

**GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA**  
Monday, June 19, 2017 at 6:00 pm  
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

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

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

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

**Deputy Speaker Preshit Verma in the Chair**

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

**OPEN SESSION**

**Attached Numbered Pages**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the 19 June 2017 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 15 May 2017 GSA Council Meeting  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 15 May 2017 GSA Council Meeting **3.0 - 3.5**
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
  - i. Introduction of New Councillors (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
  - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

**Councillor Announcements**

5. Councillor Announcements

**Action Items:** None at this time

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

6. GSA Council Elections  
**Radim Barta (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item**  
  
GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO), Speaker, and Deputy Speaker  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Nominees for GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO), Speaker, and Deputy Speaker **6.0 - 6.5**  
GSA Standing Committees
  - a. GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (1 vacancy) – **Preshit Verma (Deputy Speaker) will present this portion of the item**  
*Attachment:*

Prepared by L Hareuther, J Tanguay and C Thomas for GSA Council 19 June 2017

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- i. Nominees for the GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (1 vacancy) 6.6 - 6.7
- b. GSA Labour Relations Committee (4-8 vacancies)
- Attachment:*
- i. Nominees for the GSA Labour Relations Committee (4-8 vacancies) 6.8 - 6.10

**For Discussion:**

- 7. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan – 2017-2018  
**Babak Soltannia (GSA President) will present the item**
- Attachments:*
- i. High-Level Summary on the Development of the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan – 2017-2018 7.0 - 7.1

**Reports**

- 8. President (**Babak Soltannia, GSA President**)
  - i. President’s Report 8.0 - 8.1
  - ii. GSA Board 8.2
  - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee 8.3
  - iv. GSA Governance Committee 8.4
- 9. Vice-President Academic (**Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic**)
  - i. Vice-President Academic’s Report 9.0 - 9.1
- 10. Vice-President External (**Masoud Khademi, GSA Vice-President External**)
  - i. Vice-President External’s Report 10.0 - 10.1
  - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
- 11. Vice-President Labour (**Sasha van der Klein, GSA Vice-President Labour**)
  - i. Vice-President Labour’s Report 11.1 - 11.3
  - ii. GSA Negotiating Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
  - iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee (**no meetings this reporting period - next meeting will be on June 27, 2017**)
- 12. Vice-President Student Services (**Royle Feng, GSA Vice-President Student Services**)
  - i. Vice-President Student Services’ Report 12.0 - 12.1
- 13. Senator (**Trent Nabe, GSA Senator**)
  - i. Senator’s Report (**no written report at this time**)
- 14. Speaker (**Sulya Fenichel, GSA Speaker**)
  - i. Speaker’s Report (**no written report at this time**)
- 15. Chief Returning Officer (**Carolina Martinez, GSA Chief Returning Officer**)
  - i. Chief Returning Officer’s Report (**no written report at this time**)
- 16. GSA Nominating Committee (**Radim Barta, GSA Nominating Committee Chair**)
  - i. GSA Nominating Committee Report 16.0 - 16.1
- 17. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair**)
  - i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (**no meetings this reporting period**)
- 18. GSA Management (**Courtney Thomas, GSA Executive Director**)
  - i. Executive Director’s Report 18.0 - 18.4

**Question Period**

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

20. Oral Questions

**Adjournment**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Babak Soltannia (President)	Talisha Chaput (Anthropology)	David Li (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Hanin Aburasayn (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Firouz Khodayari (VP Academic)	Michael Woolley (Arts and Design)	Lorna Sutherland (Elementary Education)	Jay Worthy (Philosophy)
Sasha van der Klein (VP Labour)	Swai Mon Khaing (Biochemistry)	Neil Prather (History & Classics)	Drew Shepherd (Physics)
Masoud Khademi (VP External)	Francesca Jean (Biological Sciences)	Mohammed Abdul-Bari (Human Ecology)	Yilun Wu (Physiology)
Royle Feng (VP Student Services)	Graham Little (Biomedical Engineering)	Kenzie Gordon (Humanities Computing)	Justin Leifso (Political Science)
Preshit Verma (Deputy Speaker)	Rongrong Zhang (Business PhD)	Faisal Hirji; Evelyn Asiedu (Laboratory Medicine and Pathology)	Michal Juhas (Psychiatry)
Darcy Bemister (Deputy Returning Officer)	Karl Roesner (Cell Biology)	Kris Joseph (Library & Info Studies)	Joshua Yong; Joanna Scanlon (Psychology)
Jane Traynor (Senator; East Asian Studies)	Mengqi Fang (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Atticus Harrigan (Linguistics)	Kevin Lien (Public Health)
Spencer Balay (Councillor-at-Large)	Michael Armstrong (Chemistry)	Michelle Michelle (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Melody Everest; Owain Bamforth (Religious Studies)
Syed Hussain (Councillor-at-Large)	Mohamed Gaafar (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Hermes Gordon (Mechanical Engineering)	Roxana Zambrano (Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Kim Nguyen-Phuoc (Councillor-at-Large)	Natalie Mahé (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Fahed Elian (Medical Genetics)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Nicole Noel (Councillor-at-Large)	Melissa Woghiren; Shrimanti Ghosh (Computing Science)	Derya Cinar (MLCS)	Paige Gorsak (Women's and Gender Studies)
Gabriel Ojakovo (Councillor-at-Large)	Dorian Lang (Drama)	Mischa Bandet (Neuroscience)	
Dasha Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large)	Benjamin Gruber (Earth & Atmo Sciences)	Radim Barta (Oncology)	
Andrews Tawiah (Councillor-at-Large)	Chantal Labonté (Ed Psych)	Prabhjot Bedi (Paediatrics)	

**Guests:** Joshua Connauton (GSA Senator candidate); J. Fernando Hernandez (Computing Science); Yuan Zhang (East Asian Studies)

Deputy Speaker Preshit Verma in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Deputy Speaker acknowledged that the University of Alberta is situated on Treaty Six territory and Métis homelands.

**Roll Call****1. Roll Call of GSA Council Members in Attendance****Approval of Agenda****2. Approval of the 15 May 2017 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 15 May 2017 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2017. M Khademi **MOVED**; F Jean **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

## Approval of Minutes

### **3. Minutes from the 24 April 2017 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 24 April 2017 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 5 May 2017. F Khodayari **MOVED**; M Khademi **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

## Changes in Council Membership

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

- i. **Introduction of New Councillors:** S Balay (Councillor-at-Large); K Nguyen-Phuoc (Councillor-at-Large); A Tawiah (Councillor-at-Large); S Hussain (Councillor-at-Large); M Armstrong (Chemistry); C Labonté (Ed Psych); D Cinar (MLCS); R Zambrano (REES); M Everest (Religious Studies); K Gordon (Humanities Computing); Y Wu (Physiology); R Zhang (Business PhD); T Chaput (Anthropology); H Gordon (Mech Eng).

- ii. **Farewell to Departing Councillors**

This was the last meeting for a number of Councillors: P Bedi (Paediatrics); F Hirji (Lab Med & Pathology); J Traynor (Senator).

## Councillor Announcements

### **5. Councillor Announcements**

None.

## Action Items

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

Babak Soltannia (GSA President and GSA Governance Committee Chair) and Sasha van der Klein (GSA VP Labour and GSA Governance Committee Vice-Chair) presented the item.

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

B Soltannia and S van der Klein reminded GSA Council that this item was presented at the April GSA Council meeting and that the material included a letter from the previous GSA President (Sarah Ficko) that highlighted the major changes. D Smirnow asked, for clarification, if this was the second reading of proposed changes to GSA Bylaw when the changes would take effect and S van der Klein confirmed it was the second reading and the changes would take effect upon approval.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee, **APPROVE** the proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council, GSA Officers, and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column documents and effective immediately. S van der Klein **MOVED**. M Khademi **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**; 1 Opposed (M Abdul-Bari).

## Elections

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

Radim Barta (Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item.

#### **GSA Senator Election**

Nominees for GSA Senator:

1. Joshua Connauton (Educational Policy Studies)
2. Trent Nabe (MBA)

R Barta noted that the GSA Senator served on the University of Alberta Senate as the GSA representative and that the GSA Senator's role was to interact with individuals from the University and greater Alberta community. Two nominations for the position were received. One candidate was in attendance at GSA Council and would be asked two questions, the other candidate was unable to attend but had filmed their response to the same two questions.

The questions were as follows and the candidates had 45 seconds to respond to each. Questions were provided in advance to both candidates.

1. As you are aware, GSA Bylaw and Policy states “[the] Senator should have prior experience acting as a representative for the GSA and/or as a liaison with bodies external to the University.” What experience do you have as a representative for the GSA and/or as a liaison with bodies external to the University?
2. As the GSA Senator, your role is to represent the GSA on Senate, which represents the University to the outside community. Keeping this in mind, what - in your opinion - is the role of the University in the community?

