for constructive dialogue and exchange of ideas between GSA board members and attendees. I am grateful for the feedback received and am committed to working closely with everyone involved to ensure that GSA continues to evolve and meet the changing needs of the student community.

On May 10, a meeting was conducted with Brandon Simmons, the Executive Director of AB-GPAC, to discuss the organization's recent activities and plans for the future. ab-GPAC is a provincial advocacy group that collaborates closely with the Ministry of Education, with a specific focus on working with the provincial government. During the meeting, it was highlighted that ab-GPAC holds one Advocacy Week each year and maintains regular communication with the Minister of Advanced Education. The organization's priorities are laid out in their first meeting in early September, where they also establish connections with the Alberta post-secondary network at the Ministry level.

The meeting also discussed ab-GPAC's upcoming plans for the future, including brainstorming strategies to engage with graduate students and developing a monthly blog to improve social media engagement. The organization aims to prioritize supporting Indigenous students, affordability for students, and the Alberta Nominate program, with these goals being laid out in their annual plan from May to the end of June.

ab-GPAC's annual advocacy week in November is a significant event, which involves a visit to the legislature, but the organization does not limit its advocacy efforts to this week alone. In addition to their bylaws and advocacy policy, AB-GPAC also conducts transition meetings, retreats, and advocacy meetings in-person.

Overall, the meeting with Brandon Simmons provided insight into ab-GPAC's structure, priorities, and future plans. The organization's dedication to provincial advocacy and their efforts to collaborate with provincial authorities will undoubtedly make them a valuable resource in the post-secondary education sector.

Hamid Hassani, Vice-President Student Services 2023-2024

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

2 May	GSA 101
3 May	University Strategic Planning (USP) Steering Committee (USP)
9 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Town Hall
9 May	GSA Governance 101
10 May	Meeting with B Simmons, ab-GPAC Executive Director
12 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Session #1
15 May	Governing Docs 101

**2023-2024 Vice-President Student Life  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Tiffany Kung  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope your end of semester went smoothly and everyone is doing well. While onboarding as the VP Student Life, I've had the chance to meet with a few of you one-on-one, and look forward to working with everyone over the course of the coming year. Please find attached my report regarding the meetings I've attended since beginning my position.

Meeting with Councillors (Apr - May)

In an attempt to canvass councillors and students for their priorities, I have been meeting with various groups and GSA Councillors to determine the problems each department is facing, and what they would like to see the GSA focus on. As of this Council meeting, I have met with 14 Councillors and 5 member-at-large students. These themes will be explored in the GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan workshops, and include: better communication from the GSA, actionable equity, diversity, inclusion, and indigeneity (EDI) initiatives, fostering community, decreasing bureaucracy, decreasing expenses, and increasing funding. If we have not met, or if you or any student you know would like a follow-up meeting, please send an email to [gsavpsi@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsavpsi@ualberta.ca) and I would be more than happy to meet with you.

Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) Co-Creation Workshop (May 8)

A team of students and university members met to discuss the results of the Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) and come up with ideas on how to implement the priorities identified in the plan. The themes identified by the SEAP survey that were discussed and workshoped included: improving relationships, connection and belonging; having beautiful and accessible campuses; achieving academic success, agency, and flexibility; smooth transitions into and out of study; more support for student success; having transparent and affordable costs; and more. After the co-creation workshop, the ideas from participants were collected, and the SEAP team will sort through them, taking into account desirability and feasibility, and will put together a plan of action to improve the student experience starting in Fall 2023.

Meeting with K Huising (AVP Campus Services)

K Huising and I met to discuss various graduate student concerns regarding residence.

- 1) In regards to the cost of rent on campus, she noted that residence is user paid and not funded by the government or tuition, and that the goal of rent on campus is to be competitive to the market.
- 2) I will be drafting an email with the help of GSA staff to send to K Huising regarding interest in a graduate student residence association, which K Huising will circulate.
- 3) For Students who Parent (SwP), there are no residences planned for families due to lack of demand, but there is talk about providing housing for couples in residence. For SwP parking, this will require a way for parking services to know who is a SwP and who is not, which I will work on.
- 4) There are talks of providing parking passes at the Saville Centre at a reduced rate (~\$75/mo).
- 5) The Joint Residence Oversight Committee (JROC), which was shelved for 2023, will be discussed again for whether it is needed in January 2024.

If you have any thoughts regarding residence, please contact me and I would be happy to meet.

