

**GSA Council Meeting AGENDA**  
Monday, 20 September 2021 at 6:00 pm  
Held online via Zoom

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

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

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

**Speaker Lauren Hill in the Chair**

**OPEN SESSION**

**Attached  
Numbered Pages**

1. Approval of the 20 September 2021 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 19 July 2021 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 19 July 2021 GSA Council Meeting
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership (*suggested time: 1 min*)
  - i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
  - ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

**2.0 - 2.5**

**GSA Council Member Announcements**

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

**Presentation**

5. Exceptional Tuition Increase Proposals (*suggested time: 30 mins*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item and introduce the guest.**

**Guest:** Dr. Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

**Action Items**

6. Changes to Coverage Under the GSA Health and Dental Plan (*suggested time: 20 min*)  
**Paresh Kumar (Vice-President Student Services) will present the item and introduce the guest.**

**Guest:** Robyn Paches, Program Manager (Studentcare)

*Attachments:*

- i. Outline of Issue
- ii. Briefing Note Prepared by Studentcare

**6.0  
6.1**

7. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers (*suggested time: 5 min*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item.**

*Attachments:*

- i. Outline of Issue 7.0
- ii. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers – Track Changes Document 7.1

8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers (*suggested time: 5 min*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item.**

*Attachments:*

- i. Outline of Issue 8.0
- ii. Recommend Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D – Track Changes Document 8.1

**Discussion Item**

9. Academic Restructuring Update (*suggested time: 5 min*)  
**Anas Fassih (President) will present the item.**

**Elections**

10. GSA Council Elections (*suggested time – to be determined*)  
**Kenzie Gordon (GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item.**

Faculty of Arts Dean Selection Committee (1 vacancy)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominee for the Faculty of Arts Dean Selection Committee 10.0 - 10.1

GSA Councillor-at-Large (GSA CAL) (1 Member vacancy)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for GSA CAL 10.2 - 10.4

GSA Standing Committees

a. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (2 Member vacancies)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSA BFC 10.5 - 10.7

b. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (1 Member vacancy)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSA ERC 10.8 - 10.10

c. GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (1 Member vacancy) – **Lauren Hill (Speaker) will present this portion of the item**

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSA NoC 10.11 - 10.14

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

11. President (**Anas Fassih, President**)

- i. President’s Report 11.0 - 11.2
- ii. GSA Board Report 11.3 - 11.4
- iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
- iv. GSA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)
- v. GSA Governance Committee Report (**no written report at this time**)

12. Vice-President Academic (**Kathy Haddadkar, Vice-President Academic**)

Prepared by E Heiberg for GSA Council 20 September 2021

- i. Vice-President Academic's Report 12.0 - 12.1
- 13. Vice-President External (Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, Vice-President External)**
  - i. Vice-President External's Report 13.0 - 13.1
  - ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report (no written report at this time)
- 14. Vice-President Labour (Jessica Grenke, Vice-President Labour)**
  - i. Vice-President Labour's Report 14.0 - 14.1
  - ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report (no written report at this time)
- 15. Vice-President Student Services (Paresh Kumar, Vice-President Student Services)**
  - i. Vice-President Student Services' Report 15.0 - 15.1
- 16. Senator (Peter Iselele, Senator)**
  - i. Senator's Report (no written report at this time)
- 17. Speaker (Lauren Hill, Speaker)**
  - i. Speaker's Report (no written report at this time)
- 18. Chief Returning Officer (Muneeb Mohiuddin, Chief Returning Officer)**
  - i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (no written report at this time)
- 19. GSA Nominating Committee (Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Chair)**
  - i. GSA Nominating Committee Report 19.0 - 19.2
- 20. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)**
  - i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (no written report at this time)
- 21. GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, Executive Director)**
  - i. Executive Director's Report 21.0 - 21.6

#### **Question Period**

- 22. Written Questions (none received)**
- 23. Oral Questions**

#### **Adjournment**

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, 19 July 2021 at 6:00 pm  
Held online via Zoom

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Anas Fassih (President)	Zhiying Wang (AFNS)	Jaskiran Kaur (Internetworking)	Alexia Maheux (Pharmacology)
Kathy Haddadkar (VP Academic)	Allan Yarahmady; Madeleine Fleming (Biochemistry)	Matt Ormandy (KSR)	Meagan Hayashi (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa (VP External)	Andrew Cook (Biological Science)	Janet Zhou (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Spencer Hayden (Philosophy)
Jessica Grenke (VP Labour)	Kathryn MacDonald (Business MBA)	Kim Jones (Library & Information Studies)	Zoe Frank (Physical Therapy)
Paresh Kumar (VP Student Services)	Omnath Ekambaram (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Matt Kelley (Linguistics)	Logan Cooke (Physics)
Lauren Hill (Speaker)	Karen Hoy (Chemistry)	Alain Gervais (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Isha Ralhan (Physiology)
Sana Amjad (Deputy Speaker)	Michelle Gauthier (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	David Gordon (Mechanical Engineering)	Telisa Courtney (Political Science)
Muneeb Mohiuddin (CRO)	Ifaz Kabir (Computing Science)	Luthfia Friskie (Media and Technology Studies)	Ruby Prinsen (Psychology)
Peter Isesele (Senator)	Harsimrat Kaur (Dentistry)	Shui Jiang (Medical Genetics)	Naima Riaz (Public Health)
Amber Ali (Councillor-at-Large)	Collette Slevinsky (Drama)	Julia May (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Kathryn Lambert (Rehabilitation Science)
Laura Manerus (Councillor-at-Large)	Avni Patel (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Danielle Munsterman (Medicine)	Elena Schaefer (Renewable Resources)
Sanhita Pal (Councillor-at-Large)	Qingyan Sun (Educational Policy Studies)	Leah Hrycun (Native Studies)	Hotaka Kobori (REES)
Varshini Prakash (Councillor-at-Large)	Lauren Trafford (Educational Psychology)	Charbel Baaklini (Neuroscience)	Rebekah McNeilly (Sociology)
Abigail Quaye (Councillor-at-Large)	Yina Liu (Elementary Education)	Laura Reifferscheid (Nursing)	Lindy Schaffrick (Surgery)
Janmejy Rao (Councillor-at-Large)	Jessica Kennedy (Human Ecology)	Shayla Mosley (Oncology)	
Maura Roberts (Councillor-at-Large)	Jesse Alook (Indigenous Grad Students' Association)	Shubham Soni; Kaya Persad (Paediatrics)	

Guests: Leon Pfeiffer (RMS Canada); Natashalee Thompson (Educational Policy Studies)

Speaker L Hill in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

As this was her first meeting, Speaker outlined procedural expectations for GSA Council meetings going forward, directing Council members to use the Raise Hand function in Zoom. Speaker also announced the cancellation of the August meeting of GSA Council; the next meeting of GSA Council will be held in September.

**Approval of Agenda****1. Approval of the 19 July 2021 Consolidated Agenda**

Prepared by M Toghrai and F Robertson for GSA Council 19 July 2021

Members had before them the 19 July 2021 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. L Trafford **MOVED**; K Jones **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

### Approval of Minutes

#### **2. Minutes from the 21 June 2021 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 21 June 2021 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 9 July 2021. R McNeilly **MOVED**; J Grenke **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

### Changes in GSA Council Membership

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

- i. **Introduction of New GSA Council Members:** M Hayashi (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences); M Fleming (Biochemistry); J Alook (Indigenous Graduate Students' Association); M Mohiuddin (Chief Returning Officer).
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members :** M Kelley (Linguistics); A Yarahmady (Biochemistry).

### GSA Council Member Announcements

#### **4. GSA Council Member Announcements:** None.

### Action Items

#### **5. 2020-2021 GSA Audited Financial Statements**

A Fassih (President and GSA Budget and Finance Committee Chair) presented the item, introduced the guest (Leon Pfeiffer, RMS Canada), and explained that this item has previously moved through the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and GSA Board and was now coming to GSA Council for information.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the 2020-2021 GSA audited financial statements.

L Pfeiffer then presented the independent auditor's report for GSA Council's consideration. He noted that the goal of an independent auditor's report was to present an organization's financial position fairly; he also emphasized not-for-profit accounting standards. L Pfeiffer pointed to the statement of financial position, which showed an organization with a strong financial position, reporting just under \$2.1 million in current assets (up from \$1.8 million in the previous year) and an accumulation of just over \$4 million in net assets. L Pfeiffer summarized that the GSA remains in an excellent financial position, is strong operationally, and has a cash position that has improved over the past year. Additionally, in the Statement of Operations, L Pfeiffer noted that operating revenues were down slightly from the previous year, with expenses also dropping slightly. Overall, 2020-2021 was an excellent year from an operational standpoint. There were no questions posed or comments raised.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the 2020-2021 GSA audited financial statements. A Cook **MOVED**; L Friskie **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

#### **6. 2021-2022 GSA Spring/Summer Term Budget and Expenditure Report**

A Fassih (President and GSA Budget and Finance Committee Chair (GSA BFC)) presented the item and explained that fee collection, tethered to enrollment rates, was the main source of revenue for the GSA and that while enrollment was down a little due to the pandemic it was expected to rebound in the fall but the GSA's budget had also been constructed conservatively to offset periods of lower enrollment. It was also noted that the GSA was able to cut costs in the first few months of the fiscal year as a result of business travel and in-person events and meetings not occurring.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2021-2022 Spring/Summer Term Budget and Expenditure Report.

GSA Council members then discussed the following matters, among others: increased usage of the legal fees budget line over the past year (it was noted that this related to assistance with collective bargaining); a perceived increase in demand for GSA Emergency Bursaries (GSA EBs) (it was noted application numbers remained stable but, because of depressed demand for GSA Academic Travel Grants, these excess funds had been redirected to the GSA EB funding pool and then released to the University to distribute in the form of supplementary bursaries, which the pandemic had increased demand for); and lower than anticipated claims for dental coverage through the GSA Health and Dental Plan (it was noted this was related to the pandemic and unused funds were directed to the GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund to offset potential future cost increases). GSA Council members also discussed a potential survey to gauge interest in increasing dental coverage under the GSA Health and

Dental Plan and it was noted that any increases in dental coverage would be accompanied by an increase to the cost of the Plan. Members next briefly discussed whether a tiered coverage plan was possible and P Kumar noted that tiered plans had been discussed previously in GSA Council but such a significant change would never be imposed without commensurate input from graduate students.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2021-2022 Spring/Summer Term Budget and Expenditure Report. A Cook **MOVED**; K Jones **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

#### 7. Transfer of a Portion of the GSA Operating Budget 2020-2021 Surplus to the GSA Labour Fund

A Fassih (President and GSA BFC Chair) and J Grenke (Vice-President Labour and GSA BFC Vice-Chair) presented the item. A Fassih noted that GSA Council members had previously approved the establishment of the GSA Labour Union Fund with the understanding that a portion of the GSA's operating budget surplus would be transferred to it following the fiscal year end. J Grenke noted the importance of this step for advancing student advocacy and the years of work it required, and also noted that these funds will act as seed funding for the labour union.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That GSA Council, following on recommendations from the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and GSA Board **APPROVE** the transfer of \$100,000 from the GSA's 2020-2021 operating budget surplus to the GSA Labour Union Fund.

