

GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA
Monday, March 19, 2018 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

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

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

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

Speaker Joshuha Connauton 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 March 2018 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 26 February 2018 GSA Council Meeting
Attachment:
 - i. Minutes from the 26 February 2018 GSA Council Meeting **3.0 - 3.6**
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
 - i. Introduction of New Councillors (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
 - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

Councillor Announcements

5. Councillor Announcements

Action Items

6. GSA Health and Dental Plan Fees for 2018-2019
Royle Feng (GSA Vice-President Student Services) will present the item and introduce the guest.

Guest: Colten Yamagishi, Program Manager, Studentcare

Attachments:

- Cover Letter from the GSA President and GSA Vice-President Student Services to GSA Council **6.0**
- Outline of Issue **6.1**

Reminder: A Health and Dental 101 session is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 10 AM.

7. 2018 GSA General Election Results: To Receive For Information For Purposes of Transferring Banking Signing Authority
Darcy Bemister (GSA Chief Returning Officer) will present the item.

Attachments:

- Outline of Issue 7.0

Presentation

8. Dean of Student Survey of Student Service
Babak Soltannia (GSA President) will present the item and introduce the guests.

Guests: Dr. Helen Vallianatos (Associate Dean of Students)

Attachment:

- Overview of Services 8.0 - 8.4

Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates

9. GSA Council Elections

None at this time

For Discussion:

10. Presentation on Proposed Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy to address Bill 7
Sasha van der Klein (GSA Vice-President Labour) will present the item.

Reports

11. President (**Babak Soltannia, GSA President**)
- i. President's Report 11.0 - 11.1
 - ii. GSA Board 11.2
 - iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
 - iv. GSA Governance Committee (**no meetings of this reporting period**)
12. Vice-President Academic (**Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic**)
- i. Vice-President Academic's Report 12.0 - 12.1
13. Vice-President External (**Masoud Khademi, GSA Vice-President External**)
- i. Vice-President External's Report 13.0 - 13.1
 - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
14. Vice-President Labour (**Sasha van der Klein, GSA Vice-President Labour**)
- i. Vice-President Labour's Report 14.0 - 14.1
 - ii. GSA Negotiating Committee 14.2
 - iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee (**no meetings this reporting period**)
15. Vice-President Student Services (**Royle Feng, GSA Vice-President Student Services**)
- i. Vice-President Student Services' Report 15.0 - 15.1
16. Senator (**Trent Nabe, GSA Senator**)
- i. Senator's Report (**no written report at this time**)
17. Speaker (**Joshua Connauton, GSA Speaker**)
- i. Speaker's Report (**no written report at this time**)
18. Chief Returning Officer (**Darcy Bemister, GSA Chief Returning Officer**)
- i. Chief Returning Officer's Report 18.0
19. GSA Nominating Committee (**Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair**)
- i. GSA Nominating Committee Report 19.0

20. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (**Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair; Yilun Wu, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee member will present the report on Leigh Spanner's behalf**)
- i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report **20.0**
21. GSA Management (**Courtney Thomas, GSA Executive Director**)
- i. Executive Director's Report **21.0 - 21.3**

Question Period

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

Adjournment

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, February 26, 2018 at 6:00 pm
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

IN ATTENDANCE:

Babak Soltannia (President)	Francesca Jean (Biological Sciences)	Richard Moran (English & Film Studies)	Braden Chow (Oncology)
Firouz Khodayari (VP Academic)	Ashmita De (Biomedical Engineering)	Adrian Christ (History & Classics)	Tugba Yoldas (Philosophy)
Masoud Khademi (VP External)	Rongrong Zhang (Business PhD)	Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)	Scott Karbashewski (Physics)
Sasha van der Klein (VP Labour)	Karl Roesner; Shweta Pipaliya (Cell Biology)	Michaela Stang (Humanities Computing)	Yilun Wu (Physiology)
Royle Feng (VP Student Services)	Ananthan Santhanakrishnan (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Sachin Kaushik (Internetworking)	Nourredin Zaamout (Political Science)
Josh Connauton (Speaker)	Aaron Kirkey (Chemistry)	Stephen Hunter (Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation)	Jessica Luki (Psychiatry)
Teddy Carter (Deputy Speaker)	Pedro Mateo (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Evelyn Asiedu (Lab Med & Pathology)	William Service (Psychology)
Darcy Bemister (Chief Returning Officer)	Craig St. Jean (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Tabatha Plesuk (Library & Info Studies)	Alexandra Loverock (Public Health)
Michel DuVal (Deputy Returning Officer)	Michael Disyak (Computing Science)	Catherine Ford (Linguistics)	Owain Bamforth (Religious Studies)
Trent Nabe (Senator; Business MBA)	Julie Piche (Dentistry)	Michelle Michelle (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Ryan Stanfield (Renewable Resources)
Spencer Balay (Councillor-at-Large)	Dorian Lang (Drama)	Milad Nazarahari (Mechanical Engineering)	Yangzhe Cao (Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Syed Hussain (Councillor-at-Large)	Alison Thomas (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Fahed Elian (Medical Genetics)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Dasha Smirnow (Councillor-at-Large)	Stefana Vukadinovich (East Asian Studies)	Quinten Kieser (Med Microbiology & Immunology)	Jon Mora (Surgery)
Andrews Tawiah (Councillor-at-Large)	Areej Alshammiry (Educational Policy Studies)	Derya Cinar (MLCS)	Anthony Goertz (Women's and Gender Studies)
Hongbing Fan (Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science)	Chantal Labonté (Ed Psych)	Trevor Poitras (Neuroscience)	
Talisha Chaput (Anthropology)	Golam Kibria Chowdhury; Salah Alheejawi (Electrical & Computer Engineering)	Sadie Deschenes (Nursing)	
Brandi Goddard (Art & Design)	Nicole Jamison (Elementary Education)	Jaelyn Hutchinson (Occupational Therapy)	

Guests: Marc Waddingham (Biological Sciences); Zhihong Pan (Physics); Chong Wei (Civil & Environmental Engineering)

Speaker Josh Connauton in the Chair.

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

Roll Call**1. Roll Call of GSA Council Members in Attendance****Approval of Agenda****2. Approval of the 26 February 2018 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 26 February 2018 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. F Khodayari **MOVED**; D Lang **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes**3. Minutes from the 22 January 2018 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 22 January 2018 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 15 February 2018. R Feng **MOVED**; A Thomas **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

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

i. **Introduction of New Councillors:** S Vukadinovich (East Asian Studies)

ii. **Farewell to Departing Councillors:** None

Councillor Announcements**5. Councillor Announcements**

M Khademi noted that TEC Edmonton was offering a free entrepreneurship workshop for U of A students, to be held on 2 March 2018 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

R Feng invited members to consider the Innovative Designs for Accessibility (IDeA) student competition, which aims to inspire university students to find innovative, cost-effective, and practical solutions to accessibility issues as outlined under five categories in Canadian provincial accessibility legislation. The competition is now open until 31 May 2018 at 5:00 PM (EST). More information can be found [here](#).

A Tawiah noted that the Campus Alberta Student Conference on Health was now accepting abstracts and encouraged interested graduate students to participate in this event. More information can be found [here](#).

E Asiedu noted that the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology (CCWESTT) was holding their bi-annual conference from 30 May to 2 June and invited members to register for the conference. She also noted the conference was looking for volunteers. More information can be found [here](#).