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

## 11.1

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 April to 15 May 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings).  
The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

2 May	GSA 101
8 May	Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) Co-creation Workshop #2
9 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Town Hall
9 May	GSA Governance 101
11 May	Meeting with K Huisling, AVP Campus Services
12 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Session #1
15 May	Governing Docs 101

**GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Monisha Vinod  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) met on 27 April 2023. Members were introduced to Tiffany Kung, incoming GSA Vice-President Student Life, who will be taking over as chair of the committee, and Lewie Moodley, new GSA Executive Director.

Members discussed priorities for the upcoming year, including meeting with equity seeking groups across campus and providing opportunities for graduate students to engage with the high school students from various equity seeking groups to encourage participation in post-secondary education.

Sincerely,  
Monisha Vinod, 2022-2023 Vice-President Student Services and Vice-Chair of the GSA EDIC

**2022-2023 Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Monisha Vinod  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

It has been a humbling learning experience and I'm grateful for the privilege to have served the graduate student body at the University of Alberta along with the support from every person in the GSA Council, my team of executives, as well as the GSA staff, and all the inspiring humans in the University Administration. It's been a wonderful team effort and I have enjoyed the journey!

I spent the last few weeks of my term attending the meetings I was required to, from which I have no significant updates to report, and bidding adieu to the various offices within University Administration. Of note, I learnt that the University Strategic Plan on Research and Innovation is something the GSA can focus on and assist with in the coming year, to keep students informed of the various initiatives on campus, in an academic and professional capacity. The Office of Innovation and Research is focusing on creating more Co-Op opportunities for students, and later this Fall, an Advisory Committee for Enterprise will be set up. I look forward to this opportunity being beneficial to graduate students to make them more prepared for life after University.

Other than that, I will continue to be a co-sponsor for the Student Experience Action Plan along with Abner Monteiro until Fall 2023 begins, when Tiffany Kung, VP Student Life for 2023-2024, will be onboarded to be involved in the implementation of this project. I have high hopes of how this is going to lead to an unmatched experience for graduate students on campus as I observe the plan of action that is going to be executed to set the University of Alberta apart from other universities in Canada.

As always, I am open to feedback and questions and can now be reached at my personal email at [mvinod@ualberta.ca](mailto:mvinod@ualberta.ca).

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

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 April to 30 April 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings).  
The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

19 Apr	Dean of Students
20 Apr	U-Pass Administrative Committee
20 Apr	Meeting with a Graduate Student
21 Apr	Innovation and Entrepreneurship
24 Apr	Meeting with L Mardhani-Bayne, Lead Strategist, University Strategic Plan

**2023-2024 Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Muhammad Haseeb Arshad  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear Council Members,

I hope this report finds you in the best of health. I am honored to have commenced my role as the Vice-President of Student Services for the GSA. Since this is my first council meeting, I would like to start off things by expressing my gratitude to the graduate students who cast their votes in my favor during the elections. Also, I'd like to thank Monisha (2022-2023 VP Student Services) for her efforts in facilitating my transition into this position. Lastly and importantly, I am thankful to the GSA staff for their encouragement and logistical support during these first few weeks of my term.

As for my meetings from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of May, I will use the following space to summarize some of the important ones.

1. GSA 101 - 2<sup>nd</sup> May: As the name suggests, during the GSA 101 meeting, I had the opportunity to gain a comprehensive understanding of the functioning of the GSA governing body, the individual responsibilities of each DEO, and the crucial services offered by the GSA. One aspect that stood out to me in this meeting was the summary chart that outlined the specific committees where each DEO would represent the interests of graduate students.
2. Selection Committee for Vice-Provost and Dean of Students - 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> May: It was a great privilege for me to represent graduate students as GSA VP Student Services on the selection committee for the position of Vice-Provost and Dean of Students (DoS). During the confidential meetings held on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May, the committee engaged in thorough and meticulous deliberations. After careful consideration, we were able to reach a consensus and finalize two candidates for the position. These candidates' names have now been made public, and we are proceeding with the next steps, aiming to submit a final name for approval to the Board of Governors by the end of this month. I encourage you to take part in the public forums for the two final candidates, on Monday, 15 May and Tuesday, 16 May. You can register for the forums [here](#).
3. Meeting with K Friese - 9<sup>th</sup> May: This was an introductory meeting and I learned about some of the important initiatives that K Friese and Student Wellness Services are working on but not limited to:
  - The implementation of the National Standard for Mental Health, aimed at enhancing mental health support and services for post-secondary students.
  - Collaborating with Campus Food Bank (CFB) to address their space requirements, developing policies to tackle food insecurity amidst potential inflation, and improving the availability of snacks through pan-trees/pick-up trucks at various campus hotspots.
  - The re-organization of University Health Services (UHS) with an approved budget of \$1.5 million, which included the addition of six new clinicians to reduce wait times. Additionally, a new hybrid model for personal psychiatric sessions, inspired by successful models at University of Toronto, McMaster, and University of British Columbia, is being implemented.
  - Enhancing breast pumping spaces in Rutherford Library and University Commons, accompanied by the creation of heat maps to assist students in locating these spaces more easily. Furthermore, policies are being formulated to support students who are parents on campus.
  - Introducing new internship opportunities in the upcoming fall semester under the guidance of the new Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Coordinator.
4. GSA Strategic Work Plan Town Hall - 9<sup>th</sup> May: I attended the town hall meeting where domestic, Indigenous, and international graduate students were invited. The meeting proved to be highly informative, shedding light on various challenges and concerns that require the advocacy of the GSA. The