J Connauton answered the first question by stating that he currently worked with the Students’ Union, which was a body external to the university that operated independently, and that he had worked with many student groups in his position, and sat on several external bodies that liaised with community members and different stakeholders. He also noted that he had experience working in a volunteer capacity through his fraternity and had served as chair for a board in this capacity. He replied to the second question by saying that as the University was a public institution it had to be held accountable to the community at-large, and that the U of A’s Institutional Strategic Plan, *For the Public Good*, indicated that the University should operate in a way that is for the public good, through community outreach programs, transparent budgets, consultations, and letting the community know what they were paying for through taxes. He noted there was a symbiotic relationship between the University and the community.

T Nabe, who spoke next via a pre-recorded video, answered the first question by stating that he had experience with the GSA as the MBA Councillor, and that in his program he had worked with the city and partnered on several projects with the community. He also noted that he had worked on campus for five years and had completed various community service learning projects. He replied to the second question by saying that the role of the University in the community was multifaceted, that amazing research took place on campus, and there was opportunity to share that with the public. He stated that another big objective of the University in which the GSA could play a role was in the provision of community leadership, and that there thousands of graduate students on campus who were knowledgeable in various subjects so that there were unique opportunities for them to share their knowledge with the public.

#### **For Discussion**

None at this time

#### **Reports**

##### **8. President**

###### **i. President’s Report:**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition B Soltannia thanked GSA Council and noted that it was a great honour to serve graduate students and the GSA and that he looked forward to working with his team on issues of importance to graduate students. B Soltannia also reported that, while he was away from Edmonton on an academic matter, he had teleconferenced in to a number of meetings, including GSA Board meetings, meetings with the GSA office, the two-day ab-GPAC transition, and a Student Leaders meeting with the government. He noted that at the ab-GPAC transition he was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair of ab-GPAC, and that the other two GSA representatives for ab-GPAC were M Khademi and Nicole Hill. He also reported that during the Student Leaders meeting he received an orientation from the Ministry of Advanced Education and that , earlier that day, he attended the Community Connection Awards.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2017. 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.

##### **9. Vice-President Academic**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition F Khodayari stated that the new Dean and Vice-Provost of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

(FGSR) had been announced earlier that day, and that Heather Zwicker, current Interim Dean of FGSR had been selected for the position. He noted that the GSA had a good relationship with H Zwicker and that he was hopeful that the GSA would see progress on the initiatives she had started.

J Leifso noted that while graduate students in his department had previously served as representatives faculty selection committees, they were recently told that it was problematic for graduate students to serve on these committees. He asked if this was an issue that had been experienced in other departments. Members briefly discussed this issue, including noting that there was a lack of University-wide policy on this issue (in contrast to existing policies on chair and decanal selection procedures) and J Leifso noted that a representative from Political Science would contact the GSA Board to continue discussion on this matter.

## **10. Vice-President External**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition M Khademi stated that the collection of GSA fees had been approved by the Board of Governors on 12 May.

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

No meetings this reporting period.

## **11. Vice-President Labour**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition S van der Klein stated that many students had not scheduled an appointment to meet with her and she would like to consult with every departmental representative. She added that the GSA should have further updates concerning Bill 7 for the June GSA Council meeting.

M Woghiren asked for a financial breakdown of students who hold Research Assistant positions and noted they were holding town halls in their department and inquired as to how Bill 7 would affect them. S van der Klein responded that the GSA would know more after its legal review was completed and noted that the GSA needed to have a full understanding of the legislation before moving ahead with any compliance measures. She added that she had heard very divergent opinions concerning things such as the building of a strike fund from the graduate students with whom she had consulted. For example, she had heard concerns from some that, because some departments paid their students above the minimum rates prescribed by the Graduate Assistantship Collective Agreement, these students might have to pay a bigger contribution to a strike fund. M Woghiren stated that in Computing Science students were paid higher than many departments so if the contributions to the strike fund were based on a percentage of income, they would be impacted more than others. S van der Klein responded that she would like to meet with them to discuss this and reminded members that she was interested in meeting with as many people as possible, even multiple times.

G Little asked what would happen if the legal review of Bill 7 was ambiguous and C Thomas noted that very specific questions concerning compliance had been posed to the GSA lawyers and so it was unlikely that the answers would be ambiguous.

M Juhas noted that currently graduate assistants' stipends were broken down into two parts of award and salary and noted that it should not be too hard to calculate the strike fund contribution based on that. M Woghiren responded that it would cost more to students coming from a department where the stipend was higher than the minimum in the Collective Agreement and that if they paid more into a strike fund, those students should have more say in how it was used. She added that, currently, her department was opposed to strike actions but that they were holding town halls to discuss this further.

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

No meetings this reporting period.

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

No meetings this reporting period.

## **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 May 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition R Feng introduced himself briefly, stated that he looked forward to collaborating, and thanked his predecessor (Ali Talaei) for his generous support and training.

**ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee**

No meetings this reporting period.

**13. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time. J Traynor noted that M DuVal attended on the recent Senate plenary on her behalf and provided a written report (the meeting focused on discussion of a year-end report, a budget, and a strategic plan). J Traynor noted that she enjoyed serving as GSA Senator and representing graduate students.

**14. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**15. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.

**16. GSA Nominating Committee**

**i. GSA Nominating Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition R Barta stated that there were current vacancies on GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and a joint position on the GSA Nominating Committee and the GSA Board and added that both vacancies needed to be filled by GSA Councillors. He noted that these positions were a great opportunity to get involved and that the advertisements for both vacancies would re-run before the June GSA Council meeting. R Barta also informed GSA Council that the GSA would no longer provide hard copies of bios and resumes at GSA Council meetings in the interests of sustainability as they were available on the GSA website in advance of GSA Council.

**17. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

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

No meetings this reporting period.

**18. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 12 May 2017. The report stood as submitted. In addition C Thomas stated that the GSA would soon initiate its annual audit, with independent audit field workers in the GSA office. She added that the results of the audit would be presented at the July meeting of GSA Council.

**Question Period**

**19. Written Questions**

None.

**20. Oral Questions**

S Ghosh noted that a graduate student in her department applied in March for the GSA Academic Travel Award (GSA ATA) in advance of a conference on April 2-5 but that, according to GSA Bylaw and Policy, as they had already received the maximum amount for the GSA ATA allowed in a fiscal year, the student received a notice of ineligibility in their spam folder. It was noted that such notice invited the student to re-apply at the beginning of the new fiscal year on April 1. S Ghosh requested that the GSA reconsider GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA ATAs to accommodate this situation. C Thomas and F Robertson responded that if the individual had applied on April 1 they would have likely received a GSA ATA and added that it was the responsibility of the applicant to check their spam folder. F Robertson added that when graduate students submitted a GSA ATA application through Google Forms the confirmation page instructed them to check spam folders. M Woghiren asked what the processing time was for GSA awards and grants and F Robertson indicated it was normally between 3 to 4 weeks.

M Woghiren asked if there was a way to accommodate graduate students who had a conference within the first week of April and whether the GSA could allow for GSA ATA applications to be submitted in advance of the start of the new fiscal year. F Robertson responded that the student's specific situation was also impacted by the fact that he had already applied for funding in the previous fiscal year, and that as per GSA policy, PhD students were only eligible to receive a total of \$1000 in GSA ATA funding, with a maximum of \$500 in each fiscal period. C Thomas noted that GSA Bylaw and Policy was frequently reviewed to ensure that as many graduate students as possible could benefit from this funding but the reality was that there was not enough money available to fund every applicant and that there was, unfortunately, no way to accommodate every specific situation.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
**GSA CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER (CRO) (1 POSITION), DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER (DRO) (1 POSITION), SPEAKER (1 POSITION), DEPUTY SPEAKER (1 POSITION)**  
**NOMINEES**

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, nominations for these positions will open “on or about May 1 of every year” and will close “by May 30 or the next following working day” (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.1.b and D.BYL.3.1.c). As such, these positions were first advertised in the GSA newsletter of May 5, 2017 with a nomination deadline of May 29, 2017. One (1) nomination was received for the position of CRO, and one (1) nomination was received for the position of Speaker. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on May 31, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was June 13, 2017 and no additional nominations were received.

**There will be two separate anonymous paper ballot votes held at the June 19, 2017 GSA Council meeting to elect the GSA CRO and Speaker for 2017-2018.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the June 29, 2017, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday June 19, 2017, in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

**GSA CRO**

1. Darcy Bemister (AFNS)

**GSA DRO**

*No nominations received*

**GSA Speaker**

1. Joshuha Connauton (Educational Policy Studies)

**GSA Deputy Speaker**

*No nominations received*

**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 allows for Councillors to make additional nominations.”*

Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.6.6

*“The GSA NoC will provide GSA Council with nominations to fill vacancies on the GSA Board, all GSA Standing Committees, Speaker, Chief Returning Officer, and Senator.”*

**Biographies and brief resumes of the nominees for GSA CRO (1) and Speaker (1), are ATTACHED on pages 6.4 - 6.5. Biographies and brief resumes have been attached as received (ie not edited).**

## Biographies and Resumes of Nominees

### GSA CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER AND DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER

**Qualifications as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, D.POL.10**

D.POL.10.4.a “The CRO and DRO should ideally have previous experience with administration of student elections.