Presentation**6. Graduate Student Funding**

B Soltannia presented the item and introduced the guest, Dr. Heather Zwicker (Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)). B Soltannia noted that one of the key team goals from the 2017-2018 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) was to advocate for the University to launch a review of the current state of graduate student funding and to consider the creation of transparent and 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. He added that, in 2017, UBC established a university-wide minimum funding level for all PhD Students, starting in September 2018, for each of the first four years of their PhD. UBC was the first institution in western Canada to adopt this policy – other institutions with guaranteed minimum funding were U of T, Queens, Western, Waterloo, and McMaster. He also noted that the U of C was also exploring the implementation of guaranteed minimum funding. He reported that following frequent conversations with the U of A Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Dean of FGSR, FGSR conducted a survey in the fall to acquire information and statistics to better understand how PhD students were currently funded at the U of A.

H Zwicker provided a presentation on the current state of graduate student funding. She noted that each year the FGSR prepared a report on graduate student enrolment and she provided some remarks on the basic demographics of current graduate students (20% of U of A students are graduate students, 2.5% self-identify as First Nations, Metis, or Inuit, one third are PhD students, two thirds are Master's students, and there are currently 7668 graduate students). She reviewed their recent

PhDiversification project which focuses on building skills and mindsets to enable PhD students to be resilient in a challenging job market, exploring the various influences on PhD employment success, and working with external partners and students to build a program to support students. She reviewed the statistics for current completion rates and added that the annual enrolment report indicated that international students continue to have shorter time-to-completion rates across every program.

H Zwicker noted that the current GSA Board SWP advocated that all graduate students should receive sustainable funding packages. She reported that she had been working with B Soltannia and the University of Alberta Provost and Vice-President (Academic) to start some of the necessary analysis, and that the Provost had requested that FGSR take the lead in exploring the implications of guaranteed funding for PhD Students. She summarized the current status of guaranteed minimum funding packages at comparator universities and noted that guaranteed minimum funding packages were emerging quickly across Canada. She summarized that, in response to a survey distributed through FGSR in the fall 2017, 35/64 PhD programs at the U of A reported offering guaranteed funding to their students. She noted that more programs likely offered funding to their students but did not view the funding as guaranteed. She also noted that the amounts of guaranteed funding provided in these 35 PhD programs started at less than \$15,000 with the majority clustering between \$25,000 and \$27,000. She added that the majority provided four years of guaranteed funding, and some offered additional supports for international students to offset their differential fees. H Zwicker also provided an overview of the various sources of funding that were distributed to PhD students in 2015-2016 (including internal, federal, provincial, other scholarships, Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) and Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) positions, and other sources, which was a broad and variable category). She noted that currently GRA positions provide the largest amount of funding for thesis-based students and that GTA positions account for about 10% of funding. H Zwicker further noted that 210 PhD students received no funding and that these students distributed across all faculties. She also noted there were around 500 students who were sponsored students that is were funded from sources not flowing through the University, usually from their home countries, and were not included in the data presented but that there might be some cross over with the 201 unfunded students.

H Zwicker then reported that, as the next phase of the analysis, the FGSR had asked faculties to undertake analysis of the actual funding gap in a more nuanced way, and that she had been meeting monthly with the Associate Graduate Deans from all faculties to discuss the realities of graduate student issues. She reviewed some of the early observations from these conversations, which included the fact that some faculties viewed \$18,000 - \$20,000 as too low for public advertising, that some did not have the resources to secure a guarantee of \$18,000 per year, that some had a high proportion of students who didn't require funding (e.g. programs with a high number of working professionals), and that there was a general shared agreement about the importance of funding. Finally, she noted that faculties were currently focused on budget cuts and that she had been communicating to them that they should not cut their current budgets funding graduate students.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, among other issues, the possible timeline for the implementation of guaranteed minimum funding package for PhD students at the U of A (H Zwicker responded that similar conversations and introduction of such policies at other Canadian universities had been a multi-year ones and that, due to uncertainty surrounding the U of A budget, they could not establish a definitive timeline); whether professors' salaries could be capped (H Zwicker responded that academic staff salaries were set through a collective bargaining process between the University and the Academic Staff Association); whether guaranteed minimum funding package could be tied to recruitment (H Zwicker noted this would be the ideal system whereby resources to support students would be secured the moment students were accepted and, ideally, students would know what their funding would be each year, but that there were challenges due to the nature and fluctuating availability of research funding); what the impact of the increase to international student tuition would be on graduate students with families, as well as the impact on mental health and research output, and how FGSR was helping support students experiencing tuition increases (H Zwicker responded that the FGSR did not set tuition rates and noted that FGSR had worked to provide more information on their homepage for prospective students regarding the cost of living in Edmonton, and that there had also been discussions about posting proposed tuition rates in advance of their final approval); whether it was the FGSR or departments and faculties that were responsible for determining where budget cuts would happen (H Zwicker responded that Deans had the delegated responsibility of their budgets); whether the University had an appetite for introducing minimum funding guarantees for Master's thesis or course based students (H Zwicker responded that there wasn't interest in providing additional support for students in professional based master's degree though there was a desire to eventually provide funding for all graduate students in thesis-based programs); whether there would still be the ability to introduce guaranteed minimum funding packages given that the University new multi-year budget model (H Zwicker discussed the challenges with a decentralized budget model); whether due to the disparity between different departments there would be the expectation to redistribute funding between departments in order to provide the necessary funds to establish guaranteed minimum funding (H Zwicker responded that this would not be pursued and that departments would need to focus on bringing more money into the system rather than redistributing current resources); whether there was an opportunity to lobby the government about the Campus Alberta grants and tuition fees for international students (H Zwicker highlighted the

essential contributions that international graduate students make within the University and discussed the current political climate and the importance of communicating the value of higher education and graduate studies); and how the FGSR was looking at the linkages between employment positions covered under the collective agreement and the establishment of guaranteed minimum funding packages (H Zwicker responded that the FGSR's goal was to establish one set amount for a guaranteed minimum funding package and then departments would work to ensure that amount would be met, normally from a combination of funding sources, which could include GRA and/or GTA positions).

Action Items:

7. Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2018-2019) and Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2018-2019) AND Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2018-2021) and Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2018-2021)

Babak Soltannia (GSA President and GSA Budget and Finance Committee Chair) presented the item. Courtney Thomas (Executive Director and Financial Team Lead), Shirley Ball (Accountant), Dorte Shiekh (Financial Manager), Heather Hogg (Director of Operations), and Julie Tanguay (Acting Executive Director, Associate Director) were present to answer questions.

- i. **MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That, having been recommended by the GSA BFC and GSA Board, GSA Council **APPROVE** the Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2018-2019) (found on pages 7.4 to 7.12 in the attached material in the "2018-2019 Budget for Approval" **column bordered in red on each page**) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2018-2019) (found on page 7.25 in the attached material in the "2018-2019 Budget for Approval" **column bordered in red**).
- ii. **MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That, having been reviewed and advised upon by the GSA BFC and recommended by the GSA Board, GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2018-2021) and Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2018-2021) (pages 7.4 to 7.12 and 7.25 in the attached material).

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, among other topics, whether increases to CPI would also be applied to the Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) (S van der Klein responded that this fund was negotiated independently with the University and that, due to ongoing negotiations, there were no increases at this time); the large variance in expenses from the actual budget in 2016 (D Shiekh responded that this was on account of, among other things, increased funding for GSA Council remuneration, engagement initiatives, Campus Food Bank funding and other subsidies, and added benefits for staff); whether the upcoming budget cuts would impact the GSA (C Thomas responded that the GSA's budget would only be affected if enrollment numbers dropped, and that in anticipation of this possibility the GSA budget was drafted conservatively and that there was a contingency budget in place); whether the 5% increase for the GSA Health and Dental Plan was expected (C Thomas responded that this increase was only an estimate and that GSA Council would set the Plan fees at the March GSA Council meeting where a Studentcare representatives would be in attendance to answer questions); and why the GSA Health and Dental Plan covered health practitioner services as the efficacy of these services were scientifically questionable (C Thomas noted this question had been raised previously and encouraged GSA Councillors to raise this question during the Studentcare presentation at the March GSA Council meeting).