valuable insights gained from this meeting will undoubtedly contribute to the development of GSA's Strategic Work Plan (SWP) for the upcoming year.

5. GSA Governance 101 - 9<sup>th</sup> May: In GSA Governance 101, I get to learn about the structure of the UofA's overall governance. The highlights for me were the comprehensive flowchart that depicted the hierarchy and interconnectedness of the University's governing bodies. It provided a visual representation of the organizational framework, aiding in a better understanding of how decisions are made, and responsibilities are allocated. Furthermore, I found it valuable to familiarize myself with the names and abbreviations of the key committees where the GSA holds a seat.

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

Thank you,

**Muhammad Haseeb Arshad,**  
2023-2024 Vice-President Student Services

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

2 May	GSA 101
4 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Interview
5 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Interviews
5 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Committee Debrief
9 May	Meeting with K Friese, Assistant Dean, Health and Wellness
9 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Town Hall
9 May	GSA Governance 101
11 May	GSA Health and Dental 101
12 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Session #1
15 May	GSA Governing Docs 101
15 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Public Forum
15 May	Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Interview

**2023-2024 Associate Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Muneeb Masood Raja  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I have attended several meetings between 1 May and 15 May 2023 which are listed in the table below. The details of these meetings are stated below.

Among the meetings, four of them served as training sessions to ensure I am aware of different aspects of the GSA. In GSA 101, the newly appointed DEOs were informed about the governing structure of GSA, services and advocacy offered by GSA, standing committees of GSA, and other important aspects of GSA. I also attended the GSA Labour and Collective Agreement 101 meeting, where I acquired knowledge of the current collective agreement (CA) and discussed different segments of it with the Associate Director of the GSA. In this meeting, we also discussed other labour-related matters, including the Faculty Steward program, the interpretation and compliance of the CA, and labour-related materials available for students. This meeting served as a training session that will help me in my current role as the AVP Labour, which involves ensuring that the rights of the graduate students are preserved as governed by the CA. In the third meeting, GSA Governance 101, the newly elected DEOs were briefed about the University governance structure in general, including different branches and the hierarchy of the University of Alberta. During the time of submitting this report I have not yet attended the Governing Docs 101 meeting, so I am unable to report on that.

In the Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Town Hall meeting, graduate students were invited to share their feedback that would help us develop the SWP for the upcoming year. The meeting provided insights from grad students based on their experience as a U of A grad student and involved discussions around improving health coverage, food bank services, increasing the outreach by the GSA by changing the location of the monthly coffee breaks, racism faced by Indigenous students, CA, and many other important areas. This meeting, along with other interactions and consultations with graduate students will help GSA in establishing a well drafted SWP which will focus on the needs of graduate students and will allow GSA to identify and address the problems faced by graduate students.

At the time of submitting this report, I have not yet attended the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Solidarity meeting and the Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Session 1. Therefore, I am unable to report on these two meetings. However, as part of the service agreement that the GSA has with PSAC, I plan on engaging them and using their expertise to spread awareness among graduate students about the CA and generating new ideas that could help us develop a mandate for the future CAs after consultation with academically-employed graduate students (AEGSs) as the current CA is set to expire in August 2024. To utilize the Faculty Steward program more effectively and to increase encouragement among our faculty stewards, we have set up a google chat group, in which we can discuss problems faced by graduate students and engagement ideas from different faculties on a day-to-day basis more effectively. This will also help us improve the communication between the AVP labour, the GSA office, and the faculty stewards. I also plan on increasing the outreach of GSA Labour and will partner with the VP Student Life to spread awareness of CA among grad students, as right now, I believe most graduate students are not aware of their rights governed under the CA.

