

GSA Council Meeting AGENDA
Monday, 19 April 2021 at 6:00 pm
Held electronically via Zoom

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

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

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

Speaker Praniidhi Baddam in the Chair

OPEN SESSION

**Attached Numbered
Pages**

1. Approval of the 19 April 2021 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 15 March 2021 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)
Attachment:
 - i. Minutes from the 15 March 2021 GSA Council Meeting **2.0 - 2.4**
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership (*suggested time: 1 min*)
 - i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

GSA Council Member Announcements

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

For Discussion

5. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP): Update to GSA Council (*suggested time: 30 mins*)
Marc Waddingham (President) will present the item.

Attachment:

- i. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2020-2021: Update to GSA Council **5.0 - 5.3**
6. Labour Updates (*suggested time: 20 mins*)
Umesh Nimmathi (Vice-President Labour) will present the item.

GSA LRC members who are also members of GSA Council: Jessica Grenke (Biological Sciences), Erin O'Neil (Media & Technology Studies)

Prepared by E Heiberg for GSA Council 19 April 2021

/Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/GSA Council/Meetings/2020 - 2021/April 2021/First Mailing/GSA Council 19 April 2021 Item 1 - Agenda (First Mailing).docx

GSA LRC members invited to GSA Council as guests: Heba Aref, Alex Bunten-Walberg, Ehsan Feizollahi, Kirsten Hawson, Aminreza Khandan, Nayiar Shahid, Molly Swain

7. Academic Restructuring and Extraordinary Tuition Increases (*suggested time: 20 mins*)
Marc Waddingham (President) will present the item.

Elections

8. GSA Council Elections (*suggested time: 5 mins*)
Nadia Daniel (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item.

GSA Council-Elected Officer Positions

- a. GSA Councillor-at-Large (CAL) (1 vacancy)

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for GSA CAL (1 vacancy) **8.0 - 8.2**

Reports (*suggested time: 15 mins*)

9. President (**Marc Waddingham, President**)
- i. President's Report **9.0 - 9.1**
 - ii. GSA Board Report **9.2**
 - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
 - iv. GSA Governance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
10. Vice-President Academic (**Sachiketha Reddy, Vice-President Academic**)
- i. Vice-President Academic's Report **10.0 - 10.1**
11. Vice-President External (**Anas Fassih, Vice-President External**)
- i. Vice-President External's Report **11.0 - 11.1**
 - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
12. Vice-President Labour (**Umesh Nimmathi, Vice-President Labour**)
- i. Vice-President Labour's Report **12.0 - 12.1**
 - ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
13. Vice-President Student Services (**Sridhar Parasharamatham, Vice-President Student Services**)
- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report **13.0**
14. Senator (**Marla Palakkamanil, Senator**)
- i. Senator's Report (**no written report at this time**)
15. Speaker (**Pranidhi Baddam, Speaker**)
- i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
16. Chief Returning Officer (**Michael Huang, Chief Returning Officer**)
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (**no written report at this time**)
17. GSA Nominating Committee (**Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Chair**) **17.0 - 17.2**
- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report
18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair**)
- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

19. GSA Management (**Courtney Thomas, Executive Director**)
 - i. Executive Director's Report

19.0 - 19.5

Question Period

20. Written Questions (**none received**)
21. Oral Questions

Adjournment

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 15 March 2021 at 6:00 pm
Held online via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Marc Waddingham (President)	Kyla Cangiano (Anthropology)	Jaskiran Kaur (Internetworking)	Shayla Mosley; Braden Chow (Oncology)
Anas Fassih (VP External)	Allan Yarahmady(Biochemistry)	Matt Ormandy (KSR)	Shubham Soni (Paediatrics)
Sridhar Parasharamatham (VP Student Services)	Jessica Grenke (Biological Science)	Teresa Kumblathan (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Erika Poitras (Pharmacology)
Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker)	Georgio Cheruvelil (Business MBA)	Kim Jones (Library & Information Studies)	Spencer Hayden (Philosophy)
Priyanka Maripuri (Deputy Speaker)	Maggie Cascadden (Business PhD)	Matt Kelley (Linguistics)	Zoe Frank (Physical Therapy)
Michael Huang (Chief Returning Officer)	Kazuki Ueda (Cell Biology)	Nishant Agrawal (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Logan Cooke (Physics)
Sophie Shi (Deputy Returning Officer)	Arsh Hazrah (Chemistry)	David Gordon (Mechanical Engineering)	Robert Reklow (Physiology)
Marla Palakkamanil (Senator)	Michelle Gauthier (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Jennifer McDevitt (Media and Technology Studies)	Telisa Courtney (Political Science)
Neslihan Akpinar (Councillor-at-Large)	Fernando Hernandez Garcia (Computing Science)	Adrienne Watson (Medical Genetics)	Connor Lambert (Psychology)
Paramita Chaudhuri Basu (Councillor-at-Large)	Collette Slevinsky (Drama)	Julia May (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Naima Riaz (Public Health)
Nadia Daniel (Councillor-at-Large)	Avni Patel (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Hao Zhang (Medicine)	Beckett Stark (Renewable Resources)
Tejasai Kommanpalli (Councillor-at-Large)	Carrie Karsgaard (Educational Policy Studies)	Treesa Friesen (MLCS)	Michael Huang (REES)
Rakshith Reddy Gopu (Councillor-at-Large)	Lauren Trafford (Educational Psychology)	Leah Hrycun (Native Studies)	Manzah Yankey (Sociology)
Md Solimul Chowdhury (Councillor-at-Large)	Nida-e-Falak (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Noam Steinberg (Neuroscience)	Lindy Schaffrick (Surgery)
Muhammad Zubair (Councillor-at-Large)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Mary Olukotun (Nursing)	
Zhiying Wang (AFNS)	Jane Allred (History, Classics, & Religious Studies)	Neha Jaswal (Occupational Therapy)	

Guests: Robyn Paches (Program Manager, Studentcare)

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Speaker acknowledged that the GSA and the University of Alberta reside on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway, Saulteaux, Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. In acknowledging this traditional territory and its significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived and continue to live upon it, we recognize its longer history that reaches beyond colonization and the establishment of European colonies and recognize the GSA's ongoing collective

responsibility in working with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) peoples and what that means for the work of the GSA as it aims to practice the principles of being Good Relations with FNMI peoples, Nations, communities, and lands.