MOTION: That, having been recommended by the GSA BFC and GSA Board, GSA Council **APPROVE** the Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2018-2019) (found on pages 7.4 to 7.12 in the attached material in the "2018-2019 Budget for Approval" **column bordered in red on each page**) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2018-2019) (found on page 7.25 in the attached material in the "2018-2019 Budget for Approval" **column bordered in red**).
B Soltannia **MOVED**. F Elian **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously

B Soltannia noted that the 2018-2019 budget projected a positive bottom line that would be used to continue to grow the Financial Stabilization Fund to \$900,000, as recommended by the GSA's Auditor. B Soltannia also noted several highlights of the 2018-2019 budget, including no increases to the GSA fee beyond CPI, the suspension of the dedicated fee of \$1 per year currently assessed directly to graduate students to support ab-GPAC in favour of paying the full membership fee of \$4 per graduate per year directly from the GSA's operating budget, parity of staff benefits through the introduction of RRSP contributions for NASA represented staff and increase of the contribution provided to administrative/professional staff to match, an increase to the amount of the subsidies currently offered to the Campus Food Bank (founded by the GSA), Writing Resources, and the Career Centre, and increased funding to the "Awards Night" and "Engagement, Orientations, and Outreach" lines to allow for enhanced spending on events to encourage higher attendance numbers and overall graduate student

engagement with the GSA. In closing, he added that the GSA 2018-2019 budget had been reviewed by GSA BFC on 24 January, and by the GSA Board on 7 February. He also thanked the GSA Financial Team and the members of GSA BFC for their hard work.

MOTION: That, having been reviewed and advised upon by the GSA BFC and recommended by the GSA Board, GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2018-2021) and Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2018-2021) (pages 7.4 to 7.12 and 7.25 in the attached material). B Soltannia **MOVED**. T Nabe **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously

8. GSA 2017-2018 Winter Term Financial Statement

Babak Soltannia (GSA President) presented the item. Courtney Thomas (Executive Director and Financial Team Lead), Shirley Ball (Accountant), Dorte Shiekh (Financial Manager), Heather Hogg (Director of Operations), and Julie Tanguay (Acting Executive Director, Associate Director) were present to answer questions.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2017-2018 Winter Term Financial Report.

B Soltannia noted that the GSA BFC had reviewed this report on 24 January and the GSA Board had received it for information on 7 February. He reminded GSA Councillors that the GSA's fiscal year runs from 1 April to 31 March and that he was pleased to report that the GSA was on track overall and would likely have a surplus at the end of the year. He reported that the GSA's external committed funding was being utilized for engagement events and opportunities, orientations, and departmental outreach. B Soltannia concluded that the GSA continued to be in excellent shape financially and thanked the Financial Team and the members of the GSA BFC for their work.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2017-2018 Winter Term Financial Report. B Soltannia **MOVED**. S van der Klein **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously

Elections

9. GSA Council Elections

None at this time.

For Discussion

No items at this time.

Reports

10. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Soltannia wished the candidates running in the 2018 GSA General Election good luck. He noted that voting started on 27 February, and encouraged GSA Councillors and their colleagues to vote. A Tawiah asked whether there were further avenues for the GSA to explore in their advocacy against increases to international tuition and B Soltannia responded that the GSA had pursued internal advocacy through individual meetings with Board of Governors members and external advocacy avenues through conversations with Advanced Education to regulate international tuition.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted.

iii. Budget and Finance Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

iv. GSA Governance Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted.

11. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, F Khodayari noted that the international tuition proposal had passed at the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC) meeting by a small margin and discussed the upcoming vote at the Board Finance and Property Committee on 27 February. He encouraged graduate students to attend the upcoming Board of Governors meeting on 16 March as guests, where the final vote would take place. He suggested that a strong showing on the part of graduate students would make clear their wishes with regards to the international tuition proposal.

12. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Khademi expressed his congratulations to the 31 recipients of the GSA Recognition Awards and thanked the GSA Awards Selection Committee for their time and dedication in adjudicating the applications.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted.

13. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, S van der Klein noted that the GSA, in collaboration with many University stakeholders, has prepared a safety session for graduate students. She added that representatives from University of Alberta Protective Services, Environment, Health and Safety, and Helping Individuals At Risk would present. She encouraged graduate students to sign up for the session scheduled for 13 March.

ii. GSA Negotiating Committee

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

14. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, R Feng encouraged graduate students to consider volunteering for the Campus Food Bank and/or applying to serve on the Campus Food Bank Board.

ii. GSA Student Affairs Advisory Committee

No meetings this reporting period.

15. Senator

i. Senator's Report

No written report at this time.

16. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

17. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, D Bemister noted that voting for the 2018 GSA General Election would begin the following day and he invited GSA Councillors to vote and to encourage their colleagues to do so as well.

18. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, R Barta encouraged GSA Councillors to consider the vacancies on both the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) and the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC), both of which have remained vacant for some time. He noted in particular that the GSA ACB had a limited time commitment. In addition, he brought attention to vacancies on the General Faculties Council (GFC) for the upcoming 2018-2019 term, and he highlighted the important work of these positions. Lastly, he noted that a vacancy on the Faculty of Arts Environment, Health and Safety Committee had been advertised but remained vacant.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted.

20. GSA Management**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 23 February 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition, J Tanguay noted that GSA Executive Director C Thomas would be returning from parental leave on 1 March. C Thomas expressed her gratitude to J Tanguay, H Hogg, and L Hareuther for their work while she was away. B Soltannia also took the opportunity to welcome C Thomas back and expressed his thanks to the entire management team.

Question Period**21. Written Questions**

None at this time.

22. Oral Questions

A GSA Councillor asked whether it would be possible to add coverage for occupational therapy services to the GSA Health and Dental Plan. C Thomas indicated that the GSA would approach Studentcare with this question.

The GSA Speaker encouraged graduate students to vote in the 2018 GSA General Election and noted that the voting link would be circulated via email on 27 February.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.



Dear Council Colleagues,

At our Council meeting on March 19 you will be asked to consider a recommendation from the GSA Board regarding the 2018-2019 GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee (hereafter referred to as the “fee”).

As members may be aware, the cost of the Plan is driven by usage, and we are pleased that graduate students continue to use the benefits of the Plan. Based on the projections provided to us by Studentcare (our broker and the Plan administrator), we are happy to report that there is no proposed increase to the fee for 2018-2019. Indeed, claims are low enough that the GSA Board is also proposing that the Plan be expanded to include additional vision coverage (from \$100 to \$150/per every two policy years for glasses and contacts) and additional coverage for psychologist services (from \$30 per visit to 80% per visit up to an annual maximum of \$600/per policy year). Additionally, even after increasing coverage, around \$25/per graduate student can still be deposited in the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund. Should GSA Council approve the attached proposal, the fee paid by graduate students for the Plan would be \$500.36/year for 2018-2019 (remaining the same as the 2017-2018 fee). The fee will be pro-rated for graduate students who start their programs in January.

We want to thank you in advance for your consideration of this proposal involving one of the GSA’s most important services to graduate students. We would be happy to answer any questions you have at the meeting, but also encourage you to send us questions before then as you consult with your colleagues – questions can be directed to the Vice-President Student Services at gsavpsse@ualberta.ca. Kristin Foster, Director of Partnership and Development (Studentcare), and Colten Yamagishi, Program Manager (Studentcare) will also be in attendance at the March meeting to present information on the GSA’s Plan and associated usage rates, and answer any questions that members may have.