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

Thank you,

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

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

2 May	GSA 101
4 May	GSA Labour and Collective Agreement 101 (4 May)
9 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Town Hall
9 May	GSA Governance 101
11 May	Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Solidarity
12 May	Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Session #1
15 May	Governing Docs 101

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Violet Sun  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

GSA Policy governing the GSA NoC is 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,  
Violet Sun, Chair of the GSA NoC

**Memorandum to GSA Councillors**

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

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

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

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

### GSA Standing Committees

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

Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 21 and 28 April, and 5 May with a nomination deadline of 9 May 2023. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be re-advertised.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 21 and 29 April, and 5 May with a nomination deadline of 10 May 2023. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be re-advertised.**

**3) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (Three (3) GSA Member Positions)**

Information regarding the position for three (3) GSA members was circulated via the GSA Newsletter on 21 and 29 April, and 5 May with a nomination deadline of 10 May 2023. **Three nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 7 – Nominees for GSA Elections and Referenda Committee).**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 21 and 29 April, and 5 May with a nomination deadline of 10 May 2023. **One nomination was received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 7a – Nominee for GSA Governance Committee).**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 21 and 29 April, and 5 May with a nomination deadline of 10 May 2023. **One nomination was received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 7b – Nominee for GSA Board).**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 21 and 29 April, and 5 May with a nomination deadline of 10 May 2023. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be re-advertised.**

**7) GSA Nominating Committee (NoC) (One (1) Member Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via email to GSA Council on 21 and 29 April, and 5 May with a nomination deadline of 10 May 2023. **Two nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 7c – Nominee for GSA Nominating Committee).**

### External

**1) General Faculties Council (Five (5) Positions for GSA Members)**

Information regarding the positions for five (5) GSA members was circulated via the GSA newsletters of 28 April and 5 May with a nomination deadline of 3 May 2023. **Two nominations were received; Shivani Mandal and Sandeep Kumar were elected; the remaining vacancies will be advertised again.**

**1) Arts Faculty Council (Three (3) Graduate Student Positions)**

Information regarding the position for three (3) vacancies on the Arts Faculty Council was circulated via email directly to Faculty of Arts graduate students on 28 April and 5 May with a nomination deadline of 3 May 2023. **Two (2) nominations were received; Nazli Deniz and Amirhossein Fazlolah Firuzkoh were elected. The remaining vacancy will be re-advertised.**

**2) Faculty of Arts Standing Committees (Three (3) Graduate Student Positions on Three (3) Committees)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) vacancy on the Faculty of Arts Teaching Awards Committee, and three (3) vacancies on the Faculty of Arts Academic Affairs Committee was circulated via email directly to Faculty of Arts graduate students of 28 April and 5 May with a nomination deadline of 3 May 2023. **Md Nazmul Arefin and Laya Soleymanzadeh were elected to serve on the Arts Academic Affairs Committee, and Valery Kalinin was elected to serve on the Arts Research Committee. The remaining vacancies will be re-advertised.**

**Addendum – Election of GSA NoC Chair**

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, “two members (2) from amongst the five (5) voting members of the [GSA NoC] will be elected by the GSA NoC to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the duration of their time on the GSA NoC or until they resign their positions as Chair and Vice-Chair. The persons elected will be reported to GSA Council” (Section E.POL.5.3). On 11 August 2022, GSA NoC members were informed of the vacancy in the position of Chair and were invited to submit nominations for this position. One (1) nomination was received in advance of the deadline of 15 August 2022. As of 19 August 2022, GSA NoC members have elected **Violet Sun** to serve as GSA NoC Chair.

**GSA Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the 15 May 2023 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Lewie Moodley  
Date: 12 May 2023

Dear GSA Council Members,

As the GSA's fiscal year ended on 31 March 2023, we are now in the process of planning for our annual audit. The audit, as well as the preparation of the first term's budget and expenditure financial report of our new fiscal year, is expected to be completed in the coming months. Following their review by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, both of these items will come forward to GSA Council. The GSA's audited financial statements will then proceed onward to the University Board of Governors, as per the requirements of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.

