

GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

Monday, 15 October 2018 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

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

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

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

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair

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

OPEN SESSION

Attached Numbered Pages

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the 15 October 2018 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 17 September 2018 GSA Council Meeting
Attachment:
 - i. Minutes from the 17 September 2018 GSA Council Meeting
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
 - i. Introduction of New Councillors (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

3.0 - 3.6

GSA Council Member Announcements

5. GSA Council Member Announcements

Presentations

6. University of Alberta United Way Campaign
Zhihong Pan (Vice-President External) will present the item and introduce the guest.

Guests: Marion Haggarty-France (University Secretary and United Way Campaign Co-Chair) and Lesley Cormack (Dean of Arts and United Way Campaign Co-Chair)

7. Alumni Career Services: UAlberta Switchboard
Fahed Elian (Vice-President Student Services) will present the item and introduce the guest.

Guests: Chris Doble (Program Support, Venture Mentoring Service/Alumni Career Services) and Chloe Chalmers (Manager, Alumni Career Services)

Action Items

8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections
Yilun Wu, Member of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), will present the

item.

GSA ERC Members Invited to GSA Council as Guests: Leigh Spanner (Chair of the GSA ERC), Jennifer Bertrand, Hayden Danyluk

Attachments:

- | | | |
|------|---|------------|
| i. | Cover Letter from the Chair of the GSA ERC | 8.0 |
| ii. | Outline of Issue | 8.1 |
| iii. | Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections: Double Column | 8.2 - 8.25 |

9. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Graduate Student Groups
Sasha van der Klein (President) and Fahed Elian (GSA Vice-President Student Services) will present the item.

Attachments:

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| i. | Cover Letter from the GSA President and GSA Vice-President Student Services | 9.0 |
| ii. | Outline of Issue | 9.1 |
| iii. | Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Student Groups: Double Column | 9.2 - 9.6 |

For Discussion

10. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan: Update to GSA Council
Sasha van der Klein (President) will present the item.

Attachments:

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|------|--|--------------|
| i. | Letter to GSA Council from the GSA President | 10.0 - 10.1 |
| ii. | Letter to GSA Council from the GSA Vice-President Academic | 10.2 |
| iii. | Letter to GSA Council from the GSA Vice-President External | 10.3 |
| iv. | Letter to GSA Council from the GSA Vice-President Labour | 10.4 |
| v. | Letter to GSA Council from the GSA Vice-President Student Services | 10.5 |
| vi. | GSA Board 2018-2019 Strategic Work Plan | 10.6 - 10.12 |

Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates

11. GSA Council Elections
Kenzie Gordon (GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair) will present the item.

Deputy Speaker

Attachment:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------|
| i. | Nominees for Deputy Speaker | 11.0 - 11.5 |
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GSA Standing Committees

a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (1 vacancy)

Attachments:

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|----|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| i. | Nominee for the GSA ACB (1 vacancy) | 11.6 - 11.8 |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------|

b. GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) (2 vacancies)

Attachments:

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| i. | Nominees for the GSA ASC (2 vacancies) | 11.9 - 11.14 |
|----|--|--------------|

c. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (1 vacancy)

Attachments:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| i. | Nominees for the GSA ERC (1 vacancy) | 11.15 - 11.18 |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------------|

Reports

12. President (**Sasha van der Klein, President**)
- i. President's Report 12.0 - 12.2
 - ii. GSA Board 12.3
 - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee 12.4
 - iv. GSA Governance Committee 12.5
13. Vice-President Academic (**Masoud Aliramezani, Vice-President Academic**)
- i. Vice-President Academic's Report 13.0 - 13.1
14. Vice-President External (**Zhihong Pan, Vice-President External**)
- i. Vice-President External's Report 14.0 - 14.1
 - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee 14.2
15. Vice-President Labour (**Beth Richardson, Vice-President Labour**)
- i. Vice-President Labour's Report 15.0 - 15.1
 - ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
16. Vice-President Student Services (**Fahed Elian, Vice-President Student Services**)
- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report 16.0 - 16.1
17. Senator (**Ahsan Ahmed, Senator**)
- i. Senator's Report (**no written report at this time**)
18. Speaker (**Pranidhi Baddam, Speaker**)
- i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
19. Chief Returning Officer (**Vahid Ayan, Chief Returning Officer**)
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**no written report at this time**)
20. GSA Nominating Committee (**Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair**)
- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report 20.0 - 20.2
21. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Leigh Spanner, Elections and Referenda Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (**no written report at this time, next meeting will be scheduled in October 2018**)
22. GSA Management (**Courtney Thomas, Executive Director**)
- i. Executive Director's Report 22.0 - 22.8

Question Period

23. Written Questions (**none at this time**)
24. Oral Questions

Adjournment

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 17 September 2018 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sasha van der Klein (President)	Brianna Greenwood (Biochemistry)	Chantal Labonté (Educational Psychology)	Albina Karpman (Nursing)
Masoud Aliramezani (VP Academic)	Ruhul Amin (Biological Sciences)	Nicole Jamison (Elementary Education)	Heather Capel (Occupational Therapy)
Zhihong Pan (VP External)	Kevin Solar (Biomedical Engineering)	Miriam Mabrouk (English & Film Studies)	Braden Chow (Oncology)
Beth Richardson (VP Labour)	Teddy Carter (Business MBA)	Bethany McMillan (History & Classics)	Khushmol Dhaliwal (Paediatrics)
Fahed Elian (VP Student Services)	Rongrong Zhang (Business PhD)	Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)	Filip Reformat (Pharmacology)
Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker)	Karl Roesner (Cell Biology)	Shweta Sridharan; Kristoffer Soliven (Internetworking)	Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Vahid Ayan (Chief Returning Officer)	Nagesh Pai (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Janita Frantsi (Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation)	Mattia Sorgon (Philosophy)
Ahsan Ahmed (Senator)	Michael Armstrong (Chemistry)	Jiaao Yu (Lab Med & Pathology)	Yilun Wu (Physiology)
Mahmud Amin (Councillor-at-Large)	Sylvester Agbo (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Tabatha Plesuk (Library & Info Studies)	Daniela Gomez (Psychiatry)
Radhika Chakraberty (Councillor-at-Large)	Craig St. Jean (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Alexander Rice (Linguistics)	William Service (Psychology)
Amran Howlader (Councillor-at-Large)	Dylan Ashley (Computing Science)	Michelle Michelle (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Alexandra Loverock (Public Health)
Dasha Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large)	Julie Piche (Dentistry)	Milad Nazarahari (Mechanical Engineering)	Melody Everest (Religious Studies)
Melissa Woghiren (Councillor-at-Large)	Kenzie Gordon (Digital Humanities)	Nicole Noel (Medical Genetics)	Jared Fath (Renewable Resources)
Andrew Woodman (Councillor-at-Large)	Deneh'Cho Thompson (Drama)	Quinten Kieser (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Yicong Luo (Resources Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Hongbing Fan (AFNS)	Alison Thomas (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Sabitha Rajaruban (Medicine)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Megan Paranich (Anthropology)	Stefana Vukadinovich (East Asian Studies)	Shahnaz Shahtoosi (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies)	Jon Mora (Surgery)
Vicki Kwon (Art and Design)	Areej Alshammiry (Educational Policy Studies)	Andrew Schmaus (Neuroscience)	

Guests: Andrea Spevak (Graduate Student Internship Advisor, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research); Emily Marriott (Graduate Student Internship Career Advisor, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research); Colten Yamagishi (Studentcare); Kristine Wray (REES); Alaleh Boroomand (AFNS); Marc Waddingham (Biological Sciences, Councillor-at-Large nominee); Jaclyn Hutchinson (Occupational Therapy); Tara Kappo (Indigenous Graduate Students' Association); Aziz Akbari (Accounting, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board nominee); Dhruvesh Patel (AFNS, GSA Awards Selection Committee nominee).

Speaker Praniidhi Baddam in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call

1. Roll Call of GSA Council Members in Attendance

Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of the 17 September 2018 Consolidated Agenda

Members had before them the 17 September 2018 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. K Gordon **MOVED**; D Ashley **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

3. Minutes from the 16 July 2018 GSA Council meeting

Members had before them the 16 July 2018 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 7 September 2018. J Lai **MOVED**; A Thomas **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**. 1 Abstention.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

4. Changes in GSA Council Membership

i. Introduction of New Councillors

This was the first meeting for a number of Councillors: S Sridharan (Internetworking); A Karpman (Nursing); T Carter (Business MBA); S Rajaruban (Medicine); A Schmaus (Neuroscience); F Reformat (Pharmacology); H Capel (Occupational Therapy); N Pai (Chemical & Materials Engineering); A Rice (Linguistics); V Ayan (Chief Returning Officer); K Dhaliwal (Paediatrics); D Thompson (Drama); B McMillan (History & Classics).

ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors

This was the last meeting for a number of Councillors: A Thomas (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences); D Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large); Q Kieser (Medical Microbiology and Immunology); V Kwon (Art and Design).

Councillor Announcements

5. GSA Council Member Announcements

V Kwon invited GSA Council to attend Designing Connection in Friction, an event presented by the Art and Design Graduate Students' Association highlighting research by graduate students. The Opening Reception will be held on 21 September from 7 PM to 10 PM at Harcourt House.

S van der Klein noted that there was a consultation on 18 September for residents of Michener Park to learn more about the closure and how they can move forward with family housing on campus and she invited graduate students living in Michener Park to attend.

Presentations

6. FGSR Graduate Student Internship Program

Masoud Aliramezani (GSA VP Academic) presented the item and introduced the guests, Andrea Spevak (Graduate Student Internship Advisor) and Emily Marriott (Graduate Student Internship Career Advisor).

The guests outlined that the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP) was a partnership between the U of A Career Centre and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). It was also noted that the Government of Alberta provided funding for professional development initiatives in 2015, and that the GSIP program started in 2016. They added that part of the program included a wage subsidy for employers to encourage them to hire graduate students, that the positions were as flexible as possible, and that employers were encouraged to post as many part-time opportunities as possible. She indicated that start and end dates for the positions were determined by the employers and the positions were posted on the Career Centre online job board. A Spevak noted that the majority of positions ran for a full 640 hours, for a duration of between 8 to 10 months, with the possibility of extension for some positions. She added that some graduate students were hired by the employers after the GSIP wage subsidy ended.

A Spevak emphasized that international students were eligible to apply for GSIP positions, but had to comply with the federal government's 20-hour restriction for off-campus work. She indicated that the main goals for the program were to provide graduate students with professional development opportunities and the opportunity to develop transferable skills outside of

academia, while also showing employers the value of graduate degrees. She added that the program's original aim was to have 450 internships over three years, and that following a one-year extension to the government's grant, there were over 370 graduate students who had completed a GSIP internship. A Spevk reported that the government's funding would end in March 2019, and that they had applied to the government to continue funding. She also noted that students had the opportunity to create their own internship through sharing information about the GSIP program with potential employers. A Spevak indicated that graduate students could invite representatives from the GSIP program to present to students in their department, convey information about the GSIP to employers or their contacts, and ensure that their departments knew about the GSIP. She encouraged GSA Councillors to let them know if they could think of potential barriers that may exist for the GSIP.

GSA Council members posed a series of questions including, but not limited to, the success rate of graduate students convincing employers to establish a position through the GSIP (there was approximately a 70-80% success rate in these situations); the division of positions between Master's and Doctoral programs (about 30% of GSIP interns were PhD students and 70% were Master's students); why the government funding was only for a three-year period, given the importance of graduate student employment (the GSIP representatives were working to ensure sustainable funding for the program, but this was dependent on the government's decision regarding its professional development grant); the distribution of internships available for different programs, specifically within the arts (the GSIP was always searching for more positions in the fine arts and humanities, though business students did tend to be overrepresented as there were a larger number of employers looking for these students); and examples of the types of positions available for programs that were not research-based (within the sciences, there were positions for policy analysis and program development and, within the humanities, there were many positions focused on community engagement or program development).

Action Items

7. Approval of Changes to GSA Health and Dental Plan Coverage

Fahed Elian (GSA VP Student Services) presented the item and introduced the guest, Colten Yamagishi (Studentcare Program Manager).

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, **APPROVE** the addition of occupational therapy services to the GSA Health and Dental Plan coverage for \$30 per visit, up to \$500 per policy year, to begin October 1, 2018, with the cost of the Plan to remain at \$500.36/annum for 2018-2019, as approved by GSA Council on 19 March 2018.

F Elian reminded GSA Council that they had previously discussed adding occupational therapy services to the GSA Health and Dental Plan coverage and noted that the GSA Board reviewed this proposal. He added that Studentcare was here to answer any questions from GSA Council members. C Yamagishi explained that including occupational therapy as a coverage element within the current GSA Health and Dental Plan could be easily done if it was something that GSA Council was interested in. He added that the inclusion of occupational therapy coverage would not change the cost of the plan for graduate students (\$500.36/annum).

GSA Council members then raised a series of questions, including but not limited to, whether or not the inclusion of medical marijuana in the GSA Health and Dental Plan would be considered (this has been provided as an additional service at some other schools, for about \$5/year; it was a popular trend that would likely increase in demand); the kind of services that would be covered under the occupational therapy coverage (anything provided by a registered occupational therapist); the removal of the coverage for some alternative health practitioner services and the GSA Board's discussion around this question (S van der Klein stated that the GSA Board did not recommend removal of this coverage as there was no cost benefit to the removal and services were being used by graduate students); if other universities included occupational therapy services in their coverage and, if yes, what the usage had been like (no other student associations have occupational therapy services covered in their Plan; Studentcare has conducted some research on how those services were used in general and it was not very large); and whether usage can be monitored to ensure value (usage would be monitored). S van der Klein clarified that coverage could be increased without increasing the cost of the GSA Health and Dental Plan because the cost of the GSA Health and Dental Plan was currently higher than the premium with excesses being directed to the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund. She added that there may be an increase next year but fluctuations should always be expected.

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, **APPROVE** the addition of occupational therapy services to the GSA Health and Dental Plan coverage for \$30 per visit, up to \$500 per policy year, to begin October 1, 2018, with the cost of the Plan to remain at \$500.36/annum for 2018-2019, as approved by GSA Council on 19 March 2018. K Gordon **MOVED**; M Aliramezani **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections

Yilun Wu (GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, **APPROVE** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy.

S van der Klein reported that this proposal was recommended by the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC). She noted that while the GSA Board (GSAB) had received the recommended changes for information, and that while GSAB members had discussed the content of the proposal that was before GSA Council, the GSA Directly-Elected Officers would abstain from voting on this motion.

Y Wu reported that the recommended changes were developed over a series of GSA ERC meetings over the spring and summer, and that while some of the changes had been prompted following feedback from the most recent general election, the GSA ERC had also conducted a significant amount of research to inform the recommended changes and many of them had been under discussion for several years. He summarized that the substantive recommended changes included the removal of some of the qualifications from the position of GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO). He highlighted the recommended removal of slates from GSA Bylaw and Policy, given that currently candidates can run as a member of a slate but cannot be elected as a slate. He outlined that candidates would no longer be permitted to distribute campaign materials through moderated mailing lists, and that candidates would only be permitted to email their personal contacts. He added that the GSA ERC had proposed this change to reduce complaints from graduate students about receiving spam, as well as removing unfair advantages for any candidates who had access to departmental or student group email lists that were not accessible to all candidates. Y Wu reported that the GSA ERC recommended that all campaign printing be done through SUBPrint, in order to ensure candidates were paying the same rates for printing. Additionally, he noted that the current section of GSA Bylaw and Policy which prohibited candidates from campaigning in their own lab or office spaces if they required swipe card access was proposed to be removed, given that it was unfair that candidates could not campaign in spaces where their colleagues are located. Finally, Y Wu emphasized that the recommended changes include a new section that outlines the elements that candidates would be required to submit when bringing forward any alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy.

GSA Council members then posed a series of questions and made a few comments including, but not limited to whether graduate students not running in a general election, but supporting candidates who were running, would be able to send campaign materials to moderated mailing lists (as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, any graduate student promoting a candidate was considered a campaign volunteer, and was required to act in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, and candidates were responsible for ensuring their volunteers complied with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections); the request that all current qualifications for the CRO position be included in the position description when it was advertised even if the qualifications were removed from GSA Bylaw and Policy to help candidates and facilitate voting for GSA Council members; whether the section on complaints that outlines that the GSA CRO, in consultation with the GSA ERC, could dismiss a complaint if it was unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious, meant that the decision was reached through consensus (the GSA CRO served as a non-voting member of the GSA ERC and brought these issues forward to the GSA ERC to gather their feedback, but ultimately, the GSA CRO made the final decision); whether the GSA CRO was required to provide their reasons if they choose to dismiss a complaint (it was emphasized that candidates had the ability to appeal the decision of a CRO through the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board); what would happen if SUBPrint printing services were not available during the campaign period (this issue would be brought forward to the GSA ERC and they would determine how to move forward during that general election); whether with the removal of moderated mailing lists, candidates would still have access to effective ways to communicate with graduate students in their faculty and whether they would still be able to facilitate communication with the general graduate student population (the GSA ERC had discussed this matter at-length during their meetings, and ultimately decided that the benefits of banning the use of moderated mailing lists outweighed the costs, given that the current regulations around mailing lists were difficult to enforce, and some candidates had unfair access to moderated mailing lists that were not available to all candidates; candidates would still be able to use social media platforms to campaign, and candidates would still be able to send emails to personal contacts, though not through moderated mailing lists).

MOTION: That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, **APPROVE** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy. J Lai **MOVED**; Y Wu **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**. Five Abstentions (S van der Klein, M Aliramezani, Z Pan, B Richardson, and F Elian).

Elections

9. GSA Council Elections

K Gordon (Vice-Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item and introduced the nominees, who were given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. K Gordon asked the following question of the candidate for GSA Councillor-at-Large and the candidate was given 45 seconds to respond: "Please tell us why you'd like to serve as GSA Councillor-at-Large."

Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large:
Marc Waddingham (Biological Sciences)

K Gordon asked the following question of the candidate for the Dean of Agriculture, Life, and Environmental Sciences Review Committee and the candidate was given 45 seconds to respond: "This committee is tasked with reviewing the current Dean for the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences. Taking 45 seconds, please tell us, in your opinion, what the current issues in your department are that the Dean should continue to address, particularly with respect to graduate students?"

Nominees for the Dean of Agriculture, Life, and Environmental Sciences Review Committee:
Mousum Dhar (Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science)
Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)
Yicong Luo (REES)
Autumn Watkinson (Renewable Resources)

GSA Standing Committees

a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (2 vacancies)

K Gordon (Vice-Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item and introduced the nominee, who was given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. K Gordon asked the following question of the candidate and the candidate was given 45 seconds to respond: "Taking 45 seconds, please tell us why you'd like to serve on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board."

Nominee for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board:
Aziz Akbari (Accounting)

b. GSA Awards Selection Committee (6 vacancies)

Nominee for GSA Awards Selection Committee:
Thomas Cam (Electrical & Computer Engineering)
Wenhui Li (Medicine)
Dhruvesh Patel (AFNS)
Mukt Patel (Surgery)
Wojciech Pietrasik (Biomedical Engineering)

c. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (2 vacancies)

K Gordon presented the item and introduced the nominee, who was given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. K Gordon asked the following question of the candidate and the candidate was given 45 seconds to respond: "Taking 45 seconds, please tell us why you'd like to serve on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee."

Nominee for GSA Elections and Referenda Committee:
Rehan Pradhan (AFNS)

Reports

10. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S van der Klein stated that the Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA) was hosting a Research Day on 24 October, and that this was the first year that the GSA was contributing to this event. As a result, graduate students were able to submit an abstract for a short talk or a poster, and there would be prizes available. She encouraged GSA Council members to check the GSA Newsletter for more information, and noted that the registration deadline was 17 October.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

iv. GSA Governance Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

11. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted.

12. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, Z Pan stated that on the evening of 20 September there would be a second consultation for students who parent to discuss their needs. He encouraged all student parents to attend this consultation session, and noted that more details about the session could be found in his report.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

13. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Richardson stated that the Community Social Work team was looking to get feedback from teaching assistants regarding supports for first year students. She also emphasized that academically-employed graduate students would be receiving a labour newsletter communication.

ii. GSA Negotiating Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

14. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, F Elian stated that his report included an overview of 211, which was an online crisis service, available in more than 150 languages. He also encouraged GSA Council members to attend the upcoming GSA Fall Social event on 4 October. A GSA Councillor asked for more details regarding the recent Board of Governor's retreat, specifically whether F Elian and S van der Klein had experienced success in discussions around student/supervisor issues and power imbalances (it was noted that there was a general discussion about the fact that these types of issues were present within all post-secondary institutions, and that the current conversations were aimed at emphasizing that the U of A needed to be a leader in this area; FGSR was currently working on a Supervisory Guide that had the potential to become a policy document in the future). B Richardson added that the collective agreement outlines that academically-employed graduate students have the right to work in an environment free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination. She encouraged GSA Councillors to inform their colleagues that they could contact her to discuss any issues, and at any stage, and in response to comments regarding the culture of fear that was sometimes present within departments or student/supervisor relationships, she emphasized that all of her meetings with graduate students were kept confidential, and that she did not share any information unless a graduate student provides their permission for her to do so.

15. Senator

i. Senator's Report

No written report.

16. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report.

17. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

No written report.

18. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, K Gordon stated that there were some current vacancies, including the position of GSA Deputy Speaker, and positions on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and the GSA Budget and Finance Committee. D Smirnow shared her positive experiencing serving on the GSA Budget and Finance Committee.