Best,

Chenyang Feng

Royle (Chenyang) Feng, GSA Vice-President Student Services 2017-2018

and

Babak Soltannia

Babak Soltannia, GSA President 2017-2018

Outline of Issue

GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2018-2019

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

MOTION 1: That GSA Council **APPROVE** setting the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee for 2018-2019 at \$500.36/annum, effective September 1, 2018, with collection from graduate students to begin September 1, 2018.

MOTION 2: That GSA Council **APPROVE** that vision coverage under the GSA Health and Dental Plan be increased from \$100 to \$150 per every two policy years for glasses and contacts and that coverage for psychologist services be increased from \$30 per visit to 80% coverage per visit, and that the annual maximum be increased from \$500 to \$600 per policy year, to begin September 1, 2018.

Background:

The key driver for cost increases to the GSA Health and Dental Plan is usage. There is no increase in premiums for 2018-2019. Should GSA Council approve the attached proposal, the fee paid by graduate students for the Plan would be \$500.36/year for 2018-2019 (remaining the same as the 2017-2018 fee). Additionally, even after increasing coverage as outlined below, around \$25/per graduate student can still be deposited in the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund (HDPFRF).

Benefit Changes	% Impact	Projected Net Premium	Cost of Benefit Change
Increase coverage for psychologist services from \$30 per visit to 80% per visit, and that the annual maximum be increased from \$500 to \$600 per policy year	1.5%	\$270.20	\$4-5
Increase coverage glasses/contacts for \$100 per 24 months to \$150 per 24 months	3.5%	\$270.20	\$9-10

The GSA Board discussed this proposal at length on February 28, 2018 before recommending it to GSA Council on March 7, 2018.

In past surveys conducted by Studentcare, graduate students have expressed interest in increasing all areas of coverage. However while the data for this year shows a considerable decline in claims after several years of increases, it is recommended that increases in major areas such as prescription drugs or dental not be considered until it can be determined that this drop in claims is not a one-year anomaly. Likewise, growing the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund as proposed is recommended to offset any cost increases caused by increased claims, should this prove to be a one-year anomaly.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section M: GSA Health and Dental, GSA Policy, GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, Section M.POL.6.1:

"In this Policy, "Fee(s)" will refer to the amount of money paid by enrolled graduate students for the Plan. The amount of the Fee includes both Plan premiums and administrative overhead. The Fee may include an amount for the replenishment of the Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund (see Section M.POL.11, below)."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section M: GSA Health and Dental, GSA Policy, GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, Section M.POL.9.1:

"The GSA Board (GSAB) is mandated to oversee the implementation, administration, and performance of the GSA Health and Dental Plan, and to make recommendations to GSA Council regarding the Plan (quoted in Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Board, Section F.POL.3.2.c)."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section M: GSA Health and Dental, GSA Policy, GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, Section M.POL.10.1:

"Any increase in the Fee or modification of coverage must be approved by GSA Council on the recommendation of the GSA Board. Any increase in the Fee exceeding 15% of the previous year's Fee must also be put to a referendum."

Outline of Issue

2018 GSA General Election Results: To Receive For Information For Purposes of Transferring Banking Signing Authority

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the results of the 2018 GSA General wherein the following graduate students were duly elected as President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Labour, and Vice-President Student Services:

President	Sasha van der Klein
Vice-President Academic	Masoud Aliramezani
Vice-President External	Zhihong Pan
Vice-President Labour	Beth Richardson
Vice-President Student Services	Fahed Elian

Background:

The 2018 GSA General Elections official results were announced to all graduate students by the Chief Returning Officer on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

GSA Council is now asked to **receive for information** the results, to be set out in the Minutes. The GSA's bank requires that the names of the newly Directly-Elected Officers appear in the Minutes in order to transfer signing authority on May 1, 2018.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios, Section D.POL.10.5.f.iii:
"Duties of the Chief Returning Officer [...]: 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.7.1)."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures, Section K.POL.7.1:

"Signing Authority

- K.POL.7.1.a Financial documents related to the Unrestricted Operating Budget requiring signature, including but not limited to cheques and investment instructions, require two (2) signatures: either any two (2) Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs), or any one (1) DEO and one Director.*
- K.POL.7.1.b The President, at least two (2) Vice-Presidents, and at least two (2) Directors will each as individuals have authority as signing officers for the GSA.*
- K.POL.7.1.c Wherever possible, it is preferable for one of the signatories to be the President."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.14:

"Upon completion of the ballot count, the CRO will announce provisional results, ie results that are subject to appeal for twenty-four (24) hours from the time the provisional results are released and which may, in addition, be affected because of earlier complaints not yet resolved. Results will be made official only when the GSA's process of dealing with alleged breaches of GSA Elections Bylaw or Policy and any appeals within that process are exhausted."

Services	Services Summary and Responsibilities
Community Social Work Team (CSWT)	<p>Services Descriptions: Supporting students in establishing connections with each other and the campus community through programs and training opportunities. The CSWT facilitates presentations, training sessions, and community events to bring students together, build community, decrease loneliness and build capacity that will assist during their time on campus and afterwards. CSWT offers program such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training (This is a certified suicide prevention training program that provides community education and engagement in addressing, to recognize and support people who may have thoughts of suicide). - Unitea (opportunities for conversations to happen, and connect over a cup of tea or coffee) - Community Helpers Program (Free staff and student training program providing basic tools to help community members in distress and to support your peer's mental health and wellbeing)
Counselling and Clinical Services (CCS)	<p>Services Description: Provides free, confidential counselling, psychological treatment, and psychiatric services for students. Offer individual and relationship counselling, as well as therapy groups for common psychological issues and problems such as: depression, generalized anxiety, social anxiety and disordered eating. There are drop-in workshops for students and staff to help with the following: anxiety and depression, mindfulness, mood management, healthy relationships, building resilience. We provide service navigation and referrals to other mental health supports on and off campus. Lastly, CCS offers consultation services to students, faculty, and staff regarding mental health and wellness.</p>

Healthy Campus Unit	<p>Services Descriptions: Supporting health promotion, education, and student health research at the U of A, and developing opportunities for student involvement. Major initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unwind Your Mind (transforming library space to make it easier for students to be well physically, socially and emotionally) - Wellness Champions (To celebrate the efforts of students, staff, faculty and student groups, whose activities and initiatives are contributing towards a culture of wellness) - Wellness Grants (Grant funding to support development of new student wellness initiatives at the University)
Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)	<p>Services Description: Free drop-in, telephone, or email support for survivors of sexual assault or abuse, sexual harassment, stalking, or relationship violence regardless of gender, orientation, ethnicity, ability, spirituality;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Psychotherapy appointments with psychologist for either short- or long-term counselling and treatment regarding sexual assault or sexual abuse (whether the experience happened recently or long ago) available after an Intake appointment with a staff member; -Support and information for partners, friends, family, and concerned individuals who are supporting a survivor of sexual assault; -Advocating for deferrals, extensions, and other academic accommodations to help support students who are struggling after an experience of sexual violence; -Accompaniment for individuals who choose to seek medical attention or report their experience; -Referrals to on- and off-campus resources; -Resource area for information on sexual assault and related topics; -Interactive 50- and 80-minute Education Presentations on sexual assault and consent.