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

We are also working with the new team to support the development of the 2023-2024 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, which of course is on the agenda for the May meeting to hear feedback from members of GSA Council. The finalized version of the Plan will also come before GSA Council in the coming months. In addition to soliciting feedback from members of GSA Council at Monday's meeting, a short survey is also being circulated in the GSA newsletter. If you have not yet had a chance to do so, please take a few moments to fill out the online survey and share the link with your colleagues and friends – it helps greatly with identifying strategic priorities for the coming year.

In consultation with the Speaker, the staff team has also been working to adjust to hosting hybrid meetings of GSA Council, beginning this month and continuing throughout the Spring and Summer. Please refer to the hybrid meeting guide for how meetings will run, and let me know if you have any questions.

All this ongoing work is done by a small team of dedicated and engaged staff and, every fall, as we embark on a new academic year, I like to take the opportunity to briefly introduce you to that staff team. Brief snapshots of their roles in the organization are below.

**GSA Administrative/Professional Staff**

**Lewie Moodley: Executive Director, B.Soc.Sci (Counselling and Management) and MBA.**

Lewie was previously a Dean of Students, Lewie began in April 2023 at the GSA. Lewie has extensive experience in the Post-Secondary education sector, he holds a an MBA and a Bachelors in Social Science . He is working towards my Doctorate in Education and Organizational Psychology. He holds a robust knowledge of the post-secondary education sector which requires, stakeholder engagement, faculty staff management, curriculum design and oversight. Lewie has previous experiences in mental health counseling ,sales, business development and the education sector over the past 15 years enabling me to gain an insight into multitude business perspectives.

**Erika Heiberg: Associate Director, BA Psychology and Physical Education (U of A), MPhil Culture, Environment and Sustainability (University of Oslo) (FT)**

Coming to the GSA in 2020, with a background in student advising and student services at Augustana Faculty, Erika assists with the coordination of GSA Council, the GSA Board, and other GSA standing committees. She is involved with the processing of GSA grants, awards, and bursaries, and has oversight of nominating and elections processes. Erika utilizes her previous knowledge to assist with the management of the GSA's corporate documents, contracts, and agreements and assists with human resources work. She also oversees the GSA's website and is the point person for GSA services, such as

the Health and Dental Plan and the Graduate Student Assistance Program. Finally, she serves as the GSA's Labour Professional and works closely with the Vice-President Labour to support the work of the GSA as a union.

**Seidy Louangxay: Chartered Professional Accountant and Dorte Sheikh: Financial Manager, BA Anthropology (U of A) (PT)**

Seidy has extensive experience with not-for-profits and is a key member of the Financial Team. Dorte has 33 years' experience in the Registrar's Office. She handles banking and payroll matters and advises on matters related to our corporate structure. Shirley and Dorte work on the GSA's finances and budgets, financial reporting to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the GSA Board, and GSA Council, and our annual external audit.

**GSA Support Staff (represented by NASA with their own collective agreement)**

**Laura Taras: Executive Coordinator and Communications Specialist, BFA (U of A), Bachelor of Applied Communications (MacEwan) (FT)**

Laura joined the GSA in 2014. She coordinates and produces communications and graphics. In addition, she schedules GSA Directly-Elected Officers and staff; manages the information retrieval system; and organizes the annual transition of elected officials. She also answers Front Desk inquiries.

**Fiona Robertson: Outreach Coordinator, BA Anthropology (U of S), MA Anthropology (U of A) (FT)**

Fiona gained administrative experience working in both a tax firm and a law firm before coming to the University of Alberta to begin a Masters degree in Anthropology. After completing her degree, Fiona worked for four years in the Faculty of Extension on a grant-funded community-based research project with Metis settlements. At the GSA, Fiona deals with awards, grants, and bursaries; plans and manage all GSA events, including in-person and virtual orientation programming; works with departmental GSAs; acts as a GSA Council Secretary; and deals with Front Desk inquiries.

**Monica Brzak: Elections Coordinator, BA Sociology (MacEwan) (FT)**

Monica joined the GSA in January 2020 and supports the GSA Nominating Committee, Discover Governance, and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee. She drafts materials related to elections and referenda, and manages requests from Administration for graduate student representatives on committees, task forces, etc. Monica also deals with Front Desk inquiries.

**Viktoriya Popovich: Strategic Planning Assistant (PT)**

Viktoriya is a current graduate student in the Department of Anthropology and joined the GSA staff team in April to help provide assistance with the strategic planning process, events and communications. Viktoriya also deals with Front Desk inquiries

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached (pages 18.2 – 18.5) and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Lewie Moodley, Executive Director

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 19 April 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 5 April 2023:

#### Strategic

- Discussing the logistics of hybrid meetings of GSA Council with the Speaker.
- Developing a timeline for the development of next year's GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, as well as developing the 2022-2023 annual report.
- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Working on some minor proposed revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda following a recent meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.
- Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement).