GSA Council members then discussed the following matters, among others: the process of establishing the fund and how it would be managed and grown (it was noted that the GSA BFC recommended the transfer of \$100,000 to the GSA Labour Fund, which would be held in restricted funds and subsequently supplemented by the collection of a union due, which would commence 1 September 2021 and was previously approved by members of the bargaining unit); why \$100,000 was chosen as opposed to the entirety of the \$142,000 surplus from the 2020-2021 fiscal year (the GSA felt it was prudent to retain some of the operating surplus to bolster the budget for the current fiscal year); the importance of growing the GSA Labour Union Fund to support collective agreement negotiations and other labour-related work; and whether future budget surpluses would be transferred (it was noted this was a discussion had annually by the GSA BFC at the end of each fiscal year).

**MOTION:** That GSA Council, following on recommendations from the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and GSA Board **APPROVE** the transfer of \$100,000 from the GSA's 2020-2021 operating budget surplus to the GSA Labour Union Fund. J Kennedy **MOVED**; L Hrycun **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

#### 8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers and Section Q: Collective Bargaining

J Grenke (Vice-President Labour) presented the item and noted that this was the second reading of the recommended changes. J Grenke noted that the changes aligned with changes to both provincial legislation and the latest Collective Agreement.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, **APPROVE** recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers and Section Q: Collective Bargaining, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

There were no questions posed or comments raised.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, **APPROVE** recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers and Section Q: Collective Bargaining, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. A Cook **MOVED**; H Kaur **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

#### 9. 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

A Fassih (President) presented the item and noted that this year's SWP was coming to GSA Council for information prior to being distributed to campus stakeholders and beyond. The SWP guides the work of the elected graduate student leaders, under the themes of "Connect," "Support," and "Advocate."

Under Connect, some priorities worth highlighting included: work relating to the University of Alberta For Tomorrow initiatives, and the preservation of a high quality graduate student experience; the creation of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Committee (GSA EDIC) which commenced its work in April and had now met a few times to identify a direction; and representation to all levels of government.

Under Support, priorities included: health and wellness supports and resources, including work to increase accessibility to such resources; work to support students who parent; and increased financial support especially in the face of turbulence resulting from COVID-19.

Lastly, under Advocate, highlights included: continued advocacy against tuition increases without a commensurate increase in program quality; work to elevate the priorities of equity-seeking groups and communities on campus; and the preservation of the University's reputation as a world-class institution.

Updates would come to GSA Council in October 2021, January 2022, and April 2022.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

In the ensuing discussion, members raised points relating to continued advocacy to the Government of Alberta in opposition to the significant cut in funds disbursed to the University of Alberta.

**MOTION:** That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.  
M Kelley **MOVED**; I Kabir **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

### Discussion Items

#### **10. Academic Restructuring Update**

A Fassih (President) presented the item and noted the college model had taken effect as of 1 July 2021. The University was now working to roll out this model. Within this discussion, there was talk of clarifying ambiguity around who graduate students should refer to for information and for services, given the close relationship these students have with their departments. Secondly, there was work to be done in clarifying the administrative process for deploying academically-employed graduate students. It was noted that this discussion had no impact on the amount of funding graduate students receive, it was only an administrative question.

### Reports

#### **11. President**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, A Fassih highlighted the exceptional tuition increases proposed for a number of programs, including four programs in Business, Engineering, and Counselling Psychology. Meetings were scheduled with both the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Office of the Provost. Another current priority, A Fassih noted, was graduate student access to technology. And lastly, as previously mentioned, academic restructuring remained a priority item for the GSA.

Members inquired as to how students could engage in advocacy in connection with exceptional tuition increases. Members from affected departments indicated a range of perspectives, both support for and against these exceptional tuition increases, but there was consensus that the speed at which the proposals were brought forward, and the amount of consultation the University engaged in prior to advancing them, remained areas of concern and were worthy of further discussion with the University and government.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. The report stood as submitted.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. The report stood as submitted.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. The report stood as submitted.

**v. GSA Governance Committee**

No written report at this time.

**12. Vice-President Academic**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, K Haddadkar highlighted a 29 June meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), Dr Brooke Milne, at which the proposed wording for the Academic Standing Regulations for graduate students was discussed. As the General Faculties Council Programs Committee did not approve the Academic Standing Regulations portion of the FGSR Supervisor Initiatives, the proposed wording would be brought forward in September 2021 alongside the entirety of this initiative for voting at General Faculties Council. The proposed wording remained a work in progress.

**13. Vice-President External**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M T Bin Mostafa highlighted meetings with the International Students' Association (ISA) regarding their proposed fee collection and planned services timeline and the Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA) regarding their planned increase in municipal engagement. M T Bin Mostafa was also anticipating more robust consultation with the units impacted by the University's proposed exceptional tuition increase proposals, to share with the Ministry of Advanced Education at their next meeting (as the Minister's Chief of Staff indicated their desire to discuss this in greater detail). He also noted that the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council was planning a strategic work plan retreat in August to develop organizational priorities.

**ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee**

No written report at this time.

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

No written report at this time.

**14. Vice-President Labour**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. The report stood as submitted.

**ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No written report at this time.

**15. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, P Kumar stated that face masks would no longer be mandatory other than in healthcare facilities and on public transit. Spaces on campus will be assessed individually, as needed. He also noted that UAlberta Libraries would suspend its laptop lending program due to budget cuts and staff shortages and that Campus and Community Recreation (CCR) would continue offering online services along with in-person services as they have received some good feedback and are also keeping in mind that some students might be still studying remotely but want to make use of services.

**16. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

**17. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**18. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.



## 19. GSA Nominating Committee

### i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Roberts pointed out several important committee vacancies that were only available to GSA Council members. Departmental councillors, alternates, and Councillors-at-Large were all eligible to serve in these positions. They noted that these long-term vacancies were impacting the functionality of the GSA as an organization. Concerning long-standing vacancies on the GSA Governance Committee, it was noted that the committee had had only had 4 email votes since May and no meetings; it was a minimal time commitment, but the work of the committee was critical. Currently, the committee did not have enough members to fulfill its mandate so the work must shift down the line to GSA Council. The work that should be done at this committee level tends to be non-substantive but will needlessly bog GSA Council down and be an ineffective use of members' time. M Roberts asked members to please consider serving and to discuss these opportunities with alternates who may not be present at the meeting.

C Thomas added that most GSA Standing Committees have a provision in their compositions for 'recent former members' so even if a member planned to graduate soon or leave GSA Council, they could still serve for a time after completion. C Thomas asked GSA Council members to please consider filling these positions, even if they could only commit for a short time.

## 20. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

### ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report

No written report at this time.

## 21. GSA Management

### i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 July 2021. The report stood as submitted.

## Question Period

### 22. Written Questions: None

### 23. Oral Questions: A Cook expressed thanks to A Fassih, K Haddadkar, and J Grenke for their recent help with an issue encountered by the Biological Sciences GSA.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

## Outline of Issue

### Changes to Coverage Under the GSA Health and Dental Plan

#### **Suggested Motion:**

That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Board, that coverage under the GSA Health and Dental Plan be amended to add Canadian Clinical Counsellors as eligible practitioners to the GSA Health and Dental Plan's Psychology benefit, beginning 1 September 2021 and with the fee associated with the Plan to remain at \$500.36 per Plan member for 2021-2022.

#### **Background:**

Background information can be found in the attached briefing note prepared by Studentcare. The GSA Board recommended the above-mentioned expansions in coverage at a meeting on 1 September 2021.

#### **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.9.1:

*"The GSA Board (GSAB) is mandated to oversee the implementation, administration, and performance of the GSA Health and Dental Plan, reporting regularly to GSA Council regarding the Plan, and to make recommendations to GSA Council concerning the coverage and fees associated with the Plan."*

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.10.2:

*"GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSAB, approves modification of Plan coverage."*

## Summary of Adding Canadian Clinical Counsellors to the UAGSA's Health & Dental Plan

In Summer 2021, the GSA received an inquiry from a student requesting that Canadian Clinical Counsellors (CCC) be adding to the UAGSA Health & Dental Plan's Psychology benefit as eligible practitioners. Currently, Psychologists, Registered Clinical Social Workers, and professionals with a Master's in Social Work are the only eligible practitioners for which GSA members may receive psychology services and claim their expense on the Health Plan.

The GSA asked Studentcare to provide a quote on adding CCCs to the Health Plan. Typically, adding more eligible practitioners will result in an increase to Plan Premiums because they will result in more claims. However, Studentcare was able to successfully receive a quote from the GSA's insurer, Desjardins, to add CCCs to the GSA's Psychology benefit **at no increased cost**.

Therefore, Studentcare recommends the following to the GSA Board & Council :

**That the GSA Board and Council approve the addition of Canadian Clinical Counsellors as eligible practitioners to the GSA Health & Dental Plan's Psychology benefit at no additional cost to Plan Premiums.**

Adding CCCs to the Plan will increase the number of professionals that graduate students can access for mental health support, at no additional cost to the Health & Dental Plan.

For any questions, please contact :

Robyn Paches (he/him)  
Program Manager, Studentcare  
robyn@studentcare.net

### Outline of Issue

#### Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw, Section D: GSA Officers

##### Suggested Motion:

That GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Board, **APPROVE** recommended changes recommended changes to GSA Bylaw, Section D: GSA Officers, as shown in the attached track changes document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council.

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

##### Background:

All of these recommended changes are editorial in nature and reflect that the term of office for the GSA Senator has shifted from 1 June-31 May to 1 July-30 June, in alignment with other GSA Council-Elected Officer positions. Normally, the GSA Governance Committee would approve these changes via email vote but, as long-standing vacancies prevent the committee from doing business, these recommended changes must now appear twice before GSA Council, having been recommended to GSA Council by the GSA Board on 1 September 2021.

##### Jurisdiction:

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

*"These Bylaws ... may be amended by two (2) two-thirds majority votes of GSA Council held on seven (7) calendar days' notice of Motion and no less than one (1) week apart."*

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

*"GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.3.2.a

*"The GSAB [GSA Board] is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by GSA Council."*

## 7.1

### GSA Bylaw: GSA Officers<sup>1</sup>

#### D.BYL.1 General

D.BYL.1.1 - D.BYL.1.2.e ... *no changes*.

D.BYL.1.3 The GSA has the following GSA Council-Elected Officers:

D.BYL.1.3.a The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO),

D.BYL.1.3.b The Senator, and

D.BYL.1.3.c The Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

D.BYL.1.4 - D.BYL.1.4.b ... *no changes*.

#### D.BYL.2 Directly-Elected Officers

D.BYL.2.1 - D.BYL.2.2.f ... *no changes*.

#### D.BYL.3 GSA Council-Elected Officers

D.BYL.3.1 Election of CRO, DRO, Senator, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker,

D.BYL.3.1.a GSA Council-Elected Officers will be GSA members.