University Health Centre (UHC)	<p>Service Descriptions: We are a Primary Care Medical Clinic with Family Physicians and Nurses that provide health services to the university community. Most of our services operate on a drop-in basis and are available to all staff members, students, and spouses and children of students.</p> <p>Our services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Medical services similar to any medical clinic. ● Sexual health services ● Health Faculty Immunizations ● Obstetrics and Gynecology ● Podiatry ● Travel Consultation and Immunizations ● Nutrition Consultations
University Pharmacy	<p>Services Descriptions: The University Health Centre Pharmacy is a full service community pharmacy offering a complete selection of prescription and over-the-counter medications, health and wellness products, and comprehensive assistance with medication reviews, pharmacist prescribing, renewal and transferring of prescriptions, immunizations, travel consultations, and tobacco cessation products and services.</p>
Aboriginal Student Services Centre	<p>Services Description: Providing programs and services to First Nations, Métis and Inuit students within an environment that encourages full access, participation, and success. ASSC provides community outreach through ceremonies and gatherings such as the annual Round Dance. Furthermore, ASSC provides Writing Mentors, tutors, resources for Orientation, and various funding and scholarships for Aboriginal Students. As part of community outreach, ASSC aims to increase awareness through community meals, community relations and elder services. Students from various backgrounds and faculties can gather to build connections and offer opportunities to enable student, staff and faculty participation in reconciliation.</p>
TYP = Transition Year Program	<p>Services Description: The Transition Year Program (TYP) is a University access program for Aboriginal students who may not be prepared to enter a faculty through the regular admissions route.</p>
Career Centre	<p>Services Description: Empowering students to develop the skills, knowledge, experiences, and connections to confidently manage their career. Various programs are offered such as career mentoring, career fairs, internship and work experience programs, interview coaching, resume reviews, Summer</p>

		Career Camp, Transition to Career (T2C), Shell Enhanced Learning Fund, Sustainability Scholars and various workshops and presentations.
URI = Undergraduate Research Initiative		Services Description: Facilitating opportunities, funding and raising awareness of undergraduate student research, to create a culture in which every undergraduate student have the opportunity to engage in research and creative activities.
Math Supports		Services Description: Providing course-specific academic support in mathematics, statistics, and engineering. MASC offers Mathematics Preparation Workshops, Math 114/115 prep session and seminars, weekly seminars, midterm and final reviews.
Ombuds Service		Services Description: Advocates for systemic fairness, ombuds focus on client empowerment (ethics of care and rights). Our services include support for informal and formal resolution processes in academic appeals, professor/supervisor conflict; Code of Student Behaviour matters, professional misconduct, bullying, discrimination and harassment, intellectual property disputes, residence conflicts, and fee/fine petitions. We serve applicants, undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and medical residents. We advise faculty and administrative staff. Our workshops address student rights, appeal processes, effective communication, conflict resolution, restorative practices, academic integrity, research ethics, and digital citizenship.
Student Conduct and Accountability		Services Description: Upholding safety and integrity at the University of Alberta, the SCA consists of the two University Discipline Officers, who make decisions under the Code of Student Behaviour for academic and non-academic misconduct. They provide due process for those under allegation as well as fairness for complainants under the Code. In addition to decision-making, the SCA is instrumental in policy review and development, restorative justice training for residence life staff, and exploring other opportunities for the use of restorative justice at the University of Alberta.
Learning Strategies & Writing Supports (Student Success Centre)		<p>Services Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing professional support to help students strengthen their academic skills to achieve their academic goals, the SSC offers group workshops, individual appointments, and online courses in the areas of learning, writing, and communication strategies throughout the year. ● SSC operates the Fresh Start Program (in coordination with Open Studies/Office of the Registrar) which assists undergraduate students required to withdraw from their faculties to re-establish satisfactory standing and gain admission/readmission to a University faculty.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SSC operates the Academic Copy Editing Service which provides professional copy editing for graduate students and post-graduates, instructors, and professors for theses, dissertations, capstone projects, and documents for publication or career purposes. ● SSC also develops customized programming for campus and community groups. For example, SSC runs the Football Study Hall program (for Golden Bears Football) from September to April, offers customized workshops for various groups, contributes subject-matter expertise to program curricula, and facilitates individual appointments for specific learner cohorts such as medical residents. <p>SSC services are available to students of all backgrounds, in all programs of study, at all levels of achievement, and on all campuses, as well as to learners in the broader community.</p>
Accessibility Services	<p>Services Description: Connecting students with documented disabilities to the resources and supports needed to achieve full potential. SAS provides services such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exam accommodations to provide extended time, use of computer or adaptive technology, alternate formats of print material, etc. - Learning effective services by providing adaptive technology and assistive devices to meet academic needs - Communication support such as sign language interpreting services or real time transcribing. - Course related services such as course load adjustment, ergonomic support, note taking services, tutoring.

GSA President
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Babak Soltannia
Date: March 16, 2018

Dear Valued Graduate Students, Fellow Councillors and Colleagues:

I hope you had a chance to enjoy the early spring! I would like to thank those who participated in the 2018 GSA General Election and those who voted. We had an almost 3.5% increase in the number of voters this year. Also, my congratulations and heartfelt wishes to the incoming team of Sasha, Beth, Masoud, Zhihong, and Fahed.

As an ongoing item on my agenda, my team and I continued meeting with representatives from the Board of Governors and other stakeholders to advocate against the increases to international graduate tuition. During the recent Board, Finance, and Property Committee and Board of Governors meetings I delivered a presentation to members that spoke against these proposals. The GSA has issued [an updated statement](#) regarding the final vote that took place today at the Board of Governors meeting, and the GSA, along with the Students' Union (SU) is disappointed that the proposed tuition increases for international students in 2018-2019 by 3.14% was approved. As noted in our statement (available on the GSA's website), the GSA continues to provide supports for current graduate students affected by this tuition increase and will continue to advocate to both the University and the government that international graduate tuition should be predictable, regulated, and communicated in a manner that will allow future graduate students to make informed decisions regarding which institution they choose to attend, and the associated costs they can expect to incur for the duration of their program.

In external advocacy, Willem Klumpenhower, Chair of the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC), was able to attend the Government of Alberta's Speech from the Throne and to promote the value of graduate students to Alberta and the importance of affordable post-secondary education. Additionally, as Masoud also notes in his report, during our most recent ab-GAPC Board of Directors meeting, we continued working on bylaw and policy review and implemented suggested amendments. We also discussed the upcoming 2018-19 transition which will happen in late April.

Regarding the GSA Health and Dental Plan, as outlined in the joint letter to GSA Council from Royle and I, we are pleased to announce that the GSA Board this month is recommending to GSA Council that the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee be set at \$500.36/annum, effective September 1, 2018, with collection from graduate students to begin September 1, 2018, and that vision coverage under the GSA Health and Dental Plan be increased from \$100 to \$150 per every two policy years for glasses and contacts and that psychology coverage be increased from \$30 per visit to 80% coverage per visit up to an annual maximum of \$600 per policy year to begin September 1, 2018.

Last but not least, we have invited the Associate Dean of Students, Helen Vallianatos to discuss different services offered through the Dean of Students' Office and GSA Council's feedback on essential services.

I wish everyone a wonderful Spring full of joy and bliss!

I will be more than happy to answer any concerns or questions you may have, in-person or over email.

Warmest regards,

Babak
GSA President

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between February 26, 2018 and March 19, 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

February 27	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
March 1	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
March 1	Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC) Principal Search Meeting
March 2	Board University Relations Committee (BURC)
March 2	Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) Discussion
March 5	Meeting with Helen Vallianatos, Associate Dean of Students
March 8	Meeting with Board of Governors (BoG) Representative
March 8	Meeting with Steve Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
March 9	Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC) Principal Search Meeting
March 9	GSA Volunteer Appreciation Event
March 12	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
March 12	Lunch with Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA)
March 13	Meeting with Board of Governors (BoG) Representative
March 14	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
March 15	Meeting with Heather Zwicker, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
March 15	General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee (GFC ASC)
March 15	Board of Governors (BoG) Dinner
March 16	Board of Governors (BoG)
March 19	Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC) Principal Search Interviews
March 19	General Faculties Council (GFC)

**GSA Board (GSAB)
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
 From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director; Julie Tanguay, Acting Executive Director and Acting Coordinator of the GSA Board; Heather Hogg, Director of Operations; and Lisa Hareuther, Assistant Director
 Date: March 16, 2018

The GSAB reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, Motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The President, Vice-Presidents, and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 20 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 21.1 – 21.3.