#### Operations

- Preparing for the start of the new Executive Director.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to Council), General Faculties Council (GFC) (advertised via Newsletter), Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA graduate students), Sociology Graduate Students' Association (advertised directly to SGSA graduate students), and Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences Graduate Students' Association (advertised directly to ALES graduate students), as well as the positions for GSA Senator, GSA Speaker, GSA Deputy Speaker, GSA Chief Returning Officer, and GSA Deputy Returning Officer (advertised via Newsletter).
- Facebook = 1977 followers (up 3 from 11 April); Facebook posts reached 24 users since 11 April. Twitter = 1,340 followers (down 3 from 11 April); our tweets earned 86 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1017 followers (up 1 from 11 April); Instagram posts reached "19" users over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods, new fiscal year started 1 April; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 26 April 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 19 April 2023:

#### Strategic

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

- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation
- Discussing logistics of the U-Pass and ARC card distribution with the SU and University starting in Fall 2023 (no longer through InfoLink)
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement).

#### Operations

- Finalizing transition plans and associated tasks.
- Staff onboarding.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to Council), General Faculties Council (GFC) (advertised via Newsletter), Faculty of Arts (FoA) Council and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA graduate students), Sociology Graduate Students' Association (SGSA) (advertised directly to SGSA students), Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences (ALES) Graduate Students' Association (advertised directly to ALES students), and Indigenous Graduate Students Association (IGSA) (advertised directly to IGSA students).
- Facebook = 1976 followers (down 1 from 18 April); Facebook posts reached 32 users since 18 April. Twitter = 1,342 followers (up 2 from 18 April); our tweets earned 32 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1015 followers (down 2 from 18 April; Instagram posts reached "19" users over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods, new fiscal year started 1 April; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.

#### **Management Report to the GSA Board, 3 May 2023**

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 26 April 2023:

#### Strategic

- Discussing the logistics of hybrid meetings of GSA Council with the Speaker
- Developing a timeline for the development of next year's GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, as well as developing the 2022-2023 annual report.
- Hosting transition programming, coordinating job shadowing, and planning 101 scheduling by portfolio, etc.
- Seeking a legal opinion on Workplace Harassment and Violence Policy drafts, as required for Occupational Health and Safety Legislation. Scheduling this training within the coming weeks.

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

### Operations

- Finalizing transition plans and associated tasks.
- Staff onboarding.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to Council and advertised via Newsletter), General Faculties Council (GFC) (advertised via Newsletter), Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA graduate students), Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences Graduate Students' Association (advertised directly to ALES students), and Indigenous Graduate Students Association (advertised directly to IGSA students).
- Facebook = 1979 followers (up 3 from 24 April); Facebook posts reached 33 users since 24 April. Twitter = 1,341 followers (down 1 from 24 April); our tweets earned 27 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1018 followers (up 3 from 24 April; Instagram posts reached "18" users over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods, new fiscal year started 1 April; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.
- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to Council and advertised via Newsletter), General Faculties Council (GFC) (advertised via Newsletter), Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA graduate students), and Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences Graduate Students' Association (advertised directly to ALES students).

### **Management Report to the GSA Board, 10 May 2023**

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 3 May 2023:

### Strategic

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

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

### Operations

- Finalizing transition plans and associated tasks.
- Staff onboarding.
- Organising training for VP's in the areas of jurisdiction and work place harassment and bullying.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to Council and advertised via Newsletter), General Faculties Council (GFC) (advertised via Newsletter), Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised directly to FoA graduate students), Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences Graduate Students' Association (advertised directly to ALES students), and Indigenous Graduate Students Association (advertised directly to IGSA students).
- Facebook = 1979 followers (up 3 from 24 April); Facebook posts reached 33 users since 24 April. Twitter = 1,341 followers (down 1 from 24 April); our tweets earned 27 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 1018 followers (up 3 from 24 April; Instagram posts reached "18" users over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods, new fiscal year started 1 April; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is.
- Staff processing lots of Academic Travel Grants (ATGs) and Child Care Grants (CCGs), along with some Graduate Student Group Grants (GSGGs). Slowly making my way through the backlog in CCGs, we will only have two outstanding from the previous fiscal period, everything else the staff are on working on are submissions from April 1 or later.