D.BYL.3.1.b The GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) will open nominations for GSA Council-Elected Officers on or about 1 May of every year by email to every GSA member.

D.BYL.3.1.c The GSA NoC will follow its legislated process in forwarding one (1) or more nominations to GSA Council, except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process specifies that all vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline.

D.BYL.3.1.d GSA Council-Elected Officers will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council, for a term lasting from 1 July to 30 June of the following year.

*No further changes to Section D.BYL.3.1 aside from renumbering.*

D.BYL.3.3 - D.BYL.3.3.c ... *no changes*.

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

*No further changes.*

Provided these changes to GSA Bylaws are approved, GSA Policy, Section D.POL.12.2.a, will be editorially amended as it directly cites the amended sections of GSA Bylaw.

**Commented [CT1]:** All changes are editorial, to reflect that the term of office for the GSA Senator has shifted from 1 June-31 May to 1 July-30 June, in alignment with other GSA Council-Elected Officer positions.

**Commented [CT2]:** Editorial, both the DRO and Deputy Speaker should be listed as Council-Elected Officer positions.

**Commented [CT3]:** Editorial, both the DRO and Deputy Speaker should be listed as Council-Elected Officer positions.

**Deleted:** , CRO, and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)

**Deleted:** Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO

**Deleted:** D.BYL.3.1.c

**Deleted:** → Nominations for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO and DRO will be submitted in writing to the GSA NoC by 30 May or the next working day.¶

**Deleted:** d

**Deleted:** e

**Deleted:** The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO

**Deleted:**

**Deleted:** D.BYL.3.2 - Election of Senator

**Deleted:** ¶

D.BYL.3.2.a → GSA Council-Elected Officers will be GSA members.¶

D.BYL.3.2.b → Nominations for Senator will open on or about 1 April of every year. The nomination period will normally be one (1) month.¶

D.BYL.3.2.c → The GSA NoC will follow its legislated process in forwarding one (1) or more nominations to GSA Council, except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process specifies that all vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline. ¶

D.BYL.3.2.d → The Senator will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council, for a term lasting from 1 June to 31 May of the following year. ¶

D.BYL.3.2.e → In the case of a resignation or other vacancy in the Senator position, as determined by the GSA NoC, the GSA NoC will advertise the position and arrange for election by GSA Council in the most expedient way possible.¶

**Deleted:** and DRO

**Deleted:** and CRO

<sup>1</sup> Amended by the Annual General Meeting on 28 March 2011. Amended by GSA Council on 14 March 2011, 11 June 2012, 20 January 2014, 18 June 2018, and 20 April 2020. Editorial revisions made by the GSA Governance Committee on 12 July 2015, 3 April 2017, and 6 October 2017.

### Outline of Issue

#### **Recommended Changes to GSA Policy, Section D: GSA Officers**

##### **Suggested Motion:**

That GSA Council, on the unanimous recommendation of the GSA Board, **APPROVE** recommended changes to GSA Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, as shown in the attached track changes document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

##### **Background:**

All of these recommend changes are editorial in nature and reflect changes to the administration of the U-Pass program that necessitate updates to the portfolio of the Vice-President Student Services. Normally, the GSA Governance Committee would approve these changes via email vote but, as long-standing vacancies prevent the committee from doing business, these recommended changes must now appear before GSA Council, having been recommended to GSA Council by the GSA Board on 1 September 2021.

##### **Jurisdiction:**

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

*"GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.3.2.a

*"The GSAB [GSA Board] is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by GSA Council."*

**GSA Policy: GSA Officer Portfolios<sup>1</sup>**

D.POL.4 - D.POL.9.1.b ... *no changes*.

D.POL.9.1.c The VPSS oversees the GSA Health and Dental Plan, GSAP, and U-Pass program.

D.POL.9.1.d - D.POL.9.1.e ... *no changes*.

D.POL.9.1.f The VPSS is responsible for coordination with University student services providers and the Dean of Students Office regarding all services offered to graduate students by the University (eg, [athletics and recreation services](#), career services and academic support services). This responsibility includes ensuring that non-instructional mandatory fees paid to the University are returned to students in the form of relevant and timely service provision that meet graduate students' needs.

D.POL.9.1.g - D.POL.9.2.a ... *no changes*.

D.POL.9.2.b The VPSS is a member of the following University boards and committees:

D.POL.9.2.b.i Committees related to the U-Pass (including [any committees](#) external to the University),

*No further changes.*

**Commented [CT1]:** Editorial as the U-Pass is now fully a GSA service and should be formally listed as such, as well as the removal of redundant language.

**Deleted:** and

**Deleted:** , and ensures that there is solid value for these services for the dedicated fees paid by GSA members to support them

**Commented [CT2]:** Editorial, as the U-Pass is no longer negotiated or provided/administered by the University.

**Deleted:** , U-Pass,

**Commented [CT3]:** Traditionally, when the University tended to the administration of the U-Pass program, there was one external committee related to it (hosted by the transit providers) but that may change as the GSA and SU take charge of the program more fully so loosening this language is recommended.

**Deleted:** the

<sup>1</sup> Amended by GSA Council on 14 March 2011, 25 July 2011, 21 October 2013, 20 January 2014, 17 November 2014, 8 December 2014, 18 June 2018, 15 October 2018, 19 November 2018, 28 October 2019, and 24 February 2020. Editorial revisions made by the GSA Governance Committee on 17 December 2014 (Chair and Vice-Chair under delegated authority from the GSA Governance Committee), 28 May 2015, 3 April 2017, 7 June 2018, 27 November 2018, and 21 September 2020. Sections moved to GSA Policy from GSA Board Policy by GSA Council on 19 November 2018.

**FACULTY OF ARTS DEAN SELECTION COMMITTEE (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER IN THE FACULTY):  
ONE (1) NOMINEE**

The Office of the Provost has struck a Dean Selection Committee for the Faculty of Arts (FoA). The mechanism for electing one (1) graduate student from FoA to the FoA Dean Selection Committee is as follows:

“Each Departmental Graduate Student Association shall forward a name to the Graduate Students’ Association and the representative will be elected by the Graduate Students’ Association Council. If no Departmental Graduate Student Association exists or no names are forwarded by the existing associations, the Graduate Students’ Association shall be responsible for forwarding a name to the Graduate Students’ Association Council for ratification” ([University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online](#)).

With a tight timeline provided with the request from the Provost’s office, on 10 September 2021, the GSA began the work of contacting the eight (8) departmental GSAs for which contact information was available and all graduate students in the nine (9) departments without departmental GSAs in the FoA and requested that they forward nominees from their respective departments. It was asked that names be submitted to the GSA by 15 September 2021. One (1) nomination in total was submitted from the department of Political Science.

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 20 September 2021 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 20 September 2021 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 20 September 2021 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

**Nominees for this position are presented on the ballot in a “yes” or “no” fashion.**

**Nominee:**

**Devan Prithipaul (Political Science)**

The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee is ATTACHED on page 10.1. Biography and resume have been attached as received (ie not edited).



**Nomination for Faculty of Arts Dean Selection Committee  
ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER IN THE FACULTY  
One (1) Nominee**

**1. Devan Prithipaul**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
<p>If one were to imagine the university as a form of governance, what would it be? Would it be a an autocracy with the President sitting at the head, making absolute decisions? Would it be a plutocracy with the the few select board of governors and provincial authorities making decisions? Or, as I suggest, would it be a democracy, where students, research assistants, and teaching assistants hold the power in a university and appoint various individuals to represent their interests. In my view, it is not students who serve administrators, but rather, administrators who are paid for (in part) by students' tuition and thus, should serve students' interests. As such, the new Dean for the Faculty of Arts must represent the very highest level of academic and professional excellence, a standard which I am committed to upholding. I would like to serve on this committee because I believe that having student representation on these committees is the <b>most important</b> form of representation. Just as I have high expectations for myself as a graduate student and educator, I will have even higher expectations for that individual who is supposed to represent me at the administrative and executive level. I am not afraid of asking difficult questions of candidates if it means ensuring that the best possible individual is chosen for this position. Lastly, I am committed to a democratic process and being open to discourse between candidates and between the other members of the hiring committee.</p>	
<b>Bio</b>	
<p>I am a PhD student in the Political Science Department at the University of Alberta. Prior to this, I completed my MA at Simon Fraser University where I was elected to sit on the Hiring Committee for the new dean of the Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology. As part of this process, I attended consultation meetings, conducted interviews with the candidates, and provided written submissions to the committee. I took this process seriously because I understood the seriousness of the responsibility. Furthermore, I have studied at 4 universities, in 3 different countries, which has exposed me to both good and bad forms of administration. I hope to use this knowledge to make meaningful comparisons across the candidates to choose the one which best responds to the emerging demands of the University of Alberta. As a recent arrival to the U of A, I also have a specific interest in the long-term health of the university and wish to apply my skills and knowledge towards making this happen.</p>	

## GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

**GSA COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE (GSA CAL) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): THREE (3) NOMINEES**

Information regarding the position for one (1) Councillor-at-Large position was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 2 and 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. Three (3) nominations were received.

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

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 20 September 2021 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 20 September 2021 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 20 September 2021 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Sabrin Bashar (Pediatrics)**
- 2. Hope Eze (English and Film Studies)**
- 3. Dweej Nimesh Shah (Mechanical Engineering)**

**Jurisdiction:**

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

*"In the event that any CAL positions are not filled by the end of the GSA General Election, or a CAL position is vacated, GSA Council will be responsible for electing any remaining CALs prior to 1 December (or the next working day). When electing any remaining CALs, GSA Council will aim to elect GSA members from as broad a range of disciplines as possible. The GSA NoC will decide on procedures and then provide one (1) or more names to GSA Council for consideration, except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process specifies that all vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement."*

**The names and biographies received for the three (3) nominees are BELOW on pages 10.3-10.4. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).**

### Nominations for GSA Councillor-at-Large (CAL)

#### ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER

#### Three (3) Nominees

#### 1. Sabrin Bashar

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	Academic practice coordinator at graduate affair department at University of Alberta International Students' Association (ISA)
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
As a first year PhD student, this position will help me to learn more about the policies of UofA through GSA. It will be an excellent way to learn a bit about corporate finance and budget management. I have previously worked with both graduate and undergraduate students, but I do not have previous experience directly working with GSA committee. This opportunity will increase my leadership, networking, and financial management skill.	
<b>Bio</b>	
<p>I am a first year PhD student (Graduate research assistant fellowship) at Department of Pediatrics and I enrolled into my program this May 2021. During my Master's studies at the University of Manitoba, I and my female friends (graduate students) developed a platform in social media named "EMPOWER" which has 1.6K members until now. In Bangladesh, research is often ignored as a career option, and females are less exposed in this area. Thus, we aim to motivate female Bangladeshi students to develop their careers in research. Moreover, we guide Bangladeshi females in early research careers in writing manuscripts, networking opportunities, securing full-funding scholarships, and many more.</p> <p>However, my personal experience as a new international graduate student was quite challenging. It was hard to adapt to the new education system. I gradually adapted to the system by taking help from other graduate students. At present, I am volunteering as an academic practice coordinator at the department of the graduate affair at the University of Alberta International Students' Association (ISA). My role encompasses assisting in planning and coordinating academic activities and initiatives for international graduate students. Moreover, as an ex-graduate student, I am volunteering at Dhaka University Microbiology Alumni Association (DUMAA). I have volunteered to develop a database of alumni which will be helpful for the existing students at the Microbiology Department of Dhaka University (Bangladesh) for networking or other purposes.</p> <p>In Bangladesh, I served as a lecturer for several universities which gave me the direct opportunity to work with undergraduate and graduate students. Also, during serving the universities, I learnt to deal with various administrative works. Moreover, I received a research grant as a Principal Investigator during serving as a lecturer in Bangladesh. For applying this research grant, I had to make a budget plan for a year. However, recently, I completed my GTL1 training arranged by FGSR which helped me to improve my leadership and class management skills. Above all, I believe that my previous experiences and present volunteer working will be an asset for this position.</p>	