28 February 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Health and Dental Plan Fees for 2018-2019; International Graduate Student Tuition Increase Advocacy Discussion; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements: None at this time.

7 March 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

GSA Health and Dental Plan Fees and Coverage for 2018-2019; International Graduate Student Tuition Increase Advocacy Discussion; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL** that the GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee be set at \$500.36/annum, effective September 1, 2018, with collection from graduate students to begin September 1, 2018. BS **MOVED**. SvK Seconded. **CARRIED**.

That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL** that vision coverage under the GSA Health and Dental Plan be increased from \$100 to \$150 per every two policy years for glasses and contacts and that psychology coverage be increased from \$30 per visit to 80% coverage per visit up to an annual maximum of \$600 per policy year to begin September 1, 2018. BS **MOVED**. RF Seconded. **CARRIED**.

14 March 2018 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Dean of Students Survey on Student Services; International Graduate Student Tuition Increase Advocacy Discussion; Request for Support for the Creation of a Southside Bicycle Grid from Paths for People; and meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

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

Members discussed the Dean of Students Survey on Student Services.

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

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

Members discussed the International Graduate Student Tuition Increase Advocacy.

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

Members **AGREED** to prepare a statement to post on March 16, after the Board of Governors' vote on the increases to international student tuition.

Members **AGREED** to write a letter of support for Paths for People Website to use to advocate for the creation of a south side bicycle grid.

**GSA Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Firouz Khodayari
Date: March 16, 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

I am happy to see the signs of spring and I hope that all of you enjoy the nice weather. As Vice-President Academic, I have attended several meetings and been involved with various discussions during the last month; I share the highlights with you in this report.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Score

Currently, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) minimum requirement for language proficiency for graduate admission is 6.5 in Academic IELTS, with at least 5 on each test band. The FGSR Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC) is very interested in making the English-language proficiency standard higher for graduate students but recognizes the need for evidence to support this initiative. We don't currently have data that allows us to evaluate the relationship between an increased IELTS requirement and a reduction in admissible applicants. The FGSR has asked departments with concerns to share their data on current students that would not be admissible if there had been higher band scores when they were admitted. Some FGSR Council members see increasing our English-language proficiency standards as a mechanism for setting students up for success and would welcome increased standards. Others see undergraduate and graduate programs as being very different experiences, and do not see the purpose of aligning graduate and undergraduate admissions criteria. Some departments observe that students with heavy accents initially score lower on speaking, but also see their skills improve over the course of their degree. Other options would include a partial increase to these scores to 5.5 rather than 6.0, or for individual programs to raise their bar higher than the FGSR minimum requirements if they wish to have a higher standard. One way to consider this issue is to look at our U15 comparators, rather than the undergraduate requirements. Comparable U15 organizations require band scores of 6.0 or higher. It might also be important to ensure that TAs speak English as well as their students do. This being said, I would appreciate it if GSA Councillors of different departments consult with their constituencies on this topic and contact me if they have any comments or concerns in this regard.

Individual Development Plan (IDP): Deadlines for Part-Time Students

As you know, all graduate students at the University of Alberta are required to submit an individualized professional development plan to their department within 12 months of their program's commencement for master's students and within 18 months of their program's commencement for doctoral students. FGSR Council approved a motion that departments may prorate the time to complete the IDP to up to 24 months for part-time master's students and 36 months for part-time doctoral students.

Cotutelle Program

A cotutelle program is an individual program at the doctoral level offered by two higher education institutions, which allows students to graduate with a joint PhD degree from each institution. The doctoral candidate's research work is structured by two thesis supervisors, one from each partner institution. Therefore, it is not about granting "two PhD degrees for a single thesis," but rather jointly recognizing the work accomplished by the student in both institutions, under the supervision of two professors. This is more complicated than a joint degree in which the student has a supervisor at the host university and spends some of their PhD at another university. For cotutelle programs, requirements of both universities have to be fulfilled, while for joint programs only requirements of the host university

need to be fulfilled. FGSR is currently thinking of defining policies for implementation of cotutelle programs at our university. Again, I would like to ask all of you to contact me if you have any thoughts or ideas on this topic.

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 issue you have encountered at the University.

Thanks,

Firouz Khodayari, GSA Vice-President Academic

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between February 26, 2018 and March 19, 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

February 27	Provost's Digital Learning Committee (PDLC)
February 27	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
February 28	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC)
February 28	Meeting with GSA Negotiating Committee Members
March 5	Meeting with Helen Vallianatos, Associate Dean of Students
March 5	GSA Emergency Bursary Appeal Panel
March 5	GFC Executive Committee (GFC Exec)
March 6	Meeting with Board of Governors (BoG) Representative
March 9	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
March 9	GSA Volunteer Appreciation Event
March 12	Chief Librarian Candidate Interviews
March 12	Council on Experiential Learning
March 14	Chief Librarian Candidate Interviews
March 14	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
March 15	Chief Librarian Candidate Interviews
March 16	Board of Governors (BoG)
March 16	General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus

**GSA Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Masoud Khademi
Date: March 16, 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well in every aspect of your lives and are enjoying the sunshine and warm weather we have had in the past few days. Spring is coming in few days, and as nature rejuvenates its spirit, I hope you do too.

During the past month, Babak and I attended several Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) meetings. Most of these meetings involved reviewing and updating ab-GPAC policies before the upcoming transition meeting between the outgoing and the incoming ab-GPAC directors. Also, based on some communications that ab-GPAC has had with the Government of Alberta Ministry of Advanced Education, we are hoping that the government will release the long-awaited outcomes of their tuition and funding review soon.

Another meeting I attended this month was the Residence Advisory Committee (RAC), where we discussed the issue of internet connectivity in residences in detail. Kajan Kilar (Technology Coordinator in Ancillary Services) was invited to talk about the current issues with University Wireless Services (the wireless service on campus) and the future plans to resolve them. At the moment, his office is in the process of getting more information about this issue).

The most important discussion topic during the most recent Joint Residence Oversight Committee (JROC) was regarding maintenance requests in residences. The current structure of addressing these requests was explained and areas of improvements were discussed. Moreover, a statistical report on submitted and completed work orders was presented to the committee members.

During the Dean of Students' Advisory Committee meeting in March, we discussed drop-in mental health services on campus. The Dean of Students (DoS), Dr. Andre Costopoulos, talked about restructuring the mental health services which are currently offered by the DoS office. He proposed moving in the direction of having some form of triage and a referral structure in place. He added that this new system could be tailored based on the needs of students. He also pointed out that this new format would enable the DoS office to provide services to a larger number of students with the current amount of resources that are available to his office.

Finally, during the most recent Council of Residence Associations (CORA) meeting, I presented the draft survey that the GSA Board had developed on the topic of residence association fee collection. As background, in 2016 the University of Alberta stopped collecting fees on behalf of residence associations, which are run by students living in each residence who are elected by their fellow

residents. As a result, the residence associations that have graduate student residents have requested that the GSA collect association fees from their residents on their behalf (similarly, the SU collects residence association fees from undergraduates on behalf of the residence associations which they are members of). This survey will enable the GSA to hear directly from graduate students about their participation in residence association events and payment of these fees. When the draft survey was shared with CORA members, I received positive feedback, and as the next step, we will coordinate with Residence Services to distribute this survey to graduate students living in residence.