D.POL.10.4.b Other ideal competencies and qualities for both the CRO and DRO positions include:

- D.POL.10.4.b.i Experience acting in a neutral or impartial position
- D.POL.10.4.b.ii Thorough understanding of GSA Bylaw and Policy, especially with items pertaining to elections and referenda
- D.POL.10.4.b.iii Thorough knowledge of the organization and its role in the graduate student community
- D.POL.10.4.b.iv Demonstrated ability to bring disputing parties together to reach decisions based on mutual interests
- D.POL.10.4.b.v Patience, tact, and discretion
- D.POL.10.4.b.vi Previous experience effectively dealing with contentious issues (elections or otherwise)
- D.POL.10.4.b.vii Experience working in a highly politicized environment requiring quick and fair decisions
- D.POL.10.4.b.viii A schedule that allows for the bulk of election or referenda work to take place in a compressed time-frame (a few weeks)
- D.POL.10.4.b.ix Experience with mediation and/or conflict resolution
- D.POL.10.4.b.x Collaborative approach with others (eg members of a committee) in reaching fair-minded decisions
- D.POL.10.4.b.xi Capable of handling a wide range of tasks effectively and impartially
- D.POL.10.4.b.xii Sound judgment and good decision-making skills
- D.POL.10.4.b.xiii Good team player and good communicator
- D.POL.10.4.b.xiv Can manage stressful situations and
- D.POL.10.4.b.xv Experience with not-for-profit organizations.”

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

D.BYL.3.3.a “The CRO is responsible for running all GSA elections and referenda.”

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.10**

D.POL.10.1 “Duties of the Chief Returning Officer

- D.POL.10.1.a The Chief Returning Officer (CRO), with advice from the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), oversees GSA Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda 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).
- D.POL.10.1.b The CRO is responsible for monitoring candidate activities and is authorized to discipline candidates for violations of GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy as provided for in GSA Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy.

D.POL.10.1.c	The CRO serves as a non-voting member on the GSA ERC.
D.POL.10.2	Duties of the Deputy Returning Officer
D.POL.10.2.a	The Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) reports directly to the CRO.
D.POL.10.2.b	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.
D.POL.10.2.c	The DRO serves as a non-voting member of the GSA ERC.
D.POL.10.3	Restrictions for CRO and DRO
D.POL.10.3.a	The CRO and DRO may not hold any other elected position in the GSA.
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.5.3) 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).
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).
D.POL.10.3.d	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 Election, By-Election, and/or Referendum.”
<b><u>Roles and Responsibilities of the CRO as set out in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, D.POL.10</u></b>	
D.POL.10.5	Roles and Responsibilities of the CRO
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).
D.POL.10.5.b	Preparing for the General Election, By-Elections, and Referenda
D.POL.10.5.b.i	Participating in all GSA ERC meetings and serving as a non-voting member of the GSA ERC.
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.
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.
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.

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.
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.
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.
D.POL.10.5.c	All-Candidates Meeting
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.
D.POL.10.5.d	Planning and Hosting a GSA Election Forum
D.POL.10.5.d.i	In consultation with the GSA ERC, planning a GSA Election Forum for graduate students to ask candidates questions.
D.POL.10.5.e	Managing and Deciding on Complaints
D.POL.10.5.e.i	Reviewing and approving campaign materials as per Section I: Elections and Section J: Referenda.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
D.POL.10.5.f	Reporting
D.POL.10.5.f.i	Communicating the results of all GSA General Elections, By-Elections, and Referenda to graduate students.
D.POL.10.5.f.ii	Submitting a written report to GSA Council following any GSA General Election, By-Election, or Referendum.
D.POL.10.5.f.iii	Report 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.6.1)."

**GSA CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER NOMINEE (1)****1. Darcy Bemister****Darcy Bemister's Bio:**

I grew up in a small town north of Winnipeg MB, and completed my undergrad in Agriculture at the U of A. I am sitting on GFC and APC for 2017-2018, and am also the President of the ALES GSA. Last year I was the DRO for the GSA.

**Darcy Bemister's Resume:**

My thesis is focused on minor rust resistance genes within wheat and competitive genotypes in organic and conventional environments, and the identification of QTL. My research is being conducted in the field as small plots, and therefore the continued cooperation of Mother Nature is much appreciated. I previously TA'd a class in Fall 2016, and will continue this role in Fall 2017.

I am interested in further expanding my exposure to academic governance and student advocacy, and strengthening the voice of graduate students. I am familiar with the workload associated with the CRO role, and have the flexibility to schedule my time accordingly. My previous experience as DRO has made me very comfortable with the GSA Bylaw and Policy, and shown me the procedures to oversee the GSA election.

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

D.POL.12.3.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 Restrictions

D.POL.12.2.a The Speaker may not act in any other representative position for the GSA except as provided for in GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy.

D.POL.12.2.b The 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.5.3).

**GSA SPEAKER NOMINEE (1)****1. Joshuha Connauton****Joshuha Connauton's Bio:**

Thank you everyone for taking the time to get to know me while considering my candidacy for this position! I am a current MEd Thesis student in Adult, Community and Higher Education here at the UofA as well as a staff member of the Students' Union. Within my current professional role as the as the Program Lead (manager) of Student Group Services, I help to advise student groups on many different aspects of their operations, including conflict resolution and governance. Student Group Services oversees 476 student groups on campus, including the 50(ish) graduate student groups on campus.

For the past 7 years, I have been heavily involved with my fraternity, Delta Chi. I served as both the Vice President and President of the active chapter as an undergrad on campus. Currently serve as the President of our Alumni Board of Trustees and the Treasurer of the Alumni Social Chapter. I also serve as a volunteer for both CKUA Radio and the Edmonton Folk Music Festival.

**Joshuha Connauton's Resume:**

My research in short, focuses around the relationship of the University and the community and how the two do/can work together to provide non-academic support for students on campus. Becoming more involved with an organization such as the GSA directly relates to my research by giving me an opportunity to work with an organization that exists to advocate on behalf of (graduate) students on aspects of student life including non-academic support.

The position of GSA speaker has sparked my interest because of both my interest in being involved with the GSA as a graduate students, and my interest in student governance. In my professional role, Student Group Services works very closely with the GSA in terms of student group management. I have developed a good working knowledge of GSA governing documents and structure. Through my involvement with my fraternity over the past 7 years, I have grown very familiar with Robert's Rules of Order in both theory and practice. I have extensive experience being involved with the Students' Union governance structure both as an Undergrad and as a current staff member.

As outlined in the nomination package, My availability currently stands as being able to attend all GSA Pre-Council, and Council Meetings with the exception of the July council meeting as I am out of the country at that time.

Thank you very much for your consideration for this position and I look forward to the opportunity to be involved with the GSA.

GSA SPEAKER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**JOINT POSITION ON THE GSAB/GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC) (1 POSITION FOR A GSA COUNCIL MEMBER):**  
**1 NOMINEE**

Michele DuVal has stepped down from her joint position on the GSAB and the GSA NoC, leaving a vacancy for a non-voting member on GSAB and a voting member on GSA NoC. Information regarding this vacancy was circulated via email to GSA Council on May 26, 2017 with a deadline of June 5, 2017. One (1) nomination was received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on June 7, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was June 13, 2017 and no additional nominations were received.

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

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

The GSA NoC is charged with selecting graduate student representatives to serve on councils, committees, and other bodies requiring such representation. The GSA NoC also leads an annual initiative in October known as the "Early Call for Talent and Training", during which graduate students interested in running for elected office are invited to attend a Get-to-Know Dinner and training sessions (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Nominating Committee, Sections E.POL.9.1 and E.POL.9.2).

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the June 19, 2017 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the June 19, 2017, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday June 19, 2017, in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

**1. Kenzie Gordon (Humanities Computing)**

**GSA Council Member Leaving GSAB and GSA NoC:** Michele DuVal (Biological Sciences)

**GSA Council Member Staying on GSAB and GSA NoC:** Radim Barta (Oncology) (GSA NoC Chair)

**Member Staying on GSA NoC:** Antonio Bruni (Surgery) (GSA NoC Vice-Chair), Obunikem Eziuzo (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Ahsan Ahmed (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

**GSA Council Member Staying on GSAB:** Gabriel O. Ojakovo (Music)

**Jurisdiction:**

Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.1

*"If there are vacancies on the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC), the Executive Director (ED) and Speaker will advertise those vacancies to GSA Council and, after a reasonable amount of time has elapsed, will select individuals meeting the criteria set out in Section E.POL.2, below, to fill those vacancies and submit their names to GSA Council for ratification."*

Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Nominating Committee, Section E.POL.7.1

*"Three (3) voting members, including alternates, of GSA Council elected by GSA Council, normally including the three (3) members appointed by GSA Council to the GSA Board and two (2) additional voting graduate student members elected by GSA Council as voting members."*

**The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee is BELOW on page 6.7. The biography is presented as received (ie not edited).**

## Biographies and Resumes of Nominees (1 Nominee)

### 1. Kenzie Gordon

#### Any other committees:

GSA General Council; USARIC Support Committee; Humanities Computing Student Association

#### Kenzie Gordon's Statement of Interest:

I have experience in strategic planning, budget and auditing, organizational operations and communications. As a social worker I have experience working with diverse groups of people to tackle complex issues and build solutions that support all members of our community, especially those on the margins. I believe my wide range of experience will allow me to support the work of both the NoC and GSA Board in representing and supporting the interests of Graduate students.