#### 2. Hope Eze

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
I want to volunteer to serve as Councillor-at-Large as a way of getting involved with the activities of the GSA. I want to bring innovative suggestions and work with other GSA leaders to continue improving the wellbeing of graduate students at the University of Alberta.	
<b>Bio</b>	
<p>I, Hope Eze, am a first-year Ph.D. student at the U of A's Department of English and Film Studies. Prior to coming to the U of A, I had completed a master's program at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, where I served as a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights, Equity and Decolonization. At Brock, I also served as a member of the GSA's Marketing and Communications Committee. In addition to serving on committees at my former school, I also devoted much time to volunteering. I volunteered with the Human Rights and Equity task force to create awareness about human rights on the Brock campus and link survivors of sexual harassment to appropriate resources. I also joined the Brock University Volunteers</p>	

Association (BUVA) to provide services on campus, which included waiting tables and ushering at events. My volunteerism was not limited to the Brock University campus but extended to the St. Catharines community and Niagara region at large. I joined Days for Girls, a not-for-profit organization devoted to sewing sanitary pads for less-privileged girls and women. I also volunteered with the organizers of Canada Games 2021 (which was later postponed due to COVID) to create awareness for the upcoming games.

The skills I garnered from volunteerism as well as serving on different committees at Brock University are what I am bringing to the University of Alberta's GSA Council if I am nominated as a Councilor-at-Large.

### 3. Dweeji Nimesh Shah

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
<p>I am an enthusiast personality who genuinely believes in karma (you get out of life what you are prepared to put in). I am a generous person who loves working with other people who want to make a notable positive impact in the work they are doing. In the last few years, I have possessed several transferable skills and qualities that I feel I can do justice of the position of volunteer. I am emphatic, a good communicator, a good organizer, and I work well as an active team member. It's a fact that you get lots of people applying to volunteer but my own morals, my work ethic, and my goodwill for wanting to help students will help me to stand out. If I get this opportunity, I promise to be a dedicated volunteer who acts as a positive role model.</p> <p>I want to serve as a volunteer because this is a cause I am very passionate about and want to cultivate my skills in the best possible manner for good cause in the welfare of students. I want the diverse skills, vivid experience, and attributes I have gained since years to be used in the right direction and working as a volunteer will help me to achieve that goal. I am also at the stage in my life where I want to gain different experiences working for an organization that genuinely wants to make a difference.</p>	
<b>Bio</b>	
<p>I love to be people's representative.</p> <p>I am interested in opportunities that may be available to volunteer at the GSA Councilor at large. As a long-time advocate of the needs and welfare of the students in our community, I have experience working with various student associations in my alma mater as well as in several employee welfare groups of my last employer (Amul) and would be thrilled to continue to do so in a volunteer capacity.</p> <p>I volunteered in the Training and Placement Cell of L.D. College of Engineering, Gujarat, for an year, our collective effort led 600+ students getting job offers in the campus placement. I was also the volunteer for the Gujarat's largest technical fest which handled 15000+ students in 500+ activities for over 4 days. I have also served in positions like class representative, Speaker, and various other roles.</p> <p>Highlighting more about my management and communication skills, I have worked in Asia's largest FMCG brand "AMUL" as a Purchase Executive. I was solely responsible for the procurement-related activities of Asia's largest Packaging Film Plant having an annual procurement capacity of 40000+ MT of plastic granules. I dealt with 150+ vendors and 400+ commodities were looked after by me including raw material, packaging material, and maintenance spares. To add, I was responsible to finalize PAN India transportation contracts.</p> <p>If the GSA Councilor at large needs a dedicated volunteer, I would be thrilled to have the opportunity to assist you. I have all three courses online this fall and only scattered on 2 days rest 5 days, I am completely available to volunteer at your convenience.</p> <p>Eager to learn more about your mission, successes, and challenges in serving our students, I would be grateful for the opportunity to interview with you at a mutually convenient time. I am eagerly waiting to meet your kind team.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	

## GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

**GSA BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (GSA BFC) (TWO (2) POSITIONS FOR GSA MEMBERS): FOUR (4) NOMINEES**

Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA members was circulated in the GSA newsletters on 6, 13, and 20 August, and 3 and 10 September with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. Four (4) nominations were received.

The overall mandate of the GSA BFC "is to advise on the financial affairs of the GSA (including the long-term planning and priorities of the GSA in light of its strategic goals) and on the provision of the long-term financial health of the organization" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K.POL.5.1).

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 20 September 2021 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 20 September 2021 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 20 September 2021 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Maria Bartoli (Business)**
- 2. Sabrin Bashar (Pediatrics)**
- 3. Shing Kit Lao (Internetworking)**
- 4. Solbee Seo (Mechanical Engineering)**

Current GSA BFC composition can be found [here](#).

**Jurisdiction:**

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

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

**The names and biographies received for the four (4) nominees are BELOW on pages 10.6-10.7. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).**

**Nominations for the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)**  
**ONE (1) VACANCY FOR GSA A MEMBER**  
**Four (4) Nominees**

**1. Maria Bartoli**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
I have worked in the budgeting area for several years and would love to be part of the GSA and apply some of the concepts I have learned during the MBA. Also, this would be an excellent opportunity to connect with the MBA community.	
<b>Bio</b>	
As mentioned before, I worked for the Venezuelan government for about 7 years specifically crafting budgets, maintaining compliance with government policies and designing spending controls. When I moved to Canada over a decade ago, I was the director of a community program where budgeting was a big part of my job. For the first year of the MBA I did not volunteer for any activity trying to keep up with the demands of the program, however, now on my second year I feel I can dedicate some time to the GSA, connect with peers and apply some concepts learned in the last year.	

**2. Sabrin Bashar**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	Academic practice coordinator at graduate affair department at University of Alberta International Students' Association (ISA)
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
As a first year PhD student, this position will help me to learn more about the policies of UofA through GSA. It will be an excellent way to learn a bit about corporate finance and budget management. I have previously worked with both graduate and undergraduate students, but I do not have previous experience directly working with GSA committee. This opportunity will increase my leadership, networking, and financial management skill.	
<b>Bio</b>	
<p>I am a first year PhD student (Graduate research assistant fellowship) at Department of Pediatrics and I enrolled into my program this May 2021. During my Master's studies at the University of Manitoba, I and my female friends (graduate students) developed a platform in social media named "EMPOWER" which has 1.6K members until now. In Bangladesh, research is often ignored as a career option, and females are less exposed in this area. Thus, we aim to motivate female Bangladeshi students to develop their careers in research. Moreover, we guide Bangladeshi females in early research careers in writing manuscripts, networking opportunities, securing full-funding scholarships, and many more.</p> <p>However, my personal experience as a new international graduate student was quite challenging. It was hard to adapt to the new education system. I gradually adapted to the system by taking help from other graduate students. At present, I am volunteering as an academic practice coordinator at the department of the graduate affair at the University of Alberta International Students' Association (ISA). My role encompasses assisting in planning and coordinating academic activities and initiatives for international graduate students. Moreover, as an ex-graduate student, I am volunteering at Dhaka University Microbiology Alumni Association (DUMAA). I have volunteered to develop a database of alumni which will be helpful for the existing students at the Microbiology Department of Dhaka University (Bangladesh) for networking or other purposes.</p> <p>In Bangladesh, I served as a lecturer for several universities which gave me the direct opportunity to work with undergraduate and graduate students. Also, during serving the universities, I learnt to deal with various administrative works. Moreover, I received a research grant as a Principal Investigator during serving as a lecturer in Bangladesh. For applying this research grant, I had to make a budget plan for a year. However, recently, I completed my GTL1 training arranged by FGSR which helped me to improve my leadership and</p>	

class management skills. Above all, I believe that my previous experiences and present volunteer working will be an asset for this position.

**3. Shing Kit Lao**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
Due to the pandemic, I have already spent 1 year for taking online courses only. Now, I am in Edmonton and can study in campus this year, I would like to participate more in school life. During my first year of study, apart from the information from UofA, most valuable information is all from GSA, like newsletter, studentcare, professional development, etc. So, I would like to participate and contribute more to GSA to help the new students this year.	
<b>Bio</b>	
I have been working as a Manager, System Analyst in HSBC, Hong Kong for 17 years. My project management skills including project budgeting, stakeholders’ management, project implementation and retrospective review will be helpful for me to take the GSA committee role and give valuable advice. Besides, HSBC is a very diverse organization. I have a lot of chance working with colleagues and vendors all over the world including Canada, UK, India, China and Taiwan. I worked in India for 3 months in 2006 for system testing. I travelled to UK various time (from 2009 to 2014) for system integration and numerous times to China for project implementation. This helped to improve my interpersonal communication skills and understanding how to work with people in different cultures. These skills are essential for me to fulfill the GSA committee role.	

**4. Solbee Seo**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
I want to serve the GSA Budget and Finance Committee 1) because I want to help making the budget more transparent to the public so that fellow students are well-informed about the GSA and its activities and 2) because I want to help making sure that the GSA budget is to meet graduate students’ needs with minimal misuse and to further improve studies and experiences at University of Alberta.	
<b>Bio</b>	
I am familiar with general structures of budgets for student body and commercial projects, from my previous experience as a project engineer internship at Suncor in 2019 and as a finance coordinator at Engineering Students’ Society in 2020.	

## GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

**GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): THREE (3) NOMINEES**

Information regarding this position for a GSA member was circulated in the GSA newsletters on 6, 13, and 20 August, and 3 and 10 September with a deadline of 15 September 2021. Three (3) nominations were received.

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

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 20 September 2021 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 20 September 2021 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 20 September 2021 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Nora Alsafi (Biological Sciences)**
- 2. Elisabeth Kezia Widjaja (Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science)**
- 3. Qiuyu Sun (Pediatrics)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**

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

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

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

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

**The names and biographies received for the three (3) nominees are BELOW on pages 10.9-10.10. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).**



**Nominations for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)**  
**ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER**  
**Three (3) Nominees**

**1. Nora Alasfi**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
I'd like to become more involved with the student body and encourage graduate students to voice their opinions and participate in voting. I think there's an unfortunate sentiment of apathy in my generation towards voting, and I'd like to combat that. I also enjoy serving in student governance, and I'd like to do more non-academic activities at the university.	
<b>Bio</b>	
I am a new MSc student who is outgoing, organized and driven. Prior to starting my degree last January, I taught overseas for a year in Korea. During my undergraduate degree, I served as the student representative of my program for my cohort for 2 years. During this time, I organized events, gathered students' opinions/concerns, and represented them at weekly meetings with the student executive. I was also the volunteer coordinator for an annual environmental science conference held at my school.	