19. 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 September 2018. The report stood as submitted.

20. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 14 September 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas noted that the GSA Budget and Finance Committee would soon begin the budget building process for 2019-2020. She reported that the GSA had just completed over 45 departmental and unit orientations, and thanked the GSA Outreach Coordinator for her work to coordinate these orientations.

Question Period

21. Written Questions

No questions were submitted.

22. Oral Questions

No questions were raised.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.



Date: 7 September 2018

To: GSA Council

Re: Recommended Changes GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

Over the spring and summer 2018, the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) met several times (27 March, 10 April, 24 April, 9 May, 6 July, and 12 July) to discuss changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections. The recommended changes were developed in considering continuous year-long discussions of concerns raised repeatedly from one GSA General Election to another, in reviewing a research document comparing elections regulations from students' associations across Canada, and lastly, in discussing issues that were raised in the 2018 GSA General Election.

The recommended substantive changes before you can be summarized as follows:

- Removal of the extensive list of qualifications for the GSA CRO position, given that it has been difficult to assess the degree to which each candidate for this position possesses these qualifications;
- Removal of slates and emphasizing that candidates will campaign individually (as a means to avoid an overly oppositional environment and to foster an inclusive environment. This is also consistent with GSA Bylaw and Policy that candidates can only be elected as individuals);
- Introduction of a new requirement that candidates will only distribute campaign materials through emails to their personal contacts (current regulations surrounding the use of other campaign tools, such as social media, remain as they currently appear) and a prohibition on utilizing moderated mailing lists;
- New requirement that all candidate campaign printing to be done using SUBPrint (to provide a level playing field for candidates);
- Removal of the prohibition on campaigning in spaces where swipe card access is needed, given that current wording in GSA Bylaw and Policy prohibits candidates from campaigning within their own departments or labs if they are located behind locked doors; *and*
- Introduction of a new section on alleged breaches that outlines the elements candidates will be required to submit when bringing forward a formal complaint about any alleged breach of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections.

In addition to these substantive changes, the GSA ERC recommends restructuring the GSA Chief Returning Officer's (CRO) portfolio to ensure that the current duties of the CRO and the current mandate of the GSA ERC are aligned. These recommended changes don't modify the duties of the CRO or the mandate of the GSA ERC; it simply reorganizes current elements in a more logical way.

Finally, as noted in the Outline of Issue, if the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections are approved, parallel sections in GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda will be updated accordingly to ensure alignment.

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

Sincerely,
Leigh Spanner, Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

Outline of Issue

Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That the GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval of GSA Council.

NOTE 1: This is the second reading of recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and first and only reading of recommended changes to GSA Policy. The first reading of recommended changes to GSA Bylaw was approved at the September GSA Council meeting.

NOTE 2: If these recommended changes are approved, parallel sections in GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda will be updated accordingly to ensure alignment.

Background:

Several of the recommended changes have been discussed by the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) over a period of several years. Additionally, following the 2018 GSA General Election, the GSA ERC met on 27 March, 10 April, 24 April, 9 May, 6 July, 12 July, and 2 August to discuss extensively these issues and others. GSA ERC voted electronically on 9 August to recommend the proposal to GSA Council. GSA ERC members not already on GSA Council are invited to attend these meetings.

On its 29 August 2018 meeting, the GSA Board reviewed and received the recommended changes, for information and onward transmission to GSA Council.

Please see the attached cover from the GSA ERC Chair to GSA Council for more background information.

Jurisdiction:

Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, Section I.POL.19.3
"The GSA ERC will review GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy annually and make any recommendations to GSA Council through the GSA Board."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A: Authority, GSA Bylaw, Authority, Section A. BYL.1.2
"These Bylaws ... may be amended by two two-thirds majority votes of Council held on seven calendar days' notice of motion and no less than one week apart."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A: Authority, GSA Bylaw, Authority, Section A. BYL.2.2
"GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council (Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council) and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council."

Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Elections	
Current GSA Bylaw and Policy (<i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i>) and Recommended Changes (<i>additions underlined</i>)	Rationale/Background
Section D: Officers	<i>No change.</i>
GSA Policy: GSA Officer Portfolios	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.4 – D.POL.9.3.a ...	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.10 Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.10.1 Duties of the Chief Returning Officer	<i>To parallel other Council-Elected Officer sections.</i>
D.POL.10.1.a The Chief Returning Officer (CRO), with advice from the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), oversees the <u>GSA General Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda</u> processes, observing the guiding principle “that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA” (Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.BYL.1.1 and Section J: Referenda, GSA Bylaw, Referenda, Section J.BYL.1.1).	<i>Editorial.</i>
D.POL.10.1.b The CRO is responsible for monitoring <u>candidate and Campaign Representative</u> activities and is authorized to discipline candidates and Campaign Representatives for breaches <u>violations of GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda as provided for in GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy.</u>	<i>Editorial, to include to the CRO’s role with referenda.</i>
D.POL.10.1.c The CRO serves as a non-voting member of on <u>the</u> GSA ERC.	<i>Editorial.</i>
D.POL.10.1.d The CRO oversees the <u>GSA General Election, by-elections, and referenda:</u>	<i>New title to better indicate the CRO’s duties during GSA General Elections, by-elections, and referenda.</i>

<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.i On the recommendation of the GSA ERC, the CRO approves timelines for the GSA General Election, by-elections, and referenda in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda, and communicates these timelines to graduate students.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.b.ii.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.ii With advice from the GSA ERC, the CRO advertises the nomination period for any GSA General Election or by-election, the registration period for any referendum, and the voting periods for the GSA General Election, by-elections, and referenda.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.b.iii.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.iii On the recommendation of the GSA ERC, the CRO approves nomination forms for the GSA General Election and by-elections and registration forms for referenda, in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Sections D.POL.10.5.b.iv and D.POL.10.5.b.v.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.iv On the recommendation of the GSA ERC and with advice from the ED (or delegate) and the Financial Manager, the CRO approves the electronic software or applications used to run the GSA General Election, by-elections, or referenda.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.b.vi.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.v On the recommendation of the GSA ERC, the CRO approves the layout of the ballots for the GSA General Election, by-elections, and referenda.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.b.vii.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.vi The CRO holds at least one (1) All-Candidates Meeting during a GSA General Election or by-election, and at least one (1) Meeting of the Campaign Representatives in a referendum, to communicate bylaws and policies to all candidates and/or referendum Campaign Representatives and answer questions about campaigning rules and regulations in a GSA General Election, by-election, or referendum.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.c.i, below.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.vii With advice from the GSA ERC, the CRO plans a GSA General Election or by-election forum for graduate students to ask candidates questions.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.d.i, below.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.viii The CRO reviews and approves campaign materials as per GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.e.i, below.</i></p>

<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.ix With advice from the GSA ERC, the CRO issues interpretations of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda to be shared equally amongst all candidates and Campaign Representatives during the course of a GSA General Election, by-election, or referendum.</u></p>	<p><i>The GSA ERC recommends including a statement about interpreting GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda in the CRO's duties. The GSA CRO has always interpreted GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda during past elections; this statement reflects current practice.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.x With advice from the GSA ERC, the CRO receives, manages, and rules on complaints regarding alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy, in accordance with Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.POL.12 and Section J: Referenda, GSA Bylaw, Referenda, Section J.POL.14.</u></p>	<p><i>High-level statement regarding complaints and inclusion of a reference to the general process for complaints in GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.xi The CRO observes fair process when dealing with complaints. The CRO observes procedural fairness, and consults with the ED (or delegate) on fair process.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.e.v, below.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.d.xii The CRO keeps a written record, which is defined as all communications with candidate(s) or Campaign Representatives and any other(s) also involved.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.e.vi, below.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.e Reporting</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.f, below.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.e.i The CRO communicates the results of all GSA General Elections, by-elections, and referenda to graduate students.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.f.i, below.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.e.ii The CRO submits a written report to GSA Council following any GSA General Election, by-elections, or referenda.</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.f.ii, below.</i></p>
<p><u>D.POL.10.1.e.iii The CRO reports to GSA Council, in writing, the names of all elected GSA DEOs, following the release of the official results for a GSA General Election or by-election, for the purposes of transferring bank signing authority (see GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures, Section K.POL.7.1).</u></p>	<p><i>Moved from current Section D.POL.10.5.f.iii, below.</i></p>
<p>D.POL.10.2 Duties of the Deputy Returning Officer</p>	<p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>D. POL.10.2.a The Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) reports directly to the CRO.</p>	<p><i>No change.</i></p>

D.POL.10.2.b The Duties of the DRO are to assist the CRO as needed and to assume all of the roles and responsibilities of CRO if the CRO is absent, or unable to complete their duties for any reason, including conflict of interest.	<i>Editorial.</i>
D.POL.10.2.c The DRO serves as a non-voting member of the GSA ERC.	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.10.3 Restrictions for CRO and DRO	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.10.3.a The CRO and DRO may not hold any other elected <u>representative</u> position in the GSA.	<i>To parallel Section D.POL.12.3.a in the GSA Speaker portfolio.</i>
D.POL.10.3.b “The Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, members of the GSA Nominating Committee, members of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, and members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee will remain neutral and not campaign for or endorse any candidate whatsoever” in an election (Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.BYL.5.34) and “not campaign for or endorse any ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ campaign whatsoever” in a referendum (Section J: Referenda, GSA Bylaw, Referenda, Section J.BYL.6.1).	<i>Editorial.</i>
D.POL.10.3.c Council-Elected Officers will be GSA members. As set out in GSA Bylaw, GSA Council may elect to associate membership of the GSA to any member(s) or class of members of the University community it considers appropriate (Section B: Members, GSA Bylaw, Members, Section B.BYL.1.2).	<i>Removal of unnecessary statement as it appears in Section D.BYL.3.1.a.</i>
D.POL.10.3.d D.POL.10.3.c The CRO and DRO must be fully willing and able to carry out the position and must be physically present in Edmonton or surrounding areas for the duration of any GSA <u>General</u> Election, By-Election , and/or R referendum.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
D.POL.10.4 Qualifications of the CRO and DRO	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.10.4.a The CRO and DRO should ideally have previous experience with <u>the</u> administration of student elections.	<i>Editorial.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b Other ideal competencies and qualities for both the CRO and DRO positions include:	<i>Pare down this section, as it is currently too long and difficult to enforce.</i>

D.POL.10.4.b.i Experience acting in a neutral or and to act impartially, including declaring any conflicts of interest and rising above individual or departmental interests. position	<i>See above rationale and parallel similar sections in other places in GSA Bylaw and Policy (Eg. Sections E.POL.5.3 and H.POL.10.2).</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.ii D.POL.10.4.c The CRO and the DRO should have T thorough understanding of GSA Bylaw and Policy, especially with items sections pertaining to elections and referenda.	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
D.POL.10.b.iii Thorough knowledge of the organization and its role in the graduate student community	<i>Pare down this section, as it is currently too long and difficult to enforce.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.iv Demonstrated ability to bring disputing parties together to reach decisions based on mutual interests	<i>See above rationale.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.v Patience, tact, and discretion	<i>See above rationale.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.vi Previous experience effectively dealing with contentious issues (elections or otherwise)	<i>See above rationale.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.vii Experience working in a highly politicized environment requiring quick and fair decisions	<i>See above rationale.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.viii D.POL.10.4.d The CRO and the DRO should have A schedules that allows for the bulk of election or referenda work to take place in a compressed time-frame (a few weeks).	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.ix Experience with mediation and/or conflict resolution	<i>Pare down this section, as it is currently too long and difficult to enforce.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.x D.POL.10.4.e The CRO and the DRO should be able to adopt a C collaborative approach with others and are required to consult with the GSA ERC on many aspects of GSA General Elections, by-elections, and referenda. (eg members of a committee) in reaching fair-minded decisions	<i>Highlighting the really important duty of the CRO and DRO to consult with the GSA ERC.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.xi Capable of handling a wide range of tasks effectively and impartially	<i>Pare down this section, as it is currently too long and difficult to enforce.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.xii Sound judgment and good decision-making skills	<i>See above rationale.</i>

D.POL.10.4.b.xiii Good team player and good communicator	<i>See above rationale.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.xiv Can manage stressful situations and	<i>See above rationale.</i>
D.POL.10.4.b.xv Experience with not for profit organizations.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
D.POL.10.5 Roles and Responsibilities of the CRO	<i>Moved above to Section 10.1 to parallel other Council-Elected Officers sections.</i>
D.POL.10.5.a The CRO, with advice from the GSA ERC, oversees GSA Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda processes within the guiding principles of GSA Elections and Referenda “that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA” (Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.BYL.1.1 and Section J: Referenda, GSA Bylaw, Referenda, Section J.BYL.1.1).	<i>Removal of repetitious language, see Section I.POL.10.1.a, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.b Preparing for the General Election, By-Elections, and Referenda	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.b.i Participating in all GSA ERC meetings and serving as a non-voting member of the GSA ERC.	<i>Removal of this section as it is addressed in Section D.POL.10.1.c, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.b.ii With advice from the GSA ERC, approving timelines for the GSA General Election, By-Elections, and Referenda in accordance with GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy and communicating these timelines to graduate students.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d.ii, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.b.iii With advice from the GSA ERC, advertising the nomination period for any GSA General Election or By Election, the registration period for any Referendum, and voting periods for the General Election, By Elections, and Referenda.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d.iii, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.b.iv With advice from the GSA ERC, working to prepare nomination forms for the GSA General Election and By-Elections and registration forms for Referenda with the GSA ERC in accordance with GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.d.iv, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.b.v With advice from the GSA ERC, approving nomination and registration forms and ensuring that they comply with GSA Bylaw and Policy.	<i>See above rationale.</i>

D.POL.10.5.b.vi Approving, in consultation with the GSA ERC, the ED or delegate, and the GSA Financial Manager, the electronic software or applications used to run the GSA General Election, By-Elections, or Referenda.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d.v, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.b.vii With advice from the GSA ERC, approving the format of the electronic ballots for the GSA General Election, By-Elections, and Referenda.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d.vi, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.c All Candidates Meeting	<i>Moved under the umbrella of new Section D.POL.10.1.d, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.c.i Holding at least one (1) All Candidates Meeting during a GSA General Election or By Election, and at least one (1) Meeting of the Campaign Representatives in a Referendum, to communicate bylaws and policies to all candidates and/or referendum Campaign Representatives and answer questions about campaigning rules and regulations in a GSA General Election, By Election, or Referendum.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d.vi, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.d Planning and Hosting a GSA Election Forum	<i>Moved under the umbrella of Section D.POL.10.1.d, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.d.i In consultation with the GSA ERC, planning a GSA Election Forum for graduate students to ask candidates questions.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d.vii, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.e Managing and Deciding on Complaints	<i>Remove as the section on complaints was moved under the umbrella of new Section D.POL.10.1.d, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.e.i Reviewing and approving campaign materials as per Section I: Elections and Section J: Referenda.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d.viii, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.e.ii Receiving complaints regarding alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy, while also actively monitoring any campaign activities during GSA Elections, By Elections, and Referenda campaign periods.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d.ix, above with revised wording.</i>
D.POL.10.5.e.iii Managing and ruling on complaints and alleged violations of GSA Bylaw and Policy. The CRO upholds GSA Bylaw and Policy pertaining to GSA Elections, By Elections, and Referenda, but consults with the DRO, available members of the GSA ERC, and the ED or delegate regarding penalties, remedial action, and/or referrals.	<i>Removal of this section as it is modified in new Section D.POL.10.1.d.x, above, and Section I.POL.12 (parallel statement at J.POL.14).</i>

D.POL.10.5.e.iv Ensuring candidates or Campaign Representatives in a referendum respect the campaigning spending limits and present receipts by the set deadlines.	<i>Recommended removal of this section as the CRO does not ensure individuals respect the campaigning spending limits. The CRO can, however, penalize candidates who overspend; this is addressed in other sections.</i>
D.POL.10.5.e.v Observing fair process when dealing with complaints. The CRO observes procedural fairness, and consults with the ED or delegate on fair process.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d.xi, above.</i>
D.POL.10.5.e.vi The CRO keeps a written record. The written record is defined as all actions, communications with candidate(s) and any other(s) also involved and includes but is not restricted to cellphone messages, cellphone text messages, and emails. The written record also includes any written complaints received and the CRO's written reasons for all decisions.	<i>Moved to new Section D.POL.10.1.d.xii, above with revised wording.</i>
D.POL.10.5.f – D.POL.10.5.f.iii ...	<i>Moved to new Sections D.POL.1.e – D.POL.1.e.iii, above.</i>
D.POL.10.6 <u>D.POL.5</u> Training of the CRO and DRO	<i>Renumbering.</i>
D.POL.10.6.a <u>D.POL.5.a</u> The CRO and DRO will receive a broad range of training, as needed, as determined by the ED (or delegate), including but not limited to:	<i>Each CRO and DRO will need different training depending on their past experiences and knowledge. Training will be determined in consultation with the ED.</i>
D.POL.10.6.a.i Writing and communicating decisions for alleged campaign violations	<i>See above rationale.</i>
D.POL.10.6.a.ii Conflict resolution and mediation training as the CRO is encouraged to bring two (2) parties together to resolve disputes and	<i>See above rationale.</i>
D.POL.10.6.a.iii Meetings with former GSA or Students' Union CROs.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
D.POL.10.7 – D.POL.10.7.a <u>D.POL.6</u> – D.POL.6.a..	<i>Renumbering.</i>
Section I: Elections	<i>No change.</i>

GSA Bylaw: Elections	<i>No change.</i>
I.BYL.1 – I.BYL.3.1 ...	<i>No change.</i>
I.BYL.3.2 Candidates for Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) positions will be graduate students in good academic standing, and will declare whether they are running as a member of a slate or as an individual. Platforms and slates are not a requirement for running in a GSA General Election. While candidates are able to campaign as a slate, candidates cannot be elected as a slate. Each position will be elected on a per ballot basis.	<i>Removal of reference to slates as the GSA ERC recommends prohibiting running as a slate as members felt that it created an overly oppositional environment.</i> <i>Last part of section have been moved to new Section I.BYL.3.2.a, below.</i>
<u>I.BYL.3.2.a Each position will be elected on a per ballot basis.</u>	<i>Moved from current Section I.BYL.3.2, above.</i>
I.BYL.3.3 – I.BYL.5.4	<i>No change.</i>
I.BYL.6 By-Elections	<i>No change.</i>
I.BYL.6.1 In the event that a DEO position or Councillor-at-Large (CAL) position is not filled by the end of the <u>GSA</u> General Election (ie no candidates run for a position or “None of the Candidates” is elected), or a DEO position or CAL position is vacated any time prior to 1 December (or the next working day (<u>defined as a day the GSA office is open</u>)), the CRO and GSA Council will follow GSA Policy on B by-Elections (see Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections).	<i>Editorial.</i>
GSA Policy: Elections	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.7 General Principles and Rules of Conduct for Elections	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.7.1 “The fundamental principle underlying GSA elections is that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA” (Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.BYL.1.1).	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.7.2 Candidates will abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning elections, and any other applicable policies or laws, and will ensure that campaign volunteers do the same. It is the responsibility of candidates to familiarize themselves with GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy <u>on elections</u> .	<i>Editorial.</i>

I.POL.7.3 Candidates will treat the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO), <u>members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)</u> , GSA Officers, management, staff, and fellow candidates with respect.	<i>Addition of the GSA ERC members, given their advising role.</i>
I.POL.8 Nomination Forms	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.1 Nomination forms will be made available to graduate students in hard copy at the GSA office. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the CRO. The CRO and DRO, in consultation with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), will have the discretion to determine the form and layout of the nomination forms.	<i>Removal of unnecessary wording as this is stated in new Section D.POL.10.1.d.iii.</i>
I.POL.8.2 – I.POL.8.2 On the Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) nomination forms, candidates will include a minimum of five (5) signatures from <u>GSA members currently registered graduate students</u> . The purpose of the signatures is to attest that the nominators, in their view, believe the candidate has the ability and/or experience for the office for which they are running.	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.8.3 ...	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.4 Written nominations for DEO or CAL positions will be submitted to the GSA office to be reviewed and signed by the CRO or DRO in order to verify both completeness and that the nomination form has been submitted on time. The original will be filed in the GSA office and one <u>(1)</u> copy provided to the candidate, normally electronically. If a nomination form is incomplete or late, the CRO or DRO will not accept the nomination form. Candidates cannot appeal this decision.	<i>Redundant as per the DRO's duties, they assist the CRO as needed.</i>
I.POL.8.5 Candidates can change the position they wish to run for, but must do so before the close of nominations. If a candidate changes the position they are running for, the candidate will be required to fill out and submit a new nomination form for the new position prior to the nomination deadline and must meet the requirements as set out in Section I.POL.8.4, above.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.8.6 Once the CRO or DRO verifies nomination forms, the names of candidates who have submitted their nomination forms will be provisionally listed on the GSA website and in hard copy at the GSA office.	<i>Redundant as per the DRO's duties, they assist the CRO as needed.</i>