#### Kenzie Gordon's Bio

I'm currently an MA student in Humanities Computing, having done a BA in History/Middle Eastern & African Studies at the U of A, and a Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Calgary. Prior to my MA program I worked for several years as a front-line domestic violence worker at the Edmonton John Howard Society. My professional and research interest is in video games and domestic/sexual violence, in particular understanding the narratives of domestic violence in video games, and understanding how video games can be used as tools for dismantling rape culture. I was born in Edmonton, and live here with my partner and far too many pets.

#### Kenzie Gordon's Resume

##### Student Governance:

- University of Alberta SU Arts Councilor 2010-2011; Audit, Granting, & Strategic Planning Committee, SU representative to CBAS and CJSR
- Arts Faculty Council 2010-2011; Arts Faculty Council Executive Committee
- Student Group Executive roles with Students' International Health Association, WUSC, Red Cross Club, Baking 4 Benefit, SHINE clinic, Humanities Computing Student Association
- Non-profit environmental scans and strategic planning with the Bissell Centre and Edmonton John Howard Society
- Extensive volunteer and professional experience in the non-profit sector; extensive research experience in social sciences and humanities.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NOC)  
**GSA LABOUR RELATIONS COMMITTEE (4 – 8 POSITIONS):**  
**3 NOMINEES**

These positions were advertised in the June 2, 2017 GSA newsletter with a nomination deadline of June 8, 2017. One (1) nomination was received. A second call for nominations was circulated to GSA Council on June 12, 2017 with a nomination deadline of June 15, 2017. Two (2) additional nominations were received

The mandate of the GSA Labour Relations Committee (LRC) is to “advise the VPL and the GSA NC with respect to the development of the Opening Position for CA negotiations” (Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, Section F.POL.8.2).

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the June 19, 2017 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the June 19, 2017, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday June 19, 2017, in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Michael Armstrong (Chemistry)**
- 2. Kerolous Messeha (Medicine)**
- 3. Dasha Smirnow (Business PhD)**

**Jurisdiction:**

Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.6.6

*“The GSA NoC will provide GSA Council with nominations to fill vacancies on the GSA Board, all GSA Standing Committees, Speaker, Chief Returning Officer, and Senator. Additional nominations may be made by Councillors, in writing, in advance of the GSA Council meeting where elections will take place.”*

**The name and biography received for the three (3) nominees are BELOW on pages 6.9 – 6.10. The biographies are presented as received (ie not edited).**

## Biographies and Resumes of Nominees (3 Nominees)

### 1. Michael Armstrong

#### Any other committees”

GSA – Councilor for the Department of Chemistry

#### Michael Armstrong’s Statement of Interest

As a recently elected representative of graduate students in the Department of Chemistry, I have become interested in labour through my current work with Environmental Health and Safety in improving access to proper gloving for use with hazardous solvents. I believe that improving working conditions for graduate students is a key element in labour, and I want to bring my experience with lab safety to the Labour Relations Committee as we are negotiating our collective agreement

#### Michael Armstrong’s Bio

I am a native Edmontonian who graduated with a Bachelor of Science with a Specialization in Chemistry from the University of Alberta in 2016. After completing my undergraduate research project, I spent the summer as a visiting researcher at Suzhou University in the People’s Republic of China. I am currently working on my Master of Science in Analytical Chemistry at my alma mater, where I am fortunate to have research that interests me, that is also close to my family. I enjoy studying languages in my spare time, and play violin in a polka band.

#### Michael Armstrong ’s Resume

I am finishing the first year of my Master’s degree in Analytical Chemistry in the Harynuk lab and The Metabolomics Innovation Centre (TMIC), where I study targeted analysis of metabolites to the end of disease diagnostics using Comprehensive 2D Gas Chromatography – Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometry. I am also currently a volunteer for Let’s Talk Science, and the Chemistry Graduate Students’ Society. I also served as a community outreach officer for Elections Canada during the last federal election, where I helped to implement a special ballot program helping students from out of town to vote in their home riding.

### 2. Kerolous Messeha

#### Any other committees:

RTC (Research and Training Committee)

#### Kerolous Messeha’s Statement of Interest

I am involved with many graduate students through daily basis as well as being a research assistant. I can claim that I have a growing experience with the graduate students' needs in the terms of being involved in the academic work environment as well as the issues that they face as being research/teaching assistants. I am currently involved in different situations with graduate students being faced with unfair situations and trying to sort them out through the RTC. As the graduate students in the department of medicine give me the honor and trust to present them in that committee, I am committed to transparently convey the messages from and to them and clearly understand the rules to be efficient to help them.

#### Kerolous Messeha’s Bio

I am a master student at the department of Medicine. My background is being a physician back in Egypt. I am currently Graduate students representative for the department of Medicine at the RTC. I like to be engaged in different activities; I hunting as well as playing soccer. I volunteer to help new immigrants as well as refugees to get accommodated easily in Canada. I am an instructor for Sex Education in our Coptic community helping teenagers to soundly understand different concepts and practices about multiple topics in sex education.

#### Kerolous Messeha’s Resume

I am a first year Master student in the Department of Medicine studying immunological effects of one of the viruses on the Hepatic ducts and trying to find a novel treatment for that under the supervision of my PI. I work in Dr. Mason’s lab with an international team. Between my undergraduate degree and my MSc, I worked as a family Physician.

I am interested to become a because I like helping new students as well as current students to make a great advantage of being students at one of the well established Canadian Universities, U of A. In other words, I am good at having new

friendships and to get along with people. I can comfortably claim that I have a lot of fruitful friendships, in different departments, since the start of my MSc in September 2016. Through these communications I can convey clear messages between students and GSA. So we can help the graduate students to have an easier life as well as more enjoyable period during their graduate studies. This will be achieved by involving grad students in putting and share in the process of legislations, that are directly affecting them. I have a schedule that is flexible enough to accommodate sitting on a busy committee.

### 3. Dasha Smirnow

#### **Any other committees:**

Budget and Finance Committee

#### **Dasha Smirnow's Statement of Interest**

I would like to apply for a position on the GSA Labour Relations Committee because I would like to continue my service to the GSA. Through my involvement with the GSA as a departmental councillor, and now as a Councillor-at-Large, I have developed a strong appreciation for the variety of challenges that are faced by the graduate students. I also bring a good understanding of university governance, developed through my involvement with the LRC and the Negotiating Committee during the last negotiations.

#### **Dasha Smirnow's Bio**

Hello. My name is Dasha. I was born in Ukraine, and raised in Vancouver. After high school, I pursued a Bachelor of Business Administration and a minor in Psychology from Simon Fraser University; then, I pursued a Master of Professional Accounting from the University of Saskatchewan. I moved to Edmonton in order to pursue a PhD in Accounting. My research interests lie at the intersection of accounting, psychology, and environmentalism (i.e. the rapidly-growing area of environmental accounting). Outside of school, I love traveling and all things outdoors: I spent months backpacking Europe and have had many road trips across Western Canada and the US, camping and hiking along the way. I also enjoy reading, yoga, and a good conversation over good food

#### **Dasha Smirnow's Resume**

I have been involved with the GSA for several years, as a departmental councillor, and now as a Councillor-at-Large. I have also been involved with the Budget and Finance Committee since 2013. As a grad student, I have been working as an RA and a marker for several faculty members, and I also taught an intermediate-level course as a primary instructor.

I believe that through my personal experiences, as well as through my work with the GSA, I have developed a good understanding of the challenges faced by graduate students under the current collective agreement, which I hope to bring forward at the LRC.

### **High-Level Summary on the Development of the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan – 2017-2018:**

In developing the first draft of the 2017-2018 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP), the GSA President and Vice-Presidents used the 2016-2017 SWP as a starting point and made several updates as listed below. The 2016-2017 SWP can be viewed here: <http://www.gsa.ualberta.ca/~media/gsa/SWP/2016-2017/BoardSWP2016-2017.pdf>.

#### **Updates Made:**

- Highlighting which priorities are suggested to be initiated or completed in 2017-2018 and indicating which are intended as ongoing goals and initiatives;
- Removing projects that were fully completed in 2016-2017;
- Minor rephrasing in some sections; *and*
- Including points from the 2017-2018 Directly-Elected Officers' (DEOs) platforms that were not already included in the 2016-2017 SWP.

Following this preliminary work, the elected team participated in a workshop on May 18 to develop the 2017-2018 SWP. The 2017-2018 SWP is currently in draft and has been reviewed and discussed by the GSA Board on May 24 and May 31. During these conversations, the DEOs identified several key team goals, as well as other pivotal initiatives associated with individual DEOs portfolios. The elected team is committed to working on all the initiatives outlined in the SWP, but will use the team and individual portfolio goals, as listed below, to guide their conversations and work with key stakeholders in the University community.