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the 15 March 2021 Consolidated Agenda

Members had before them the 15 March 2021 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 19 February 2021. N Jaswal **MOVED**; C Slovinsky **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes from the 22 February 2021 GSA Council Meeting

Members had before them the 22 February 2021 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 5 March 2021. R Reklow **MOVED**; L Hrycun **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

- i. **Introduction of New GSA Council Members:** J Kaur (Internetworking); T Courtney (Political Science); T Kumbalathan (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology).
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** None

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements

J McDevitt (Media & Technology Studies) announced that the Digital Humanities program was holding their conference on 16-17 March and encouraged members to attend. Registration was closed, but members could email dhsa@ualberta.ca if they would like to attend and visit <https://sites.google.com/ualberta.ca/dihucon2021/home>.

Action Items

5. GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2021-2022

Sridhar Parasharamatham (Vice-President Student Services) presented the item and introduced the guest, Robyn Paches (Program Manager, Studentcare).

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, that the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee be set at \$500.36/annum, effective 1 September 2021, with collection from graduate students to begin 1 September 2021.

S Parasharamatham explained that premiums would remain stable for the coming year and there would be no increase from the previous year. GSA Council members asked for clarification about the premium lock and R Paches explained that the GSA was about to enter into the second year of a two-year premium guarantee. Before the current agreement was reached, the GSA put out a Request for Proposals to carriers as due diligence to ensure members were receiving the best plan possible. In their bid to keep the GSA's business, Studentcare offered a two-year premium lock. The current policy year was the first year of this lock so premiums would not increase for the second year of the agreement.

R Paches also noted that it was normal for premiums to increase after a freeze like this, so GSA Council would likely have to consider a fee increase once the current guarantee expired. R Paches also explained that the GSA Plan was a balance between plan affordability and benefits. The more benefits increase, the more the cost of the plan would increase. GSA Council has voted to make some enhancements over the past few years but due to the unprecedented nature of the past year, the financial impact of those benefit increases was unclear. R Paches advised that GSA Council should wait until a clearer picture of the impacts of past overage increases emerged before making further changes to the Plan. R Paches also explained that the Loss Ratio was his preferred mechanism to predict a rise in premiums, as it represented the ratio between premiums and claims and was a measure of utilization. GSA Board and GSA Council should be aware of higher utilization. With the materials provided, R Paches pointed to the GSA's loss ratio of 96% as high (peak utilization would be 88-90%) and would have driven up the cost if not for the previously mentioned two-year premium lock.

GSA Council members then detailed some personal issues with the Plan (generic vs brand name prescriptions and the related physician charges; regular dental coverage vs emergency dental coverage, etc) and members were invited to contact R Paches directly about these matters.

MOTION: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Board, that the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee be set at \$500.36/annum, effective 1 September 2021, with collection from graduate students to begin 1 September 2021. L Hrycun **MOVED**; K Jones **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

6. 2020 GSA General Election Results: To Receive for Information For the Purposes of Transferring Banking Signing Authority

Michael Huang (Chief Returning Officer) presented the item.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the results of the 2021 GSA General Election wherein the following graduate students were duly elected as President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Labour, and Vice-President Student Services:

President	Anas Fassih
Vice-President Academic	Kathy Haddadkar
Vice-President External	Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa
Vice-President Labour	Jessica Grenke
Vice-President Student Services	Paresh Kumar

M Huang congratulated those elected as leaders for 2021-2022 and explained that this Motion was required for the purposes of transferring bank signing authorities. There were no questions.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the results of the 2021 GSA General Election wherein the following graduate students were duly elected as President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Labour, and Vice-President Student Services:

President	Anas Fassih
Vice-President Academic	Kathy Haddadkar
Vice-President External	Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa
Vice-President Labour	Jessica Grenke
Vice-President Student Services	Paresh Kumar

R Reklow **MOVED**; P Chaudhuri Basu **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Discussion Items

7. Academic Restructuring Update

Marc Waddingham (President) presented the item and noted that, as a result of the provincial and institutional budget for the next year, there were not a lot of updates. The new interim Deans for Science, Business, and Medicine & Dentistry had all been announced. More movement on the academic restructuring initiative was expected later in the spring. M Waddingham also noted that, if any GSA Council members had updates from their respective department or faculty corners, the GSA would welcome hearing them. Additionally, M Waddingham reminded GSA Council members to remain vigilant and to speak to their peers and counterparts about restructuring concerns and, if members noticed something that did not sit right or wanted GSA involvement in something, that would be happily provided.

Reports

8. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Waddingham expressed his congratulations to the newly-elected team of GSA Directly-Elected Officers. He also noted that advocacy was ongoing around graduate tuition, in hopes to lessen the impact of planned tuition increases for the upcoming years. He also highlighted a recent letter signed by a number of graduate student associations, including those of the University of British Columbia and University of Saskatchewan, urging the federal government to consider allowing international students to make use of university isolation packages, instead of potentially expensive and inaccessible

hotel accommodations. Lastly, he noted that details of the agreement recently signed with Kids & Company childcare providers would be released soon.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted.

iv. GSA Governance Committee

No written report at this time.

9. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, it was noted by M Waddingham (on behalf of S Reddy, who was unable to attend the meeting) that General Faculties Council (GFC) would be soon receiving the details of the supervisory support and accountability proposal helmed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR).

10. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Fassih highlighted his recent meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education regarding the Alberta 2030 initiative, the provincial budget, and performance-based funding for post-secondary institutions. He also highlighted ongoing advocacy work via the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) and Public Interest Alberta (PIA) and concluded by mentioning a recent conversation at the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Scoping Group centred on making the University inclusive with respect to age. In response to a question about the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC), addressed by M Waddingham, as Chair of GSA EDIC, it was noted that the GSA EDIC would begin its work later in April 2021 and reports would be submitted to GSA Council.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee

No written report at this time.

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

No written report at this time.

11. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No written report at this time.

12. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S Parasharamatham noted that the Infrastructure and Operations Planning Committee had many recommendations for vaccine-related issues and space planning on campus. Also in this vein, there would be detailed planning of traffic flow in specific buildings for safety. He noted that dining halls were now providing in-dining services and that Campus and Community Recreation (CCR) had opened facilities to the extent possible under the Stage 2 provincial guidelines. He closed by noting that both the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) and the U-Pass Program referenda had passed.

13. Senator

i. Senator's Report

No written report at this time.

14. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

15. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Huang highlighted that both 2021 GSA Referenda had indeed passed, but that the election overall had a low turnout compared to those of the last few years. He attributed this to likely burnout from remote work and closed by commenting that everything had gone well.

16. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted.

17. 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 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted.

18. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 March 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas noted that the office was wrapping up the 2021 General Election and preparing for the upcoming transition for the executive student leadership team.