**2. Elisabeth Kezia Widjaja**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
As a new graduate student, I am interested with joining graduate committees available in the university. I choose to volunteer in this nominating committee because I have experience serving as a chief of nominating committee during my undergraduate study and I understand the importance of work done my such committee to ensure the continuity of work and achieving the goals. I understand that the scope of work might be different from what I have experienced before but I am committed to follow the GSA policies.	
<b>Bio</b>	
Prior coming to study as a Master's student at the University of Alberta, I have had organizational as well as professional experience. I have held various committee position during my 4-year voluntary service in my university unit of red cross team, including head of operation division, vice president, and chief of nominating committee. I am familiar with committee and governance activities. In addition, I my experience working as a clinical research associate has conditioned me to working with people from different backgrounds and communicate efficiently both verbally or in writings.	

**3. Qiuyu Sun**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
To my understanding, the mission of the GSA is to advocate all graduate students for a professional and pleasurable working environment, which is something that I am passionate about. Being as a member of the University of Alberta, it will be a great honor to be able to represent on behalf of all graduate students and share my thoughts and ideas on various subjects.  I believe that all graduate students have the rights and capability to take control in their lives and having a plate form that is open, fair, and equal to all individuals is paramount for generating practical solutions or	

constructive ideas. My beliefs are in line with the core value of the GSA, and this is the crucial reason for me applying to volunteer and serve on this committee.

### **Bio**

I have recently received my bachelor's degree of Science with Honors in Pharmacology. I graduated top of my class, with a GPA being 3.9. And throughout the past four years, I have received various scholarships that gave verdict to my hard work. As of right now, I am a graduate student in the Department of Pediatric, and my research focuses on cardiac energy metabolism.

Outside of work, I enjoy music very much. I started playing the piano when I was six, and I have kept this hobby with me ever since. Having to use my free time on practicing piano skills every single day for the past seventeen years was very tough, but also rewarding since it has taught me the value of commitment and the importance of perseverance.

Before I came to Canada for university, I volunteered at the blood donation center hosted by the Red Cross Society of China a few times. Besides this, I also volunteered at several fundraising events and entertaining events like concert. When I started my journey at the University of Alberta, I joined the Interdisciplinary Science Students' Society (ISSS) and worked as a non-professional photographer. All of these valuable experiences assisted me to become a better and well-rounded person, where I was able to practice my written and verbal communication skills with other team members and learned to truly appreciate the essence of working as a team.

From September of 2020 till May of 2021, I had the opportunity to do my Honors project in Dr. Hubbard's Lab. One of the many skills that I learned from this experience is problem solving. As my project is very much exploratory, there were plenty of times that the results were unexpected. Instead of feeling frustrated and depressed, I was encouraged by my mentors to take my time on figuring out what might be the reasons that this experiment did not work out. This notion truly helped me to become more adaptive and decisive when facing various problems in life. I am confident in saying that I have become much more independent and more willing to take the lead in life.

I am interested in joining the Graduate Students' Association as I have a great appreciation, interest and passion for student rights and governance. Being a member of the team would be the perfect avenue to merge my interests in assisting others, event organization, and decision making. I believe I am a strong candidate for the committee due to my strong advocacy, my high academic achievements, and my dedicated work ethic.

## SPEAKER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): FOUR (4) NOMINEES**

Information regarding this position for a GSA member was circulated in the GSA newsletters on 6, 13, and 20 August, and 3 and 10 September with a deadline of 15 September 2021. Four (4) nominations were received.

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

**There will be an electronic vote held at the 20 September 2021 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 20 September 2021 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 20 September 2021 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Sabrin Bashar (Pediatrics)**
- 2. Rose Marie Charuvil Elizabeth (Chemical and Materials Engineering)**
- 3. Elisabeth Kezia Widjaja (Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science)**
- 4. Qiuyu Sun (Pediatrics)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.4

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

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Nominating Committee, Section E.POL.5.1

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

**The names and biographies received for the four (4) nominees are BELOW on pages 10.12-10.14. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).**

**Nominations for the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)**  
**ONE (1) VACANCY FOR A GSA MEMBER**  
**Four (4) Nominees**

**1. Sabrin Bashar**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	Academic practice coordinator at graduate affair department at University of Alberta International Students' Association (ISA)
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
As a first year PhD student, this position will help me to learn more about the policies of UofA through GSA. It will be an excellent way to learn a bit about corporate finance and budget management. I have previously worked with both graduate and undergraduate students, but I do not have previous experience directly working with GSA committee. This opportunity will increase my leadership, networking, and financial management skill.	
<b>Bio</b>	
<p>I am a first year PhD student (Graduate research assistant fellowship) at Department of Pediatrics and I enrolled into my program this May 2021. During my Master's studies at the University of Manitoba, I and my female friends (graduate students) developed a platform in social media named "EMPOWER" which has 1.6K members until now. In Bangladesh, research is often ignored as a career option, and females are less exposed in this area. Thus, we aim to motivate female Bangladeshi students to develop their careers in research. Moreover, we guide Bangladeshi females in early research careers in writing manuscripts, networking opportunities, securing full-funding scholarships, and many more.</p> <p>However, my personal experience as a new international graduate student was quite challenging. It was hard to adapt to the new education system. I gradually adapted to the system by taking help from other graduate students. At present, I am volunteering as an academic practice coordinator at the department of the graduate affair at the University of Alberta International Students' Association (ISA). My role encompasses assisting in planning and coordinating academic activities and initiatives for international graduate students. Moreover, as an ex-graduate student, I am volunteering at Dhaka University Microbiology Alumni Association (DUMAA). I have volunteered to develop a database of alumni which will be helpful for the existing students at the Microbiology Department of Dhaka University (Bangladesh) for networking or other purposes.</p> <p>In Bangladesh, I served as a lecturer for several universities which gave me the direct opportunity to work with undergraduate and graduate students. Also, during serving the universities, I learnt to deal with various administrative works. Moreover, I received a research grant as a Principal Investigator during serving as a lecturer in Bangladesh. For applying this research grant, I had to make a budget plan for a year. However, recently, I completed my GTL1 training arranged by FGSR which helped me to improve my leadership and class management skills. Above all, I believe that my previous experiences and present volunteer working will be an asset for this position.</p>	

**2. Rose Marie Charuvil Elizabeth**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	International Students Association
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
I would love to be a part of your committee because it will give me chance to give back the support that I first got when I came new to the campus, give me an opportunity to grow and learn by meeting people from all walks of life !	
<b>Bio</b>	
I've volunteered myself during my undergrad at the international association – worked in setting up events, was a mediator between the event organizers and my team. I have the self-drive to do things without much supervision but at the same time a good team worker. I bring with me an expertise in excellent oral, organizational and communication skills along with professional ethics !	

3. Elisabeth Kezia Widjaja

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
<p>As a new graduate student, I am interested with joining graduate committees available in the university. I choose to volunteer in this nominating committee because I have experience serving as a chief of nominating committee during my undergraduate study and I understand the importance of work done my such committee to ensure the continuity of work and achieving the goals. I understand that the scope of work might be different from what I have experienced before but I am committed to follow the GSA policies.</p>	
<b>Bio</b>	
<p>Prior coming to study as a Master’s student at the University of Alberta, I have had organizational as well as professional experience. I have held various committee position during my 4-year voluntary service in my university unit of red cross team, including head of operation division, vice president, and chief of nominating committee. I am familiar with committee and governance activities. In addition, I my experience working as a clinical research associate has conditioned me to working with people from different backgrounds and communicate efficiently both verbally or in writings.</p>	

4. Qiuyu Sun

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
<b>Statement of Interest</b>	
<p>To my understanding, the mission of the GSA is to advocate all graduate students for a professional and pleasurable working environment, which is something that I am passionate about. Being as a member of the University of Alberta, it will be a great honor to be able to represent on behalf of all graduate students and share my thoughts and ideas on various subjects.</p>	
<p>I believe that all graduate students have the rights and capability to take control in their lives and having a plate form that is open, fair, and equal to all individuals is paramount for generating practical solutions or constructive ideas. My believes are in line with the core value of the GSA, and this is the crucial reason for me applying to volunteer and serve on this committee.</p>	
<b>Bio</b>	
<p>I have recently received my bachelor’s degree of Science with Honors in Pharmacology. I graduated top of my class, with a GPA being 3.9. And throughout the past four years, I have received various scholarships that gave verdict to my hard work. As if right now, I am ca graduate student in the Department of Pediatric, and my research focuses on cardiac energy metabolism.</p>	
<p>Outside of work, I enjoy music very much. I started playing the piano when I was six, and I have kept this hobby with me ever since. Having to use my free time on practicing piano skills every single day for the past seventeen years was very tough, but also rewarding since it has taught me the value of commitment and the importance of perseverance.</p>	
<p>Before I came to Canada for university, I volunteered at the blood donation center hosted by the Red Cross Society of China few times. Beside this, I also volunteered at several fundraising events and entertaining events like concert. When I started my journey at the University of Alberta, I jointed the Interdisciplinary Science Students’ Society (ISSS) and worked as a non-professional photographer. All of these valuable experiences assisted me to become a better and well-rounded person, where I was able to practice my written and verbal communication skills with other team members and learned to truly appreciate the essence of working as a team.</p>	

From September of 2020 till May of 2021, I had the opportunity to do my Honors project in Dr. Hubbard's Lab. One of the many skills that I learned from this experience is problem solving. As my project is very much exploratory, there were plenty of times that the results were unexpected. Instead of feeling frustrated and depressed, I was encouraged by my mentors to take my time on figuring out what might be the reasons that this experiment did not work out. This notion truly helped me to become more adaptive and decisive when facing various problems in life. I am confident in saying that I have become much more independent and more willing to take the lead in life.

I am interested in joining the Graduate Students' Association as I have a great appreciation, interest and passion for student rights and governance. Being a member of the team would be the perfect avenue to merge my interests in assisting others, event organization, and decision making. I believe I am a strong candidate for the committee due to my strong advocacy, my high academic achievements, and my dedicated work ethic.