#### **Team Goals:**

- Advocate for the creation of sustainable funding packages for all thesis-based graduate students that support a reasonable standard of living and which take into consideration 'time to completion' requirements, the cost of living in Edmonton, and current tuition costs. We see the starting point for this effort as our proposal that the University launch a review of the current state of graduate student funding on campus and look forward to continuing our advocacy for this.
- Promote the need for clear and concise contract terms in letters of offer issued by the University, and urge that these letters be made available to graduate students well in advance of deadlines for offers of admission.
- Advocate for the continuation of a tuition model that ties graduate student tuition increases to the Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI), oppose across-the-board increases, and advocate that provincial regulations concerning tuition increases be applied to international graduate students. Should some formulary aside from tethering increases to Alberta CPI be considered (such as the Academic Price Index), ensure that proper consultation is undertaken and that any such proposals will benefit graduate students.
- Support the need for sustainable, affordable, and well-maintained graduate student housing and other options to both prevent homelessness and enhance the graduate student experience.
- Advocate for appropriate training and accountability requirements associated with graduate student supervision that retain a focus on addressing power imbalances in supervisory relationships

**Individual Portfolio Goals:**

- Ensure active participation in the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs) Oversight Committee. *(President)*
- Maintain engagement with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) to ensure the priorities of U of A graduate students are heard by both ab-GPAC and the provincial government. *(President and Vice-President External)*
- Advocate for enhanced flexibility with respect to course-related examination practices in the interests of promoting enhanced mental wellness and career outcomes. *(Vice-President Academic)*
- Support professional development and internship opportunities for graduate students. *(Vice-President Academic)*
- Engage with Residence Associations and other stakeholders concerning the collection of Residence Association fees. *(Vice-President External)*
- Assist graduate students living in residences to ensure safe conditions and the provision of excellent services, which will include securing GSA representation on the newly formed Residence Oversight Committee. *(Vice-President Student Services and Vice-President External)*
- Negotiate for increased compensation for graduate assistantships in the Collective Agreement and educate the campus community on the provisions of the Collective Agreement. *(Vice-President Labour)*
- Ensure the GSA's compliance with Bill 7 and consult with/educate graduate students on the implications of this legislation. *(Vice-President Labour)*
- Support the Campus Food Bank in its mission to ensure the delivery of adequate food for students and their families. *(Vice-President Student Services)*

Next, the GSA President and Vice-Presidents will review and incorporate feedback received from graduate students at the SWP Town Hall (held on June 9). Graduate students are also encouraged to email [gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca) with feedback and suggestions by **June 15, 2017**. Finally, they will incorporate feedback received during the June 19 meeting of GSA Council before the finalized 2017-2018 GSA Board SWP is brought forward to GSA Council for information on July 17, 2017.

**GSA President  
Report to GSA Council for the June 19, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Babak Soltannia  
Date: June 16, 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Time flies fast, however I hope you had a chance to find time to enjoy the Summer.

My activities during the past month have focused on team building activities, working on the GSA's Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) and attending various meetings and networking opportunities, as well as being involved in an array of decision making processes.

Each year for a new team of GSA Directly-Elected Officers begins with the development of an SWP which summarizes their initiatives and anchors the team. Having this document is essential in terms of developing the direction and continuity of the GSA's activities. Therefore, I and my team started developing our SWP by reviewing the most recent one, and suggesting additional item(s)/modification(s), through a day-long workshop. We also asked graduate students for their feedback electronically, as well as having a town hall. I will speak more about the SWP at the meeting but I also encourage everyone to talk to their colleagues and send us any further feedback, as well as participating in any future GSA town halls and discussion groups, to help us better understand graduate students' problems and the range of issues affecting them.

In terms of decision making processes, these can range from directing emails and information to appropriate people/entities, leading my team by having interactive discussions, signing GSA Council remuneration cheques and cheques for GSA Emergency Bursaries and other funding, planning for our upcoming events and departmental orientations, and overseeing the SWP's development.

Concerning the meeting and networking opportunities I have participated in, these range from regular GSA Board and other internal meetings to high level University meetings. For example, the highlights of my meetings in the past month include various General Faculties Council (GFC) subcommittee(s) (such as the GFC Academic Planning Committee), two Board of Governors (BoG) special meetings, BoG orientation, and a few BoG standing committee meetings, as well as meetings with the University Chancellor Douglas Stollery, the University President David Turpin, the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Steven Dew, the Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Gitta Kulczycki, the Vice-President (Facilities and Operation) Andrew Sharman, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Heather Zwicker, and the Dean of Students Andre Costopoulos. In these meetings, my duty is to make sure that graduate students voices are brought forward and heard by the right audience, and to advocate on behalf of graduate students on issues of importance to them. These issues include the need for sustainable funding packages, poor conditions in residences, mental wellness challenges, compliance with the Collective Agreement and the need for standard contracts (working closely with Sasha as Vice-President Labour), and policies affecting graduate students. I have also attended a National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation memorandum of understanding signing ceremony, two convocations, a reception hosted by FGSR for doctoral students with Sasha, a dinner hosted by the Friends of the University where honorable Kim Campbell attended too, a reception for honorary degree recipients, during which I had the honor of talking to Mayor Don Iveson. I have found attending these meetings and events to be a great opportunity to develop relationships with key stakeholders, demonstrate the GSA's involvement in the community, and show our support for new and ongoing initiatives. Moreover, as Vice-Chair of the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) I attended in few meetings, and worked on compiling feedback from graduate students concerning a government review of roles and mandates within the post-secondary sector.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I wish you all a very joyful summer full of happiness and prosperity!

Babak Soltannia, GSA 2017-2018 President

## 8.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 15, 2017 and June 19, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

May 16	Board of Governors (BoG) Orientation
May 16	Lunch with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
May 17	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
May 17	Celebrate Mentorship Event
May 23	Meeting with Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
May 25	GFC Campus Law Review Committee (GFC CLRC)
May 25	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
May 26	Public Interest Alberta (PIA) Post-Secondary Education Task Force
May 29	Meeting with Doug Stollery, University Chancellor
May 29	Board of Governors (BoG) Special Meeting
May 30	Planning Meeting for the Office of the Dean of Students Retreat
May 30	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
May 31	Friends of the University Annual General Meeting
June 1	National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation – Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony
June 1	Board University Relations Committee (BURC)
June 2	Meeting with David Turpin, University President
June 5	Meeting with a Graduate Student
June 5	Meeting with Brent Epperson, Former GSA President
June 5	General Faculties Council (GFC)
June 6	Office of the Dean of Students Retreat
June 7	Honorary Degree Reception
June 8	Meeting with Colin More, Former GSA President
June 8	Convocation
June 12	Special Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting
June 12	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
June 12	Convocation
June 13	Meeting with Heather Zwicker, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
June 14	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
June 14	Supervisory Harassment Meeting
June 14	GFC Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
June 14	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Doctoral Reception
June 16	Meeting with Dr. Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
June 16	Reception for Lorne Babiuk, Outgoing Vice-President (Research)
June 19	Meeting with Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director

**GSA Board (GSAB)  
Report to GSA Council for the June 19, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
 From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director and Coordinator of the GSA Board; Heather Hogg, Director of Operations; Julie Tanguay, Associate Director; and Lisa Hareuther, Assistant Director  
 Date: June 16, 2017

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. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The President, Vice-Presidents, Director of Operations, Associate Director, and I will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 18 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 18.1-18.4.

**17 May 2017 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Bill 7

Motions and Agreements:

No motions at this time.

**24 May 2017 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Actual Travel Expenses for Attendance at the ab-GPAC Transition, May 6 to 7, 2017; GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2017-2018; and Bill 7

Motions and Agreements:

**Motion:** The GSA Board **RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary of actual expenses incurred through attendance at the ab-GPAC transition, May 6-7, 2017 in Lethbridge, AB. BS **MOVED**. SvK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**31 May 2017 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Changes to GSA Board Policy on Remuneration Based on Councillor Attendance; GSA Board Strategic Work Plan 2017-2018; and Bill 7

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **APPROVE** both the recommended to the Departmental Academically-Related Graduate Student Group Grant: Remuneration Based on Councillor Attendance at GSA Council as noted in the attached "track changes" document and the further changes agreed to by members at the meeting, effective immediately. SvK **MOVED**. FK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

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

Members discussed the **VP University Relations and VP Research Advisory Search Committees**.

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

**07 June 2017 GSA Board Meeting**

Main Agenda Items:

Attendance at the Studentcare Stakeholder Meeting, June 14 to 16, 2017, in Montreal, QC: Estimated Expense; Bill 7; and GSA Events Overview

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the estimated expense for one (1) representative of the GSA to attend the Studentcare Stakeholder meeting, June 14-16, 2017, in Montreal, QC, as noted below. SvK **MOVED**. MK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

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

Members discussed **Bill 7 and a Meeting with a Graduate Student**.

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

**14 June 2017 GSA Board Meeting:** Cancelled

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)**  
**Report to GSA Council for the June 19, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Babak Soltannia  
Date: June 16, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA BFC met on June 14, 2017 to review the GSA's 2016-2017 audited financial statements as presented by our Auditor. The GSA is required by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (Section 97(1)) to have an annual audit.