Question Period

19. Written Questions: None submitted

20. Oral Questions: None raised

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.



2020-2021 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) 19 April 2021 Update to GSA Council

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

This year, in order to develop a set of strategic priorities that reflect the changing needs of graduate students, the student executive team invited graduate students to participate in a town hall event on 22 May 2020 and circulated a feedback survey to graduate students during the period of 14-29 May 2020. These consultation initiatives yielded a significant amount of feedback and helped shape the [2020-2021 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan](#).

The priorities for this year have been grouped into three categories: connect, support, and advocate. The student executive team will continue to engage in ongoing conversation with the GSA Board and GSA Council, and other GSA standing committees, concerning the pursuit of the goals outlined in the SWP. The first update on the work relating to the 2020-2021 SWP was brought to GSA Council in October and, as such, GSA Council members may benefit from reviewing the [October 2020](#) and [January 2021](#) updates prior to reading the April 2021 update, which is the final update to Council for the 2020-2021 year.

A selection of ongoing work and new initiatives pursued and undertaken by the 2020-2021 student executive team (GSA President, Marc Waddingham, GSA VP Academic, Sachiketha Reddy, GSA VP External, Anas Fassih, GSA VP Labour, Umesh Nimmathi, and GSA VP Student Services, Sridhar Parasharamatham), in accordance with the 2020-2021 SWP, have been organized thematically and can be found below.

Theme: Connect

- Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs), for whom the GSA serves as a union under the leadership of the VP Labour, are recipients of the "AEGS Newsletter" which provides, among others, updates on the currently-ongoing **ratification process for the next Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement and proposal for the collection of a union due**, as well as vacancy postings on the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC). Since May 2020, sixteen communiqués have been circulated in this vein;
- The creation the new **GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC)**, which is expected to commence its work in April 2021;
- The student executive team have continued to participate in informal gatherings of students' associations under the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities, in order to continue developing relationships with other Canadian student associations and to discuss issues facing graduate students across the country. Similar work has continued within the University community, where the student

executive team have been engaged in strengthening relationship with an array of University stakeholders and associations, in particular the Students' Union (SU), among others;

- Led by the VP External, development and distribution of a survey to collect feedback on graduate students' housing experiences, to better inform advocacy in this vein;
- In an effort to engage with this year's slate of student governance representatives, the GSA hosted its 2021 Volunteer Appreciation Event on 12 March 2021 with the help of Edmonton's own Rapid Fire Theatre; and
- The VP Student Services continues building relationships with University units, in particular the Community Social Work Team (CSWT) and is a member of the Days of Action (DOA) Committee which seeks to increase awareness on a number of fronts related to mental wellbeing. These initiatives, which include the significant addition of Graduate-Specific Collective Tea Times, are supported by the GSA in terms of programming and communication.

Theme: Support

- Further to the previous updates provided to GSA Council, the GSA—under the leadership of the student executive team—continues to respond to the unique and turbulent circumstances brought on by the **COVID-19 pandemic**. Recent work includes continued advocacy for the removal of barriers to learning remotely, at General Faculties Council (GFC), its associated Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC), and meetings with Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean, the Provost, and the President, respectively; and continued prudent management of the GSA's finances, under the supervision of the President, to ensure financial health and organizational longevity even in the case of low enrolment in Fall 2021;
- The U-Pass program and the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP), each of which provide essential services to graduate students, were brought for the consideration of the graduate student body via referendum in the 2021 GSA General Election. This followed extensive work on the part of the VP Student Services, who joined other Edmonton-area student associations in negotiations for the U-Pass, and who continued liaising with the University with regards to the GSAP. Both referenda passed and so both programs will continue to be offered. Results can be found on [the GSA website](#);
- Under the supervision of the VP Student Services grants and bursaries have been disbursed to GSA members in the following amounts: \$389,000 in the form of Child Care Grants (CCGs), \$26,650 in the form of Academic Travel Grants (ATGs), \$417,776 in the form of Emergency Bursaries (EBs), and \$7,411 in the form of Graduate Student Group Grants (GSGGs), totalling approximately \$840,000 funds disbursed since May 2020;
- In developing new supports for graduate students who parent, the GSA has signed an agreement alongside the Students' Union (SU) with Kids & Company child care. This pilot will improve access to off-campus childcare for graduate students;
- Advocacy for additional internship opportunities and entrepreneurship training for graduate students continues via representation at the University of Alberta Innovation Network (UAIN). The President serves in this capacity;

780-492-2175

www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association

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

- The VP Labour has continued to meet one-on-one with graduate students to offer individualized support and guidance regarding the Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement. The President and the VP Academic have also met with a number of graduate students one-on-one, to advise them on topics relevant to their respective portfolios;
- In fulfilling the GSA's mandate to serve as the union for AEGSs, and in addition to leading the negotiation process for the next Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement, the VP Labour has cultivated province-wide relationships as part of a series of labour roundtables facilitated by the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC). The VP Labour and the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) continue to be involved in the process of establishing the collection of a union due to support the GSA's work as a labour union with respect to potential job actions, etc.

Theme: Advocate

- The student executive team has continued representation of and advocacy for the unique needs of graduate students during the planning and implementation of "University of Alberta for Tomorrow." In addition to previously-reported outreach and collaboration efforts, the President has continued advocating for measures to lessen the impact of tuition increases planned annually until 2023 on graduate students. The student executive team have also urged graduate students to be mindful of non-academic staff cuts within their individual departments to better inform advocacy in this vein;
- Advocacy also continues at the provincial level, where the President and VP External (as members of the **Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC)** Board of Directors) have continued discussions with the Ministry of Advanced Education. Graduate student representation has persisted throughout the consultation process for the government's Alberta 2030 initiative. The student executive team has also been involved in supporting the Public Interest Alberta (PIA) campaign against post-secondary education budget cuts;
- Having identified adequate and affordable housing as cause for concern for many graduate students, the VP External has dedicated significant time to strengthening relationships with the Associate Vice-President (Ancillary Services) to ensure graduate student consultation remains a major priority in future residence projects;
- The President, alongside his counterpart at the Students' Union (SU), released a statement in opposition to severe and unacceptable proposed tuition increases for a number of graduate programs. This letter has gained media attention, earning broad coverage for this important issue. Consultations with affected departments are ongoing, as is coordinating with the SU to express opposition; and
- The President and VP Academic continue to work with Dean Brooke Milne of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) to further and support the Graduate Supervisory Excellence Initiative. The current program implements mandatory reporting structures for supervisors of graduate students at the beginning of their studies, in addition to an annual report to monitor the progress of graduate students in their programs. We applaud FGSR for their efforts and successful start to the project, and plan to continue offering our support and input as it matures towards its second stage.