At the end, as always, if you need more information or have any question 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 February 26, 2018 and March 19, 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

February 27	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Communications Committee Meeting
February 27	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Governance Committee Meeting
March 1	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
March 1	Residence Budget Advisory Committee (RBAC)
March 5	Meeting with Helen Vallianatos, Associate Dean of Students
March 12	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
March 13	Council of Residence Associations (CORA)
March 14	Joint Residence Oversight Committee (JROC)
March 14	Dean of Students' Advisory Committee

**GSA Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: March 16, 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

Thank you to all who voted in the GSA General Election and to all who ran; you have to be brave to put yourself out there! I'm looking forward to wearing my new hat next year and feel like I have a strong team with me to take on the challenges and opportunities of the next year.

New

Supervisor training – During the Board Safety, Health, and Environment Committee (BSHEC) meeting, we discussed the impact of a new piece of provincial legislation on the University. A new Occupational Health and Safety Act will come into effect this summer and requires all supervisors to complete training. The act defines a “supervisor” very broadly. This may mean, that if you supervise other students in your lab, you will have to go through certain training. It may also mean, that all faculty members who supervise students, have to go through training. The act is very clear on responsibilities regarding social wellbeing in the workplace, so all of these aspects make it a great opportunity to get mandatory supervisory training in place. I have reached out to the Dean of FGSR and several other stakeholders to further discuss the impact of this new legislation.

Student Advisors' Conference – At this conference, organized by the Office of the Student Ombuds, I gave a 50-minute presentation on “Understanding the Complexity of the Graduate Student Experience: Interactions between Academia, Labour, Supervision, and Funding.” I also touched on how our complex experience can be a burden to our mental health. The presentation was very well received, and I hope it made the advisors sensitive to and understanding of the graduate students they advise.

Ongoing

Graduate Student Safety Session – Thank you to all who attended the first Graduate Student Safety Session! Although our turnout was only 25% of those who submitted an RSVP, I blame the ridiculously nice weather for this and hope those who did not attend found time to relax outdoors. Hopefully next year we can increase the attendance by advertising through more routes and with multiple stakeholders.

Meetings with Graduate Students – Not much new insights on this topic, but I'm happy to see that if students need help, they are able to find us. Heather and I continue to work on several cases, most of which require continued communications with University administration to ensure cases are being dealt with in a timely manner.

That was March already. 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

14.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between February 26, 2018 and March 19, 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

February 27	Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)
February 27	Meeting with a Graduate Student
February 27	Meeting with a Graduate Student
February 28	Meeting with an Associate Chair
February 28	Board Safety, Health and Environment Committee (BSHEC)
February 28	Graduate Student Reference Letter Meeting
February 28	Meeting with GSA Negotiating Committee Members
March 1	Meeting with Graduate Students
March 1	Meeting with a Graduate Student
March 1	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
March 5	Meeting with Helen Vallianatos, Associate Dean of Students
March 6	Meeting with a Graduate Student
March 6	Graduate Student Rights Document
March 6	Meeting with Board of Governors (BoG) Representative
March 7	Student Advisors' Conference
March 9	GSA Volunteer Appreciation Event
March 12	Lunch with Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA)
March 13	Meeting with Provost's Office re: Collective Agreement
March 13	GSA Graduate Student Safety Session
March 14	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
March 16	Board of Governors (BoG)
March 19	GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)

**GSA Negotiating Committee (GSA NC)
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sasha van der Klein
Date: March 16, 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Negotiating Committee's (GSA NC) next meeting with the University's Negotiating Team will be on March 19, 2018 as the February 28, 2018 meeting was cancelled. The GSA NC did, however, meet on this date to discuss strategy.

The University's Negotiating Team provided some language around selection criteria, termination, and leaves to inform the discussion of March 19.

Sincerely,
Sasha van der Klein, Chair of the GSA Negotiating Committee and GSA Vice-President Labour

**GSA Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Royle Feng
Date: March 16, 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

Rising temperatures may be pointing the way to a new spring and a new future. I hope you can get away from your work, get out of your office or lab, and enjoy the breath of spring. Last month, I was mainly involved in the following activities:

For the Cannabis Community Consultation Working Group, the upcoming town hall and online survey were discussed and finalized. The town hall will be held on March 16, 2018 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM in 2-490 ECHA. As the new cannabis policies may be closely related to your study and life on campus, please attend this important town hall and express your thoughts to the University. In order to get feedback from more students, the working group has also designed an online survey which will be easy and quick to complete. Please keep an eye out for this survey and take the time to make your voice heard.

I attended a meeting of the PAW Change Room Renovations Working Group to discuss the general plan for how the renovations to the change rooms in the gym will progress. There will be four phases for the construction, which is really amazing and I am looking forward to seeing the implementation of these changes. The working group hopes that the renovation plans can move forward once funding for this project has been established.

The GSA's Volunteer Appreciation Event on March 9 was impressive. Thank you to those volunteers once again for your great work with the GSA.

The United Way campaign achieved great success last year and the committee has made an innovative plan for the campaign in the upcoming year.

And last, thank you for your engagement in the 2018 GSA General Election!

Thank you!

Best regards,

Royle

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between February 26, 2018 and March 19, 2018. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

March 1	Meeting with Andre Costopoulos, Dean of Students
March 5	Meeting with Helen Vallianatos, Associate Dean of Students
March 6	United Way 2018 Campaign Planning Session
March 8	Cannabis Community Consultation Working Group
March 9	GSA Volunteer Appreciation Event
March 12	Cannabis Community Consultation Working Group
March 12	Change Room Renovations Working Group
March 15	U-Pass Administration Committee Meeting
March 15	Campus Food Bank Board Meeting
March 16	Cannabis Community Consultation Town Hall
March 19	2018 Wellness Champions Review

**GSA Chief Returning Officer
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Darcy Bemister
Date: March 16, 2018

Dear Council Colleagues,

The report below serves as the written report that GSA Policy (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, Officer Portfolios, Section D.POL.10.5.f.ii) notes the CRO will provide following the GSA General Election. This report also serves as my procedural report, as required by GSA Policy (Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.15.1).

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, there was extensive consultation with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) whenever issues with breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy were brought forward, and in some situations, these were resolved using informal resolution. There was one formal complaint received and the resulting decision can be found [here](#). Additionally, an array of other issues and questions were brought forward to me throughout the campaigning and voting period and I worked closely with the GSA ERC to resolve these (unfortunately not always to the satisfaction of the candidates). I have kept a thorough record of possible needed changes to elections bylaws and policies, as well as processes, that I will be putting forward to the GSA ERC in the coming weeks.

The total voter turnout for the 2018 GSA General Election was 13.4%, which is an increase from the 2017 GSA General Election where we saw a voter turnout of 9.7%. This year we had a record number of twelve candidates running for the five Directly-Elected Officer positions.

Moving forward, we will soon schedule a GSA ERC meeting to discuss this election and the changes we feel need to be made to improve future elections.

I would like to thank all of the members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and the GSA Deputy Returning Officer, for their contributions and efforts.

Best,

Darcy Bemister, GSA Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Radim Barta
Date: March 16, 2018

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,

Radim Barta, Chair of the GSA NoC

GSA Standing Committees

1) GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC) (1 GSA Council Member)

Information regarding this position was circulated on two instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of March 14, 2018. No nominations were received, so this vacancy will be advertised again.

External Committees

1) General Faculties Council (GFC) (14 Graduate Student Positions)

The fourteen (14) vacant positions for the 2018-2019 term on GFC were advertised in the GSA newsletters of February 15 and February 23, 2018 with a nomination deadline of February 28, 2018. Nine (9) nominations were received. **Saleema Allana (Nursing), Vahid Ayan (MBA), Bishoi Aziz (Medicine), Gautam Gaur (AFNS), Osman Hojanepesov (Surgery), Taher Jafferjee (Computing Science), Maryam Kebbe (Pediatrics), Sabitha Rajaruban (Medicine), and Andrews Tawiah (Rehab Science)** were elected to serve on GFC. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.