At this meeting, we also reviewed and discussed the most recent quarterly financial report prepared by the GSA's Financial Team (Courtney Thomas (GSA Executive Director), Shirley Ball (Accountant), Dorte Sheikh (Financial Manager), and Heather Hogg (Director of Operations)).

Both of these items will be presented for your review at the July 17 GSA Council meeting after being reviewed by the GSA Board on June 28, 2017.

Sincerely,

Babak Soltannia, GSA President and Chair of the GSA BFC

**GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC)  
Report to GSA Council for the June 19, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Babak Soltannia  
Date: June 16, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA GC approved an editorial change, via email, on June 12, 2017 to GSA Policy.

While Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board currently outlines the responsibilities and attendance of GSA Standing Committee members, an editorial change was required to clarify that these would be the same responsibilities expected of GSA *ad hoc* committees or GSA subcommittee members, should they be established.

Sincerely,  
Babak Soltannia, GSA President and Chair, GSA GC

**GSA Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the June 19, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Firouz Khodayari  
Date: June 16, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope that everybody is enjoying the beautiful summer while keeping the wheels of your research turning. As Vice-President Academic, I have attended several meetings and been involved with various discussions during the last month; I will share the highlights with you in this report.

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

As I discussed with GSA Council in April, I worked closely with the FGSR this past year to review the supervision and examination policy. Two motions were brought forward to the FGSR Council and were approved on May 17. The motions added a regulation that the Chair of the doctoral examination committee is not an examiner, and approved all proposed changes to the Supervision and Examination section of the Calendar, to be effective July 1, 2018 and implemented in the 2018/19 Calendar. These changes will make examinations more transparent for graduate students and reduce the existing problems identified with the current policies. I consulted with GSA Council about the proposed changes in April, and invited feedback from all graduate students, via the GSA newsletter. Following these consultations, the feedback I received was implemented into the document before it went to the FGSR Council for approval.

**Meetings with University Stakeholders**

As reported by Babak and Masoud, during the last month, while working on developing the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, the other DEOs and I met with some members of senior administration and we had a chance to talk about our goals for 2017-2018. These meetings have been productive and we have been able to share various graduate student concerns. I also met with my Students' Union counterpart to share our upcoming initiatives. This year I will continue to build strong relationships with University stakeholders to be able to strongly advocate for all graduate students.

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

Thanks,

Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 15, 2017 and June 19, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

May 16	Lunch with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
May 16	Co-Curricular Record Meeting
May 17	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
May 17	Event Celebrate Mentorship
May 18	Alumni Association Annual General Meeting
May 19	Meeting with Shane Scott, SU VP Academic
May 23	Meeting with Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
May 26	Signature Areas Development Panel
June 1	GSA General Faculties Council (GSA GFC) Caucus
June 2	Meeting with David Turpin, University President
June 5	General Faculties Council (GFC)
June 6	Office of the Dean of Students Retreat
June 6	Convocation
June 7	General Faculties Council (GFC) Replenishment Committee
June 7	Honorary Degree Reception
June 7	General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)
June 8	Convocation

**GSA Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the June 19, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Masoud Khademi  
Date: June 16, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everything is going well in your lives. After all, summer is here, and hopefully you have more time to enjoy the warm weather and beautiful nature that we have here in Alberta. Before getting to the report I should say, usually the summer months are not as much of a busy time of the year in terms of University committee work, but summer is a valuable time to get to know people and plan for the upcoming academic year.

For me personally, the month of June is full of excitement especially because of convocation. During the past few days I attended two convocations. The first one was for the Faculty of Science and other one was for the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. Being at convocation and seeing all of those happy faces was truly the most amazing part of the month for me. In my perspective, the other significant parts of the convocations are the honorary degree recipients' speeches. During the Faculty of Science convocation, the U of A gave an honorary doctor of science degree to Dr. Shing-Tung Yau (Director of Harvard's Center of Mathematical Sciences and Applications). In his speech, he talked about his lifelong journey of solving the most difficult mathematical problems, and then encouraged everyone to get rid of the fear of facing hard challenges. He noted that sometimes the tools and skills that we develop to overcome our challenges are more important than solving the challenges themselves. On the topic of convocation speeches, Dr. Turpin talked about the importance of diversity as the most important Canadian value which should never be forgotten and Chancellor Stollery gave a remarkable speech about the importance of kindness that we show to others and how we should remind ourselves to be committed to kindness. Moreover, at the second convocation I attended, the U of A gave an honorary doctor of law degree to Sharon Firth, who is an Olympic cross-country skiing athlete and the first Indigenous woman elected to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

The other meeting I attended during the past month was the Alumni Association Annual General Meeting. At the AGM, they went over their annual report and gave Alumni Council a short overview of the organizational accomplishments the Association achieved during the past year. The new president of the Alumni Association, Ayaz Banji, was officially introduced and started his term.

Regarding the Vice-President (University Relations) Advisory Search Committee that I have been reporting on during the past few months, I am happy to say that finally, after the approval from the Board of Governors, the committee announced Jacqui Tam as the new University Vice-President (University Relations) (effective July 1).

As reported by Firouz and Babak, during the past month, the other DEOs and I had a chance to meet with several of the University's senior administrative team, including the Dean of Students André Costopoulos and his team, Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Andrew Sharman and his team, and the University President David Turpin. In all of these meetings, we discussed as a team our developing Board Strategic Work Plan and goals for the upcoming year. These various administrative teams also shared their priorities for the upcoming year to pave the way for future collaboration with the GSA.

This month I also attended the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors meeting with Babak. The highlight of this meeting was the discussion among the directors regarding the feedback that ab-GPAC is submitting to the government regarding the review of the roles and mandates of post-secondary institutions. At the end of May, I also attended the Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA) transition meeting where the new executives of this organization were elected. The new ESA Chair is Parvin Sedighi from MacEwan University and the new ESA Vice-Chair is Naomi Pela from NAIT.

At the end, as always, if you need more information or have any questions regarding the meetings that I have attended this past month, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Masoud Khademi, GSA Vice-President External

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 15, 2017 and June 19, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

May 16	Lunch with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
May 17	Celebrate Mentorship Event
May 18	Alumni Association Annual General Meeting
May 19	Edmonton Students' Association
May 23	Meeting with Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
May 29	Vice-President (University Relations) Advisory Search Committee Phone Meeting
June 2	Meeting with David Turpin, University President
June 6	Office of the Dean of Students Retreat
June 8	UAlberta Environment Week
June 12	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
June 12	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
June 13	Convocation
June 14	Convocation
June 14	Honorary Degree Reception
June 19	Public Interest Alberta Annual General Meeting

**GSA Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the June 19, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sasha van der Klein  
Date: June 16, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

Sorry I cannot be there guys! I will be travelling to Calgary at this time, to attend the Healthy Campus Alberta Summit on Tuesday. As I will not be attending, please don't hesitate to email me with any questions you might have with respect to my report.

So, first things first: **Bill 7**. We heard back from the lawyers late last week and are meeting internally to digest their responses and plan next steps (for example, we have developed a flexible draft timeline for the upcoming negotiations that will need to be reviewed with reference to the legal opinion). I will report further on this in my July Council report. Additionally, the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) will meet on June 27. The GSA LRC will also be updated on the legal opinion during this meeting to see how Bill 7 affects the work the committee will have to do. Further I met with the representatives from the Provost's Office, with whom we will negotiate, and we have started an early dialogue in advance of the formal upcoming negotiations. This is necessary because some components of negotiations might not be part of official negotiations anymore (such as GRAFs or the negotiation process related to the Graduate Student Support Fund). I am in the phase of winding up the consultations with Councillors, and I plan to provide a summary in an upcoming GSA Council meeting on my consultation sessions. If you would like to have your voice heard about Bill 7 and the labour situation in your department, and you want that to be included in the summary and/or considered for the negotiation process, **the deadline to meet with me is July 7**. The labour consultations are confidential meetings, so the summary I will generate would just provide an overall idea on the diversity of opinions/situations in departments, and I will not include names or identifying information in my summary. One of the things I have learned from my consultations thus far is that the **opportunities for and accessibility to TA positions differ a lot**. As teaching skills are thought to be an essential component of a graduate degree, this is a worrying issue. Therefore, we've designed and sent out **a short follow up survey via email to those I have met with** to get some data on the situation, in order to better advocate for students.

Finally, just as a friendly reminder, Bill 7 deemed the GSA the bargaining unit for the next 5 years. Therefore, we are **not currently looking into unionization as this will be a decision that TAs and RAs will need to make 5 years from now**; we are just asking you to reflect within your department on the right to strike/lockout provisions of Bill 7. So don't wait any longer to [book a meeting](#) with me! So far, I have met with **29 of the 58** currently filled departmental seats on GSA Council. If you are unable to attend a meeting in-person, a meeting by phone is also a possibility, or if you prefer to shoot me an email with your thoughts, go ahead!