**President**  
**Report to GSA Council for 20 September 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih  
Date: 17 September 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope this report finds you well. The Fall semester is extremely busy with the University and province going through a myriad of challenges directly impacting the graduate student community. We do our best to mitigate the impact of those challenges on graduate students through our advocacy efforts with the University and government. In the last month, I have attended a couple of meetings that I would like to report to Council. The key highlights from those meetings are divided into the following subsections:

**Covid-19 responses**

In addition to the efforts made by the GSA office to open our front desk and ensure staff members and Directly-Elected Officers are safe, I and some of the elected team members have been in conversation with University Administration about a safe return to campus. As per my conversation with President Bill Flanagan and Provost Steven Dew in various meetings and in line with the University's recent announcement, those without two doses of vaccine will no longer be able to access campus beginning 1 November. Campus community members including international students thus have until 1 November to get two doses of vaccine at no cost (and until 20 September to receive the first dose). Those who have not been partially or fully vaccinated (and have not been granted a valid exemption) will not be permitted on campus as of 4 October and 1 November, respectively. I'd like to underscore that while GSA supported the vaccine mandate as part of preliminary discussions prior to the University's announcement, we have called for accommodation especially for those who can't be vaccinated due to medical reasons or on religious grounds. Accommodation is available for reasons based on these grounds.

To encourage vaccination and ensure a safe return to campus, we partnered with the Students' Union and the Alumni Association to organize a vaccine lottery event for both graduate and undergraduate students. Two graduate students won a prize of free tuition for one semester, and 100 graduate students won small prizes of GSA swag. We hope this incentivized graduate students to get their vaccine. As a next course of action while we work to ensure the safety of graduate students on campus, I would like to encourage Council members to join the GSA in an education campaign. I'll be reaching out to departmental GSAs in the next few weeks to have those conversation on an education campaign on campus.

**GSA Board Strategic Work Plan**

The GSA Vice-Presidents and I are currently meeting with various stakeholders on campus to discuss the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan and figure out areas of cooperation for the benefit of graduate students. These stakeholders include President Bill Flanagan, Chancellor Peggy Garrity, Elan Macdonald (VP External Relations), Brooke Milne (Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)), Kate Chisholm (Chair of the University Board of Governors), among other important leaders in University administration. Moreover, both the GSA office and my team are working together on executing the strategic work plan and implementing GSA priorities as our Council dictates. More updates will come to Council next month.

**Exceptional Tuition Increase proposals**

Consultation is still underway for the University of Alberta's proposals for Exceptional Tuition Increases that will affect four graduate programs at the University. Last summer, we joined the Students' Union in working on a submission to the Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides, in which we outlined the GSA concerns regarding the proposals, especially with respect to consultation and improvement of the quality of programs. As a response, the Minister returned the proposals to the University for more work with another deadline and the condition of having the proposals approved by the Board of Governors (BoG). Details of that are yet to be known, but we anticipate the proposals to come to the October BoG meeting for approval. We encourage units impacted to get involved to ascertain meaningful consultation process is followed, and to ensure quality improvement of the program is addressed in those proposals. The provost, Dr. Steven Dew, will also be in our Council on 20 September 2021 to talk about these proposals, and I encourage all Council members to ask questions.

**Academic and Administrative Restructuring**

Discussion continues at the Academic Leaders Task Group (ALTG) Working Group about the role of academic leaders in the new college model. The group looks at how best to use academic leaders (Chair, Associate Chair, Associate Dean, etc) effectively. Many of the items discussed by this group have the potential to impact graduate students; discussions are ongoing and I will report more at the GSA Council meeting.

**Student Supervisory Relationship Initiatives**

Discussion continues with Dr. Brooke Milne, Dean of FGSR, about the student supervisory relationship initiative that is coming to the General Faculties Council on Monday, 20 September, 2021 for information and voting. The GSA strongly supports the proposal and will ensure appropriate support is amassed from various units on campus, especially the student population. I encourage each of you to attend this meeting as an observer to show your support for this important initiative.

**Provincial and Federal Advocacy**

Both the VP External, Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, and I are working collaboratively on our external advocacy both with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) and the Canadian Graduate Student Alliance (CGSA). More details can be provided by Mohd, but as an executive of CGSA, the latter is kicking off by developing a memorandum of understanding and started recruiting graduate student associations and groups in Canada. As part of our advocacy efforts, we have a letter ready for submission to the federal government that outlines four key priorities affecting the graduate student community across the country: increase in Tri-Council funding, student loan subsidies, funding for care-giving students, and international immigration.

Further, I have recently drafted a letter asking the provincial government to introduce a dedicated immigration stream for international students in the province, akin to the one in Ontario. Graduate students are a powerful force to steadfastly spur Alberta's economy forward. Thus, a new immigration stream that specifically targets international graduate students befits the interest of Alberta including the University, city, and government. Pending some feedback from the Vice-Presidents, the letter will be sent to Minister Nicolaides and Minister Copping this week.

This concludes my month of advocacy. Feel free to ask in the GSA Council meeting or reach out to me via email ([gsa.president@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.president@ualberta.ca)) should you have any further questions.

Thank you.

Anas Fassih, President 2021-2022



Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 August and 20 September 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

17 August	Academic Leaders' Task Group Working Group
17 August	Meeting with R Ley, Students' Union (SU) President
17 August	COVID-19 Regular Update Call
20 August	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board
20 August	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
24 August	Joint Campus Constituency Associations/Unions Meeting
25 August	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
12 August	Edmonton Student Associations' Meeting
13 August	Meeting with B Flanagan, President
25 August	Academic Leaders Task Group (ALTG) Working Group
25-26 August	GSA Team-Building Workshop
26 August	COVID 19 Regular Update Call
27 August	Meeting with the International Students' Association (ISA)
27 August	Meeting with External Relations re Creation of a Black Graduate Student Award
27 August	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board
31 August	Meeting with GSA Investment Advisors
2-3 September	Board of Governors (BoG) Retreat
7 September	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean
7 September	Academic Leaders' Task Group
7 September	Monthly Meeting with R Ley, Students' Union (SU) President
8 September	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (GSA FGSR) Caucus
8 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
9 September	Meeting A Costopoulos (Dean of Students)
9 September	Meeting with V Ruetalo (Faculty of Arts) re a Survey of Doctoral Students
9 September	General Faculties Council Council on Student Affairs (GFC COSA)
10 September	Meeting with B Flanagan (President)
10 September	Meeting with S Price (Associate Vice-President, Alumni Association) and T Hanson (President, Alumni Association) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
10 September	Meeting with E MacDonald (Vice-President, External Relations) and A Smith (Chief of Staff, External Relations)
13 September	Joint Board of Governance Committee (BGC) and General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
13 September	Meeting with B Flanagan (President)
14 September	Meeting with J Pratt (President, Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA))
14 September	U15 Canadian Graduate Students Alliance Executive Committee
15 September	FGSR Policy for Regular Leave
16 September	GFC Programs Committee
17 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board
17 September	Meeting with Kate Chisholm (Board of Governors Chair) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
20 September	Meeting with Bill Flanagan (President) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
20 September	GFC New Members Orientation
20 September	General Faculties' Council

**GSA Board  
Report to GSA Council for the 20 September 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Anas Fassih, President

The GSA Board (GSAB) reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, Motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. GSA Council members are always able to ask questions about items that were discussed in closed session. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The President, Vice-Presidents, and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 21 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 21.0-21.6.

**18 August 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

University of Alberta BIPOC Student Association: Request for an External Grant; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **APPROVE** an external grant in the amount of \$1,500 to the University of Alberta BIPOC Student Association. KH **MOVED**. JG Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**25 August 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

Graduate Student Assistance Program: Annual Statistical Report, 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **receive for information** the attached Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) report. SP **MOVED**. AF Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**1 September 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

Changes to Coverage Under the GSA Health and Dental Plan; Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw, Section D: GSA Officers; Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw, Section D: GSA Officers; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL** that coverage under the GSA Health and Dental Plan be amended to add Canadian Clinical Counsellors as eligible practitioners to the GSA Health and Dental Plan's Psychology benefit, beginning 1 September 2021 and with the fee associated with the Plan to remain at \$500.36 per Plan member for 2021-2022. AF **MOVED**. JG Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND** to GSA Council, for approval, recommended changes to GSA Bylaw, Section D: GSA Officers, as shown in the attached track changes document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council. AF **MOVED**. MM Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND** to GSA Council, for approval, recommended changes to GSA Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, as shown in the attached track changes document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. AF **MOVED**. MM Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**8 September 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

Actual Expenses Associated with Attendance at the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Retreat, 7-8 August 2021 in Calgary, AB; Open Letter Against Appointed Student and Youth Councils: Request for the GSA to Serve as a Signatory; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary of actual expenses incurred through attendance at the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Retreat, 7-8 August 2021 in Calgary, AB. KH **MOVED**. JG Seconded. **CARRIED**.

Members **AGREED** to move discussion of the item entitled "Open Letter Against Appointed Student and Youth Councils" to the 15 September 2021 GSA Board agenda.

**15 September 2021 GSA Board Meeting:**

**Main Agenda Items:**

Open Letter Against Appointed Student and Youth Councils: Request for the GSA to Serve as a Signatory; Immigration Submission to the Government of Alberta; COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

**Motions and Agreements:**

Members **AGREED** to not sign the document entitled “Open Letter Against Appointed Student and Youth Councils.”

Members **AGREED** to provide submit to government the document entitled “Immigration Submission to the Government of Alberta” pending revision from the team.

**Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the 20 September 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Kathy Haddadkar  
Date: 17 September 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

This September has led me to reflect on the early days of going back to school, only it hasn't felt the same. As a mix of sentiments takes over the start of fall, I encourage you to take moments of rest in nature and mindfulness. Remember to breathe in the crisp autumn air (safely, of course). Know that coming this far into our academic experience given our new normal continues to be a formative time for each of us. Be proud of yourself and remember to celebrate the little things, even when life throws us for a loop!

Amidst a busy month at the GSA, here are some of my meeting highlights:

**25 August – Vaccine Lottery Announcement**

- It was wonderful to be a part of this collaborative announcement with the Students' Union and President Bill Flanagan, to encourage our students to do their part
- I strongly encourage you amidst the rising cases and increased campus safety protocols to get your vaccine; it will save your own life and keep your colleagues, family and loved ones safe

**30 August – Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Program Support Team (FGSR GPST)**

- Minor course changes were discussed in this meeting, which included those from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry as well as the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences; the latter which will return to their respective unit for clarification regarding the proposed course descriptions
- The Master of Arts in Community Engagement (MACE) program proposal was returned to the Graduate Program Support Team with a reworking of the course outlines to include Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Importantly, a draft document for graduate coursework policy changes was brought forward at this meeting which, pending approval at the General Faculties Council (GFC), will implement the following: limits for transfer credits relating to minimum registration requirements, deletion of the course exemption clause, a necessity to satisfy the requirements specified in the new program updates to remediation of failure in or failure to complete a course or research work, updates to information on the course and GPA requirements for convocation and to the language level of courses required for Doctoral and Thesis-Based Master's Programs

**2 September – Return to Campus (RCT) Security and Safety Committee**

- As with the many meetings which have centred around the impact of Covid-19 on our graduate students and institution this month, I was briefed regarding a decrease in numbers for those not responding to testing from 2,100 to 1,800 prior to this meeting
- Another topic of discussion included high-risk programs such as athletics and the arts programs, which do not have mask mandating in an official capacity now; however, masks and social distancing are encouraged and required in all programs
- Additionally, members were reminded that self-disclosure tests must be completed for all persons on campus, visitors must be fully vaccinated and the Fall Readiness course for this term must be completed, regardless of any past completions

**3 September – Mechanical Engineering Consultation Townhall re Exceptional Tuition Increase**

- The discussion was relatively robust; the nature of the conversation was somewhat divided in nature between faculty and students
- While the Interim Dean of Faculty of Engineering Dr. Simaan Abourizk spoke to the comparative aspect of the tuition increase in terms of an approximate \$2,000 difference between the MEng program at the U of A and its competitors, the graduate student voice represented disagreement with the tuition increase in light

of this not being of immediate consequence to their programs at present, but in opposition if the increase occurred to simply match the current MEng pricing with competing schools

- With respect to consultation, Dr. Abourizk spoke of the brevity of the program's efforts with the addition of surveys, three town halls, student meetings across departments and those with the MEng Council
- The MEng staff will be in contact with the GSA to further refine their proposal before their submission deadline in October 2021

#### **7 September – Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)**

- Dr. Milne provided an important update regarding a procedural change that would place the Student Supervisory Initiatives on the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive agenda as a consent item, meaning that this would straight to GFC for voting on 20 September
- With only 2 minutes to present on item, which has been in the works for over 10 years, I urge you to encourage student members of the General Faculties Council to share their voices – especially expressions of support as graduate students, as soon as the item is called for questioning and discussion
- While we welcome positive and improving comments, we expect that there will be many opposing voices and sincerely hope that your consideration to this item will be heard with respect

I warmly welcome further discussion and correspondence on this report, as well as any other academic-related matters and can be reached at [gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vpacademic@ualberta.ca).