<p>I.POL.8.7 The following will be stated on attached to the nomination forms for the GSA General Election and any subsequent By-Elections:</p> <p><u>By signing nomination forms, all candidates acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, which is posted in full on the GSA website.</u></p> <p><u>By signing nomination forms, candidates also acknowledge that they have read and are aware of the terms of an appeal within the GSA of any decisions on alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy, including the fact that the CRO, with advice from the GSA ERC, receives, manages, and rules on complaints regarding alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy and that the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) decides on any appeals. Any concerns with potential bias on the part of the CRO, the DRO, and members of the GSA ERC in making such decisions, and members of the GSA ACB in making such decisions on appeals, will be filed with nomination forms.</u></p>	<p><i>Restructuration of Section I.POL.8.7 to provide clarity.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.8.7.a Preamble</p>	<p><i>See above rationale.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.8.7.a.i The GSA Council has approved General Principles and Rules of Conduct governing the GSA General Election and any subsequent By-Elections. The GSA has Elections Bylaw and Policy posted in full on the GSA website.</p>	<p><i>See above rationale.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.8.7.b Definitions</p>	<p><i>Removal of this definition Section, the only definition was moved below to new Section I.POL.9.4.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.8.7.b.i "Working Day" means a day the GSA office is open.</p>	<p><i>This definition was moved below to new Section I.POL.9.4.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.8.7.c GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy and Acknowledgement by Candidates</p>	<p><i>Restructuration of Section I.POL.8.7 to provide clarity.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.8.7.c.i The GSA Council has approved Bylaw and Policy related to the GSA General Election and any subsequent By-Elections. By signing the nomination forms, all candidates acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy, which are posted in full on the GSA website.</p>	<p><i>See above rationale.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.8.7.c.ii By signing the nomination forms, candidates ALSO acknowledge that they have read and are aware of the terms of an appeal within the GSA of any decisions on issues/breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy, including the fact that</p>	<p><i>See above rationale.</i></p>

the CRO, in consultation the GSA ERC, decides on penalties, remedial actions, and or/referrals for any issues/breaches and that the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) decides on any appeals. Any concerns with potential bias on the part of the CRO, the DRO, and members of the GSA ERC in making such decisions, and members of the GSA ACB in making such decisions on appeals, will be filed with nomination forms.	
I.POL.8.7.c.iii I.POL.8.8 Nomination forms will list the names of tThe current CRO, DRO, members of the GSA ERC, and members of the GSA ACB will be updated each year on the nomination forms.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
I.POL.8.7.c.iv I.POL.8.8.a Any changes to these names will be emailed to candidates who will have twenty-four (24) hours to file any objections with the GSA Speaker.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.9 Timeline	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.1 Except as specified below, the CRO approves the timeline for elections is at the discretion of the CRO, in consultation with <u>advice from</u> the GSA ERC.	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.9.2 ...	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.9.3 Nominations for the GSA General Election will open on or about January 30 31 January.	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.9.4 The nomination period will last at least fourteen (14) calendar days. The nomination period will end on a working day <u>(defined as a day the GSA office is open)</u> .	<i>Addition of the definition of “working day”.</i>
I.POL.9.5 Within twenty-four (24) hours after the close of the nomination period, the CRO will hold the All-Candidates’ Meeting as described in Section I.POL.10 , below.	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.9.6 The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the All-Candidates’ Meeting.	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.9.7 – I.POL.9.7.c ...	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.10 All-Candidates’ Meeting	<i>Editorial.</i>

I.POL.10.1 The CRO is responsible for organizing a meeting of all candidates running in an election to provide them with an overview of GSA Elections Bylaw and Policy on elections.	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.10.2 Failure by a candidate to attend the All-Candidates' Meeting without adequate prior notification (<u>defined as notice communicated electronically to the CRO at least one (1) hour in advance of the meeting</u>) to the CRO is grounds for disqualification from the current election. 'Adequate prior notification' is defined as notice communicated electronically to the CRO at least one (1) hour in advance of the meeting. If a candidate misses the All-Candidates' Meeting due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances, such as a last minute emergency, any consequences may be waived at the discretion of the CRO, following consultation with the GSA ERC. There is no appeal of this <u>these</u> decisions.	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.10.3 At the All-Candidates m Meeting described in Section I.POL.10.1, above, the CRO will provide each candidate with all relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and on the GSA ACB, as well as information concerning <u>campaigning information concerning campaigning, the General Principles and Rules of Conduct for Elections, and the GSA on ACB Policy.</u>	<i>Editorial</i>
I.POL.11 Campaigning	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.11.1 "The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the All-Candidates' Meeting" (Section I.POL.9.6, above).	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.11.2 Campaigning is defined as any form of promotion of an individual or slate . This includes all verbal, electronic, and visual forms of communication.	<i>Removal of reference to slates as GSA ERC recommends prohibiting candidates from running as slates as members felt that it created an overly oppositional environment.</i>
I.POL.11.2.a No form of campaigning (verbal, electronic, and visual) will contain misinformation, slander, inappropriate, discriminatory content, or <i>ad hominem</i> attacks of individuals or slates .	<i>See above rationale.</i>
I.POL.11.2.b Candidates will ensure all campaign plans, materials, and/or advertisements conform with all University of Alberta policies and regulations and all municipal, provincial, and federal laws.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.11.2.c <u>Candidates will campaign as individuals. Slates are not permitted.</u>	<i>Addition of statement to directly express that candidates must campaign as an</i>

	<i>individual and that slates are not permitted.</i>
I.POL.11.3 Campaign materials include both those posted or circulated via email on University physical or electronic property, including but not limited to communications sent to mailing lists moderated by graduate student groups and departmental GSAs, and those posted or circulated on non-University physical or electronic property, including any elections-related materials shared on personal social media accounts or other online platforms.	<i>Recommended removal of the distinction between University and non-University property.</i>
I.POL.11.4 I.POL.11.3 The CRO will approve campaign materials that are physically posted or circulated via email to personal contacts on University physical or electronic property prior to their distribution. The CRO will review such materials to ensure they comply with Sections I.POL.11.2.a and I.POL.11.2.c, above, and any other relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy. The CRO is not responsible for reviewing the editorial content of such campaign materials (eg, grammar, punctuation).	<i>Renumbering and inclusion of the newly added Section I.POL.11.2.c.</i>
I.POL.11.4.a I.POL.11.3.a Such campaign materials prepared in a language other than English will be accompanied by an English translation when submitted to the CRO for approval. The CRO is not responsible for the accuracy of translations.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.11.4.b I.POL.11.3.b The turnaround for approving campaign materials will be approximately one (1) working day.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.11.4 Candidates will only distribute campaign materials through email to their personal contacts. Candidates will not utilize moderated mailing lists (defined as lists where the membership is compiled by a third-party and/or communications are sent to list owners for review and/or approval prior to circulation to subscribers).	<i>New section as the GSA ERC recommends not allowing the use of moderated mailing lists to distribute campaign materials.</i>
I.POL.11.5 The CRO will be provided access to campaign materials posted or circulated on social media accounts or other online platforms non-University physical or electronic property, and reserves the right to penalize candidates for any breaches violations associated with Section I.POL.11.2.a, above, and of any relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy.	<i>Removal of the distinction between University and non-University property.</i>
I.POL.11.6 Candidates may utilize mailing lists moderated by graduate student groups and departmental GSAs to distribute CRO approved campaign materials.	<i>Removal of this section as the GSA ERC recommends not allowing the use of</i>

Candidates will not utilize mailing lists moderated by University employees and regularly used to distribute communication from the University.	<i>moderated mailing lists to distribute campaign materials.</i>
I.POL.11.7 I.POL.11.6 Candidates will get permission, where appropriate, to campaign in instructional spaces, such as classrooms and lecture halls. Candidates will not campaign in unsafe spaces that require permission to access and proper safety equipment. The CRO will talk about safety issues, including campaigning in labs, at the All-Candidates' Meeting.	<i>The GSA ERC recommends staying silent on campaigning in restricted spaces to allow candidates that work in restricted spaces to campaign to their colleagues.</i>
I.POL.11.8 Candidates may not use resources for campaigning that are not publicly accessible to all candidate(s) and slates. For example, do not use Departmental or Supervisor photocopiers to print campaign materials.	<i>Redundant as candidates can only use SUBprint and other resources are covered elsewhere.</i>
I.POL.11.7 Candidates will only use SUBprint to print campaign materials.	<i>GSA ERC recommends that all printed campaign materials be printed at SUBprint to ensure an equal playing field.</i>
I.POL.11.9 I.POL.11.8 Candidates will not use the University or GSA logos on any physical or electronic campaign materials.	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.11.10 I.POL.11.9 Candidates will not accept gifts of money, gifts in kind, or equivalent (eg campaign posters or a friends and family discount for printing) from student groups or colleagues.	<i>Removal of example as irrelevant given that now all candidates will be required SUBprint to print their campaign materials.</i>
I.POL.11.11 Candidates are encouraged to ask the CRO, before acting, if they have any questions about particular GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy (including questions related to the development of campaign materials and the planning of campaign events), and to report any breaches of GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy to the CRO.	<i>Moved to new Section I.POL.11.12, below.</i>
I.POL.11.12 I.POL.11.10 Candidates are <u>will be</u> responsible for removing all campaign materials after voting has closed.	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.11.13 I.POL.11.11 Campaign Spending Limit	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.11.13.a I.POL.11.11.a Individual Candidates are <u>will be</u> authorized to spend no more than \$150 on campaign material over the course of the election. If candidates are running as part of a slate, the cost of joint campaign materials will normally be divided equally amongst all of the candidates in the slate. Candidates running as part of a slate are able to distribute individual campaign materials, so long as candidates do not exceed their total spending limit of \$150	<i>Removal of reference to slates as GSA ERC recommends prohibiting candidates from running as slates as members felt that it created an overly oppositional environment. Removal of the requirement to submit a written informal plan for campaign expenditures.</i>

per candidate. In order to encourage candidates to think, in advance, about campaign expenditures, a written informal plan for campaign expenditures will be submitted to the CRO before the All-Candidates' Meeting (either electronically or in hard copy).	
I.POL.11.13.b I.POL.11.11.b Candidates will report to the CRO all campaign-related expenses, and submit receipts (either electronically or in hard copy) no later than two (2) hours after the close of the voting period.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.11.13.c I.POL.11.11.c Exceeding the spending limit or failure to report and submit campaign expenses and <u>submit</u> receipts constitute grounds for disqualification from the current election, as determined by the GSA CRO.	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.11.13.d I.POL.11.11.d Campaign costs are will not be reimbursed.	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
<u>I.POL.11.12 Candidates are encouraged to ask the CRO before acting if they have any questions about GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections (including questions related to the development of campaign materials and the planning of campaign events), and to report any alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy on elections to the CRO, in accordance with the procedure outlined below.</u>	<i>Moved from current Section I.POL.11.11, above.</i>
<u>I.POL.12 Alleged Breaches</u> CRO's Decision on Penalties, Remedial Action, and Referrals	<i>Restructuring of this section to clearly outline what the CRO does when alleged breaches occur and the order it is done in.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.1 Those with concerns about alleged breaches are encouraged to contact the CRO in a timely fashion. The CRO will advise on associated processes.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.2 All alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws must be reported to the CRO as soon as possible by filing a complaint.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.3 Complaints</u>	<i>Introduction of a section outlining on complaints to clarify the procedure to file such a complaint.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.3.a While complaints may be brought forward at any point during the campaign period, individuals have twenty-four (24) hours after the release of provisional results to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of</u>	<i>Moved from current Section I.POL.13.8, below.</i>

<u>GSA Bylaw or Policy. Complaints lodged after this deadline will not be considered.</u>	
<u>I.POL.12.3.b To be considered by the CRO, in consultation with the GSA ERC, a complaint must include the following:</u>	<i>Introduction of a section outlining on complaints to clarify the procedure to file such a complaint.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.3.b.i The name of the person filing the complaint and their University email address,</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>I.POL.13.3.b.ii The name of the candidate who allegedly committed a breach,</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.3.b.iii The section of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, interpretation issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws that has allegedly been breached,</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.3.b.iv A description of what constitutes the alleged breach and associated evidence, and</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.3.b.v A list of the evidence submitted.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.3.c Incomplete complaints will not be considered and complainants filing incomplete complaints will be notified as such.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.3.d The CRO, in consultation with the GSA ERC, can dismiss a complaint if it is unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious.</u>	<i>Clarify the authority of the CRO with regards to alleged breaches and alignment with GSA Policy on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.3.e If a person provides information on an anonymous basis, that information and the request for anonymity will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.</u>	<i>Moved from current Section I.POL.12.2.f, below.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.1 The CRO will normally reach a decision on alleged breaches within seventy two (72) hours. If more time is required to reach a decision, the CRO will consult with the GSA ERC regarding extensions.</u>	<i>Moved to new Section I.POL.13.5.b, below.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.2 When the CRO becomes aware of an issue or breach of GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy, or other applicable policies or laws, or a third party complains to the CRO about an alleged issue or breach of GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy, the CRO will consult, where reasonable, with the DRO, available member(s) of the GSA ERC, and the Executive Director (ED) (or delegate), concerning deadlines and other related matters (as noted in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA</u>	<i>Moved to new Section I.POL.13.8, below.</i>

Officer Portfolios, Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer) and will:	
I.POL.12.2.a I.POL.12.4 Following the receipt of a complaint, the CRO will Decide whether informal resolution should be attempted and, if so, contact the complainant and the candidate(s) or slate(s) and concerned.	<i>Clarification of the informal resolution process.</i>
I.POL.12.4.a The goal of informal resolution is to arrive at countermeasures agreed upon by all parties.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
I.POL.12.5 Decision	
I.POL.12.2.b I.POL.12.5.a If informal resolution is rejected or is not successful, the CRO will email any written complaint to the candidate(s) or slate(s), or email the candidate concerned with (s) or slate(s) the details of the issue/ alleged breach in writing, and request a written response, setting a deadline of at least eight (8) hours.	<i>Editorial and removal of slates as GSA ERC recommended prohibiting candidates from running as slates as members felt that it created an overly oppositional environment.</i>
I.POL.12.5.b Based on the complaint and the written response (or solely on the complaint if no written response was provided by the set deadline), the CRO will normally reach a decision on the complaint within seventy-two (72) hours. If more time is required to reach a decision, the CRO will consult with the GSA ERC regarding extensions.	<i>Moved from current Section I.POL.12.1, above.</i>
I.POL.12.2.c Upon reaching a decision the CRO will inform the candidate(s) or slate(s) of their decision on penalties, remedial actions, or referrals, their reasons for the decision, and will state whether the candidate(s) or slate(s) can continue to campaign.	<i>Moved to new Section I.POL.13.6, below.</i>
I.POL.12.2.d I.POL.12.5.c The CRO may impose the following penalties, or remedial actions, or make referrals:	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.12.2.d.i I.POL.12.5.c.i Verbal or written reprimands,	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.12.2.d.ii I.POL.12.5.c.ii Reduction of spending limits,	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.12.2.d.iii I.POL.12.5.c.iii Disqualification from the current election, and	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.12.2.d.iv I.POL.12.5.c.iv Any other penalty or remedial action, and	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.12.2.d.v Any referrals.	<i>Removal of referrals as the GSA ERC was uncertain of what kind of referrals the</i>

	<i>CRO could make.</i>
I.POL.12.2.e The ED (or delegate) will be copied on the emails described above.	<i>Moved to new Section I.POL.13.6, below (the ED (or delegate) is a non-voting member of the GSA ERC).</i>
I.POL.12.2.f If a person provides information on an anonymous basis, that information and the request for anonymity will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.	<i>Moved to new Section I.POL.13.3.d, above.</i>
I.POL.12.2.g The CRO will advise the candidate(s) or slate(s) that they have twenty four (24) hours from the time the CRO's email is deemed delivered (see Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaint Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.7.3, for a definition of "Deemed Delivered") for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB, for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaint Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.16.2.b.	<i>Moved to new Section I.POL.13.7.a, below.</i>
I.POL.12.3 If a disqualified candidate is a member of a slate, the slate will alter their campaign materials so that the materials no longer reference the disqualified candidate.	<i>Removal of reference to slates as GSA ERC recommended prohibiting candidates from running as slates as members felt that it created an overly oppositional environment.</i>
I.POL.12.4 I.POL.12.5.d All decisions of the CRO will be reported to the GSA ERC as soon as they are reached. Subject to privacy legislation, the GSA ERC and CRO will decide whether a decision should be posted on the GSA website and will take into consideration the nature and severity of the issues of breach and balance in relation to public interest. Posted decisions should will include:	<i>Renumbering and moved portion to new Section I.POL.13.6, below.</i>
I.POL.12.4.a I.POL.12.5.d.i A summary of the alleged issue or breach,	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.12.4.b I.POL.12.5.d.ii A list of parties to the formal complaint alleged issue or breach (unless anonymity was granted, see Section I.POL.12.3.d, above),	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.12.4.c I.POL.12.5.d.iii A summary of the reasons for the decision and the process by which it was reached,	<i>Renumbering.</i>

I.POL.12.4.d <u>I.POL.12.5.d.iv</u> A listing of all applicable GSA Bylaws and Policies and interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws,	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.12.4.e <u>I.POL.12.5.d.v</u> The decided upon penalties, <u>and/or</u> remedial actions, <u>and/or</u> referral, and	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.12.4.f <u>I.POL.12.5.d.vi</u> The time limit for the <u>any</u> appeal <u>to be made</u> .	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.6</u> Upon reaching a decision the CRO will email the decision to all parties, with a copy to the GSA ERC. The decision will then be posted on the GSA website.	<i>Moved from current Sections I.POL.12.2.c, I.POL.12.2.e, and I.POL.12.4.d, above.</i> <i>The GSA ERC recommends that all CRO decisions arising from complaints should be posted on the website.</i>
I.POL.12.5 <u>I.POL.12.7</u> Unless otherwise stated in GSA Elections -Bylaw or Policy <u>on elections</u> , decisions of the CRO are subject to appeal to the GSA ACB.	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.7.a</u> The CRO will advise the parties that they have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO's email is deemed delivered (see Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaint Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.7.3, for a definition of "Deemed Delivered") for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB (see Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaint Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board).	<i>Moved from current Section I.POL.12.2.g.</i>
<u>I.POL.12.8</u> Throughout this process, the CRO will consult, where reasonable, with the DRO, available member(s) of the GSA ERC, and the Executive Director (or delegate), concerning deadlines and other related matters.	<i>Moved from current Section I.POL.12.2, above.</i>
<u>I.POL.13</u> Voting	<i>No change.</i>
<u>I.POL.13.1</u> "All voting in the General Election and By-Elections will be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use" (Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.BYL.4.1).	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.13.2 <u>The CRO will communicate to graduate students the members of each slate and all individual candidates.</u>	<i>Removal of slates as GSA ERC recommended prohibiting candidates from running as slates as members felt that it created an overly oppositional environment.</i>

I.POL.13.3 – I.POL.13.7 I.POL.13.2 – I.POL.13.6 ...	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.13.8 Individuals have twenty four (24) hours after the release of provisional results to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy.	<i>Moved to new section I.POL.12.3.a, above.</i>
I.POL.14 Results	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.14.1 Upon completion of the ballot count, the CRO will announce provisional results, ie results that are subject to appeal for twenty-four (24) hours from the time the provisional results are released and which may, in addition, be affected because of earlier complaints not yet resolved. Results will be made official only when the GSA’s process of dealing with alleged breaches of GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy <u>on elections</u> and any appeals within that process are exhausted.	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.14.2 In the case where the electronic voting system fails and paper ballots were used, the paper ballots will be destroyed one (1) month following the release of the official results.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.15 Reporting	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.15.1 The CRO will draft a procedural report following each GSA General Election or By-Election . This report will outline major decisions, processes, issues, and recommendations for the following year. This report will be provided to the next CRO and DRO, and the GSA ERC, the GSA Board, and GSA Council.	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.16 By-Elections	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.16.1 – I.POL.16.3 ...	<i>No change.</i>
GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.17 Composition	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.17.1 – I.POL.17.3 ...	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.17.4 The <u>Executive Director (ED)</u> (or delegate) as a non-voting member.	<i>Editorial.</i>

I.POL.18 Eligibility	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.18.1 – I.POL.18.2 ...	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.19 Mandate	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.19.1 The GSA ERC will advise the CRO on all matters pertaining to <u>the GSA General Elections, referenda, and by-elections, and referenda</u> including but not limited to:	<i>Editorial.</i>
I.POL.19.1.a The approval of timelines for GSA Elections, By Elections, and Referenda in accordance with GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaws and Policy,	<i>Moved to new Section I.POL.20.2.a, below.</i>
I.POL.19.1.b I.POL.19.1.a <u>The Advertising of the nomination period for any GSA General Elections or By-Elections, the registration period for any GSA Referenda, and voting periods for all GSA General Elections, by-elections, and Referenda,</u>	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.19.1.c I.POL.19.1.b <u>Working with the CRO to p</u> reparing nomination and registration forms in accordance with GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaws and Policy <u>on elections and referenda,</u>	<i>Renumbering, and to parallel changes made to Section D.POL.10.5.b.iv, above.</i>
I.POL.19.1.d Consulting with the CRO, ED or delegate, GSA Accountant, and GSA Financial Manager regarding the electronic software or applications used to run GSA Elections, By Elections, and Referenda,	<i>Moved to new Section I.POL.20.2.c, below.</i>
I.POL.19.1.e I.POL.19.1.c <u>The P</u> lanning of any GSA General Election or By-Election forums for graduate students <u>to ask candidates questions, in consultation with the CRO, and</u>	<i>Renumbering and addition to parallel Section D.POL.10.5.d.i, above.</i>
I.POL.19.1.d <u>Issuing interpretations of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda to be shared equally amongst all candidates and Campaign Representatives during the course of a GSA General Election, by-election, or referendum, and</u>	<i>Renumbering and addition to parallel new Section D.POL.10.5.e.ii, above.</i>
I.POL.19.1.f I.POL.19.1.e <u>Acting as a sounding board for the CRO and/or decisions regarding penalties, remedial action, and/or referrals for alleged campaign violations during any GSA Election or Referendum. Receiving, managing, and ruling on alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy, in accordance with Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.POL.12 and Section J: Referenda, GSA</u>	<i>To parallel renumbered Section D.POL.10.5.e.iii, above.</i>