The 2020-2021 student executive team will continue to work on these initiatives, among others, until the conclusion of their respective terms on 30 April 2021. Efforts to advance ongoing and new strategic priorities will be spearheaded by the 2021-2022 student executive team effective 1 May 2021.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE (GSA CAL) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): TWO (2) NOMINEES

Information regarding the position for one (1) Councillor-at-Large position was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 26 March and 1 and 9 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 14 April 2021. Two (2) nominations were received.

GSA Council is the highest governing body of the GSA and is composed of the GSA President and Vice-Presidents, other elected officials of the GSA, one representative for each unit with a graduate program, and ten (10) GSA Councillors-at-Large. As noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, "the mandate of the GSA Council is to fulfill all responsibilities listed in Section 95 of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*" (Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council, Section C.BYL.1.1).

There will be an electronic vote held at the 19 April 2021 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 19 April 2021 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator (gsanomco@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 19 April 2021 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

- 1. Girish (Mechanical Engineering)**
- 2. Sabrina Rashid Sheonty (Civil and Environmental Engineering)**

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.15.3

"In the event that any CAL positions are not filled by the end of the GSA General Election, or a CAL position is vacated, GSA Council will be responsible for electing any remaining CALs prior to 1 December (or the next working day). When electing any remaining CALs, GSA Council will aim to elect GSA members from as broad a range of disciplines as possible. The GSA NoC will decide on procedures and then provide one (1) or more names to GSA Council for consideration, 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 noted in the advertisement."

The name and biography received for the two (2) nominees is BELOW on pages 8.1 - 8.2.

The biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).

Nominations for GSA COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE (GSA CAL)
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER)
Two (2) Nominees

1. Girish

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	N/A
Statement of Interest: The skills that I have learned volunteering as a tutor for a local shelter will benefit the work that this committee does. Working as an assistant manager helped me gain experience of all the backend operations and teamwork that will serve me as an asset for this committee.	
Bio: I was born in India, I am fluent in English, Hindi and has a working knowledge of Punjabi. I did my Bachelor of technology in mechanical and automation engineering from Amity University in 2016 and now pursuing my masters in University of Alberta.	
Summary Resume: I am now a first-year graduate student at university of Alberta in the mechanical engineering department studying engineering management. I worked as an assistant manager at a small business. During my undergrad years I worked as a volunteer at a local shelter for kids as a part time teacher. I have a schedule that is flexible enough to accommodate weekly meetings.	

2. Sabrina Rashid Sheonty

Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)	ISA (Graduate Councilor), ITE (Secretary)
Statement of Interest: I have previous experiences working at different clubs in my undergraduate university back in Bangladesh. Apart from that, I have participated in different international competitions. Thus, I have skills of working in a diverse team of people which will me to understand graduate students' need coming from different background and connecting with them.	
Bio: I was born and brought up in Bangladesh. I have completed by undergraduate from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology which is the top engineering university in Bangladesh. Apart from my academic excellence, I was always passionate about extra-curricular activities like debate and sports. I have several championships in different competitions, debate and sports as well.	

Summary Resume:

I completed my undergrad from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology from the faculty of Civil Engineering. I was one of the three toppers of my department and I have received Dean's award and University Merit Award for my academic excellence. I started my professional career right after my graduation in Teaching and started working as a lecturer at the Department of Civil Engineering in Military Institute of Science and Technology, Bangladesh. I was involved in several clubs during my undergraduate life. I was the Vice president of BUET Career Club and the director of BUET Debating Club. I also had a social business start up named "Tetra" which got international recognition like HULT Prize.

President
Report to GSA Council for the 19 April 2021 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Marc Waddingham
Date: 16 April 2021

To my GSA Council colleagues,

I am glad to present my final full update for my tenure as GSA President, and the close of my third advocacy season with the association. This past year has been difficult for all of us, with numerous challenges to navigate between a major institutional restructuring project, the ongoing public health crisis, and our longstanding advocacy projects. However, that is all to say that against all odds, we were successful on a number of fronts, launched new initiatives, and furthered the aims of graduate students at the University of Alberta. Much of these accomplishments are covered in our Strategic Work Plan updates to Council, which I would refer Councillors to as part of our retrospective. As business never stops, I have some further updates to share:

Exceptional Tuition Increases

I have been contributing to a variety of media requests regarding the slate of exceptional tuition increase proposals that were unveiled at the 9 April Tuition & Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC) meeting. These increases are described as necessary for program quality improvement, and a short time-frame has been given to complete consultation with those affected. We have reached out to these units to learn more of the “on the ground” experience, and to ensure that proper consultation is being performed in a fair, transparent manner. This initiative will become the responsibility of the incoming team, and we will be including these efforts as part of our job shadowing process.

Canadian Graduate Student Alliance Memorandum of Understanding

After review and discussion by the GSA Board, and due to no financial or legal implications for the GSA, we are going to offer our support for the initial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) framework developed to support the longevity and function of the U15 Canadian Graduate Student Alliance (CGSA) group, with whom we have collaborated on a number of shared projects. While not an official federal advocacy group, we have had the opportunity to see first-hand the results of bringing graduate student representatives from across Canada together to work on shared projects. My hope is that the UAlberta GSA will continue to provide leadership and material assistance to the group, for the benefit of our members and graduate students across the nation.

University Isolation Program Advocacy to Federal Government

After collecting the required information from our respective units on campus, we will be compiling a report to share with the University of British Columbia Graduate Student Society, who is spear-heading conversations with members of the Official Opposition in Parliament. Our aims are to have the questions raised at the federal level, which would in-turn drive a response from the federal Ministries of Health and Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship. Ideally, this matter would be resolved prior to the start of the Fall 2021 semester, in order to accommodate incoming and returning international students. This will also align with a predicted return to in-person activities, and as such, more equitable, accessible programming will be necessary.

This concludes the main highlights for the closing of my tenure. It has been a privilege to serve the graduate students at the University of Alberta, an important chapter of my professional life, and I am confident in the abilities of our incoming executive to carry on the momentum we have initiated this year. I am glad to field any

questions or comments related to this report, or my activities over the previous year.