Respectfully,

Kathy Haddadkar, Vice-President Academic 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 August and 20 September 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

18 August	Meeting with the Vice-President Academic of the International Students' Association (ISA)
24 August	Meeting with P Garritty, Chancellor
25 August	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
25 August	Vaccine Lottery Announcement
25-26 August	GSA Team-Building Workshop
30 August	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Program Support Team (FGSR GPST)
31 August	GSA Emergency Bursary Appeal
1 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC)
2 September	Return to Campus (RCT) Security and Safety Committee
3 September	Mechanical Engineering Consultation Townhall re Exceptional Tuition Increase
7 September	Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
8 September	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (GSA FGSR) Caucus
8 September	General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC)
9 September	Meeting with V Ruetalo (Faculty of Arts) re a Survey of Doctoral Students
10 September	Meeting with S Price (Associate Vice-President, Alumni Association) and T Hanson (President, Alumni Association) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
10 September	Meeting with E MacDonald (Vice-President, External Relations) and A Smith (Chief of Staff, External Relations)
13 September	Joint Board of Governance Committee (BGC) and General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
15 September	FGSR Policy for Regular Leave
16 September	GSA GFC Caucus
17 September	Meeting with Kate Chisholm (Board of Governors Chair) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
17 September	University Research Policy Committee
20 September	GFC New Members Orientation
20 September	General Faculties' Council

**Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the 20 September 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa  
Date: 17 September 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

Last month has been productive in terms of external engagement. I would like to start with the Edmonton Municipal Election that is going to take place on 18 October 2021. The Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA), in collaboration with the Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) will be hosting a mayoral forum ahead of this election. Being an active member of the ESA, I have been part of the Forum Planning Committee, where the format of the forum and the questionnaires that would be asked to the candidates are being developed. I believe I can play a role in formulating questions that would address graduate students' needs in the city of Edmonton.

On the provincial front, I have been regularly attending Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) executive and board meetings. We have identified our top priorities and advocacy asks (during the advocacy week) for this year. We are now working on breaking down those priorities into tasks and deliverables. Being the chair of the Governance Committee of ab-GPAC, I am also responsible for policy review and updates.

I have also been advocating for affordable graduate housing (especially residences for couples) in my meetings with the Residence Advisory Committee (RAC). As you may be aware, our university residences currently do not have any units for couples after the sale of Newton Place, which is having a negative impact on many graduate students who want to live in university residences. In the coming months, I will be collaborating with the committee members in finding a suitable solution that can help ensure affordable couple residences for the coming year.

Furthermore, as a new member of the Alumni Council, I will maintain a close relationship with our alumni and advocate for new ways to build engagement between alumni and graduate students. My focus will be creating more opportunities for engagement between our alumni and graduate students who are near the end of their studies or who have already completed their programs.

Thank you for taking the time to read through my report and I welcome you all back to campus and wish you a happy beginning of the term. Please feel free to drop by the GSA office at Triffo Hall. We are eagerly waiting to have conversations with you!

Best,  
Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa, Vice-President External 2021-2022

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 August to 20 September 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

18 August	Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA) Mayoral Forum Planning Meeting
18 August	Alumni Council Orientation
20 August	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board
24 August	Meeting with P Garritty, Chancellor
25 August	Meeting with K Husing, Associate Vice-President (Ancillary Services)
25-26 August	GSA Team-Building Workshop
27 August	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board
30 August	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
16 August	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
1 September	Municipal Election Form Planning Team Meeting
2 September	Public Interest Alberta (PIA) Post-Secondary Education Task Force

2 September	Alberta Student Post-Secondary Council
7 September	Student Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Survey Report Review
8 September	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
10 September	Meeting with S Price (Associate Vice-President, Alumni Association) and T Hanson (President, Alumni Association) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
10 September	Meeting with E MacDonald (Vice-President, External Relations) and A Smith (Chief of Staff, External Relations)
13 September	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee
15 September	Mayoral Forum Planning Team Meeting
15 September	New to Council Orientation – Alumni Relations
20 September	Meeting with Bill Flanagan (President) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

**Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the 20 September 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Jessica Grenke  
Date: 17 September 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

Welcome back! The beginning of the Fall term is always a 'reset' for both new and returning graduate students and with ever-evolving COVID regulations, this is especially true. I've been a student at the University of Alberta for nine years as of this fall, and each September I'm reminded anew of the power and potential of our campus community. In these isolating and uncertain times, it is vital we take responsibility for both using and contributing to this network. Whether you are a new graduate student with a fresh perspective to offer, or a grizzled veteran with deep institutional knowledge; know you are a vital member of our student body. Others both need your help and want to help you.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions/concerns/information to share. I'm here to serve you! See below for a summary of a few key initiatives I've been working on the last month.

#### **Service agreement with an outside union**

As the University of Alberta GSA loses its right to exclusively serve as the graduate student union next July, we continue to negotiate and review service agreements with an outside union. This will ensure solidarity between all labour advocacy initiatives for campus graduate students and will enable increased quality of worker protections. Our legal team, the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC), and I continue to weigh our options to ensure academically employed graduate students (AEGSs) are receiving the best quality of services for their money. I'm happy to report this process is going well and I'm extremely grateful for the support of the GSA LRC. As decisions are finalized, I will keep our AEGSs updated.

#### **Outreach to graduate student groups**

While campaigning for this position I promised to work towards better networking and communication flows between existing graduate student groups across campus and the GSA union. On the advice of the GSA LRC I have waited until the beginning of the Fall term to launch this initiative. An invitation to invite me for a brief information session and Q&A has been sent to all registered graduate student groups I'm aware of (42 in total). As of writing I have met with two groups and will report back on specific feedback I'm gathering as the initiative develops. If you are a councillor who reports back to a group of specialized graduate students, please get in touch so your community's voice is heard. While the intention of this initiative is to discuss labour matters, these conversations are intended to be quite general (we have discussed engagement, communications, GSA services, etc) and the goal is to build connections and hear from as broad a range of graduate students as possible. So, even if your department might not have labour-specific issues to discuss, please consider inviting myself or my colleague Paresh (Vice-President Student Services) so we can hear from you and take your feedback, questions, and concerns back to the GSA Board.

My email is [gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca). Looking forward to hearing from you!

In solidarity,

Jessica, Vice-President Labour 2021-2022



## 14.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 August and 20 September 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

17 August	Fall Vaccination Clinics Working Group
23 August	Meeting with the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) re Steward Training
24 August	Meeting with P Garritty, Chancellor
25-26 August	GSA Team-Building Workshop
27 August	Labour Relations Interview
30 August	Meeting with a Graduate Student
31 August	Fall Vaccination Clinics Working Group
29 July	Meeting re Unions
12 August	GSA LRC Union Agreement Discussion
7 September	Fall Vaccination Clinics Working Group
8 September	GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
8 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
9 September	EDI Scoping Group
9 September	Meeting with the Neuroscience GSA re Labour
9 September	Meeting A Costopoulos (Dean of Students)
10 September	Meeting with S Price (Associate Vice-President, Alumni Association) and T Hanson (President, Alumni Association) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
10 September	Meeting with E MacDonald (Vice-President, External Relations) and A Smith (Chief of Staff, External Relations)
14 September	Meeting with the Biological Sciences Graduate Students' Association (BGSA)
15 September	GSA Negotiations Discussion
16 September	UAlberta Innovation Network
17 September	Meeting with Kate Chisholm (Board of Governors Chair) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
20 September	Meeting with Bill Flanagan (President) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

**Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the 20 September 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Paresh Kumar  
Date: 17 September 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you all are doing well and had a wonderful start to the fall term. I am happy to share a few highlights from the meetings I attended last month. Please note that restrictions, and COVID protocols on campus were accurate at the time of writing:

- U-Pass ARC card distribution started 13 September on campus and students can collect their ARC cards from SUB or CAB Infolink desks. U-Pass exemptions can be applied for on the [U-Pass website](#). Please check exemption requirements before applying.
- Masks have been made mandatory in all the public areas. University community members are asked to declare their vaccination status. Random sampling mail will be sent to vaccinated members asking for vaccination proof. For unvaccinated members, weekly testing is mandatory, which is self-monitored and kits will be provided on campus by Alberta Health Services (AHS). If result is negative, members are allowed to attend classes. If a rapid test result is positive, the member is asked to go home and book a COVID test with AHS. A triage team will be doing contact tracing for COVID positive cases.
- Response for rapid testing is good so far, as almost 900 tests have been booked every day. The University is also planning to start rapid testing at another 3 locations- South Campus, Botanical Garden and Calgary campus.
- If a student was tested for COVID by AHS or any other agency in the same week, they still have to go for testing at the University, as this is only acceptable rapid test as of now.
- Students with mild symptoms are encouraged to stay home but if they test negative, they can attend their classes.
- In the first two weeks, instruction mode for 191 classes has been shifted to online from in-person mode because of social distancing concerns.
- We are working on designing a survey with Campus and Community Recreation (CCR) services to know about graduate students' preferences and we are also discussing adding family-related activities, which we think would benefit our graduate students.
- The Wellness 101 course is now available to all students and they can join using eClass free of cost. The course provides students with suggestions and tips on a healthy lifestyle.
- Instructions have been sent to supervisors/instructors to make accommodations for students if they are not able to come to campus because of health issues. Types of accommodations depend on instructors and they can work with individual students to find appropriate accommodations.
- For safety related updates or covid measures, please refer Safety measure general directives: <https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/campus-safety/safety-measures-general-directives/index.html>

In addition to meetings, we also received an update from Studentcare, in response to a question raised with us by a Plan member, that Desjardins is now using Telus' technology for making claims. This technology change has enabled Desjardins to accept direct billing from a larger number of professionals and service providers. As such, the carrier code for Pay Direct services has changed, but we hope this will make submitting claims simpler for our students and also result in fewer up front out-of-pocket payments.