Bylaw, Referenda, Section J.POL.14.	
<u>I.POL.19.2</u> The GSA ERC will make recommendations to the CRO on:	<i>Addition to clarify on what the GSA ERC makes recommendation to the CRO on and to align with the CRO Officer Portfolio.</i>
<u>I.POL.19.2.a</u> The approval of timelines for GSA Elections, by-elections, and referenda in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda,	<i>Moved from current Section I.POL.20.1.a, above.</i>
<u>I.POL.19.2.b</u> The approval of nomination and registration forms in accordance with GSA Bylaws and Policy on elections and referenda,	<i>To parallel changes made to Section D.POL.10.5.b.iv, above</i>
<u>I.POL.19.2.c</u> The approval of the electronic software or applications used to run GSA General Elections, by-elections, and referenda in consultation with the ED (or delegate) and Financial Manager, and	<i>Moved from current Section I.POL.20.1.d, above.</i>
<u>I.POL.20.2.d</u> The approval of the format of the ballots for the GSA General Election, by-elections, and referenda.	<i>Addition to parallel renumbered Section D.POL.10.5.b.vi, above.</i>
I.POL.19.2 <u>I.POL.19.3</u> At least one (1) month prior to the opening of nominations for the GSA General Election, the GSA ERC shall <u>will</u> meet to assist the CRO in the planning of election events.	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.19.3 <u>I.POL.19.4</u> The GSA ERC will review GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda annually and make any recommendations to GSA Council through the GSAB.	<i>Renumbering and to parallel other GSA Standing Committees mandate.</i>
I.POL.19.4 <u>I.POL.19.5</u> GSA ERC members are free to approach the GSAB Council with any concerns about how elections or referenda are being managed.	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.19.5 <u>I.POL.19.6</u> The GSA ERC strongly recommends to graduate students who are considering running for office that they participate in the GSA Nominating Committee (NoC)'s Early Call for Talent and Training. It is the firm belief of the GSA ERC that training is needed in order for Directly-Elected Officers to carry out their duties effectively.	<i>Renumbering and editorial.</i>
I.POL.19.6 The GSA ERC will oversee the on-line posting of the video interview of candidates running in the GSA General Election and will design questions to be asked of candidates.	<i>Removal as the GSA ERC is moving away from video interviews and if they decided to do those again it would be covered elsewhere in their mandate.</i>
<u>I.POL.19.7</u> "In the case of a resignation or other vacancy (as determined by the GSA ERC) in the CRO or DRO positions during any GSA General Election, By- Election, R referendum, or any other associated election or referenda matter,	<i>Editorial.</i>

the GSA NoC may take necessary action to fill the vacancy, including direct appointments, or appointments of former CROs, to ensure an Acting or Interim CRO and/or DRO is appointed” (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Nominating Committee, Section E.POL.7.5).	
I.POL.20 Meetings	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.20.1 Quorum is four (4) voting members including either the Chair or the Vice-Chair.	<i>No change.</i>



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

4 October 2018

Attached you will find a proposal for recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on graduate student groups developed by the Vice-President Student Services (under whose portfolio graduate student groups falls) and myself. The recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy presented in the attached proposal can be summarized thusly:

- Addition of former GSA Board Policy on GSA Council remuneration to GSA Policy, as well as the addition of some elements currently followed in practice but not contained with GSA Policy proper
- Renaming of "Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups" to "GSA Graduate Student Groups" (aligns with changes to GSA Policy on grants and awards approved earlier by GSA Council)
- Adding former GSA Board Policy concerning the definitions associated with academically-related graduate student group to GSA Policy, as well removing redundant definitions in order to streamline GSA Policy
- Moving the section of current GSA Bylaw on graduate student groups to GSA Policy, in keeping with the GSA's practice of keeping bylaw short and high-level and accompanied by more detailed policy
- Removing sections of current GSA Bylaw and Policy that are already contained within UAPPOL and the policy and procedure of Student Group Services
- Editorial revisions to the portfolio of the Vice-President Student Services to reflect the above-noted recommended changes
- Removing redundant wording and associated editorial updates

Please note that the recommended changes will not substantively alter the GSA's current practices with respect to either GSA Council remuneration or graduate student groups; they are aimed at streamlining our governing documents and providing enhanced clarity.

We look forward to discussing these recommended changes with you in October.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sasha van der Klein'.

Sasha van der Klein,
GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fahed Elian'.

Fahed Elian,
GSA Vice-President Student Services

Outline of Issue

Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and Addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups

Suggested Motion for the GSA Council:

That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and the addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy.

NOTE 1: The recommended changes apply to Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council; Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, GSA Council Attendance, Section N: Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups, GSA Bylaw Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups, and Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios. This document also introduces the new Section N: GSA Graduate Student Groups, GSA Policy, GSA Graduate Student Groups.

NOTE 2: This is the first reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw, proposed changes to GSA Policy are presented for information. The second reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and approval of proposed changes to GSA Policy will be presented at the November GSA Council meeting.

Background:

At its meeting of 27 June 2018, the GSA Board approved a proposal to move the sections of GSA Board Policy dealing with GSA Council remuneration and the definitions of graduate student groups into GSA Policy. The GSA Board is now asked to recommend the addition of these sections to GSA Policy on GSA Council, alongside other recommended changes aimed at streamlining existing GSA Bylaw and Policy on graduate student groups.

The GSA Governance Committee review and recommend this proposal to GSA Council at its 24 September 2018 meeting. The GSA Board review and made its own recommendation to GSA Council at its 26 September 2018 meeting.

Please see the attached draft cover letter to GSA Council from the President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and the Vice-President Student Services for additional information.

Jurisdiction:

Section F: Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.a

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

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A: Authority, GSA Bylaw, Authority, Section A. BYL.1.2

"These Bylaws ... may be amended by two two-thirds majority votes of Council held on seven calendar days' notice of motion and no less than one week apart."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A: Authority, GSA Bylaw, Authority, Section A. BYL.2.2

"GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council (Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council) and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council."

Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Student Groups	
Current GSA Bylaw and Policy (<i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i>) and Proposed Changes (<i>additions underlined</i>)	Rationale/Background
Section C: GSA Council	<i>No change.</i>
GSA Bylaw: GSA Council	
C.BYL.2.1 – C.BYL.2.2.b.iii	<i>No change.</i>
C.BYL.2.2.c For the benefit of graduate students in each department, faculty, or extra-departmental unit at the University Departmental graduate student groups, as represented by their Departmental Councillors or alternates that meet the attendance requirements, GSA Council remuneration will be provided will be eligible to receive a portion of the GSA Council remuneration budget, as specified in GSA Policy.	<i>Moving away from the terminology of departmental graduate student groups, since if there is no departmental group to receive Councillor remuneration, the GSA works to provide the money to the department so that it can benefit the academic activities of its graduate students. GSA Board voted on 27 June 2018 to move the GSA Council remuneration process from GSA Board Policy to GSA Policy.</i>
GSA Policy: GSA Council Attendance	
C.POL.5 – C.POL.5.3.a	<i>No change.</i>
C.POL.5.3.b The GSA will provide, for the benefit of graduate students in each department, faculty, or extra-departmental unit, remuneration based on a Departmental Councillor or alternate attendance rate of at least 50% at GSA Council meetings in a given year, which is defined as 1 May to the following 30 April.	<i>Language was located within GSA Board Policy. GSA Board voted on 27 June 2018 to move the GSA Council remuneration process from GSA Board Policy to GSA Policy.</i>
C.POL.5.3.c The yearly amount budgeted for GSA Council remuneration shall be divided equally amongst the total number of eligible departments.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
C.POL.5.3.d GSA Council remuneration funds will normally be distributed no later than 31 August of each year.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
C.POL.5.3.e GSA Council remuneration funds must be deposited within three (3) months of the funds being issued. Any GSA Council remuneration funds that have not been deposited within three (3) months from the date they were originally issued will not be re-issued and funds will be considered forfeit.	<i>New statement to accord with best financial practices.</i>

C.POL.5.4 - C.POL.5.4.a	<i>No change.</i>
Section N: Academically-Related GSA Graduate Student Groups	<i>Simplifying the names of these groups. The eligibility criteria below outline that any group registered with the GSA must be academically-related.</i>
GSA Bylaw: Academically-Related GSA Graduate Student Groups	<i>See above rationale.</i>
N.BYL.1 General	<i>No change.</i>
N.BYL.1.1 Any Academically-Related GSA Graduate Student Group will be defined as such when registered with the GSA, with registration authority to the Office of the Dean of Students.	<i>Simplifying the names of these groups. The eligibility criteria below outline that any group registered with the GSA must be academically-related.</i>
N.BYL.1.2 The GSA, the University of Alberta Office of the Dean of Students, and Student Group Services (SGS) are jointly responsible for the administration and oversight of such groups as per GSA Bylaw on Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups and other relevant GSA Policy.	<i>GSA Board voted on 27 June 2018 to move information about graduate student groups from GSA Board Policy to GSA Policy.</i>
N.BYL.1.3 GSA Graduate Student Groups will be governed by GSA Policy (see <u>Section N: GSA Graduate Student Groups, GSA Policy, GSA Graduate Student Groups</u>).	<i>To align with conventions in other sections of GSA Bylaw (ie Section M, GSA Health and Dental Plan).</i>
<u>GSA Policy: GSA Graduate Student Groups</u>	<i>GSA Board voted on 27 June 2018 to move information about graduate student groups from GSA Board Policy to GSA Policy.</i>
<u>Purpose:</u> To outline policies and procedures related to GSA Graduate Student Groups.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>Scope:</u> This policy governs procedures related to the registration requirements and privileges of student groups that register with the GSA through Student Group Services.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>Related GSA Bylaw and Policy</u> Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy: GSA Officer Portfolios Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy: GSA Recognition Awards and Adjudication Criteria Section P: GSA Grants and Bursaries, GSA Policy: GSA Grant Application Policy and Information	<i>See above rationale.</i>

N.BYLPOL.2 Registration Eligibility	<i>See above rationale.</i>
N.BYL.POL.2.1 In order to register as an Academically Related Graduate Student Group with the GSA, a graduate student group must:	<i>Simplifying the names of these groups. The eligibility criteria below outline that any group registered with the GSA must be academically-related.</i>
N.BYL.2.1.a POL.2.1.a Be registered annually as a student group with the University of Alberta, through Student Group Services, and comply with all relevant policies and procedures in University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online, and GSA Bylaw and Policy,	<i>Streamlining language regarding registration requirements that are currently reflected in previous N.BYL.2.1.b, N.BYL.2.2, and N.BYL.2.2.a.</i>
N.POL.2.1.b Be non-commercial and exist for the purpose of organizing academically-related or professional development activities, as opposed to social functions or recreational activities,	<i>Language developed from GSA Board Policy. GSA Board voted on 27 June 2018 to move information about graduate student groups from GSA Board Policy to GSA Policy.</i>
N.BYL.2.1.b POL.2.1.c Have an executive committee comprised of at least 3/4 graduate students. As per the Student Groups Procedure in University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online (UAPPOL), all of the executive members with voting privileges must also be currently part time or full time University of Alberta students, and	<i>Now addressed in N.POL.2.1.a, above. According to their own regulations, SGS only registers groups when all executive members are current part-time or full-time U of A students.</i>
N.BYL.2.1.e POL.2.1.d Have a total membership of at least 2/3 graduate students,	<i>Renumbering.</i>
N.BYL.2.1.d Submit bylaws or other governing documents to SGS that meet reasonable governance standards, at the discretion of SGS, and	<i>Proposal to remove this section, as this requirement will be met if the group is registered as a University of Alberta student group.</i>
N.BYL.2.1.e Any other roles or responsibilities set out in relevant GSA Bylaw, Policy, or Board Policy.	<i>Content incorporated into N.POL.2.1.a, above.</i>
N.BYL.2.2 As per the Student Groups Procedure in UAPPOL, a group's initial registration with the Office of the Dean of Students may occur at any time of the year; re-registration must be completed annually within two (2) months of the group's election of new executive members.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
N.BYL.2.2.a As such, it is the responsibility of Academically Related Graduate Student Group to familiarize themselves with all policies pertaining to student group status, and to re-register within two (2) months of the group's election of new executive members to ensure their ongoing student group status.	<i>See above rationale.</i>

<p>N.BYL.2.3-POL.2.2 The GSA reserves the right to suspend a GSA n-Academically-Related Graduate Student Group's GSA registration, and all rights and privileges associated with such registration, and reserves the right to audit any GSA Graduate Student Group.</p>	<p><i>Renumbering and simplifying the names of these groups; ability to audit a GSA Graduate Student Group is addressed in the current N.BYL.4.1, below.</i></p>
<p>N.BYL.3 POL.3 Privileges</p>	<p><i>Renumbering.</i></p>
<p>N.BYL.3.1 POL.3.1 Only groups registered with the GSA may use the GSA's name or derivatives of that name in their title and/or promotional materials.</p>	<p><i>No need to further limit the way in which these groups can use the GSA's name.</i></p>
<p>N.BYL.3.2 POL.3.2 Where there is a portion of the GSA's operating budget designated for grants to be paid to Academically Related Graduate Student Group, oOnly groups that are fully registered with the GSA are will be eligible to receive a <u>apply for the GSA Graduate Student Group Grant and the GSA Graduate Student Group Award. For more information about the eligibility criteria, see grant from that portion of the GSA's operating budget. Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy: GSA Recognition Awards and Adjudication Criteria and Section P: GSA Grants and Bursaries, GSA Policy: GSA Grant Application Policy and Information.</u></p>	<p><i>A group cannot be partially registered with the GSA.</i></p>
<p>N.BYL.4 Responsibilities</p>	<p><i>Proposal to remove this entire section given that graduate student groups that register through Student Group Services are made aware of all of these responsibilities during the registration process.</i></p>
<p>N.BYL.4.1 Academically Related Graduate Student Group will manage their finances responsibly and maintain financial records, subject to auditing by the University of Alberta, SGS, or the GSA.</p>	<p><i>See above rationale.</i></p>
<p>N.BYL.4.2 Academically Related Graduate Student Group will act on behalf of and for their members and according to all relevant regulations, including (but not limited to):</p>	<p><i>See above rationale.</i></p>
<p>N.BYL.4.2.a GSA Bylaw, Policy, and Board Policy pertaining to Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups,</p>	<p><i>See above rationale.</i></p>
<p>N.BYL.4.2.b The University of Alberta Code of Student Behaviour,</p>	<p><i>See above rationale.</i></p>
<p>N.BYL.4.2.c University of Alberta student group policies and procedures,</p>	<p><i>See above rationale.</i></p>

N.BYL.4.2.d The individual groups' own governing documents, as approved by SGS on delegated authority of the GSA through registration, and	<i>See above rationale.</i>
N.BYL.4.2.e All applicable laws.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
N.BYL.4.3 Academically-Related Graduate Student Group will serve their members in a way that is transparent, democratic, accountable, and fiscally prudent.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
N.BYL.4.4 Academically-Related Graduate Student Group will promote community, benefit their members and the community, and be non-commercial.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.4 – D.POL.9.1.b...	<i>No change.</i>
D.POL.9.1.c The VPSS is responsible for connecting with <u>GSA Graduate Student Groups</u> and other student groups, and supporting said groups in their engagement with the GSA, as needed departmental graduate student associations, and supporting graduate student groups and graduate student engagement in the GSA.	<i>Streamlining section and updating to reflect the change in name for groups registered with the GSA.</i>
D.POL.9.1.d The VPSS will maintain awareness of <u>GSA Graduate Sstudent Ggroups</u> with respect to risk management and work closely with the ED (or delegate) in this respect.	<i>Insertion of specific reference to GSA Graduate Student Groups.</i>
NO FURTHER CHANGES ASIDE FROM CROSS-REFERENCING ALL BYLAW AND POLICY FOR ANY REMAINING REFERENCES TO ACADEMICALLY-RELATED GRADUATE STUDENT GROUPS	



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

4 October 2018

As many of you will remember, my team and I began the development of the 2018-2019 Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) in May and we presented the finalized Plan to GSA Council in July. The complete SWP is available on the [GSA website](#).

As outlined at the July 2018 meeting of GSA Council when this plan was presented, we divided our SWP into two documents. The first is an outward facing document that is crisp and visually engaging. The main audiences for this document include University Administration, U of A Board of Governors, the Government of Alberta, and other graduate students. Following the July meeting of GSA Council, the SWP was circulated to these key stakeholders, and my team and I are now meeting with members of University Administration to discuss our priorities for the upcoming year.

The second document is an internal task list, which was shared in-person at the July meeting of GSA Council. This task list is a living document that will constantly evolve as my team strategizes issues and approaches. It is the document where we outline the specific actions we will be taking to work towards our goals and identify the Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) responsible for each task. Content from this internal document has been used to develop the first update on our progress to GSA Council.

Highlights from my portfolio include:

- Along with the Vice-President Academic (Masoud), I am collaborating with the Post-Doctoral Fellows Association on jointly hosting their annual research day, which this year will include opportunities for graduate students to showcase their research. The event will take place on October 24 and I hope to see many of you there.
- While I was unable to participate in the most recent meeting of ThinkGrad (a national group of GSAs that meet twice a year to share information and discuss best practices), the Vice-President External (Zhihong) represented our GSA and had the opportunity to discuss communication and engagement strategies with other GSAs. We learned a lot about how other GSAs connect with their members. Additionally, I remain engaged in on-going conversations about communication platforms with my colleagues on the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC). Finally, with respect to communications, we recently added Instagram to our social media profiles and the Vice-President Student Services (Fahed) and I are happy to report that following work initiated during the 2017-2018 term, a redesign of the weekly GSA newsletter has been completed. We believe the newsletter will now be more reader friendly and engaging.
- In furtherance of sustainability initiatives, both within the GSA and the University, I have been participating in the Active Transportation Advisory Group to advocate for a campus that is inclusive of multiple modes of transportation and, in consultation with the Executive Director, we have worked on redesigning GSA Council election ballots to use 50% less paper.
- I have been working closely with ab-GPAC on spearheading the three main advocacy priorities identified by the work (tuition and fees, post-graduate employment, and the indigenization of graduate education), focusing particularly on developing ab-GPAC's stance on tuition and fees.
- Working with the GSA office, we redesigned the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan this year to make it more engaging (both for graduate students and stakeholders and partners) and to better align with best practices concerning work plan design/presentation. We have received very positive feedback from partners about the new format.
- I continue to meet with representatives from the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association, and, in pursuit of ab-GPAC's aforementioned priority to focus on Indigenous graduate students this year, I am emphasizing to government that Indigenous students need to be participating directly in conversations about post-secondary Indigenous initiatives.
- In a meeting with University of Alberta International (UAI) I brought forward a series of agenda items relating to improving the experiences of international graduate students and I will follow up on these items in the coming months.
- I have maintained my engagement with Residence Services regarding the upcoming closure of Michener Park and I strongly encourage anyone living there to participate in the University's consultation processes regarding both the closure and the future of family housing



on campus as it is critical that the University hear directly from graduate students regarding their housing needs.

- I will shortly be contacting the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (Finance and Administration) to further discuss funding allocation issues and the broader issue of the University's budget.
- Along with Masoud, I continue to meet regularly with the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) and bring forward a series of standing items of importance to graduate students. I will also be serving as a member of the decanal search committee for selecting the next Dean of the FGSR.
- I continue to build and cultivate relationships with the other associations on campus by collaborating via joint meetings with the Students' Union, Post-Doctoral Fellows Association, Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta, and Non-Academic Staff Association, to discuss key issues.
- In advance of the upcoming 2019 provincial election, ab-GPAC is in the process of scheduling meetings with all political parties in the province to discuss graduate student issues. Ab-GPAC also continues to collaborate with the Council of Alberta University Students and the Alberta Students' Executive Council in these conversations.
- In addition to participating in ab-GPAC, our GSA maintains its involvement with ThinkGrad and monitor the potential for collaboration with other organizations, such as the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. Along with Masoud, I will also be attending the upcoming conference for the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies.
- At the end of October, we will be piloting a new Halloween themed social event to better connect with graduate students who parent. Both graduate student parents and their children will be invited to attend in costume.

There were also a series of team goals that span across different DEO portfolios:

- In furtherance of our support for the operations of the Campus Food Bank, their Board Chair and Executive Director attended the 3 October GSA Board meeting to discuss graduate student use of the Food Bank.
- We continue to support initiatives for the improvement of services for students who are new to Canada; recently my team met with representatives from UAI to discuss what they offer and we will be following up on some of these ideas when we meet with UAI in the fall.
- We're awaiting announcements from the University and government with respect to their plans for tuition and fees for the coming year and are strategically thinking about how to approach that issue.
- Finally, in pursuit of enhancing engagement with the GSA and fostering connections amongst graduate students, we collaborated with the FGSR to offer over 45 departmental and unit orientations this year.

Sincerely,

Sasha van der Klein
2018-2019 GSA President



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

4 October 2018

This report includes my updates from the internal task list for the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The following are projects that I have initiated in the past few months since the presentation of the SWP to GSA Council in July. In addition to the below, I have also been getting prepared for the beginning of the regularly scheduled meetings of the many governance committees on which I represent the GSA (learning relevant background, etc) and have worked individually over the summer with several graduate students who have brought forward academic issues to me.