Kind regards,
Marc Waddingham, President 2020-2021

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 March 2021 and 19 April 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

16 March	Alberta Student Associations Labour Relations Roundtable
17 March	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
17 March	Joint Board of Governors (BoG)-Senate-General Faculties Council (GFC) Summit Advisory Meeting
17 March	Meeting with Kids & Company
17 March	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
18 March	Meeting with Incoming GSA VP Academic
18 March	UAlberta Innovation Network
18 March	GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
18 March	Meeting with Incoming GSA VP Labour
19 March	Meeting with Graduate Student Collective
19 March	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations)
19 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy and Outreach Committee
22 March	General Faculties Council (GFC)
23 March	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
23 March	University Student Associations Meeting
24 March	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
25 March	Meeting with the Incoming Vice-President Student Services
25 March	Meeting with the Dean of Students
25 March	Joint Meeting of the Board Governance Committee and the General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
26 March	Meeting with K Swindlehurst, Chief Strategy Officer
26 March	Board of Governors, General Faculties Council (GFC) and Senate Summit
27 March	Emergency Alberta Student Congress Meeting
29 March	GSA Directly-Elected Officers Transition
29 March	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC) Working Group on Metrics
29 March	U-15 Graduate Student Societies
31 March	Meeting with the Incoming GSA President
6 April	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
6 April	Meeting with Incoming GSA President
7 April	Special General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
9 April	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
9 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy and Outreach Committee
12 April	PAW Centre Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)
13 April	Student Leaders Meeting
13 April	Meeting with S Dew, Vice-President (Academic) and Provost
13 April	Meeting with the Incoming GSA President
14 April	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
15 April	UAlberta Innovation Network (UAIN)
16 April	Meeting with Graduate Student Collective
16 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Annual General Meeting

**GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the 19 April 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Marc Waddingham, President
Date: 16 April 2021

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

24 March 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Academic Travel Grants, Child Care Grants, and Emergency Bursaries: Reallocation of Graduate Student Support Fund Rolling Opening Balances; COVID-19 Update; GSA Council Debrief; GSA Council Slack Channel; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the reallocation of the amounts remaining in the budgets and contingency budgets for GSA Academic Travel Grants, Child Care Grants, and Emergency Bursaries in 2020-2021 as follows: ~\$157,941 to the 2021-2022 budget line for GSA Emergency Bursaries and ~\$157,941 to the 2021-2022 budget line for GSA Child Care Grants. UN **MOVED**. AF Seconded. **CARRIED**.

31 March 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update; Graduate Student Societies of U15: Draft Federal Advocacy Letter; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

Members **AGREED** that the Graduate Student Societies of U15 draft federal advocacy letter should be submitted to the government.

7 April 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update; GSA Board Strategic Work Plan: Update to GSA Council; Graduate Student Societies of Canada: Draft Memorandum of Understanding; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

14 April 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Graduate Student Assistance Program: Annual Statistical Report, 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Graduate Student Assistance Program Annual Statistical Report, 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020. SR **MOVED**. UN Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 19 April 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sachiketha Reddy Paspula
Date: 16 April 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

Officially, this is the last Council meeting of my term and I heartfully welcome the incoming team. Serving the graduate community here at the University of Alberta has been an honor and has nothing pleased me more than this.

A lot has happened in the past month while I've been working diligently in my role as your VP Academic, and I have attended several meetings and been involved in various discussions, but here are a few highlights to give you a snapshot of what I've been up to (you will also receive a brief final report from me in May).

- I attended the General Faculties' Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC) and the GFC EXEC *ad hoc* Governance and Procedural Review Committee. This *ad hoc* committee's work will fulfill GFC's commitment to regularly review its processes, as called for at February's GFC meeting. In accordance with good governance principles, the *ad hoc* committee agreed that GFC's guiding documents, delegations of authority, and terms of reference should be reviewed at least every three years. The *ad hoc* committee will begin with a review of the GFC Principles document and the processes of the GFC Question Period and report back to the GFC EXEC.
- E Heiberg, GSA Associate Director, and I met with a graduate student who with some academic issues and suggested ways to proceed for further consultation to get the issue resolved.
- Marc and I attended a couple of meetings with Dr. Brooke Milne - Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). We discussed the financial support provided by the FGSR to the graduate students, who have been affected negatively due to Covid-19. Approximately 400 applicants received \$1500 each from FGSR. We also discussed the funding associated with the 3-day hotel quarantine requirement for students entering Canada. The University is supporting students by providing \$500 grant to students who arrive in Canada after April 1, 2021, and they are currently accepting the applications for this grant.
- I attended the Remote Learning Task Force Working Group. In this group, we discussed identifying short-term priorities - what is most pressing and can be done this semester (if anything) and what can be done for the spring/summer semester. Members discussed the recording of lectures, participation grades, and remote proctoring were of most importance in the current semester and where to focus efforts. It was also noted that it is important to look at broader topics into the future as well. As we progress into the long term and midterm goals, it will be necessary to be more proactive. Another clear area was communication - identifying where the gaps are and getting a fulsome understanding of where we are right now.
- I attended the GFC Nominating Committee (GFC NC), in which the committee members elected the student representatives on GFC standing committees. I am happy to say that all the graduate student positions in all the committees were filled.
- As I am approaching the end of my term as VP Academic, we are in the job shadowing process. As part of our GSA transition, I have attended a couple of meetings with Kathy Haddadkar, our incoming VP Academic.

If you have any concerns about this report/concerns regarding any academic related issue, feel free to reach me at gsavpaca@ualberta.ca. I will be more than happy to answer your questions.

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

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 March 2021 and 22 February 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

16 March	Working Group on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Review of Teaching Awards
22 March	General Faculties Council (GFC)
23 March	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
23 March	Meeting with a Graduate Student
23 March	Remote Learning Task Force Working Group
24 March	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
25 March	Joint Meeting of the Board Governance Committee and the General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
26 March	University Research Policy Committee (URPC)
26 March	Board of Governors, General Faculties Council (GFC) and Senate Summit
29 March	GSA Directly Elected Officers Transition
30 March	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC) ad hoc Governance and Procedural Review Committee
31 March	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
6 April	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
7 April	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC)
8 April	Remote Learning Task Force
9 April	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
12 April	Vice-President (Research and Innovation) Meeting
12 April	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
14 April	General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC)
14 April	Meeting with a Graduate Student
15 April	General Faculties Council Programs Committee (GFC PC)
15 April	Working Group on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Review of Teaching Awards
15 April	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
16 April	Meeting with the Office of the Provost re Student Feedback on Remote Learning
19 April	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
19 April	Meeting with K Haddadkar, Incoming GSA VP Academic

**Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 19 April 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 16 April 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all doing well. I have attended a couple of meetings in the past month and here are the main updates from those meetings:

- On 16 March I attended a meeting with the Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA). We talked about transition and job shadowing of incoming student executives, focusing mostly on effective knowledge transfer between incoming and outgoing executives. Ensuring an effective representation of various student societies and groups in the City of Edmonton through ESA was the hallmark of the meeting. Moreover, as the municipal election is upcoming, some City Councillors have reached out to ESA to garner student support in their election campaigns. Some student groups have been deliberating hosting an election forum for these Councillors on their respective campuses.
- On 16, 23, and 30 March and 13 April, I attended executive committee meetings with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC). We discussed the response to the provincial government's reluctance to releasing their Alberta 2030 report. The report was introduced to Cabinet but not released to the public yet. In anticipation of its release, ab-GPAC is preparing a response to the report which, we hope, will push various post-secondary groups to exert pressure on this file and to increase consultation with units impacted.
- On 22 and 29 March, the incoming Directly-Elected Officers and I met with the GSA staff as part of our transition. Incoming DEOs were reminded of their fiduciary duty to fellow graduate students, and the workload expected in their roles, among other matters.
- As incoming president, I also had one-on-one meetings with incoming VPs to talk about what they want to achieve, who they need to meet with in their portfolios, and what training they need to help them fulfil their duties in a professional and diplomatic manner. I am impressed by the high level of motivation the incoming VPs have exhibited and I look forward to working with them.
- On 29 March I had a meeting with the U15 Graduate Students Group to discuss the group plan going forward. The group is moving to become a federal advocacy front that will potentially attract a number of graduate student groups across the country to join. It is an easy in and out joining process, without any financial commitment. We agreed on cost sharing between student groups to cover the costs of our expenses, rather than committing a yearly sum of money, which could potentially have implications for the GSA's financial situation. As part of the transition, the group will have to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair, along with other executives to lead the group in the next year. Details of the election is yet to be decided.
- On 7 April I met with K. Huising, Associate Vice-President (Ancillary Services), to discuss the UofA Isolation Program and General Faculties' Council (GFC) Housing Policies as part of my monthly meeting with her. The purpose of the meeting was also to introduce the incoming Vice-President External, as he will be working closely with her in the coming year.
- On the Isolation Program note, international students are now eligible for some financial aid offered by the University. It is called the International Quarantine Support Grant, which amounts to \$500 per

student. More details are available here: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/scholarships-awards-financial-support/international-quarantine-support-grant.html>.

Feel free to reach out via email (gsa.vpexternal@ualberta.ca) or ask in the GSA Council meeting should you have any questions.

Thank you!

Anas Fassih, Vice-President External 2020-2021

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 March 2021 and 19 April 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

16 March	Edmonton Students' Alliance (ESA)
16 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
17 March	Brand Advisory Committee
17 March	Public Interest Alberta (PIA) Post-Secondary Campaign Meeting
18 March	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
19 March	Meeting with Graduate Student Collective
19 March	Meeting with E MacDonald, Vice-President (External Relations)
19 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy and Outreach Committee
22 March	GSA Directly-Elected Officers Transition
23 March	Isolation Accommodation Program (IAP) Meeting
23 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
23 March	Student Transitions Committee Meeting
26 March	Board of Governors, General Faculties Council (GFC) and Senate Summit
27 March	Emergency Alberta Student Congress Meeting
29 March	GSA Directly-Elected Officers Transition
29 March	U-15 Graduate Student Societies
30 March	Post-Secondary Campaign Meeting
30 March	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Meeting
7 April	Meeting with K Husing, Associate Vice-President (Ancillary Services)
9 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy and Outreach Committee
13 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
15 April	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
16 April	Meeting with Residence Services re Community Standards
16 April	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Annual General Meeting

**Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the 19 April 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Umesh Nimmathi
Date: 16 April 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope that everyone is staying healthy and maintaining social distance. This is my last full Council report (you will receive a short one from me in May covering my last two weeks as Vice-President Labour) and I really wanted to thank all the Council members for their involvement, participation, and for making us accountable in the Council meetings. Also, I want to say good luck to all the incoming Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) with all their new challenges and initiatives. Please find below some updates from the meetings that I have attended since my last report:

Collective Agreement Negotiations & Union Due Vote: Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs) voted to ratify a new Collective Agreement and it has also been ratified by the Board of Governors' Human Resources and Compensation Committee (BHRCC). I am going to meet with the University's negotiating team to discuss next steps and soon the new 2020-2022 Collective Agreement will be available on our website. I want to thank the GSA Negotiating Team and Labour Relations Committee for their contributions.

With respect to the collection of a union due, I'm confident that a union due will greatly benefit our AEGSs and it will also strengthen our position during future negotiation processes. Also, it will help us to establish and sustain a steward network. The union due vote opens on Wednesday and I'm requesting all Council members to encourage your friends or colleagues who are AEGSs to please participate in this vote.

Meeting with Incoming GSA VP Labour: I met with Jessica Grenke, incoming VP Labour to discuss the meetings and committees that she will be attending as VP Labour. We also discussed some upcoming labour priorities and how to improve student engagement.

University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee: The Terms of Reference of this committee have been updated and are viewable on their [website](#). This committee is working to resolve infrastructure issues at the University that relate to safety and security issues. Their annual survey that focuses on physical safety and security on campus will be distributed to the University community after a final consultation with the committee. This committee is aware of the 'No Cops on Campus' movement and informed us that senior officials from the Provost's Office would be reaching out to the members of this movement for further discussion.

Grants Information: International students who are traveling between 1 April and 31 December 2021 from outside Canada with a final destination of Edmonton may be eligible to apply for the [International Quarantine Support Grant](#). Please consider looking into this funding if you think you might be eligible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at gsavplab@ualberta.ca.

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

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 March 2021 and 19 April 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

24 March	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
25 March	Meeting with the Dean of Students
26 March	Meeting with a Graduate Student
29 March	GSA Directly-Elected Officers Transition
31 March	University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee (UASSC)
6 April	Meeting with a Graduate Student
9 April	Meeting with the Incoming VP Labour
12 April	National Collective Bargaining Institute Session
19 April	University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee (UASSC)
19 April	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus

**Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the 19 April 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sridhar Parasharamatham
Date: 16 April 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

Hope you all are doing well. I am happy to share my activities and to give you a brief update of the meetings I attended in March and April so far; it was not a busy month for me.

I attended the Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC) meeting, which was the last meeting of the year. There was a discussion on a new proposal to re-purpose room 3-209 in the PAW Centre into an eSports lounge. The eSports lounge would be unique on campus and engage a wider variety of University students in Campus & Community Recreation activities. The Committee was generally in favor of this and details regarding the development would be determined.