So apart from my work associated with labour, I have been continuing to work on **Managing Up**; the FGSR and the GSA will host a series of four speakers around this theme to empower graduate students in their current role, but especially in their future relationships with superiors in the workforce. Three of these four sessions can count towards your Professional Development requirements, and will take place

from the second half of October and in November during the lunch hour on Thursdays. More information regarding speakers will follow!

Regarding my **Mental Health Portfolio**, I have been conducting interviews with the ACCESS working group for the second Community Broker position within the ACCESS grant (Adolescent/young adult, Connections to Community-driven Early Strengths-based and Stigma-free services). This position is relatively new, and will be a brokering position between services and student needs, and which will also involve follow-up with (graduate) students.

Again, the [link](#) to the labour consultations calendar is in my reports.

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

Thanks,

Sasha van der Klein, GSA Vice-President Labour

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 15, 2017 and June 19, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

May 16	Boards of Governors (BoG) Orientation
May 16	Lunch with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
May 16	ACCESS Steering Committee Meeting
May 17	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
May 17	Celebrate Mentorship
May 18	Alumni Association Annual General Meeting
May 23	Meeting with Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
May 23	Meeting with Graduate Students
May 23	ACCESS Community Broker Interview
May 23	Meeting with a Graduate Student
May 24	Board Safety, Health, and Environment Committee (BSHEC)
May 24	ACCESS Meeting
May 25	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
May 29	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
May 30	Meeting with J Murray re: Graduate Student Mental Health Service Awareness
May 30	Meeting with the Office of the Provost
May 31	ACCESS Community Broker Interviews

May 31	Meeting with Office of the Provost
June 1	Healthy Campus Unit Webinar
June 2	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
June 2	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
June 2	Meeting with David Turpin, University President
June 6	Office of the Dean of Students Retreat
June 7	Convocation
June 7	Honorary Degree Reception
June 8	Vice-President (Research) Advisory Search Committee Phone Meeting
June 8	Meeting with a Graduate Student
June 8	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student via Phone
June 9	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
June 9	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
June 12	GSA Presentation to Global Academic Leadership Development (GALD)
June 13	Meeting with Heather Zwicker, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
June 13	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
June 14	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
June 14	ACCESS Community Broken Interviews
June 14	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Doctoral Reception
June 15	Convocation
June 15	Meeting with a Graduate Student
June 15	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student
June 19	Labour Consultation with a Graduate Student

**GSA Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the June 19, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Royle Feng  
Date: June 16, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope all of you will soon be enjoying a very wonderful weekend. This week, after attending the Studentcare Stakeholder meeting in Montreal, I had an opportunity to travel in this fantastic city. There is a great difference between Montreal and Edmonton with respect to culture and landscape. If you are planning a trip this summer, walking in Montreal is really a good choice! In terms of the meeting there, every aspect was very impressive. Firstly, Studentcare staff were very nice and hospitable. Through various conference activities, I have met with many delegates from other graduate student associations. Such activities are useful and helpful for me in that I can take these opportunities to not only make a comparison between our work and the work of other student associations, but also to learn best practices at other associations. Secondly, attendance augmented my knowledge of the GSA Health and Dental Plan and this will help me in my work in this area over the next year. Again, I really cherished the multicultural experience of being in Montreal because almost everywhere in this city you can hear people speak French. I also attended several other meetings in the past month and present highlights below.

At the last U-Pass Administration meeting I attended, it was reported that with the new price structure previously developed for replacement stickers the data showed that, contrary to expectations, there was no increase in the purchase of replacement stickers. Members also discussed the status of the new U-Pass agreements, and I anticipate that they will be ready to sign soon (there are two agreements – one between the U of A and the various transit providers and another between the GSA, the SU, and the University). The Office of the Dean of Students will also be updating the U-Pass website with the new September 1, 2017 rate, which was a part of the recently negotiated agreement and which was approved through referendum in March.

I have also been involved with the Campus Food Bank Board. Reporting from their Executive Director indicates that everything is running well with this organization. Through participating in various activities, the Campus Food Bank has been able to raise money and has received many donations. However, at the same time, more and more clients, especially children, on campus have been served from 2014 to 2017. The Campus Food Bank Board recently reviewed the organizations financials for the year and the GSA Board will be inviting representatives from the Campus Food Bank to attend a GSA Board meeting in the fall so we can discuss ways to further collaborate. Finally, the Campus Food Bank is hoping to recruit some additional board members, a process which began on May 30.

I also had a meeting with Robyn Paches, the SU VP Operations and Finance, to discuss the United Way-Student Engagement Plan. Apart from promoting existing student events associated with this charitable campaign, it was suggested that running a donation competition among the different undergraduate faculty associations would be a good method to realize the annual donation goal and encourage more students to donate. The details about this plan will be discussed further in the future.

The GSA looks forward to promoting any United Way volunteer opportunities for graduate students in future GSA newsletters.

Finally, along with Babak and my fellow Vice-Presidents, I have been attending convocation ceremonies to represent the GSA and congratulate our graduating members. The two convocations I attended made a deep impression on me and I was really touched by all the graduates and their family and friends! Congratulations to them all!!

Best regards,  
Royle Feng, GSA VP Student Services

## 12.1

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 15, 2017 and June 19, 2017. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

May 16	Lunch with Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
May 17	United Way Working Group
May 18	U-Pass Administrative Committee Meeting
May 18	Alumni Association Annual General Meeting
May 23	Meeting with Andrew Sharman, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
May 25	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
May 25	GFC Facilities Development Committee (GFC FDC)
May 25	Campus Food Bank Board Meeting
May 29	Green and Gold Think Tank
June 2	Meeting with David Turpin, University President
June 6	Office of the Dean of Students Retreat
June 7	Convocation
June 9	Convocation
June 12	GSA Presentation to Global Academic Leadership Development (GALD)
June 14-16	Studentcare Graduate Stakeholder Conference

**GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)  
Report to GSA Council for the June 19, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Radim Barta  
Date: June 16, 2017

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,

Radim Barta, Chair of the GSA NoC

**GSA Council-Elected Officers**

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

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, nominations for these positions will open “on or about May 1 of every year” and will close “by May 30 or the next following working day” (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.1.b and D.BYL.3.1.c). As such, these positions were first advertised in the GSA newsletter of May 5, 2017 with a nomination deadline of May 29, 2017. One (1) nomination was received for the position of CRO, and one (1) nomination was received for the position of Speaker. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on May 31, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was June 13, 2017 and no additional nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. The positions of Deputy Speaker and DRO will be advertised again in late June. **See Item 6 – Nominees for GSA CRO, DRO, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker.**

**GSA Standing Committees**

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

On May 26, 2017, GSA Council members were notified via email of one (1) vacancy on the GSA ERC for a member of GSA Council. The deadline to receive nominations was June 5, 2017 and no nominations were received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on June 7, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was June 13, 2017 and no additional nominations were received. This position will be advertised again.

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

Michele DuVal has stepped down from her joint position on the GSAB and the GSA NoC, leaving a vacancy for a non-voting member on GSAB and a voting member on GSA NoC. Information regarding this vacancy was circulated via email to GSA Council on May 26, 2017 with a deadline of June 5, 2017. One (1) nomination was received. A call for additional nominations was emailed to GSA Council on June 7, 2017. The deadline to receive additional nominations was June 13, 2017 and no additional nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item 6a – Nominees for GSA Board and GSA NoC.**

**3) GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) (4-8 Graduate Student Positions)**

These positions were advertised in the June 2, 2017 GSA newsletter with a nomination deadline of June 8, 2017. One (1) nomination was received. A second call for nominations was circulated to GSA Council on June 12, 2017 with a

nomination deadline of June 15, 2017. Two (2) additional nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote.  
**See Item 6b – Nominees for GSA LRC.**

**Current Vacancies**

**1) Green and Gold Grant Adjudication Committee (2 Graduate Student Positions)**

These positions were advertised in the June 9, 2017 GSA newsletter with a nomination deadline of June 21, 2017.

**GSA Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the June 19, 2017 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Courtney Thomas  
Date: June 16, 2017

Dear GSA Council Members,

As mentioned at the last meeting of GSA Council, the GSA's annual external audit (as required by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*) was recently conducted. After an initial meeting between our Auditor (Tom Gee, with the firm Collins Barrow) and the members of the GSA Financial Team, we had a field auditor on site in the office for several days, combing through our financial records, human resource files, and the past year's minutes from GSA Board and GSA Council meetings, as well as posing a series of questions to me about the GSA's non-financial operations over the past year. This year's audit was both quick and clean and, as you will hear when the audit is presented to you next month with Tom Gee on hand to answer questions, we are in excellent shape. Once the audit has come before GSA Council, it will be submitted to the University's Board of Governors and posted on the GSA's website.

This will also be my last meeting for a few months as I embark on a maternity leave. To provide coverage for the duration of my leave we have made provisions for several staff members to take on additional responsibilities as required. I hope to begin attending GSA Council meetings again in October and can also be reached via email while I am on leave; I will resume my full-time duties with the GSA in March of 2018.