- In efforts to collaborate with professional development providers, and to continue our support of the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP), I arranged for representatives from the GSIP to attend the September meeting of GSA Council. In the past few months, I also met with representatives from the Career Centre, and from the Undergraduate Research Initiative. During these meetings, I continued to discuss the possibility of expanding networking and mentorship opportunities for graduate students, in order to improve mentorship skills and to allow graduate students to develop broader networks within the University and with external partners (*in-progress*).
- I have been focused on communicating the importance of monitoring the frequency of supervisory committee meetings to ensure that graduate students benefit from the required amount of contact with their supervisory committees. I have discussed with the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) the idea of incorporating a way to record supervisory committee meetings as important milestones in the new online platform that the FGSR is working to create. This online platform will also be used to track awards, candidacy exam information, information from students' transcripts, etc. (*in-progress*).
- Following discussions with the Interim Dean of the FGSR, the topic of graduate student exam deferrals will be discussed this fall during upcoming FGSR Council Policy Review Committee meetings. While I have learned that graduate students are covered by the University's exam deferral policies and processes in cases of unexpected emergencies, I will be encouraging the FGSR to make it clear in their policies or communications that these regulations also apply to graduate students (*in-progress*).
- In response to some graduate students bringing to my attention concerns about the scheduling of graduate courses during evenings and weekends or last-minute changes in scheduling, I will be meeting with my delegate on the General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee (GFC ASC) to discuss bringing these concerns forward to the University (*in-progress*).
- I have been attending University of Alberta International (UAI) workshops regarding permanent residency (PR) to continue to learn about recent changes, criteria, and pathways for graduate students applying for PR, and to bring forward questions or concerns from graduate students, including the potential impact of leaves on eligibility for Post-Graduate Work Permits, and how the length of programs can also impact eligibility for these permits (*in-progress*).

Additionally, in the upcoming months, I will be brainstorming ways to gather data on graduate students' experiences with supervisory committee meetings, and discussing with the Interim Dean of the FGSR the perceived lack of course offerings during the Spring/Summer, which was a concern I heard from some graduate students during the General Election.

Sincerely,

Masoud Aliramezani, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President Academic



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

4 October 2018

This report includes my updates from the internal task list for the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The following are projects that I have initiated in the past few months since the presentation of the SWP to GSA Council in July.

- First, over the summer, I finalized discussions with the SU and Residence Associations concerning the collection of Residence Association fees and clarified that, following a survey that the GSA Board ran in 2017-2018 within graduate residences, the GSA will not collect these fees (*completed*).
- I attended the most recent ThinkGrad conference in Winnipeg, where I was able to connect with other student leaders from across Canada to discuss a range of issues, including non-mandatory student association membership, supports for student parents, online engagement, Indigenous graduate students, students' rights, and paid leaves (*completed*).
- Along with Sasha, and in keeping with the non-partisan nature of the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC), I have continued participating in ab-GPAC's ongoing meetings with representatives of Albertan political parties (*in-progress*).
- I have participated in initial conversations with Alberta Student Aid regarding potential upcoming changes to Alberta awards and scholarships (*completed*).
- In anticipation of working proactively to support graduate students living in residence, I have been working to establish relationships with Residence Services and members of residence-focused committees (*in-progress*).
- As Sasha reports, we have been working with ab-GPAC on developing its three priorities for 2018-2019. I am participating in developing ab-GPAC's tuition and fees policy (*in-progress*).

Additionally, in the upcoming months I will be focused on participating in consultations for housing for students who parent, as well as consultations with Michener Park residents concerning the structure's closure and the University's transition plan for residents, and whether campus family housing will be an institutional priority. In pursuit of campus safety initiatives, I will be meeting with the Safe Walk Director to learn more about how their service operates. Finally, in my role as the Chair of the GSA Awards Selection Committee, I am looking forward to overseeing the upcoming adjudication of the Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award and the GSA Recognition Awards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zhihong Pan".

Zhihong Pan, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President External



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

4 October 2018

This report includes my updates from the internal task list for the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The following are projects that I have initiated in the past few months since the presentation of the SWP to GSA Council in July.

- Over the summer months, I have been working to improve transparency around graduate student pay issues and I will continue this work into the fall (*in-progress*).
- I have continued advocating for individual graduate students regarding interpretation of and compliance with the Collective Agreement. In addition to responding to approximately 15 email conversations with graduate students per week, since the beginning of my term I have met with approximately 5-6 graduate students per month, to assist with more complex issues (*in-progress*).
- In October, I will be hosting Collective Agreement 101 information sessions for academically-employed graduate students to help spread awareness about the provisions of the Collective Agreement (*in-progress*).
- Through my participation in the Campus and Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Working Group, we worked to solicit feedback from graduate students regarding campus safety issues and communicate these to University stakeholders through the circulation of a personal safety survey, and through arranging for the CFSS co-chairs to attend GSA Council in June. The final report from the CFSS Working Group was finalized in September and sent to the Vice-President (Finance and Administration), and Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) (*completed*).
- In conversations with the University concerning their work to develop a response to the new Tri-Council data research management proposals, I advocated for the protection of graduate students intellectual property rights in any new proposals (*completed*).
- I have continued consultations with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research regarding the supervisory training that is now required under the new Occupational Health and Safety Legislation, in order to ensure that it benefits graduate students and facilitates collegial working relationships with their supervisors (*in-progress*).

Additionally, in the upcoming months, I will be focused on collaborating with appropriate parties regarding hosting a spring safety event (which we may use to discuss the new Occupational Health and Safety Legislation, to parallel the work with the FGSR on supervisor training). I remain, with the support of the GSA Negotiating Team, actively involved in negotiations with the University for the new Collective Agreement; once negotiations have completed I will be following up with the University regarding their previous agreement to initiate paystub format education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beth Richardson'.

Beth Richardson, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President Labour



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

4 October 2018

This report includes my updates from the internal task list for the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The following are projects that I have initiated in the past few months since the presentation of the SWP to GSA Council in July.

- I have been taking all opportunities to discuss mental wellness with various stakeholders on campus, and participated in the Healthy Campus Alberta Summit over the summer at the University of Calgary. In addition, in October, I will be attending the Canadian Mental Health Association Conference, along with the Students' Union Vice-President Student Life, to learn more about post-secondary institutions' role in supporting mentally healthy campuses (*in-progress*).
- The University's policies on cannabis are currently being developed/implemented. As the Vice-President Student Services, I participated in the Cannabis Advisory Group's work to finalize a series of recommendations that were submitted to the University, and which will be used to shape the final policies (*completed*).
- In weighing opportunities to improve GSA services, and in response to a request for a GSA Council member, we explored the feasibility of adding Occupational Therapy services to the GSA Health and Dental Plan, and put forward a proposal to GSA Council in September (*completed*).
- I remain involved in continued work with the Days of Action Committee on developing their events to promote mental wellness. In September, for World Suicide Prevention Day, the GSA was lit up purple, and purple glow bands were distributed at the GSA office. This committee is also working on creating a communications plan to reach out to students across campus (*in-progress*).
- I met with representatives from the Academic Success Centre and determined that the GSA subsidy this year would be used to initiate a new workshop that will help graduate students learn how to structure their thesis, and about the corpus analysis method (*completed*).
- I continue to participate in working groups to discuss the creation of new all-gender and family washrooms, to ensure they are located in key areas across campus, including the renovations to the Van Vliet change rooms (*in-progress*).
- In working to ensure that students' culture and/or religious requirements are appropriately accommodated, and following conversations with the Dean of Students, Campus & Community Recreation circulated a survey to explore the possibility of offering gender-specific swim times. This survey was circulated through the GSA newsletter to all graduate students (*in-progress*).
- In consultation with the GSA office team, we strategized ways to enhance the promotion of the GSA's services through various communication platforms, and developed 101 sessions on topics such as GSA funding opportunities which we will be hosting throughout the year (*completed*). I also continue to be involved in ongoing efforts to ensure effective communication with our members (*in-progress*).
- Following a meeting in June with the Students' Union and the Alumni Association regarding their new Switchboard tool, which is a free online tool to connect students with fellow alumni, students, faculty, and staff, we advertised this resource in the GSA newsletter, and I also invited them to attend the October meeting of GSA Council to connect with graduate students (*completed*).

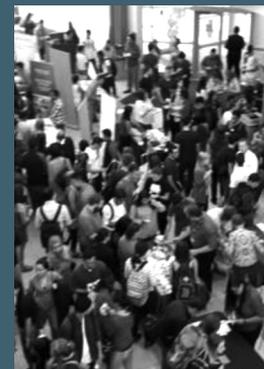
Additionally, in the upcoming months, I will be focused on advocating for the continuation and enhancement of dedicated funding from the University and the government to support mental health services on campus (with respect to government funding, I will work in consultation with Sasha and Zhihong as they serve on the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council) and communicating with partners across the University the impact that student/supervisor relationships can have on students' mental health, particularly through my participation with the Board Safety, Health, and Environment Committee.

Sincerely,

Fahed Elian, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President Student Services

The Graduate Students' Association Board Strategic Work Plan 2018-2019

Foster
Support
Advocate
Connect



Our Vision and Mission

To advocate for all graduate students to the University of Alberta and the Alberta Government for a safe, supportive, respectful, accessible, and inclusive community that fosters the multi-faceted roles played by graduate students.



WHAT IS THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION?

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA), as mandated by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, represents graduate students at the University of Alberta. The GSA, as a separate corporation, is both a part of the University of Alberta and apart from the institution. The GSA Board believes that a healthy organization is nurtured through effective relationships with all stakeholders. To sustain the organization's long-term health and excellent reputation, the GSA fosters a culture of respect and professionalism among staff and graduate student leaders, engages in regular review of governance processes, and ensures an annual transition process that facilitates the on-going education of elected graduate student leaders.

WHAT IS A GRADUATE STUDENT?

A graduate student is a junior colleague who contributes to their field of study in pursuit of an advanced degree through collaborative work with the professoriate in research, teaching, and the development of University learning environments. These contributions may be accomplished through: extensive coursework, for which graduate students pay tuition; academic employment, for which graduate students are paid; the co-creation and writing of scholarly work; the securing of academic funding; presentations, conferences, and community engagement; and capstone projects, theses, or dissertations. This multi-faceted position takes place in an environment of mutual respect and fairness aimed at developing skills and knowledge for future careers and is one that provides appropriate remuneration for labour in service of the enhancement of the institution.

WHAT IS THE GSA BOARD'S STRATEGIC WORK PLAN?

The GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan is the document that steers and prioritizes the work and initiatives of the GSA. The GSA sees this as a living document, shifting directions as needed as the provincial, federal, and University landscapes change. It is developed annually with reference to the Strategic Work Plans of previous GSA Boards, and provides a planning document for this and future years.



Graduate students elect GSA leaders each February. Here are the 2018-2019 GSA Directly-Elected Officers (from left to right): Vice-President Academic, Masoud Aliramezani; Vice-President Student Services, Fahed Elian; President, Sasha van der Klein; Vice-President Labour, Beth Richardson; and Vice-President External, Zhihong Pan.

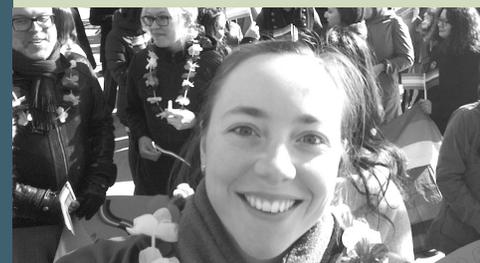
Our Goals

Foster a welcoming environment and an equitable, sustainable, safe, and healthy campus.

The GSA values the contributions and diversity of graduate students and fosters a culture of inclusion and acceptance. The GSA will work to sustain a respectful, supportive, and welcoming environment for all graduate students, (including Indigenous graduate students, international graduate students, and graduate students who parent, among others), and will further sustain working relationships with stakeholders to ensure an inclusive campus free from discrimination; one that offers support for graduate students in diverse circumstances and with diverse needs.

The GSA will advocate for and support:

- Initiatives and programs that specifically support Indigenous and international graduate students.
- Leadership in environmental sustainability.
- Review and improvement of safety and security on campus.
- Campus-wide health and wellness initiatives.



Support graduate students by working with the University and government to ensure affordable tuition, cost-effective housing, and food security, and to provide access to financial means to empower graduate students to complete their programs.

The GSA advocates for:

- Guaranteed, transparent and sustainable funding packages that support a reasonable standard of living for all thesis-based graduate students for the duration of their programs.
- Greater financial supports for all graduate students, including higher compensation for assistantships, increased merit based and non-merit based financial support (as well as greater accessibility to these supports), and increases to the Graduate Student Support Fund.
- A predictable tuition model that ties graduate student tuition increases (for both domestic and international graduate students) to the Alberta Consumer Index.
- Sustainable, affordable, and well-maintained graduate student housing (for individuals and families).
- Enhanced resources and supports for graduate students who parent, and their families.
- Implementation of initiatives to prevent homelessness, improve (mental) wellness, and enhance supports for graduate students with dependents.

Did you know?

The GSA offers:

- GSA Emergency Bursaries
- GSA Child Care Grants
- GSA Academic Travel Grants
- GSA Graduate Student Group Grants
- GSA Recognition Awards
- GSA Health and Dental Plan
- Graduate Student Assistance Program
- Collective Agreement Advice

Graduate education plays an important role in a prosperous society. Graduate students' success is dependent upon access to sustainable and appropriately sized funding packages and predictable expenses for the duration of their programs. A lack of sustainable graduate student funding and unpredictable increases in educational costs create significant strain on graduate students' health and wellness and can lead to increased drop-out rates.

In furtherance of the goal of supporting graduate students, the GSA will continue to support the Campus Food Bank, as well as workshops and services that assist graduate students with their academic progress. Additionally, the GSA will assist graduate students living in residences, and their Residence Associations, to ensure safe living conditions and excellent services.



Advocate for a supportive learning and work environment based on respectful and professional relationships, and for compliance with the GSA's Collective Agreement (CA) governing graduate student assistantships.

Graduate student success relies on quality education and quality supervision throughout a degree program. In addition, professional development opportunities for graduate students are essential for future career success. Furthermore, all graduate students are entitled to a safe and respectful study and work environment, free from harassment, discrimination, and bullying; the GSA is dedicated to working toward this. With specific reference to academically-employed graduate students, the CA negotiated by the GSA is a legally binding document between the GSA and the University of Alberta Board of Governors that outlines expectations for fair compensation and a healthy work environment and the GSA is committed to ensuring campus-wide compliance with its provisions.

The GSA will:

- Advocate for high-quality graduate-level programs and courses and opportunities to provide graduate students with international research and study opportunities.
- Collaborate with and advocate to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and senior University administrators to make quality graduate student supervision an institutional priority (including creating an accountability structure for supervisory evaluation and establishing a means of safe disclosure and reporting of concerning supervisory behaviour).

Did you know?

The GSA:

- meets regularly with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Dean of Students
- is a member of the provincial advocacy group the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council
- has seats on the Board of Governors, the General Faculties Council, and their sub-committees
- works individually with students to help them

The GSA will:

- Support and collaborate with partners and stakeholders with respect to the establishment of a variety of high-quality professional development and internship opportunities in recognition of the diverse future career paths ahead of graduate students.
- Support and advocate for graduate students with CA issues and ensure University-wide awareness of and compliance with the CA while highlighting that, as per the *Labour Relations Code*, the GSA is a “trade union for the purposes of acting as bargaining agent for the academically employed graduate students” at the University.
- Provide guidance to graduate students experiencing issues outside the scope of the CA and aid them in navigating University processes and structures.



Connect

with GSA stakeholders to support graduate student success and build connections between graduate students and the GSA.

Relationship building is key to the mission of the GSA to create a common vision of excellence in graduate education at the University, as well as across Alberta and Canada.

The GSA will reinforce strong relationships with:

- Key players of the Government of Alberta (such as the Minister of Advanced Education).
- Members of senior University Administration (such as the University's President, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), the Dean of Students, the Chair of the Board of Governors, and the Chancellor).
- Other campus stakeholder associations (such as the Students' Union, the Association of Academic Staff, University of Alberta, the Postdoctoral Fellows' Association, and the Non-Academic Staff Association).

Did you know?

The GSA has:

- graduate student lounges at Triffo Hall
- rooms available for booking
- several fun events per year
- two large orientations specific to graduate students and participates in 40-45 departmental orientations
- a weekly newsletter, website, and social media profiles that highlight events and ways to get involved

Relationship building between the GSA and its members is also pivotal to foster a strong basis for our mission and vision of advocacy. The GSA will create opportunities for graduate student awareness of and engagement with the GSA by:

- Exploring and utilizing effective communication methods.
- Offering orientation sessions and 101s on key issues.
- Offering engagement and celebratory events.
- Maintaining involvement in discussions concerning dedicated graduate student social space.
- Supporting and connecting with departmental graduate student groups and networks.



Events:

GSA Fall Orientation	Late August
GSA Fall Event	Early October
GSA Winter Orientation	Early January
GSA Winter Event	Mid February
GSA GSA General Election	Late February
GSA Volunteer Appreciation	Early March
GSA Awards Night	Late March
GSA Coffee Breaks	One Friday Monthly



Come visit us at
The Graduate Students' Association
1-49 Triffo Hall
University of Alberta
T6G 2E1

780-492-2175
gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca

www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
DEPUTY SPEAKER (ONE (1) POSITION)
TWO (2) NOMINEES

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, “[the GSA NoC] will open nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO on or about May 1 of every year by email to every graduate student” and “nominations [...] will be submitted in writing to the GSA NoC by May 30 or the next following working day” (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Council-Elected Officers, Sections D.BYL.3.1.b and D.BYL.3.1.c). This position was first filled following the June 2018 meeting of GSA Council, but was then vacated as of July 2018. Information regarding this position was circulated in the GSA newsletters of 28 September and 4 October 2018 with a nomination deadline of 10 October 2018. Two (2) nominations were received.

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 15 October 2018 GSA Council meeting to elect the Deputy Speaker for 2018-2019.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 15 October 2018 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 15 October 2018 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

GSA Deputy Speaker

1. Raji Chokkalingam (Internetworking)
2. Christie Li (Medical Genetics)

Jurisdiction:

Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.1.d

“The GSA NoC will follow its legislated process in forwarding one or more nominations to GSA Council except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process specifies that all vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline.”

Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.3.2.a

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

Biographies and brief resumes of the two (2) nominees for Deputy Speaker are ATTACHED on pages 11.2 - 11.5. Biographies and brief resumes have been attached as received (ie not edited).

Biographies and Resumes of Nominees

GSA DEPUTY SPEAKER

Qualifications as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, D.POL.12

D.POL.12.4.a “The Speaker must have a good working knowledge of the GSA, its structure, and its governing documents.”

Duties as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, D.BYL.3

D.BYL.3.3.c “The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of GSA Council.”

D.BYL.3.3.d “Duties of the Deputy Speaker and DRO are to assist the Speaker and CRO as needed.”

Duties as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, D.POL.12

D.POL.12.1 “Duties

D.POL.12.1.a The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of GSA Council and for “[acting] in a neutral capacity and [maintaining] order and decorum in GSA Council so that GSA Council can conduct its business in a fully-informed, fair fashion” (Standing Orders of GSA Council, Role of Speaker).

D.POL.12.1.b The Speaker is responsible for dealing with any breaches of confidentiality arising in GSA Council (see Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council).

D.POL.12.1.c The Speaker will see that an agenda package is prepared for all meetings of GSA Council.

D.POL.12.1.d The Speaker is ultimately responsible for review of the Minutes of meetings of GSA Council prior to their being distributed to GSA Council for approval.

D.POL.12.1.e The Speaker is responsible for tracking attendance at meetings of GSA Council (see Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, GSA Council Attendance).

D.POL.12.1.f The Speaker oversees the archiving of the official copies of the GSA’s governing documents and is responsible for ensuring that up-to-date copies thereof are available to members on the GSA website.

D.POL.12.1.g The position of Speaker totals approximately two (2) hours per week on average, except for weeks where there is a GSA Council meeting, in which case there is an average of approximately five (5) hours.

D.POL.12.2 Duties of the Deputy Speaker

D.POL.12.2.a As per Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, D.BYL.3.3.d, the “duties of the Deputy Speaker [...] are to assist the Speaker [...] as needed.”

D.POL.12.2 Restrictions

D.POL.12.3.a The Speaker and Deputy Speaker may not act in any other representative position for the GSA except as provided for in GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy.

D.POL.12.3.b The Speaker and Deputy Speaker will not campaign for or endorse any candidate or team whatsoever in a GSA General Election or By-Election (see Section I: Elections, GSA Bylaw, Elections, Section I.BYL.5.4).

**Nominations for GSA Deputy Speaker
(1 Vacancy for Graduate Students)
Two (2) Nominees**

1. Raji Chokkalingam

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	None
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Statement of Interest: Briefly explain how your skills and experience would be an asset to your work in this position.

I firmly believe being part of the UAlberta's GSA will bring my skills to the fore. I have been a member and coordinator for department level associations during my undergraduate studies in India viz. EEEA (Electrical and Electronic Engineers Association) and the Rotaract club. The associations all had one mandate, i.e., representing students' interests while adhering to the vision of the associations and I was unassumingly good at it.

After moving to Canada in 2014, I became a member of Toastmasters International to improve my leadership skills, which genuinely was helpful in transforming my communication abilities. I have won the best speaker award/ribbon for ten times consecutively, which I think is a fitting testament to my leadership communication abilities. While doing the above, I had also managed small teams at my work, wherein I was required to balance the team's interests and the work output/ project goals.

If given an opportunity, I am confident that I will effectively perform my duties as a deputy speaker of the GSA.