Also, I attended the Student Equity Survey meeting, where different parts of the survey were reviewed by the committee and the survey is almost ready to be sent out to the public. I attended the Edmonton Regional Post-Secondary Mental Health Committee (ERPSMHC) meeting where Joe Campbell gave a presentation on domestic violence. The impact of how isolation during COVID has increased the domestic violence was discussed. I also attended different meetings for U-Pass from where the update is that smart fare will be implemented starting in Fall 2021 and the four-year U-Pass contract is ready and the necessary changes in terms of wording have been made.

This will be my last Council meeting, although you will receive a brief final report from me in May. I would like to thank all the Councilors for their support, insights and suggestions throughout my term. Good luck to all of you for your future endeavors.

Sridhar Parasharamatham, Vice-President Student Services 2020-2021

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 March 2021 and 19 April 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

16 March	U-Pass Working Committee
18 March	U-Pass Administrative Committee
18 March	Edmonton Regional Post-Secondary Mental Health Committee (ERPSMHC)
8 April	Return to Campus Safety and Logistics Committee
8 April	Student Equity Survey
12 April	PAW Centre Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC)
15 April	U-Pass Administrative Committee
19 April	Meeting with P Kumar, Incoming GSA VP Student Services

**GSA Nominating Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 19 April 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Kenzie Gordon
Date: 16 April 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,

Kenzie Gordon, Chair of the GSA NoC

Memorandum to GSA Councillors

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

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

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

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

GSA Councillor-Elected Officers

1) GSA Councillor-at-Large (GSA CAL) (One (1) GSA Member Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via email to GSA Council on 26 March and 1 and 9 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 13 April 2021. **Two (2) nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 8a – Nominee for the GSA Councillor-at-Large).**

GSA Standing Committees

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 26 March and 1 and 9 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 13 April 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 26 March and 1 and 9 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 14 April 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for three (3) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 26 March and 1 and 9 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 14 April 2021. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

4) GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (One (1) GSA Member Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Member was circulated via the GSA Newsletter on 26 March and 1 and 9 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 14 April 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

External Committees: Vacancies

1) Faculty of Arts Council (Four (4) Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the position for four (4) Faculty of Arts graduate students was circulated via email on 19 and 26 March 2021 with a nomination deadline of 31 March 2021. **Three nominations were received; Maura Roberts, Naomi Quinlan and Simone Haliday-Shaw were elected. The remaining vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) Faculty of Arts graduate student was circulated via email on 19 and 26 March 2021 with a nomination deadline of 31 March 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

3) Faculty of Arts Academic Affairs Committee (Two (2) Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the position for two (2) Faculty of Arts graduate students was circulated via email on 19 and 26 March 2021 with a nomination deadline of 31 March 2021. **One nomination was received; Evan Schollie was elected. The remaining vacancy will be advertised again.**

4) Faculty of Arts Research Committee (One (1) Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) Faculty of Arts graduate student was circulated via email on 19 and 26 March 2021 with a nomination deadline of 31 March 2021. **One nomination was received; Simone Haliday-Shaw was elected.**

5) Faculty of Arts Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (One (1) Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) Faculty of Arts graduate student was circulated via email on 19 and 26 March 2021 with a nomination deadline of 31 March 2021. **One nomination was received; Malou Brouwer was elected.**

6) General Faculties Council (Fourteen (14) Graduate Student Positions)

Information regarding the position for fourteen (14) graduate students was circulated via the GSA Newsletter 19 and 26 March and 1 and 9 April 2021 with a nomination deadline of 14 April 2021. **Six nominations were received; Khandaker Akib Shahriar, Maggie Lin, Adekunle Mofolassayo, Ding Xu, Emily Holden, and Sophie Shi were elected. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.**

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the 15 March 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 12 March 2021

Dear GSA Council Members,

In the weeks following the last meeting of GSA Council, the office team has been engaged with: planning for the beginning of the terms of the new team of Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) that will happen at the start of May; the closing out of the GSA's fiscal year on 31 March; planning a summer engagement event; attending to the processing of applications for GSA grants and bursaries (new granting period opened on 1 April); reviewing a complex legal opinion on the possible implications of Bill 32 for the GSA (I am happy to speak to this further and the GSA Board has also been fully briefed); facilitating a vote among academically-employed graduate students concerning the ratification of the proposed Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement; and preparing for a vote among academically-employed graduate students concerning the proposed collection of union due.

As this is the final meeting before a new team of Directly-Elected Officers takes office, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincerest thanks to the current team. This is ninth team of Directly-Elected Officers that I have had the pleasure of supporting and, over the past year, I have greatly appreciated the dedication, insightfulness, and conscientiousness that they have brought to their roles. This has been an extremely difficult year (owing to the pandemic but also involving challenging interactions with government, massive cuts to the University's budget, and a major restructuring of the University itself) and the outgoing team has working diligently to support graduate students at the U of A. Along with all the members of the office team, I wish them all the best in their future endeavours and thank them for their service.

I am happy to answer any questions and, as always, the weekly reports from myself to the GSA Board are attached (pages 19.1-19.5).

Best,

Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, 17 March 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 10 March 2021:

Strategic

- Drafting GSA reports to several University governance bodies.
- Planning for the inaugural meeting of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, the final GSA Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council, and transition (sessions to begin on Monday).
- Getting a legal review of the draft U-Pass agreement.
- Following up concerning a long ago solicited legal opinion on the implications of Bill 32 for the GSA's structure, budget, etc.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (preparing for a ratification vote), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due, and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee are ongoing and members have formed a working group to produce communication materials related to the ratification and union due votes).

Operations

- Preparing for the opening of a new granting period (hosting a Funding 101).
- Planning for upcoming engagement events (a year end event and future Brunch and Learns are planned).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (to be advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (to be advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (to be advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Nominating Committee (to be advertised via the GSA newsletter), and replenishment of the Arts Faculty Council and associated standing committees (advertised via email to Arts students). The remaining Councillor-at-Large position not filled in the General Election will also be advertised in the GSA newsletter.
- Facebook = 1,639 likes (up 3 from 10 March) and 1,783 followers (up 3 from 10 March); Facebook posts reached 445 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 44. Twitter = 1,154 followers (up 2 from 10 March); our tweets earned 1,100 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 595 followers (up 2 from 10 March); Instagram posts reached 182 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 April (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 24 March 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 10 March 2021:

Strategic

- Drafting GSA reports to several University governance bodies.
- Planning for the inaugural meeting of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, the final GSA Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council, and transition (sessions began on Monday).
- Getting a legal review of the draft U-Pass agreement.
- Following up concerning a long ago solicited legal opinion on the implications of Bill 32 for the GSA's structure, budget, etc.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (preparing for a ratification vote which opens on 24 March), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due, and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee are ongoing and members have formed a working group to produce communication materials related to the ratification and union due votes).