Best,  
Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

**Management Report to the GSA Board, May 17, 2017**

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 10, 2017:

**Strategic**

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Review of planned GSA events for 2017-2018; discussion and strategizing concerning main issues involved in proposals regarding the collection of Residence Association fees; ongoing strategic thinking and discussions re Bill 7; second mailing of GSA Council material; meeting of GSA Council and associated action; review of the ab-GPAC budget; preparing for the GSA 2016-2017 audit and associated meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee; training sessions for newly elected CALs; support for the drafting of the 2017-2018 GSA Board SWP and planning a town hall to consult with graduate students; discussion of funding for student groups with the Students’ Union and the GSA’s MoU with Student Group Services; and updates to the GSA’s Health and Dental 101 slides.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Follow up work associated with the GSA Nominating Committee’s recent review of GSA Policy on Nominating (reviewing a third draft of potential proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy in advance of a meeting of the GSA NoC over the summer) and initiating a review of current GSA Bylaw and Policy on the Legal Defense Fund (drafting a proposal following discussions with the Financial Team).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to student groups and residence associations and relationship building and maintenance with Student Group Services (revisiting an outdated MoU, etc).

**Grants and Office Operations**

- Forward planning for fall events and selling ad space for the GSA 2017-2018 Planner.
- Acquisition of needed licenses for office computers.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (filling vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee; arranging training sessions for newly elected CALs; and election of the GSA Senator, GSA Chief Returning Officer, GSA Deputy Returning Officer, GSA Speaker, and GSA Deputy Speaker).
- Transfer of content to Sitecore 3 (to be completed in June) and associated internal review prior to sending to IST for final review.
- Facebook = 951 likes (up 0 from May 10); Facebook posts reached 290 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 116. Twitter = 745 followers (up 1 from May 10); our tweets earned 3,900 “impressions” over the last week.

	<b>Total Amount Available This Period</b>	<b>Total Amount Remaining This Period (Post-Processing)</b>	<b>Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB</b>	<b>Total Number of Applications This Period</b>
<b>ATAs</b>	\$118,196.36	\$21,727.81	42	206 (44 pending processing)
<b>CCGs</b>	\$110,512.38	\$3,512.38 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	60 (0 pending processing)
<b>ASGAs</b>	\$5,668.15	\$0 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	5 (0 pending processing)
<b>EBs</b>	\$128,952.00 (no periods)	\$104,593.00	0	6 (0 pending processing)

### Management Report to the GSA Board, May 24, 2017

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 17, 2017:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Review of planned GSA events for 2017-2018; ongoing strategic thinking and discussions re Bill 7 (mapping out a proposed negotiations timeline, etc); drafting GSA Council minutes; initiating annual GSA Council remuneration; provision of various training sessions on procedural fairness and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board and the GSA budget; review of the ab-GPAC budget; preparing for the GSA 2016-2017 audit and associated meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee; training sessions for newly elected CALs and planning a transition session for the GSA Senator; election of an Occupational Therapy GSA Councillor; elections for the Pharmacy GSA executive; and support for the drafting of the 2017-2018 GSA Board SWP and planning a town hall to consult with graduate students.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Follow up work associated with the GSA Nominating Committee's recent review of GSA Policy on Nominating (reviewing a fourth draft of potential proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy in advance of a meeting of the GSA NoC over the summer) and initiating a review of current GSA Bylaw and Policy on the Legal Defense Fund (drafting a proposal following discussions with the Financial Team).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to student groups and residence associations and relationship building and maintenance with Student Group Services (revisiting an outdated MoU, etc).

#### Grants and Office Operations

- Forward planning for fall events and selling ad space for the GSA 2017-2018 Planner.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (filling vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee; arranging training sessions for newly elected CALs; and election of the GSA Chief Returning Officer, GSA Deputy Returning Officer, GSA Speaker, and GSA Deputy Speaker).
- Transfer of content to Sitecore 3 (to be completed in June) and associated internal review prior to sending to IST for final review.
- Facebook = 954 likes (up 3 from May 17); Facebook posts reached 198 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 5. Twitter = 747 followers (up 2 from May 17); our tweets earned 480 "impressions" over the last week.

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period (Post-Processing)	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>ATAs</b>	\$157,996.36	\$43,861.16	37	243 (37 pending processing)
<b>CCGs</b>	\$110,512.38	\$3,512.38 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	60 (0 pending processing)
<b>ASGAs</b>	\$5,668.15	\$0 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	5 (0 pending processing)
<b>EBs</b>	\$128,952.00 (no periods)	\$104,593.00	0	6 (0 pending processing)

### Management Report to the GSA Board, May 31, 2017

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 24, 2017:

#### Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Review of planned GSA events for 2017-2018; discussion concerning a proposed CA negotiations timeline; reviewing GSA Council minutes; annual GSA Council remuneration; review of the ab-GPAC budget; preparing for the GSA 2016-2017 audit (meeting with the auditor) and associated meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee; training sessions for newly elected CALs and working on updating procedural fairness training scenarios; planning to clean out the "cave" filing space; forward planning for the 2018 GSA General Election; and support for the drafting of the 2017-2018 GSA Board SWP (and associated release letters to stakeholders and partners) and planning a town hall to consult with graduate students.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Follow up work associated with the GSA Nominating Committee's recent review of GSA Policy on Nominating (reviewing a fifth draft of potential proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy in advance of a meeting of the GSA NoC over the summer) and initiating a review of current GSA Bylaw and Policy on the Legal Defense Fund (reviewing a first draft of a proposal following discussions with the Financial Team).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to residence associations and relationship building and maintenance with Student Group Services (revisiting an outdated MoU, etc).

#### Grants and Office Operations

- Forward planning for fall events and selling ad space for the GSA 2017-2018 Planner.
- Cross-training on grants processing and participating in PeopleSoft training.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (filling vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the GSA Labour Relations Committee, and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee; forward planning for the 2018 GSA General Election; and election of the GSA Chief Returning Officer, GSA Deputy Returning Officer, GSA Speaker, and GSA Deputy Speaker).
- Transfer of content to Sitecore 3 (to be completed in June) and associated internal review prior to sending to IST for final review.
- Facebook = 959 likes (up 5 from May 24); Facebook posts reached 616 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 120. Twitter = 748 followers (up 1 from May 24); our tweets earned 954 "impressions" over the last week.

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period (Post-Processing)	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>ATAs</b>	\$157,996.36	\$30,789.54	25	268 (28 pending processing)
<b>CCGs</b>	\$110,512.38	\$3,512.38 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	60 (0 pending processing)
<b>ASGAs</b>	\$5,668.15	\$0 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	5 (0 pending processing)
<b>EBs</b>	\$128,952.00 (no periods)	\$89,716.00	4	10 (2 pending processing)

Management Report to the GSA Board, June 7, 2017

The following issues have dominated management’s attention in the week since the last GSA Board meeting on May 31, 2017:

**Strategic**

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Arranging for the “cave” to be cleaned out and checking its current contents; Bill 7 discussions following a meeting with members of the Provost’s office; review of planned GSA events for 2017-2018; 2016-2017 audit (meeting with the auditor and preparing for associated meetings of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee); Senator transition meeting; working on updating procedural fairness training scenarios; forward planning for the 2018 GSA General Election and doing research on referenda policies at other student associations for future discussion with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee; and support for the drafting of the 2017-2018 GSA Board SWP (and associated release letters to stakeholders and partners) and preparing for a town hall to consult with graduate students.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Follow up work associated with the GSA Nominating Committee’s recent review of GSA Policy on Nominating (reviewing a sixth draft of potential proposed changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy in advance of a meeting of the GSA NoC over the summer) and initiating a review of current GSA Bylaw and Policy on the Legal Defense Fund (reviewing a second draft of a proposal and planning a review with the Financial Team).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to residence associations and relationship building and maintenance with Student Group Services (revisiting an outdated MoU, etc).

**Grants and Office Operations**

- Planning for fall events (including departmental orientations) and selling ad space for the GSA 2017-2018 Planner.
- Cross-training on grants processing and participating in PeopleSoft training.
- Annual GSA Council remuneration.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (filling vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the GSA Labour Relations Committee, and the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee; forward planning for the 2018 GSA General Election; and election of the GSA Chief Returning Officer, GSA Deputy Returning Officer, GSA Speaker, and GSA Deputy Speaker), and elections for the Pharmacy and Occupational Therapy GSAs.
- Transfer of content to Sitecore 3 (to be completed in June), associated internal review prior to sending to IST for final review, and finalizing the GSA’s MoU with IST.
- Facebook = 962 likes (up 3 from June 7); Facebook posts reached 308 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 55. Twitter = 746 followers (down 2 from June 7); our tweets earned 858 “impressions” over the last week.

	Total Amount Available This Period	Total Amount Remaining This Period (Post-Processing)	Number of New Applications Since Last GSAB	Total Number of Applications This Period
<b>ATAs</b>	\$157,996.36	\$16,549.54	29	297 (30 pending processing)
<b>CCGs</b>	\$110,512.38	\$3,512.38 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	60 (0 pending processing)
<b>ASGAs</b>	\$5,668.15	\$0 <b>CLOSED</b>	0	5 (0 pending processing)
<b>EBs</b>	\$128,952.00 (no periods)	\$89,716.00	0	10 (0 pending processing)