Bio: A brief description of yourself and your background.

As I have mentioned earlier, I am an M.Sc. Internetworking graduate student. I had my electrical engineering degree from India and worked as a Systems Executive for a couple of years with a multinational IT solutions provider before moving to Calgary in 2014. I worked for Shaw Communications as a Technical Support Representative between 2014 and 2016, where I troubleshoot network issues based on customer complaints.

Since last year, I am a busy mother too, who aspires to work in the high-tech industry here in Canada and actively participate in community development initiatives.

Summary Resume: A brief description of your academic, professional, and volunteer work as it pertains to this position.

Professional Skills summary

- Worked extensively on Level 2 and Level 3 IT infrastructure support for U.S and Canadian clients.
- Familiar with ITIL- process model, V3 processes and functions.

- Supported application teams with Python scripts and SQL programming during deployment phase.
- Experience in working with telecommunication industry application software – CBS & ComX.
- Exposure to .NET and Java based application - support, deployment and architecture.
- Managed small teams and project costs, while delivering quality technical services.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

M.Sc. Internetworking **Sep 2018 - Present**
University of Alberta, Canada.

ITIL Foundation Certificate (License # 5366731.20401776) **May 2015**

Bachelor of Engineering **Aug 2007- May 2011**
(Electrical & Electronics Engineering-Graduated with First Class.)
Anna University, India.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Member of Toastmasters International (Bedstone Olympics Toastmasters, 2016 – Present).
- Huntington Hills Community Center volunteer (2016 – 2017).
- Rotaract Club of Chennai – volunteer for blood donation campaigns (2009 – 2011)
- Former member of the EEEA & Synchron Committee at MNM Jain College (Anna University, 2008 - 2011).

2. Christie Li

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	
Statement of Interest	
<p>I would be an asset working in this position because of my leadership skills and my genuine willingness to connect with my peers. I have always been very passionate about advocating for my peers. I have served on the Mayor's Youth Council in high school engaging youths and voicing their concerns around the city. In undergraduate, I served as an elected member of the Students Society of McGill University serving as Science Representative acting as a liaison between students in the Faculty of Science and the University Council. I have good communication skills and I really care about my peers. I also like to be informed of issues around me which is hard being a graduate student and so focused on your work. Personally I find the student services that the GSA offers extremely beneficial to me this past year transitioning into graduate school, I want to reciprocate the care and support I received from the vice president and help reach out to more students on campus.</p>	
Bio	
<p>I am a first year Master of Science student in Medical Genetics. I did my undergraduate degree in Anatomy and Cell Biology. I have always been very dedicated to the community around me. In high school, I participated in Mayor's Youth Council. I volunteer a lot on my free time. This past year, I have had a really difficult time transitioning into graduate studies. I feel very supported by the people around me including Madame Speaker and the VP Student Services who happens to be in our department whom I was able to relate to and who feels very passionate about issues facing students. That really made a difference in my life. I want to contribute to council which will in turn help more clueless students like myself. In addition, because I am from an immigrant family, I feel I can really relate to the many international students that comprises of the student body, as well as the domestic students. I want to understand and help deal with issues facing both cohorts.</p>	
Summary Resume	
<p>I have been involved in various leadership roles throughout undergrad</p> <p>Let's Talk Science Volunteer(October 2018-Present) Let's Talk Science University of Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help facilitate entertaining and interactive demonstrations with the aim to disseminate basic science principals to school-age children in the community <p>Faculty of Science Representative in SSMU (September 2014-August 2015) McGill University Science Undergraduate Society, Montreal QC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a liaison between the Faculty of Science student council and SSMU council • Voice issues of importance to science students as well as reflected concerns of science 	

students to the university SSMU council

- Participate in legislative debate during SSMU legislative council meeting

Vice President of Financial Operations(September 2013-June 2016)

McGill Students Friends of Medecins Sans Frontieres, Montreal QC

- Document and transcribe executive meeting minutes
- Oversee all financial operations of the club to ensure long-term financial sustainability of the club such as cash transactions during events, billing, receipting, reimbursement, preparing funding applications, and developing club and event budget
- Handle bank deposits
- Maintain a comprehensive list of club expenses via the creation of a Club Expenditure Tracking System
- Complete and submit bi-annual audit reports to Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU)
- Work with executive members in the club in planning and organizing club events and activities

Vice President of Communications(September 2013-June 2016)

McGill Table Tennis Club, Montreal QC

- Relay information regarding club events to club members via social media platforms as well as listserv emails
- Promote club activities to club members and the general student body thereby increasing the club's presence on campus via various forms of media
- Collaborate with executive members in planning and organizing major tournaments and fundraising activities

Mayor's Youth Council(September 2011-June 2012)

Youth Central

- Engage in political issues and issues facing youth engagement

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
**GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (GSA ACB) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A DEPARTMENTAL COUNCILLOR):
 ONE (1) NOMINEE**

Information regarding the position for one (1) Departmental Councillor was circulated on two (2) instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 9 October 2018. One (1) nomination was received. The nominee was then interviewed by GSA NoC Vice-Chair Kenzie Gordon and GSA NoC member Dylan Ashley, both of whom have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. GSA Associate Director Julie Tanguay was also present for the interview. During the interview, the nominee was asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB receive training in procedural fairness).

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 15 October 2018 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 15 October 2018, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 15 October 2018 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

GSA ACB Election by GSA Council: GSA Nominating Committee Procedures

Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name and will be presented in *reverse alphabetical* order on the ballot.

1. **Samantha Wesch (Women and Gender Studies)**

The Ballot

- There will be one ballot with candidates listed in reverse alphabetical order.
- For each candidate, there will be a “yes” box and a “no” box.

Voting

- The voter ticks one box per candidate, or abstains by not voting for a particular candidate (both boxes are left empty).

Counting

- If a candidate has more “no” votes than “yes” votes, the candidate is eliminated.
- If after the elimination round, there are **fewer candidate(s) or an equal number of candidates as there are positions**, the candidate(s) with at least one “yes” vote is/are successful.
- If after the elimination round, there are **more candidates than positions**, the candidates with the highest number of “yes” votes, equivalent to the number of positions, are the successful candidates.
- If, after the elimination round, there is a **tie for last place** in the number of “yes” votes, the candidate with the fewest number of “no” votes is successful. If the tied vote has the same number of both “yes” and “no” votes, the Speaker will draw one (1) name from a hat.

Jurisdiction:

Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.8.1.b
“Four (4) Departmental Councillors, alternates, or recent former Departmental Councillors, elected by GSA Council as voting members.”

Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.10.4
“The GSA NoC will interview all nominees to the GSA ACB and forward selected nominees to GSA Council.”

The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee is BELOW on pages 11.7 - 11.8. The biography and brief resume is presented as received (ie not edited).

Nomination for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB)
(1 Vacancy for a GSA Councillor/Alternate)
One (1) Nominee

1. Samantha Wesch

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	Department Councillor - GSA Council
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Statement of Interest
<p>My education in ethics and women’s studies will help me to be able to remain neutral, act impartially, and think independently when evaluating appeals and complaints submitted to the board. Studying ethics has taught me to think analytically and to be confident in my own decision making. My education in women’s studies will help me apply my understanding of intersectionality and implicit bias into making decisions and evaluating the appeals and complaints. My education and work experience has made me confident in my abilities to withhold assumptions, be conscious of my own implicit bias and strategies to resist these problematic assumptions, and to think through complicated decision-making processes.</p>
Bio
<p>I was born in Calgary in 1994 and grew up in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, and moved to Edmonton in 2012. After I completed a BA (hons) in Philosophy specializing in Ethics at the University of Alberta, I studied at the University of Toronto and obtained an MA in Philosophy specializing in Ethics. I then returned to Edmonton and began working towards an MA in Gender and Social Justice. While in my undergrad, I became involved in research, earning a Roger S. Smith Research Award for my work on ethics and representations of the Holocaust (which was recently published in <i>Feminist Philosophy Quarterly</i>). I acted as an Arts Advisor on the Undergraduate Research Initiative’s (URI) journal <i>Spectrum</i> and mentored other undergraduates interested in research in the Humanities and Social Sciences. While at the University of Toronto, I was a Graduate Associate with the Centre for Ethics and a member of the University’s Women’s Caucus. Since returning to Edmonton, I have contributed regularly to Open Court’s Philosophy and Popular Culture Series as well as worked as a research assistant on a SSCHR funded project with Dr Michelle Meagher and on an international conference on the recent “Hypatia Controversy” and the ethics of responding to controversy with Dr Chloe Taylor.</p>

I am a subject matter expert on gender-based violence. Currently, I work as a contract research for the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) as the primary research for their #LiftHerUp Campaign, aimed at addressing violence against women involved in Alberta politics. I also work in the Violence Against Women and Girls Unit at the Ministry of the Status of Women within the Government of Alberta. I am currently the primary organizer of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and a supporting organizer of the UN Women Safe Cities Global Forum. I was awarded a CGS-Masters scholarship and Walter H. Johns Research Fellowship for my current research on Eminem and white working-class masculinity in the Trump era.

My hobbies include long distance running, dance, camping, writing fiction and creative nonfiction. I am passionate about ending homelessness, food insecurity, and violence against women and girls, having volunteered with the Campus Foodbank and the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre.

Summary Resume

I am a second-year MA student in Gender and Social Justice currently working on a thesis exploring the relationship between domestic violence and white working-class masculinity through a focus cultural significance of the rap artist Eminem. I work with Dr Michelle Meagher, a Cultural Studies Theorist with an expertise in Class Studies. I currently work as a research specializing in gender-based violence for both the Alberta Council of Women Shelters and the Violence against Women and Girls Unit in the Ministry of the Status of Women. I have published on the history of ethics, representation of the Holocaust and the uses of humour to resist violence against women in politics. I am free at the time of this committee.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
**GSA AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE (GSA ASC) (TWO (2) POSITIONS):
 FOUR (4) NOMINEES**

Information regarding the positions for two (2) graduate students was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 10 October 2018. Four (4) nominations were received.

The GSA ASC is “responsible for selecting the recipients of the GSA Council-approved GSA Recognition Awards and the Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Awards Selection Committee, Section O.POL.5.1).

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 15 October 2018 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 15 October 2018 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 15 October 2018, in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

- 1. Abubakar Sadiq Abdulkadir (History and Classics)**
- 2. Brent Constantine (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)**
- 3. Prashanth Karupothula (Mechanical Engineering)**
- 4. Ambuj Punia (Mechanical Engineering)**

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Awards Selection Committee, Section O.POL.3.3

“A minimum of eight (8) and up to twelve (12) graduate student members-elected by GSA Council as voting members. The GSA ASC Chair, in consultation with the GSA ASC Vice-Chair and the Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee, can decide to increase the number of graduate student members on the GSA ASC.”

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 four (4) nominees are BELOW on pages 11.10 - 11.14. The biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).

Nomination for GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)
(2 Vacancies for Graduate Students)
Four (4) Nominees

1. Abubakar Sadiq Abulkadir

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	N/A
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Statement of Interest

I have won several awards and scholarships. These awards and scholarships include Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, State of Kuwait Scholarship for Islamic Studies (University of Alberta), Lisa Maskell PhD Fellowship (Gerda-Henkel Stiftung, Germany - declined), National Institute of Humanities and Social Science (NIHSS) and CODESRIA PhD Fellowship (South Africa - Declined), National Research Foundation Innovation Masters Scholarship (South Africa). I have also won the Dean of Humanities Award for Outstanding Achievement and the Chancellor's Medal for Most Meritorious Master's Study both at the University of Johannesburg. All of these awards and scholarships were as a result of my academic standing. Furthermore, the scholarships are proofs of sound and well-prepared applications. I believe that the processes of putting together successful scholarship and grant applications have given me ample knowledge and the requisite skills and experience needed to make me a suitable candidate to occupy a position that reviews and adjudicates awards.

Bio

Born and raised in Nigeria, Abubakar obtained an Advanced Diploma in Arabic in Damascus, BA (Hons) and MA degrees in Semitic Languages and Cultures from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. He is presently a PhD student in the Department of History and Classics. His research project is on the use of poetry as a medium of intellectual expression. He worked as a researcher in the Department of Religious Studies and the Toumbouctu Manuscripts Project - Institute of Humanities for Africa, both at the University of Cape Town. While studying for his BA and MA, he volunteered in teaching Arabic and translating voluminous texts of Qur'an exegesis and Islamic jurisprudence for graduate students in his former department of Religion Studies at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. He has also taught courses on History and Religion at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Presently, Abubakar teaches beginner and advanced levels texts of Arabic literature in a volunteer capacity. At the UofA, Abubakar is a member of the History and Classics Truth and Reconciliation Commission (HCTRC) Committee. Abubakar speaks, writes and understands several languages such as Igala, Arabic, Wolof, Hausa and Yoruba and has travelled extensively.

Summary Resume

I obtained a diploma and degrees in the field of language. I have worked as a researcher on ancient manuscripts at different research institutes such as the Institute of Humanities for Africa (HUMA), Cape Town. I have also worked and collaborated with students and scholars in History, Religious Studies and African Studies in different parts of the world such as South Africa, Germany, and United States. My research collaboration, intellectual support and contributions have resulted in publication of articles and books. I have translated and still translate classical Arabic texts. I have taught in South Africa and still teach Arabic language to students in Canada in a volunteer capacity. I have supported scholars in analyzing and examining scholarly Arabic manuscripts from the great libraries of Timbuktu and other parts of West Africa. After successfully winning several scholarships and awards, I have become a go-to person in guiding students the rudiments of writing scholarship/grants proposals. Some of them have successfully won some important scholarships. I hope that the above are relevant and useful 'recipes' for membership of the GSA Awards Selection Committee.

2. Brent Constantin

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	N/A
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Statement of Interest

I have an interest and background in post-secondary governance as well as not-for-profits and I believe my experience may be useful to the GSA and allow me to connect with the wider school.

Bio

I was born in Edmonton and graduated from NAIT in 2009, spending two years as president of the Students' Association, serving on a variety of boards (including the awards committee for three years and the election committee on my final year) as well as serving as the communications director of what was then ACTISEC (now ASEC). I finished my undergrad in communications at the University of Calgary in 2011, where I served on a number of funding boards (awards and special money allocation) as well as working with and for the student paper/radio/television and a variety of clubs positions.

Summary Resume

In addition to the above experience I've worked in post-secondary since my time at NAIT (in first-year-experience) and BCIT (Alumni and Development office). I've also worked in government, as a journalist and as a performer. For the past two years I've worked part time at UBC while opening and managing a not-for-profit theatre in Vancouver. I'm at UAlberta to complete my masters in urban planning and learn more about city development with a focus on arts development. I'd really like to help out with the GSA but, just a month into my program, I'm not sure of my complete schedule so I thought these positions might work better.

3. Prashanth Karupothula

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	NO
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Statement of Interest

I have been a vice president during my school days and closely associated with teachers who act as judges for cultural activities. It may not be good requirement but I learned few skills from them. I worked as a Senior Financial Executive of the Films and media council(which constitutes of four different clubs), IIT Kanpur. During this, I constantly kept in touch with different student representatives to increase student participation. I have played an active role in enhancing the interaction between different clubs and was also responsible for handling the financial assets of the council for the academic year 2013-2014. I am also a volunteer at International Student Services.

Bio

I was born in rural part of Southern India. My mother tongue is Telugu. I have a good command in Hindi and English. I graduated with Bachelor's and Master's from IIT Kanpur. I worked at Reliance Industries Ltd. for about 1 and half year.

Summary Resume

Currently, I am pursuing my PhD in ESDLab under the supervision of Dr. Marc Secanell Gallart. My research is focused on developing numerical tools to design efficient cooling towers. Besides my academia and work, I like to meet new people and experience new cultures. In my remaining spare time, I involve myself in reading some history books and play volley ball.

4. Ambuj Punia

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	NA
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Statement of Interest

As a student of engineering background, I want to make sure that the fund goes to the person deserving the same. I have taken some positions as financial secretary for the organisation of a technical event during my masters and as the technical secretary for organising the technical fest during my Bachelors. The experience which I got in these events helped me in managing the allocation and organise an event better. For the present position, a student needs to have a broad overview of the technical knowledge and also the financial estimation of what is being asked for. If given a chance I would definitely prove to be an asset to the committee.

Bio

I am Ambuj Punia, working as a PhD student at Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Alberta. My origin goes back to India, where I did my Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering. After my bachelors I did worked in Trident India Limited as a shift engineer for boiler erection and commissioning for a duration of above a year. With a profound interest in research I left my job and joined Indian Institute of Technology to pursue my Masters in Solar Energy Systems. After my masters, worked as a Research Assistant for a duration of 6 months at Indian Institute of Science Bangalore until I got an opportunity to start my PhD since January 2018. Apart from academics, I have an interest in playing badminton, chess and guitar. Overall, I am an honest, industrious and analytical person with an urge to learn new things at each stage of life.

Summary Resume

As of now I am working as a graduate student under prof. Marc Secanell pursuing my PhD since Jan 2018. Taking in terms of my academic potential pertaining to the current position, I have taken part in various technical fest across India and have achieved first position during my bachelors. With the analytical experience during my job I have, I can easily spot a bottleneck from where we can directly look for the solution to the problem. This type of experience can be useful in evaluating the applications. Also as the committee will be keeping in mind sustainable energy, which I am passionate about and have a masters degree in, I can give valuable feedback to the committee which will help in granting of application and funds.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
**GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC) (ONE (1) GRADUATE STUDENT POSITION):
 THREE (3) NOMINEES**

Information regarding the positions for one (1) graduate student was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 10 October 2018. Three (3) nominations were received.

The GSA ERC “will advise the CRO on all matters pertaining to elections, referenda, and by-elections” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda, Section I.POL.20.1).

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 15 October 2018 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 15 October 2018 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 15 October 2018 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

- 1. Brent Constantin (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)**
- 2. Nashwan Naji (Biomedical Engineering)**
- 3. Siddharth Patel (Mechanical Engineering)**

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, Section I.POL.18.2

“A total of six (6) graduate student members, including at least one (1) member of GSA Council 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 11.16 – 11.18. The biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).

Nominations for GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
(1 Vacancy for A Graduate Student)
Three (3) Nominees

1. Brent Constantin

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	N/A
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Statement of Interest

I have an interest and background in post-secondary governance as well as not-for-profits and I believe my experience may be useful to the GSA and allow me to connect with the wider school.

Bio

I was born in Edmonton and graduated from NAIT in 2009, spending two years as president of the Students' Association, serving on a variety of boards (including the awards committee for three years and the election committee on my final year) as well as serving as the communications director of what was then ACTISEC (now ASEC). I finished my undergrad in communications at the University of Calgary in 2011, where I served on a number of funding boards (awards and special money allocation) as well as working with and for the student paper/radio/television and a variety of clubs positions.

Summary Resume

In addition to the above experience I've worked in post-secondary since my time at NAIT (in first-year-experience) and BCIT (Alumni and Development office). I've also worked in government, as a journalist and as a performer. For the past two years I've worked part time at UBC while opening and managing a not-for-profit theatre in Vancouver. I'm at UAlberta to complete my masters in urban planning and learn more about city development with a focus on arts development. I'd really like to help out with the GSA but, just a month into my program, I'm not sure of my complete schedule so I thought these positions might work better.

2. Nashwan Naji

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	None
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Statement of Interest

I have worked several times in election committees, twice for student unions and once for a community, during my MSc study in Turkey. I have an experience in organizing election events and got involved as well in few policy revision work. I believe my experience would be supportive to the election committee. Besides, I am interested in exploring election process and organization in UofA, as a different culture and community.

Bio

I am from Yemen, and I finished my undergraduate study there in Electronics Engineering. After graduation, I worked for a one year as a teaching assistant in the same department. Then, I moved to Turkey to pursue MSc program in Middle East Technical University, and attained the degree in September 2016. Late in 2017, I moved to University of Alberta to pursue my PhD study in Biomedical Engineering. I enjoy volunteering, travelling and photography.

Summary Resume

During the last two years of my undergraduate, I served as media officer in the student union of the faculty of Engineering, and launched an online forum for engineering students. In Turkey, I helped in establishing a union for Yemeni students in Ankara (2014), heading the election committee in the first electoral cycle. I volunteered also in many students subcommittees at the state level that provide guidance and welcoming to new arrivals. In 2017, I worked with other Yemenies in Ankara to initiate a community that gathers all Yemenies other than students.

I am now in the second year of my PhD study here in UofA, working within the research group of Dr. Wilman in developing magnetic resonance based techniques to assess metal accumulation in human brain. I speak English, Arabic and Turkish.

My schedule is flexible to join committee meetings.

3. Siddharth Patel

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	None
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Statement of Interest

I was part of the core committee of Mechanical Engineering Student's Society of Amity(MESSA) during my Bachelor's education. My work here included negotiating policies and needs of the department to the University after consultation with all the stakeholders. I believe the management experience which i gained here will help me contribute to the position I am applying for. Further, I was also part of the organising team of Amity Leadership Fest, which is an annual cultural, technical and education fest held at the Univerity every year. I directly managed the Sponcership team during this fest. The people skill which I gained during this will also help me contribute to my future role here at UofA.

Bio

I was born in Ahmedabad, India in a large family with many cousins. I am extremely fascinated by languages and can read, write and speak English, Hindi and Gujarati. I can also speak and understand Telugu and am curently learning German. My educational background is in Mechanical Engineering and am currently pursuing Masters in the same here at UofA. I love swimming and have won many Under-17 swimming competitions. Other than my technical background, I was part of many Extra-curricular groups, projects and activities during my Bachelors studies and hope to be active in the same way here at UofA.