Operations

- Preparing for the opening of a new granting period (hosting a Funding 101).
- Planning for upcoming engagement events (a year end event and future Brunch and Learns are planned).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), replenishment of the Arts Faculty Council and associated standing committees (advertised via email to Arts students), replenishment of General Faculties Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), and the remaining Councillor-at-Large position not filled in the General Election (advertised via the GSA newsletter).
- Facebook = 1,642 likes (up 7 from 10 March) and 1,789 followers (up 7 from 10 March); Facebook posts reached 41 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 44. Twitter = 1,158 followers (up 6 from 10 March); our tweets earned 280 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 602 followers (up 9 from 10 March); Instagram posts reached 293 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 April (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 31 March 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 24 March 2021:

Strategic

- Drafting the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council and developing a timeline for the development of the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.
- Hosting transition and scheduling job shadowing.
- Finalizing the U-Pass agreement following a legal review and the submission of feedback to the transit providers (will also need to have ongoing conversations with the Students' Union over the summer concerning how we will work with them on distribution, processing of eligible opt-outs, etc).
- Reviewing a legal opinion on the implications of Bill 32 for the GSA.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (circulating the results of the ratification vote), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due (slated for the end of April and revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning the existence of the GSA Labour Fund may be needed), and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee are ongoing and revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy will likely be needed once the details of the steward network (selection of stewards, roles and responsibilities, training, etc) are worked out).

Operations

- Preparing for the opening of a new granting period.
- Finalizing a series of updates to the GSA website.
- Planning an academic year-end engagement event.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the newsletter), as well as filling a remaining GSA Councillor-at-Large position (advertised via the newsletter), the replenishment of various Arts Faculty Council committees (advertised via email to Arts students), the replenishment of General Faculties Council (advertised via the newsletter), and assisting with the Sociology Graduate Students' Association election (advertised via email to Sociology students).
- Facebook = 1,648 likes (up 6 from 24 March) and 1,789 followers (up 7 from 24 March); Facebook posts reached 132 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 2. Twitter = 1,164 followers (up 6 from 24 March); our tweets earned 631 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 606 followers (up 4 from 24 March); Instagram posts reached 8 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 April (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 7 April 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 31 March 2021:

Strategic

- Drafting the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council and developing a timeline for the development of the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.
- Preparing for the first mailing of GSA Council meeting materials.
- Finalizing the U-Pass agreement following a legal review and the submission of feedback to the transit providers (will also need to have ongoing conversations with the Students' Union over the summer concerning how we will work with them on distribution, processing of eligible opt-outs, etc – hoping to begin that process in the next couple of weeks).
- Ongoing review of a legal opinion on the implications of Bill 32 for the GSA (as members were briefed last week).
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (hosting a Labour 101, pending the ratification of the agreement by the Board of Governors, as well as advising individual graduate student workers), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due (slated for the end of April and revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning the existence of the GSA Labour Fund may be needed), and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee are ongoing and revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy will likely be needed once the details of the steward network (selection of stewards, roles and responsibilities, training, etc) are worked out).

Operations

- Opening of a new granting period and finalizing a series of updates to the GSA website.
- Planning an spring/summer engagement event (scheduled for mid-May).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the newsletter), as well as filling a remaining GSA Councillor-at-Large position (advertised via the newsletter), the replenishment of the Arts Faculty Council and various Arts Faculty Council committees (advertised via email to Arts students), the replenishment of General Faculties Council (advertised via the newsletter), and assisting with the Sociology Graduate Students' Association election (advertised via email to Sociology students).
- Facebook = 1,654 likes (up 6 from 31 March) and 1,796 followers (up 7 from 31 March); Facebook posts reached 193 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 9. Twitter = 1,166 followers (up 2 from 31 March); our tweets earned 713 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 606 followers (up 0 from 31 March); Instagram posts reached 149 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 April (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 14 April 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 7 April 2021:

Strategic

- Developing a timeline for the development of the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan and compiling the 2020-2021 Annual Report.
- Preparing for the second mailing of GSA Council meeting materials.
- Preparing for ongoing conversations with the Students' Union over the summer concerning how we will work with them with respect to the U-Pass program (distribution, processing of eligible opt-outs, etc).
- Submission of GSA fees to the Board Property and Finance Committee to provide for their collection.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (awaiting the ratification of the agreement by the Board of Governors, as well as advising individual graduate student workers), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due (slated for the end of April and revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning the existence of the GSA Labour Fund may be needed), and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee are ongoing and revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy will likely be needed once the details of the steward network (selection of stewards, roles and responsibilities, training, etc) are worked out). Members of the GSA Labour Relations Committee will be meeting this week to discuss engaging GSA Council on these issues.

Operations

- Finalizing a series of updates to the GSA website.
- Planning a spring/summer engagement event (scheduled for mid-May) and a Brunch and Learn with TD.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the newsletter), as well as open positions for a GSA Councillor-at-Large (advertised via the newsletter) and the GSA Senator (advertised via the newsletter), the replenishment of the Faculty of Arts Council and Standing Committees (advertised via email to Arts students) and the General Faculties Council (advertised via newsletter), and assisting with elections for the Sociology Graduate Students' Association (advertised via email to Sociology students) and the Renewable Resources Graduate Students' Association (advertised via email to Renewable Resources students).
- Facebook = 1,660 likes (up 6 from 7 April) and 1,802 followers (up 6 from 7 April); Facebook posts reached 226 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 9. Twitter = 1,172 followers (up 6 from 7 April); our tweets earned 474 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 615 followers (up 9 from 7 April); Instagram posts reached 165 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 April (26 applications funded and \$5,192.02 disbursed in the last period; not accepting applications for travel outside the province but online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 April (30 applications funded and \$42,000 disbursed in the last period); GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs (184 applications funded and \$454,376 disbursed since 1 April 2020); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 April (9 applications funded and \$4,811.50 disbursed in the last period). Breakdown of grants for 2020-2021 fiscal year: GSA Academic Travel Grants = 133 applications funded and \$26,650.96 disbursed; GSA Child Care Grants = 230 applications funded and \$391,000 disbursed; GSA Emergency Bursaries = 184 applications funded and \$454,376 disbursed; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = 15 applications funded and \$7,411.50 disbursed. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.