Current Vacancies

1) Faculty of Arts Environmental Health and Safety Committee (1 Graduate Student Position)

This position was advertised in the GSA newsletters of March 9 and 16, 2018 with a nomination deadline of March 21, 2018.

2) General Faculties Council (GFC) (14 Graduate Student Positions)

The five (5) remaining vacant positions for the 2018-2019 term on GFC were advertised in the GSA newsletters of March 2 and March 9, 2018 with a nomination deadline of March 14, 2018. Five (5) nominations were received. The names of the graduate students elected by GSA NoC will be reported in the next report to GSA Council.

3) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Academic Appeals Committee (3 FGSR Council Member Positions)

These positions were advertised to the graduate student members of FGSR Council via email on March 6 and again on March 12, 2018 with a nomination deadline of March 16, 2018. The names of the graduate students elected by GSA NoC will be reported in the next report to GSA Council.

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Leigh Spanner
Date: March 16, 2018

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

Since the last GSA Council meeting the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) has been supporting the GSA Chief Returning Officer (GSA CRO) in all matters pertaining to the 2018 GSA General Elections (as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, Section I.POL.20.1, “The GSA ERC will advise the CRO on all matters pertaining to elections”). You can find more information about the 2018 GSA General Election in the GSA CRO’s report.

The GSA ERC will meet in the upcoming weeks to debrief the 2018 GSA General Election.

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

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the March 19, 2018 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: March 16, 2018

Dear GSA Council Members,

Work associated with the 2018 GSA General Election, including supporting the work of the Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer, and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, has been the office's main focus over the past month. Now that the election has concluded, the office is engaged with planning for the transition of Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) that will happen at the end of May. In order to facilitate this transition, the office prepares a transition manual for incoming DEOs, hosts a series of 101s (similar to those offered during Early Call and provided again as a "refresher"), arranges for job shadowing among DEOs, and coordinates a day long session with current and incoming DEOs to facilitate information sharing and strategic planning.

Having recently supported the hosting of the GSA's first volunteer appreciation event (and a big thanks to those who attended), we are now planning the GSA's annual Awards Night, which will be held soon in order to honour the recipients of the various GSA Recognition Awards. Alongside our Fall Orientation, this is one of the largest events that the GSA hosts each year and a lot of planning goes into it.

Finally, the office team has been engaged with providing support to the GSA Board as it considers the GSA Health and Dental Plan claims analysis, projection for 2018-2019, and associated proposals for changes to coverage provided by Studentcare (and now for the consideration of GSA Council) and with the ongoing project of reviewing GSA Bylaw and Policy to ensure compliance with the provisions of Bill 7 (proposals are currently under legal review with the GSA's lawyers and we expect to hear the results of this review shortly).

We will be happy to answer any questions.

Best,

Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, February 28, 2018

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the past week since the last GSA Board meeting on February 21, 2018:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement; drafting external reports; preparing for GSA Council and actions following the meeting; work associated with the advocacy against the international tuition increase; contacting the recipients of the GSA Recognition Awards; preparations for and follow-up from meetings; planning for the GSA Volunteer Appreciation event; departmental student group election; and supporting the work of the CRO associated with the 2018 GSA General Election (including a meeting with the 2018 GSA General Election Forum).
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Editorial changes to the GSA Policy on ASGA; changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy with respect to bargaining processes (being reviewed by the lawyers).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to residence associations; relationship building and maintenance with Student Group Services (revisiting an outdated MoU, etc); review with the Dean of Students of the Student Groups Policy and Procedures and review of various group constitutions.

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning for GSA Awards Night.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (General Faculty Council, GSA Governance Committee and GSA Appeals and Complaints Board).
- Transfer of content to Sitecore 3.
- Facebook = 1106 likes (up 4 from February 21); Facebook posts reached 866 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 498. Twitter = 835 followers (up 3 from February 21); our tweets earned 3,900 "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
ATAs	\$93,654.56	\$48,970.55	17	91 (18 pending processing)
CCGs	\$57,417.48	\$23,417.48 CLOSED	0	23 (0 pending processing)
ASGAs	\$9,787.07	\$0 CLOSED	2	11 (2 pending processing)
EBs	\$133,952.00 (no periods)	\$32,451.00	0	29 (0 pending processing)

Management Report to the GSA Board, March 7, 2018

The following issues have dominated management's attention in the past week since the last GSA Board meeting on February 28, 2018:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Assisting the CRO with elections-related matters; work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement; preparing for the first mailing on GSA Council for the March 19 meeting; planning for the GSA Volunteer Appreciation event and GSA Awards Night; follow up from the February 26 meeting of GSA Council; offering support for an appeal of an Emergency Bursary decision; meeting with the Office of the Dean of Students; assisting with preparing for a GSA presentation to the BoG concerning the proposed increase to international graduate student tuition; drafting a 2018-2019 travel budget for DEOs; departmental GSA elections in RenR and AFNS.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Review of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy with respect to bargaining processes (being reviewed by the lawyers).
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to residence associations and relationship maintenance with Student Group Services.

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning for GSA Awards Night.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the CRO.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (General Faculties Council, GSA Governance Committee, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board).
- Transfer of content to Sitecore 3.
- Facebook = 1109 likes (up 3 from February 28); Facebook posts reached 925 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 182. Twitter = 836 followers (up 3 from February 28); our tweets earned 5,700 "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
ATAs	\$93,654.56	\$43,470.55	11	102 (11 pending processing)
CCGs	\$57,417.48	\$23,417.48 CLOSED	0	23 (0 pending processing)
ASGAs	\$9,787.07	\$0 CLOSED	0	11 (2 pending processing)
EBs	\$133,952.00 (no periods)	\$26,761.00	1	30 (1 pending processing)

Management Report to the GSA Board, March 14, 2018

Management has been engaged with the following issues in the past week since the last GSA Board meeting on March 7, 2018:

Strategic

- **Main Issues Dealt With in the Past Week:** Planning for transition; assisting the CRO with elections-related matters; work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement; first mailing of GSA Council for the March 19 meeting and preparing for the second mailing; hosting GSA Health and Dental Plan 101s; GSA Volunteer Appreciation event and planning for GSA Awards Night; ab-GPAC blog post; forward thinking concerning the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan; review of relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy following the 2018 GSA General Election, AFNS and RenR GSA elections, compiling briefing documents for the GSA GFC Caucus at the request of a member.
- **Bylaw and Policy Review:** Review of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy with respect to bargaining processes (being reviewed by the lawyers); developing a list of other proposed changes for future consideration.
- **Graduate Student Groups:** Ongoing strategizing related to residence associations and relationship maintenance with Student Group Services.

Grants and Office Operations

- Planning for GSA Awards Night and hosting the GSA Volunteer Appreciation Event.
- Preparing for a new grants fiscal year.
- Attending a graduate student group open house event to provide GSA info.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the CRO and DRO.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee (departmental GSA elections; Arts Environmental Health and Safety Committee and FGSR Academic Appeals Committee elections).
- Transfer of content to Sitecore 3 and review of the new site, which goes live soon.
- Facebook = 1110 likes (up 1 from March 7); Facebook posts reached 361 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 57. Twitter = 839 followers (up 3 from March 7); our tweets earned 2,400 “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
ATA	\$93,654.56	\$38,177.14	16	118 (16 pending processing)
CCG	\$57,417.48	\$23,417.48 CLOSED	0	23 (0 pending processing)
ASGA	\$9,787.07	\$0 CLOSED	0	11 (2 pending processing)
EB	\$133,952.00 (no periods)	\$21,501.00	2	32 (2 pending processing)