Summary Resume

I am currently a second year student in the M.Engg(Mechanical Engineering) Program here at UofA. I have done many internships and projects in diverse industries, the most recent one as a summer intern with the Government of Albeta. Apart from the courses, I am also working on my capstone project this term in the field of Computational Fluid Dynamics. My current schedule is flexible enough for me to serve and contribute to the committees here at UofA.

**GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 12 October 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

The snow has fallen and fall term is definitely not the right word for this period of the year. Pre-winter suits it better I guess. I hope you all stay warm! I've been pretty busy over the past month, the summary below highlights the most important items.

External

ab-GPAC – We have finalized most of our communication materials for the meetings with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) we will be having. In these meetings we will inform MLAs about ab-GPAC's priorities and bring awareness around the role graduate students play in Alberta, and the value that their study brings. I also had a phone meeting with the Deans of the Faculties of Graduate Studies from various post-secondary institutions in Alberta to explain what ab-GPAC does and to talk about the importance of our advocacy efforts.

Board of Governors (BoG) Excursion to Residences – After a retreat with Mayor Don Iveson and the BoG, I joined the BoG in a tour around University residences. Part of the tour included Michener Park. During the tour, I advocated strongly for the need for affordable family housing, particularly for graduate students.

Alumni Cap 'n Gown Event – I participated in the ceremony during which graduates from 50 years ago relive their convocation and are honoured by the Alumni Association. It was a very happy event!

Internal

Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) – The two co-chairs of IGSA, Kristine Wray and Teddy Carter and I met with Kirk MacLeod, Board of Governors and alumnus of the U of A. We discussed the general issues Indigenous graduate students face and potential advocacy routes for the IGSA. In my regular meetings with Kristine and Teddy we are working together to advocate for reduced barriers and enhanced supports and representation for Indigenous graduate students (including the potential of adding a seat for an IGSA rep on our Council). If you'd like to know more, don't hesitate to contact Kristine, Teddy, or me!

GSA Board Strategic Work Plan – I presented our Strategic Work Plan to the Board Learning and Discovery Committee, after which the committee expressed their general support for our priority advocacy efforts this year (which includes the creation of guaranteed minimum funding packages and improvements to graduate student supervision).

FGSR – The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Committee has started its work. I met with our second grad student representative, Radim Barta, to review the process the Selection Committee will follow. If you have any suggestions about your preferred characteristics for the next Dean of FGSR, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Don't feel afraid to shoot me an email, or knock on my door in Triffo, I always like to hear from you!

Thanks,

Sasha van der Klein, GSA President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 September 2018 and 15 October 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 September	Dinner with D Stollery, U of A Chancellor
19 September	Board of Governors (BoG) Breakfast with the City of Edmonton
19 September	Board of Governors (BoG) Tour of U of A Residence and Teaching and Research Infrastructure
19 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Committee
20 September	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
20 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
21 September	Alumni Cap 'n Gown Ceremony
21 September	Meeting with the Students' Union (SU) re: Newton Place Residence Association
21 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Committee Town Hall
24 September	Phone Call re: Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)
24 September	Meeting with the GSA Senator re: Graduate Mentorship
24 September	Meeting with K Huisig, Ancillary Services Associate Vice-President
24 September	General Faculties Council (GFC) New Members Orientation
24 September	GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) Meeting
24 September	General Faculties Council (GFC)
24 September	Alumni Awards
25 September	Phone Call with R Larsen, Students' Union (SU) President
25 September	Joint Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs)
25 September	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
26 September	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
27 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) PhD Welcome Event
28 September	Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee (BRPAC)
28 September	Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC)
1 October	Meeting with N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
1 October	Farewell Event for L Collins, Vice-Provost and University Registrar
1 October	Physical Activity and Wellness Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)
1 October	Reception for H McCaw, Vice-President (Advancement)
2 October	Meeting with the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association
3 October	Meeting re: Graduate Student Professional Development Requirement
3 October	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
4 October	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
4 October	Meeting with Graduate Student Representative on Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Committee
4 October	Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
4 October	Meeting re: GSA/Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA) Research Day
4 October	GSA Fall Social Event
5 October	Albertan Graduate Studies Deans Presentation to Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)

12.2

9 October	Meeting with S Dew, Vice-President (Academic) and Provost
10 October	United Way Kick-Off Event
10 October	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
10 October	Celebrate Teaching and Learning Research Reception
11 October	President Turpin's State of the University Address
11 October	Board of Governors (BoG) Briefing Session
11 October	Board of Governors (BoG) Dinner
12 October	Board of Governors (BoG)
12 October	Board of Governors (BoG) Luncheon
12 October	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
15 October	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
15 October	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean

**GSA Board (GSAB)
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director; Julie Tanguay, Associate Director; and Lisa Hareuther, Assistant Director
Date: 12 October 2018

The GSAB reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, Motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. GSA Council members are always able to ask questions about items that were discussed in closed session. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The President, Vice-Presidents, and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 22 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 22.5 - 22.8.

19 September 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Attendance at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference, 6-8 November 2018, in Winnipeg, MB: Estimated Expense; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the estimated expense for two (2) representatives of the GSA to attend the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference, 6-9 November 2018 in Winnipeg, MB. ZP **MOVED**. BR Seconded. **CARRIED**.

26 September 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Graduate Student Groups; Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios and GSA Standing Committees; GSA Board Strategic Work Plan: Update to GSA Council; and Guide on the Supervisory Relationship for Graduate Students.

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and the addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. SvK **MOVED**. FE Seconded. **CARRIED**.

That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. SvK **MOVED**. ZP Seconded. **CARRIED**.

3 October 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Campus Food Bank; and GSA Tuition Advocacy Strategies.

Motions and Agreements: None at this time.

10 October 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Alumni Draft Proposal for a Student and Alumni Centre Space; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements: None at this time.

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 12 October 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

On 3 October, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) met to review the most recent quarterly report on the GSA's investments, and members of our ATB investment management team were on hand to answer questions; our investments are performing well. Members also discussed their work plan for the upcoming year, particularly with reference to the development of the GSA's 2019-2020 budget.

The next GSA BFC meeting will be held on 24 October to review the draft Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report, which will then be presented to GSA Council at its November meeting.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Sasha van der Klein, GSA President and Chair of the GSA BFC

**GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: 12 October 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA GC met on 24 September 2018 to review and recommend to GSA Council two separate proposals for changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy. The first proposal addresses administrative changes to GSA graduate student groups and the second proposal focuses on administrative changes to Section D: Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios and Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees. The proposal addressing GSA graduate student groups is before you now, and the proposed changes to Section D and Section F will be presented at the 19 November 2018 GSA Council meeting.

Additionally, at the 24 September 2018 GSA GC meeting, members discussed a series of editorial changes that will be brought forward to the GSA GC following the 19 November 2018 GSA Council meeting. One of the main components of these editorial changes will be to revise the tables at the beginning of each GSA policy, which outline the purpose, scope, related GSA Bylaw and Policy, and related forms so that they now apply to complete sections, rather than to isolated policies. Definitions that currently reside in GSA Bylaw and Policy will also be moved into these tables in order to streamline our governing documents and make them more user-friendly. As per the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)'s terms of reference, the GSA GC can "make any editorial changes (such as factual inaccuracies and other editorial issues) to the GSA governing documents as deemed necessary by the GSA GC" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.b). An update on these changes will be provided in the GSA GC's report to the November meeting of GSA Council.

Sincerely,

Sasha van der Klein, 2018-2019 GSA President and Chair of the GSA GC

**GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Masoud Aliramezani
Date: 12 October 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

In the past month, I have attended several meetings, and I am going to highlight some important ones in this report.

First, I want to let you know that I attended the Professional Development (PD) Advisory Board meeting, where we discussed the ongoing and the upcoming professional development programs and opportunities with different stakeholders from Alberta industries, the U of A Postdoctoral Fellows Association, the U of A Alumni Association, the Government of Alberta, Alberta Education, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA), Alberta Women Entrepreneurs, the Edmonton Public Library, and the City of Edmonton to better prepare graduate students for careers after they graduate. As you are aware, the Government of Alberta funding for PD will continue at least until March 2019 and it was made clear during the meeting that the Graduate Student Internship Program is very well received by the program partners. As an example, Alberta Education has hired 14 graduate student interns who worked on research files for the ministry. Additionally, I am currently in touch with stakeholders from the City of Edmonton to work on finding new paths and opportunities for graduate students to improve their professional development skills and experience.

Another important meeting that I attended was the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC). Firstly, the GSA proposed to outline in the University Calendar the exam deferral process for graduate students, to more effectively communicate to graduate students how they can arrange for an exam deferral if warranted. Secondly, the minimum International English Language Test System (IELTS) score requirement was also discussed. The committee decided to propose increasing the minimum IELTS score from 5 to 5.5 in order to be consistent with the undergraduate admission requirements as well as other Canadian universities. It should also be noted that many departments have already a higher minimum score admission requirement for IELTS.

I also met with the Undergraduate Research Initiatives (URI) Team Lead, Crystal Snyder to discuss mentorship opportunities for the graduate student through the URI programs. C Snyder will attend the 31 October GSA Board meetings to further discuss and investigate the most efficient ways to involve graduate students in undergraduate research projects. I will update you with the results of this meeting in my next report.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to an upcoming GSA survey on the frequency of supervisory committee meetings that will be sent on Friday, 19 October 2018 in the GSA newsletter. I strongly encourage you to participate in the survey to help us have a better understanding of the frequency of supervisory committee meetings and any departmental trends associated with their timing and frequency. Please also encourage your constituents to participate in this survey; it is very short and only takes 3-5 minutes!

Should you have any questions or comments about this report, please let me know, and I will be more than happy to answer. Please do not hesitate to share your suggestions or concerns regarding any academic-related issue you or anyone from your department may have.

Warm Regards,

Masoud Aliramezani, GSA Vice-President Academic

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 September 2018 and 15 October 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 September	Dinner with D Stollery, U of A Chancellor
19 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
20 September	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
20 September	GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
20 September	Departmental Orientation: Pharmacology
21 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Committee Town Hall
24 September	General Faculties Council (GFC) New Members Orientation
24 September	Meeting with the GSA Senator re: Graduate Mentorship
24 September	General Faculties Council (GFC)
25 September	Student Homelessness Meeting
25 September	Joint Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs)
27 September	University of Alberta Brand Perception Focus Group
28 September	University Research Policy Committee (URPC)
28 September	GSA Coffee Break
1 October	Professional Development Advisory Board
2 October	Provost's Council on International Initiatives (PCII)
3 October	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC)
4 October	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
4 October	Meeting re: GSA/Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA) Research Day
4 October	GSA Fall Social Event
12 October	Board of Governors (BoG) Luncheon
12 October	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
15 October	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
15 October	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
15 October	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC Exec)

**GSA Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Zhihong Pan
Date: 12 October 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

Welcome winter! I hope all is fine and you are doing well in these cold and cloudy days. Last month was a pretty busy one for my portfolio, and I will highlight important updates from the meetings I have attended.

Residence Related Meetings

During the last month, I have participated in several meetings related to residence issues. The first one was the second consultation for student who parents. This consultation was intended to gather feedback from student parents regarding their needs for family housing and child care issues. In addition, I have attended the Residence Advisory Committee, in which Ancillary Services representatives gave an overview of the residence budget. The third meeting I attended was the Joint Residence Oversight Committee. In this meeting, we reviewed the results of the survey on student satisfaction with University residences and discussed potential improvements. The last meeting I want to talk about is the Housing for Students Who Parent Committee Meeting, where we reviewed students' feedback from the second round consultation and discussed what kind of supports the University should provide for families.

Meetings Related To Students Affairs

The first meeting I have attended was the Volunteerism with Students Committee meeting. This is a newly established committee under the Alumni Association. The committee will recruit alumni as volunteers to support students and student mental health programming. The resulting initiative will be open to all graduate student and undergraduate student. As this was the first meeting for this committee, the discussion was mainly focus on volunteer recruitment. The second meeting I would like to report on is the Council on Student Affairs meeting, where the group discussed the terms of reference of the committee and recommendations to the General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment about long-form handwriting assessment practices.

Provincial Advocacy Group Meeting

During the past month, Sasha and I attended the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors meeting, during which we approved several external and internal policies and discussed the updates from each member associations. Another meeting I have attended is the ab-GPAC Governance Committee Meeting, at which we reviewed the post-graduate employment policy and indigenization policy drafts and updated the committee work plan.

Please feel free to contact if you have any questions or concerns regarding the report.

Sincerely,

Zhihong Pan, GSA Vice-President External

14.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 September 2018 and 15 October 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 September	Dinner with D Stollery, U of A Chancellor
20 September	Second Consultation for Students Who Parent
20 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
21 September	Meeting with the Students' Union (SU) re: Newton Place Residence Association
24 September	Alumni Awards
25 September	Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Scoping Group Meeting
26 September	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
26 September	Volunteerism with Students Committee Meeting
27 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Governance Committee Meeting
28 September	GSA Coffee Break
2 October	Council on Student Affairs (COSA)
3 October	Alumni Council Meeting
4 October	GSA Fall Social Event
5 October	Joint Residence Oversight Committee (JROC)
10 October	Housing for Students Who Parent Committee Meeting (HSWP)
10 October	United Way Kick-Off Event
10 October	GSA Awards Selection Committee Meeting
12 October	Board of Governors (BoG) Luncheon
15 October	United Way Committee Meeting

**GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Zhihong Pan
Date: 12 October 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA ASC met on 10 October 2018 for a training session in advance of the adjudication of the 2018 Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award applications. The deadline to receive applications is Tuesday, 16 October at 4:00 PM. The GSA ASC will start the adjudication process in the upcoming weeks and then forward names to the provincial government.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have about the GSA ASC on Monday.

Sincerely,

Zhihong Pan, GSA Vice-President External, and Chair of the GSA ASC

GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Beth Richardson
Date: 12 October 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

It's the spookiest time of year, and one of my favourite pumpkin-spiced months. I hope everyone is having a great Fall semester and enjoying the last of the autumn weather.

GSA Coffee Breaks

It was so great to see so many of you at the Fall Social Event, I met such cool people and even learned some new things about the Greeks and Romans from the History and Classics students and many other topics. With this in mind, I'd like to once again call your attention to the regular coffee breaks the GSA runs. Come hang out with each other and a selection of GSA Directly-Elected Officers, drink free tea/coffee and eat free snacks, and generally have a good time. The next GSA Coffee Break will be held on 26 October in Triffo Hall.

After-Hours Work

As graduate students, we are often requested and/or required to work evenings and weekends on research projects, particularly those with unpredictable or extended experimental schedules. Recently, this has been identified as a potential security issue for graduate students working alone. If you have any thoughts, opinions or stories regarding working late at night or during the weekends, I want to hear from you! Is working at night or on the weekend a good thing? Bad thing? Unfortunate necessity? The best time to control both the thermostat and music selection? Let me know.

FAQ: What Are the Obligations Attached to a GRAF Appointment?

A question I am often asked is **what are the obligations attached to a GRAF appointment?** In short: a GRAF is a form of financial assistance provided to graduate students to allow them to focus on their education and training, as it relates to their own thesis or directed research project (in contrast to a GTA or GRA appointment, where you are employed to assist a professor with their work (either teaching or research) or as a PI). As a GRAF, you have to meet academic standards and timelines but there are no specific hours attached to your contract. Work related to your appointment should be related to your thesis work. Your supervisor cannot require you to, for example: wait in for packages; work until a certain hour or start at a certain hour; or limit your ability to have commitments on- and off-campus (including part-time work, medical or other appointments, childcare, hobbies). However, there might be some time constraints on your academic programme (experimental schedules, equipment access) that may require prescribed hours on campus. If you are having issues with scheduling on- and off-campus commitments, I'm happy to discuss what can and can't be a requirement under a GRAF appointment in more detail. Please don't hesitate to email me.

Best wishes,
Beth Richardson, GSA Vice-President Labour

15.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 September 2018 and 15 October 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 September	Dinner with D Stollery, U of A Chancellor
19 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
24 September	Meeting with a Graduate Student
25 September	Campus Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Meeting
26 September	Student Parent Project Committee Meeting
28 September	GSA Coffee Break
3 October	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
4 October	Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
4 October	GSA Fall Social Event
9 October	Campus Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Meeting
10 October	United Way Kick-Off Event
10 October	GSA Awards Selection Committee Meeting
11 October	President Turpin's State of the University Address
11 October	Sexual Violence Response Executive Steering Committee
12 October	Board of Governors (BoG) Luncheon

**GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Fahed Elian
Date: 12 October 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

Apparently, Edmonton passed on the fall season and dived right into winter with no warning signs! For the new grad students on campus, I hope you had the chance to get some warm clothes and prepare for the winter already. For the course based graduate students, I hope your midterms are going well and that you are coping with the stress and the long study hours! For thesis based graduate students, I hope research is going smooth and that you are accomplishing your project goals, slowly but surely. In the following report, I am happy to share my activities and to give you a brief update of the meetings I attended in the last month.

Days of Action Committee Meeting

World Mental Health Day was last Wednesday, 10 October, and it is a day of action, which falls under the Days of Actions Committee's (DOA) vision and mission. The DOA lit up in purple light HUB, SUB, and other spots on campus to increase awareness around mental health. For the occasion, the DOA also created a project to increase mental health awareness and break the stigma around it. This project was conducted by the committee members, staff, and students on campus and it presents short stories of individuals' journey with mental health. I was happy to get the chance to contribute to this project and share my own story. You can find the stories [here](#).

Joint Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Meeting

Sasha, Masoud, and I, along with representatives from the Students' Union, met with University senior administration to discuss Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees. I brought to the committee's attention a concern regarding the student health and wellness fee. This concern touches on expanding the number of satellite psychologists (clinical and counseling services) for students on campus, as currently the University is reducing the numbers of satellite offices and availability to meet a psychologist in these offices are getting more limited. Kevin Friese, Assistant Dean, Health and Wellness, responded to my concerns by clarifying that the Government of Alberta has mandated the U of A to use funding received from the government to increase awareness of and prevention for mental health, rather than on treatment. More information on this can be found below in the Dean of Student Advisory Committee section.

General Faculties Council Facilities Development Committee (GFC FDC)

GFC FDC reviewed a proposal from the University to build a twin ice arena on South Campus. The facility would also be funded partially by the City of Edmonton and additional funding from the Alberta government will be sought. The facility would be open to community within specific time and scheduling for ice sports. The goal of this project is to provide more space for the varsity teams. Additionally, the facility would increase availability for student groups to run sport events.

Physical Activity and Wellness Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)

Sasha and I attended the PAWSOC meeting. I raised concerns on the availability of the sports fields on campus

(for example, Lister field, the main gym basketball, and the badminton courts). C Harwardt, Director Campus and Community Recreation, agreed to look into the scheduling of these spaces and to report back to this committee.

General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)

GFC CLE is establishing a working group to evaluate the currently used methods of teaching evaluation for instructors and professors on campus. This working group will also include a representative from FGSR to potentially discuss ways to evaluate supervisory duties.

Dean of Students' Advisory (DAC) Committee

The Dean of Students' Advisory (DAC) Committee is a forum for students to share feedback with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students, on student services available on campus. The main discussion was on the ACCESS Outreach Team, which is a newly formed team and which goal is to do early intervention by meeting students in their location. We also had a general discussion regarding the government's mandate for the provided mental health funding. According to this mandate, the University is to increase awareness about and prevention of mental health issues on campus and to redirect intervention towards Alberta Health Services' (AHS) resources. The government's vision is to provide equal access to mental health services for all community members, that is not funding resources only accessible to a portion of the population (university students). Concerns were raised about AHS's current resources and their availability and that clarification was needed on what the government means by intervention and clinical intervention. The Dean of Students will share these concerns with the government, and he is happy to provide feedback in the upcoming DAC's meetings.

Sincerely,

Fahed Elian, GSA Vice-President Student Services

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 September 2018 and 15 October 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

18 September	Days of Action (DOA) Committee
18 September	U-Pass Advisory Committee
18 September	Dinner with D Stollery, U of A Chancellor
19 September	Board of Governors (BoG) Tour of U of A Residence and Teaching and Research Infrastructure
20 September	Campus Food Bank Board Meeting
21 September	Departmental Orientation: Oncology
25 September	Joint Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees
27 September	General Faculties Council Facilities Development Committee (GFC FDC)
27 September	University of Alberta Brand Perception Focus Group
1 October	Physical Activity and Wellness Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)
3 October	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
3 October	Dean of Students' Advisory Committee (DAC)
4 October	Meeting re: My Viva Plan
4 October	Departmental Orientation: Medical Genetics
4 October	GSA Fall Social Event
12 October	Board of Governors (BoG) Luncheon

**GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Radim Barta
Date: 12 October 2018

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,

Radim Barta, Chair of the GSA NoC

Early Call for Talent and Training

GSA Bylaw and Policy states that “GSA NoC will be proactive in seeking out potential candidates for all Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) and Council-Elected Officer positions” (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.1.5). It also states that:

“The GSA NoC leads an annual initiative each October called the Early Call for Talent and Training. During Early Call, graduate students interested in running for elected office are invited to a get-to-know event and are encouraged to participate in a series of training sessions on such topics as University governance, GSA 101, budget and audit basics, collective bargaining, major GSA services, and more. Information is provided about the DEO portfolios and the time commitments involved. These sessions provide a basic set of information that the GSA sees as essential for the effective leadership of the GSA as a corporate entity and for the carrying out of fiduciary duties.” (Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.7.7)

The 2018 GSA Early Call for Talent and Training is now in progress, after the initial advertisement went out through the GSA newsletter on 12 October 2018. The Get-to-Know Dinner, which is scheduled for 25 October 2018, gives graduate students the chance to get acquainted and have informal discussions with current Directly-Elected Officers and it is a great opportunity for GSA Council members and graduate students at large who are considering getting more involved in student governance at the GSA. Training sessions on a variety of topics will begin on 29 October 2018 and graduate students are invited to attend those as well. As GSA Council members are aware, engagement from graduate students is key to the success of the GSA, and so I encourage all members of GSA Council to share this information with their colleagues and constituents and to please contact gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca if you are interested in attending the Get-to-Know Dinner. Please also note that hard copies of our Early Call poster will be made available at the 15 October 2018 meeting of GSA Council.

Council-Elected Officers

1) GSA Deputy Speaker (One (1) Graduate Student Position)

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, “[the GSA NoC] will open nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO on or about May 1 of every year by email to every graduate student” and “nominations [...] will be submitted in writing to the GSA NoC by May 30 or the next following working day” (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Council-Elected Officers, Sections D.BYL.3.1.b and D.BYL.3.1.c). This position was first filled following the June 2018 meeting of GSA Council, but was then vacated as of July 2018. Information regarding this position was circulated in the GSA newsletters of 28 September and 4 October 2018 with a nomination deadline of 10 October 2018. Two (2) nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item xx – Nominee for GSA Deputy Speaker.**

GSA Standing Committees

1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (One (1) Departmental Councillor Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) Departmental Councillor was circulated on two (2) instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 9 October 2018. One (1) nomination was received. The nominee was then interviewed by GSA NoC Vice-Chair Kenzie Gordon and GSA NoC member Dylan Ashley, both of whom have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. GSA Associate Director Julie Tanguay was also present for the interview. During the interview, the nominee was asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB receive training in procedural fairness). There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item xx – Nominee for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.**

2) GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) (Two (2) Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the positions for two (2) graduate students was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 10 October 2018. Four (4) nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item xx – Nominees for GSA Awards Selection Committee.**

3) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (One (1) Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the positions for one (1) graduate student was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 10 October 2018. Three (3) nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item xx – Nominees for GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.**

4) GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (One (1) GSA Council Member Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Council member was circulated on two (2) instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 10 October 2018. No nominations were received, so this vacancy will be advertised again.

5) GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) (Seven to Nine (7-9) Academically-Employed Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the seven to nine (7-9) positions available positions was circulated via email on two (2) instances to Academically-Employed Graduate Students with a deadline of 10 October 2018. Seven (7) nominations were received. The nominees will be elected by fellow academically-employed graduate students and the names reported at the 19 November 2018 meeting of GSA Council.

External Committees

1) Arts Faculty Council and Associated Committees (Eleven (11) Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the positions for eleven (11) Faculty of Arts graduate students was circulated to graduate students in the Faculty of Arts via email on two (2) instances with a nomination deadline of 19 September 2018. Four (4) nominations were received for the five (5) positions on the Arts Faculty Council. **Amanda Daignault (English), Zhuoran "Joanne" Li (East Asian Studies), Kenzie Gordon (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies), and Miraaj Yousif (Women's and Gender Studies)** were elected to serve on the Arts Faculty Council. Two (2) nominations were received for the one (1) position for a graduate student in a humanities discipline on the Arts Faculty Academic Affairs Committee. **Kaitlyn Skinner (History and Classics)** was elected to serve on the Arts Faculty Academic Affairs Committee. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.

2) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (Eleven (11) Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the remaining vacant positions for six (6) graduate students to serve as Councillors and five (5) graduate students to serve as Alternates was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 12 September 2018. Five (5) nominations were received for the Councillor positions. **Thomas Cam (Electrical Engineering), Saima Rajabali (Medicine), David Tandio (Pharmacology), Martha Ruiz (Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging), and Mukht Patel (Surgery)** were elected to serve on the FGSR Council as Councillors. No nominations were received for the position of Alternate.

Information regarding the remaining vacancies for one (1) graduate student to serve as a Councillor and five (5) graduate students to serve as Alternates on the FGSR Council was then circulated on two (2) instances via the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 2 October 2018. One (1) nomination was received for the position of Councillor, and **Zoë Dworsky-Fried (Pharmacology)** was elected to serve on the FGSR Council as a Councillor. One (1) nomination was received for the position of Alternate. **Mayank Sabharwal (Mechanical Engineering)** was elected to serve on the FGSR Council as an Alternate. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.

3) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC) and Academic Appeals Committee (FGSR AAC) (One (1) and Four (4) FGSR Councillor or Alternate Positions Respectively)

Information regarding these vacancies was circulated to FGSR Councillors and Alternates on two (2) instances with a nomination deadline of 9 October 2018. One (1) nomination was received for the position on the FGSR PRC, and two (2) nominations were received for the positions on the FGSR AAC. The names of the elected students will be reported at the 19 November 2018 meeting of GSA Council.

4) General Faculties Council (GFC) (One (1) Graduate Student Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) graduate student on GFC was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 19 September 2018. Two (2) nominations were received. **Meijun Chen (Music)** was elected to serve on GFC.

5) Science Faculty Council (Two (2) Faculty of Science Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the positions for two (2) Faculty of Science graduate students was circulated to graduate students in the Faculty of Science via email on two (2) instances with a nomination deadline of 17 September 2018. Four (4) nominations were received. **Brooke Biddlecombe (Biological Sciences)** and **Kyle Shanebeck (Biological Sciences)** were elected to serve on the Science Faculty Council.

6) Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) (One (1) Graduate Student Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) graduate student was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 2 October 2018. One (1) nomination was received. **Shveta Rai (Networking)** was elected to serve on the SLAC.

7) Shell Enhanced Learning Fund (SELF) Selection Committee (One (1) Faculty of Science, Faculty of Arts, or School of Business Graduate Student Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) graduate student was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 2 October 2018. Three (3) nominations were received. **Maryam Akbari (Mechanical Engineering)** was elected to serve on the SELF Selection Committee.

8) Museum Policy and Planning Committee (One (1) Graduate Student Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) graduate student was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 2 October 2018. Six (6) nominations were received. **Claudia Lonkin (History and Classics)** was elected to serve on the Museum Policy and Planning Committee.

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the 15 October 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 12 October 2018

Dear GSA Council Members,

Several times throughout the year my report consists of the listing of all the various agreements (many with monetary implications) to which the GSA is a signatory. As the GSA's highest governing body, it is important for GSA Council to be aware of the GSA's corporate infrastructure and how it affects our budget and operations. The listing of these agreements, along with the weekly reports offered by the administrative/professional team to the GSA Board, is attached.

Additionally, I'm pleased to report that the GSA Fall Event on 4 October was very successful – thank you to those of you who were able to attend. The office team is now working on planning the 25 October Early Call dinner (if you are thinking of running for one of the GSA Directly-Elected Officer positions, please attend) and the 31 October Halloween event.

Finally, the office team is working on several proposals concerning recommended amendments to GSA Bylaw and Policy, which will be reviewed by the GSA Governance Committee, the GSA Board, and GSA Council, in turn.

As always, I and the other members of the team are happy to answer questions.

Courtney Thomas, GSA Executive Director

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Agreements with Expiry Dates		
Campus Food Bank	Regulates GSA involvement with Food Bank.	GSA gives \$12,000/annum to Campus Food Bank (increased from \$9,000 in 2018-2019 budget). MoU expired 30 April 2015. New agreement is set out annually in letters to the Campus Food Bank.
Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement	Sets out terms and conditions for graduate students serving as GTAs, GRAs, and GRAFs.	Current agreement with the Board of Governors expires 31 August 2018.
Agreement re GSAP and GSSF	MoU that provides for funding allocations to the GSA for the GSSF.	Normally negotiated concurrently with collective agreement negotiations
Collective Agreement with NASA covering office staff	Sets out terms of employment for GSA staff.	Renegotiated in April 2012 and 2015. Current agreement expires in 2020.
Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)	Provides for a wide range of personal counselling.	Referendum held; originally signed 31 December 2010 for a 2-year period with the possibility of four 2-year extensions; reviewed and re-signed in August 2013. Dependents added in December 2013. Current agreement expired 31 December 2014 but is described by Administration as a rolling plan. Reviewed annually.
Health and Dental Agreement with Studentcare	Provides for Health and Dental Plan.	Provider changed in 2012. Re-signed in 2014. Current agreement expires 31 August 2020 (renegotiated agreement was signed in October 2014). Service levels, claims, etc are reviewed annually.
Liability Insurance	General Liability insurance and Directors and Officers insurance.	Doubled our liability insurance in 2012. The GSA is not covered for alcohol use. Discussions in 2013-2014 and 2016-2017 with Administration and insurance experts surrounding the creation of an alcohol liability waiver for graduate student groups. Current General Liability insurance expires 17 May 2019.
North Power Plant and Dewey's	2009 Memorandum of Agreement with the Students' Union regarding the operation of Dewey's. 2010 Memorandum of Understanding with the U of A for use of North Power Plant Space for the Tory Building decant.	Expired August 2012 - conversations about use of space are ongoing. No Expiration - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP ongoing as part of this MoU.

	<p>1997 Memorandum of Agreement with the U of A guaranteeing graduate social space in North Power Plant or at another location; 2004 Letter of Confirmation on this MoU from the Dean of Students. The space includes the current sustainability offices.</p>	<p>No Expiration - conversation regarding Dewey's/NPP ongoing as part of this MoA.</p>
Officers/Directors' Insurance	Covers elected officials and administrative/professional staff.	Doubled coverage in 2013; switched brokers in 2016 and signed a new agreement. Current agreement expires 28 January 2019.
TDIMM	Provides for group auto and home insurance as well as some funding for GSA events and the TD Student Service Award (given out at GSA Awards Night).	Renewed in 2016 for a period of 5 years and with an increase in the sponsorship funds provided by TD. Current agreement expires 16 September 2021.
Triffo Hall Lease	Detailed lease covering Triffo Hall office space.	First-ever lease was signed in June 2011; 5-year term, four renewals (three now remaining). Re-signed in 2016 and current agreement expires 30 May 2021 (notification of desire to renew must be given 6-12 months before expiry).
U of A Financial Services	Stipulates when GSA receives membership fees collected by the U of A on our behalf.	Re-negotiated and signed in April 2012. Re-negotiated again in 2013 for the academic years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016. Re-negotiated again in 2016 for the academic years 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019. Current agreement expires 30 April 2019.
U-PASS Transit Agreement with U of A	Governs U-PASS.	Referendum held in March 2013. New agreement signed in September 2013. Referendum for a new four-year agreement passed in March 2017. The current agreement was signed in April 2018 and will expire when the U of A agreement with the municipalities expires.
U-PASS Agreement with Transit Providers	Governs U-PASS.	The University signs this agreement with the municipalities and the U of A and the GSA and SU then each sign a separate agreement. Current agreement expires in 2021.

NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS
Agreements with No Expiry Dates (Ongoing)		
Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council	Society under the <i>Societies Act</i> .	Registered in March 2015 along with U of C, U of L and AU GSAs. Annual Societies Act filing required. (The former Alberta Graduate Council disbanded in 2013).
ATB Financial Banking	Operating account.	Reviewed with BMO in April 2012. Switched to ATB in May 2016 (as they also manage the GSA's investments). Signing authorities reviewed/updated annually.
ATB Financial Investments	GICs, investments.	Agreement was signed on 11 April 2016. Reviewed regularly.
Career Centre and Writing Resources Agreements	Provides for subsidy of certain Career Centre and Writing Resources courses for grad students.	Annual subsidy of \$9,000. Reviewed annually.
Ceridian (Payroll)	GSA staff and elected officials are paid by direct deposit.	Outsourcing is cheaper/more efficient than in-house production of cheques. Agreement signed 30 May 2011.
Info Sharing with Studentcare and University	Allows Studentcare access to specified graduate student personal information for strictly defined purposes regarding the GSA's Health and Dental Plan.	Reviewed with the U of A Privacy Officer and Studentcare in 2012 and new agreement signed on 3 May 2013. GSA to give notice of 6 months if wanting to terminate.
PAW Centre	Sets out terms of operation of PAW. SU also a signatory to the Agreement.	Referendum held, agreement signed in April 2012.
PAW Centre Leased Space	Sets out terms of rights and obligations of SU and GSA with respect to the leased space in PAW.	Negotiated business terms with SU concerning the food vendor space (currently occupied by Chopped Leaf) – agreement signed in April 2017. Reviewed annually.
Personal Information Sharing Agreement with the U of A	Provides specified graduate student personal information for strictly defined purposes, e.g. emailing the newsletter, elections.	Signed in May 2013.
Student Connect (Office of the Registrar)	Administers the GSA's Emergency Bursary program. GSA distributes funds.	2006 AEGS Memorandum of Settlement between GSA/BoG provides for establishment of emergency bursary program with terms of reference developed by GSA and "distributed through the University Bursary Program."

Student Group Services	Outlines the responsibilities of the GSA and Student Group Services with respect to the registration and oversight of graduate student groups.	Developed in 2011 and redrafted in 2018. Reviewed annually.
U of A Human Resources Direct Deposit	Provides for direct deposit through Bear Tracks of GSSF allocations to graduate students and T4A production by U of A.	Agreement negotiated in 2012. Major infrastructure change from cheque processing by GSA.
U of A IST	Provides service, support, and regular review of the GSA's IT infrastructure.	Signed in June 2017. Reviewed annually.
Western Archives	Provides secure shredding of GSA material once every two months.	Signed in July 2018 for a term of two years with automatic renewals annually after that. Review annually.
Xerox	Covers the leasing of two photocopiers.	Original agreement expired 31 March 2018. Thereafter the agreement renews automatically on a yearly basis. Reviewed annually.
NAME	SUMMARY	STATUS

Other Corporate Documents		
Audit (based on GSA Council-approved budget)	As a separate corporation from the University, we hire our own auditor. Requirement of the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> to provide audited financial statements to the Board of Governors annually.	Audit occurs annually in May/June. Audit field workers are typically on-site in late May/early June.
GSA Council Bylaw and Policy	Enabled by the <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> .	Reviewed regularly.
Contract with ED/Letters of Appointment	Sets out terms of employment for administrative/professional staff.	The ED's contract and other standard appointment letters for administrative/professional staff have been reviewed by our lawyers.
Referenda Master File	All referenda questions that actively impact graduate students (eg U-PASS, PAW Centre, GSAP, GSA Health and Dental Plan, etc).	Compiled and filed. Ongoing as referenda arise.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 19 September 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 12 September 2018:

Strategic

- Review of meeting materials and drafting external reports for upcoming meetings of various University committees.
- Early stage planning for the 2019-2020 GSA operating budget (reviewing the current operating budget, proposing a timeline for the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, etc).
- Drafting the first Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council.
- Meeting of the GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council Caucus.
- Updating training materials for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board members with new fair process scenarios.
- Developing a “definitions” section for each section of GSA Bylaw and Policy and continuing with a comprehensive review of GSA Bylaw and Policy for needed editorial updates in preparation of an upcoming meeting of the GSA Governance Committee.
- Planning GSA events for the fall (including a Halloween event for graduate student parents with young children).
- Beginning the planning process associated with the 2018 Early Call for Talent and Training and the 2019 General Election (developing work plan for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, etc).
- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

Grants and Office Operations

- Preparing for the 1 October opening of a new granting period.
- Circulating the second mailing of GSA Council material.
- Preparing for the 4 October social event (55 RSVPs received so far).
- Assisting with a hearing for an appeal of a GSA Emergency Bursary decision.
- Replenishment of the GSA Awards Selection Committee and preparing for adjudication training sessions.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the Arts Faculty Council and the Science Faculty Council, series of elections going forward to GSA Council).
- Facebook = 1,235 likes (down 2 from 12 September); Facebook posts reached 826 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 627. Twitter = 891 followers (up 3 from 12 September); our tweets earned 10,500 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Awards = new funding period started 1 July and was closed on 17 September; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started at 8 am on 1 July and closed at 10:30 am that same day; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries); GSA Graduate Student Group Grant = new funding period started 1 July.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 26 September 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 19 September 2018:

Strategic

- Review of meeting materials and drafting external reports for upcoming meetings of various Board of Governors committees.
- Training session for the new CRO and DRO.
- Strategic discussions concerning the possible creation of a strike fund.
- Ensuring appropriate graduate student representation on the search and selection committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.
- Developing a “definitions” section for each section of GSA Bylaw and Policy and continuing with a comprehensive review of GSA Bylaw and Policy for needed editorial updates and facilitating a meeting of the GSA Governance Committee to consider various recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy.
- Meeting with the GSA Senator.
- Beginning the planning process associated with the 2018 Early Call for Talent and Training and the 2019 General Election (developing work plan for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, etc).
- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

Grants and Office Operations

- Preparing for the 1 October opening of a new granting period.
- Preparing for the 4 October social event (103 RSVPs received so far).
- Assisting with a hearing for an appeal of a GSA Emergency Bursary decision.
- Receipt of applications for the Alberta Graduate Student Citizenship Award (submission deadline is 16 October) and preparing for the associated adjudication process.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Dean Search and Selection Committee, Arts Faculty Council, Science Faculty Council and elections for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee, Museum Policy and Planning Committee, Student Library Advisory Council, and the Shell Enhanced Learning Fund Selection Committee).
- Facebook = 1,239 likes (up 4 from 19 September); Facebook posts reached 671 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 145. Twitter = 895 followers (up 4 from 19 September); our tweets earned 3,400 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period stats 1 October (178 applications funded and \$87,516 disbursed in the previous period); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period stats 1 October (38 applications funded and \$61,000 disbursed in the previous period); GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries, so far 12 applications have been funded and \$39,426 has been disbursed); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period stats 1 October (7 applications funded and \$5,735 disbursed in the previous period).

Management Report to the GSA Board, 3 October 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 26 September 2018:

Strategic

- Assembling information concerning attendees at the upcoming CAGS conference and researching voluntary student unionism and its effects on Australian and New Zealand student associations.
- Detailed discussions about the various categories of GSA members (honorary, associated, fees paying, etc) and the interchangeable use of “GSA member” and “graduate student” in GSA Bylaw and Policy and working on related recommendations to amend GSA Bylaw and Policy.
- Preparing for the first mailing of GSA Council and developing slides for the presentation of the Board SWP update.
- Analyzing the GSA’s office space with an eye to making adjustments to meet current staff needs.
- Moving forward with developing a “definitions” section for each section of GSA Bylaw and Policy, developing a proposal to integrate the Standing Orders of GSA Council into GSA Bylaw and Policy, and developing a proposal to add a seat for the Indigenous Graduate Students’ Association to GSA Council following a meeting of the GSA Governance Committee.
- Beginning the planning process associated with the 2018 Early Call for Talent and Training and the 2019 General Election (developing work plan for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, etc).
- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

Grants and Office Operations

- Preparing for the 1 October opening of a new granting period.
- Assisting with hosting the first GSA Coffee Break of the term and preparing for the 4 October social event and the upcoming Halloween event.
- Receipt of applications for the Alberta Graduate Student Citizenship Award (submission deadline is 16 October) and preparing for the associated adjudication process.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Labour Relations Committee (members to be elected by academically-employed graduate students, not GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the GSA Awards Selection Committee, the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, for the position of Deputy Speaker, and on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee and Academic Appeals Committee.
- Facebook = 1,239 likes (up 4 from 19 September); Facebook posts reached 671 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 145. Twitter = 895 followers (up 4 from 19 September); our tweets earned 3,400 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 October; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started at 8 AM on 1 October and closed at 1:15 PM that same day; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries, so far 12 applications have been funded and \$39,426 has been disbursed); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 October (7 applications funded and \$5,735 disbursed in the previous period).

Management Report to the GSA Board, 10 October 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 3 October 2018:

Strategic

- Researching voluntary student unionism and its effects on Australian student associations.
- Discussing the development of the 2019-2020 GSA budget.
- Providing a training session for a newly elected Councillor-at-Large.
- Detailed discussions about the various categories of GSA members (honorary, associated, fees paying, etc) and the interchangeable use of “GSA member” and “graduate student” in GSA Bylaw and Policy and working on related recommendations to amend GSA Bylaw and Policy.
- Preparing for the second mailing of GSA Council and upcoming GSA Governance Committee and GSA Awards Selection Committee meetings.
- Analyzing the GSA’s office space with an eye to making adjustments to meet current staff needs.
- Moving forward with developing a “definitions” section for each section of GSA Bylaw and Policy, developing a proposal to integrate the Standing Orders of GSA Council into GSA Bylaw and Policy, and developing a proposal to add a seat for the Indigenous Graduate Students’ Association to GSA Council following a meeting of the GSA Governance Committee.
- Beginning the planning process associated with the 2018 Early Call for Talent and Training and the 2019 General Election (preparing for the 25 October Early Call Dinner).
- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

Grants and Office Operations

- Assisting with hosting the 4 October social event and preparing for the upcoming Halloween event.
- Receipt of applications for the Alberta Graduate Student Citizenship Award (submission deadline is 16 October) and preparing for the associated adjudication process (providing training sessions for adjudicators, etc).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Labour Relations Committee (members to be elected by academically-employed graduate students, not GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the GSA Awards Selection Committee, the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, and for the position of Deputy Speaker).
- Facebook = 1,241 likes (up 2 from 3 October); Facebook posts reached 94 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 62. Twitter = 900 followers (up 5 from 3 October); our tweets earned 1,300 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 October; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started at 8 AM on 1 October and closed at 1:15 PM that same day; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 October.