Feel free to reach me out for any comments/concerns regarding this report or any other specific issue you want to discuss regarding student services at [gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca).

Thank you,  
Paresh Kumar, Vice-President Student Services 2021-2022

## 15.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 August and 20 September 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

17 August	U-Pass Working Committee
19 August	Student Services and Experiences Working Group
19 August	U-Pass Administrative Committee
19 August	Mental Health Commission of Canada Standard Network
19 August	Return to Campus Safety and Logistics Committee
24 August	Meeting with K Friese, Assistant Dean of Students (Health and Wellness)
24 August	Meeting with P Garritty, Chancellor
25 August	Campus and Community Recreation Meeting
25 August	Days of Action Committee
25-26 August	GSA Team-Building Workshop
27 August	Meeting with Canadian Student Service Student Executives
2 September	Student Services and Experience Working Group
2 September	Student Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Survey Report Review
8 September	Days of Action Suicide Prevention Lunch and Learn
9 September	Meeting A Costopoulos (Dean of Students)
10 September	Meeting with S Price (Associate Vice-President, Alumni Association) and T Hanson (President, Alumni Association) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
10 September	Meeting with E MacDonald (Vice-President, External Relations) and A Smith (Chief of Staff, External Relations)
13 September	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Programs Support Team (FGSR GPST)
16 September	Student Services Experience Working Group
16 September	Return to Campus Safety and Logistics Committee
17 September	Meeting with Kate Chisholm (Board of Governors Chair) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan
20 September	Meeting with Bill Flanagan (President) re the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 20 September 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Kenzie Gordon  
Date: 17 September 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,

Kenzie Gordon, Chair of the GSA NoC

**Memorandum to GSA Councillors**

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

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

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

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

### GSA Standing Committees

**1) GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (Two (2) GSA Member Positions)**

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA members was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 6, 13, and 20 August, and 2 and 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. **Two nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see item 10.5 - Nominees for the GSA Budget and Finance Committee).**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 6, 13, and 20 August, and 2 and 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**3) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (One (1) Member Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Member was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 6, 13, and 20 August, and 2 and 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. **Three (3) nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see item 10.8 - Nominees for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee).**

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

Information regarding the position for three (3) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 6, 13, and 20 August, and 2 and 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

**5) GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (GSAB/NoC) (Two (2) Joint GSA Councillor Positions)**

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council on 6, 13, and 20 August, and 2 and 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 6, 13, and 20 August, and 2 and 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. **Four (4) nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see item 10.11 - Nominees for the GSA Nominating Committee).**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 6, 13, and 20 August, and 2 and 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**8) GSA Labour Relations Committee (LRC) (Four (4) Academically-Employed Graduate Student Positions)**

Information regarding the positions for four (4) Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs) was circulated via email to all current AEGSs on 2, 7 and 10 September with a nomination deadline of 13 September. Seven (7) nominations were received; an electronic vote was sent to all AEGSs 14 September to 16 September. Results were communicated to AEGSs on 14 September. **New members of the LRC include Md Mizanur Rahman, Maryam Adesunkanmi, Josephine Bolaji and Yucong Dayton Chen.**

### GSA Councillor-Elected Officers

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via email to GSA Council on 2 and 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. **Three (3) nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 10.2 - Nominees for the GSA Councillor-at-Large).**

**External Committees: Vacancies**

**10) Faculty of Science Committee (One (1) Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy on the Faculty of Science Committee was circulated via email directly to Faculty of Science graduate students on 13 and 20 August 2021 with a nomination deadline of 25 August 2021. **One (1) nomination was received; Claudia Althoen was elected.**

**11) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Committee (Twenty-Two (22) Graduate Student Positions)**

Information regarding the twenty-two (22) vacancies (seventeen (17) Councillors and five (5) Alternates) on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Committee was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 23 and 30 July 2021 with a nomination deadline of 4 August 2021, and again 2 and 10 September with a deadline of 15 September 2021. **Eight (8) nominations were received; Andre Locke, Megan Sommerfeld, Shing Kit Lao, Sabrin Bashar, Mohamed Ali, Emain Heanoy, and Julia Nickols were elected. The remaining vacancies will be advertised again.**

**12) Graduate Program Support Team (One (1) Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy on the Graduate Program Support Team was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 13 and 20 August 2021 with a nomination deadline of 25 August 2021. **Three (3) nominations were received; Savita Ayyalasomayajula was elected.**

**13) Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Faculty Council (Three (3) Graduate Student Positions)**

Information regarding the three (3) vacancies on the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Faculty Council was circulated via email directly to Medicine and Dentistry students on 13 and 20 August 2021 with a nomination deadline of 25 August 2021, and again 2 and 10 September with a deadline of 15 September 2021. **Three (3) nominations were received; Quiyu Sun, Daniela Roth, and Brianna Greenwood were elected.**

**14) Faculty of Native Studies Dean Review Committee (One (1) Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy on the Faculty of Native Studies Dean Review Committee was circulated via email directly to Native Studies students on 20 and 24 August 2021 with a nomination deadline of 25 August 2021. **One (1) nomination was received; Leah Hrycun was elected.**

**15) Medical Science Library Committee (One (1) Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy on the Medical Science Library Committee was circulated via email directly to Medical Sciences students on 2 and 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. **One (1) nomination was received; Sabrin Bashar were elected.**

**16) Faculty of Arts Dean Selection Committee (One (1) Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy on the Faculty of Arts Dean Selection Committee was circulated via email to Faculty of Arts students on 10 September 2021 with a nomination deadline of 15 September 2021. **One (1) nomination was received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 10.0 - Nominee for the Faculty of Arts Dean Selection Committee).**

**Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the 20 September 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Courtney Thomas  
Date: 17 September 2021

Dear GSA Council Members,

The big projects for the office staff over the past month, beyond the reopening plans for the GSA office previously reported on and all standard operations, have related to the start of the fall semester; including the circulation of a series of GSA orientation e-class modules, staffing our virtual front desk, responding to student inquiries, and the mailing of GSA planners to departments for distribution. Staff are also engaged with supporting the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it begins to plan the 2022 GSA General Election and with supporting the GSA Labour Relations Committee as it prepares to select the membership of the GSA Negotiating Team in advance of the commencement of another round of collective bargaining with the University and as it pursues discussions about potential service agreements with other unions.

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

**GSA Administrative/Professional Staff**

**Courtney Thomas: Executive Director, BA Honours and MA History (U of A), PhD History and Renaissance Studies (Yale) (FT)**

Courtney came to the GSA with three years' experience working in U of A governance prior to her completion of her PhD at Yale. After serving at the GSA as Director of Services and Governance for several years, Courtney was appointed Executive Director (ED) in 2016. In that role, she oversees the GSA staff, the GSA office and its operations, and the GSA's corporate and governance infrastructures. The GSA has a dynamic staff that regularly dissolves into problem-solving teams under Courtney's direction. Her other direct responsibilities include the GSA's corporate life; governance and fair process; finance (she heads the Financial Team); elections; and overseeing the annual GSA election and the transition of elected officials. She is the Coordinator of GSA Council and the GSA Board, provides support for several GSA standing committees, and oversees initiatives related to the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan and engagement initiatives.

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

Coming to the GSA in 2020, with a background in student advising and student services at Augustana Faculty, Erika assists with the coordination of GSA Council, the GSA Board, and other GSA standing committees. She is involved with the processing of GSA grants, awards, and bursaries, and has oversight of nominating and elections processes. Erika utilizes her previous knowledge to assist with the management of the GSA's corporate documents, contracts, and agreements and assists with human resources work. She also oversees the GSA's website and is the point person for GSA services, such as the Health and Dental Plan and the Graduate Student Assistance Program. Finally, she serves as the GSA's Labour Professional and works closely with the Vice-President Labour to support the work of the GSA as a union.

**Shirley Ball: Accountant, CPA (CA), Bachelor of Business Administration (PT) and Dorte Sheikh: Financial Manager, BA Anthropology (U of A) (PT)**

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

**GSA Support Staff (represented by NASA with their own collective agreement)****Laura Taras: Executive Coordinator and Communications Specialist, BFA (U of A), Bachelor of Applied Communications (MacEwan) (FT)**

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

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

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

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

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

**Mahsa Toghrai: Research and Strategic Planning Coordinator, BA Psychology (U of A) (FT)**

Mahsa joined the GSA in August 2016 and transitioned to her current role in November 2019. In addition to her share of Front Desk responsibilities, she supports the development and ongoing administrative work related to the Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) and pursues various research projects related to strategic priorities of the organization. She coordinates the GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus and the GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus, and supports a number of communications projects and initiatives alongside Laura.

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached (pages 21.2-21.6) and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Best,

Courtney Thomas, Executive Director



### Management Report to the GSA Board, 18 August 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 11 August 2021:

#### Strategic

- Reopening of the GSA office (servicing copiers and printers, cleaning rooms, arranging furniture, replenishing font desk materials, designing mask signage, etc).
- Beginning to plan the 2022 GSA General Election.
- Training session for the new Chief Returning Officer.
- Discussing outreach strategies to GSA Council concerning several long-standing vacancies on GSA standing committees.
- Scheduling meetings with various stakeholders to discuss the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (advising individual graduate student workers, developing an August newsletter, etc), preparing for the beginning of the collection of a union due, as well as the next round of negotiations, developing messaging around safety concerns related to returning to work, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee (including debriefing following to review a service agreement with PSAC).
- Developing amendments to GSA Bylaw and Policy (sections detailing the operation of the U-Pass program and changing the timing of the election of the GSA Senator to align with terms of office for the Senate). Other sections will be reviewed for potential needed amendments over the summer and proposals will be developed for the fall (further potential sections to amend including some changes to the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large).

#### Operations

- Circulating the orientation e-class.
- Supporting the appeal process of an GSA Emergency Bursary decision.
- Coordinating the delivery of the GSA planner and a mailout to departments that have requested a supply for in-coming students.
- Continued work on the annual Council remuneration process (planning to prepare cheques in August once the office re-opens).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council and via the GSA newsletter), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Faculty of Arts Academic and Grades Appeals Committee (advertised directly to graduate students in the Faculty of Arts), the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Faculty of Science Council (advertised directly to graduate students in the Faculty of Science), the FGSR Graduate Program Support Team (FGSR GPST) (advertised via the GSA newsletter), and the AFNS GSA.
- Facebook = 1,692 likes (up 0 from 11 August) and 1,849 followers (up 0 from 11 August); Facebook posts reached 134 users last week and our “post engagement” count was 2. Twitter = 1,215 followers (up 1 from 11 August); our tweets earned 782 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 673 followers (up 8 from 11 August); Instagram posts reached 237 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 July (as the University has updated its travel directive, we are now accepting applications for travel with Canada, as well costs associated with online events); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 July. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.
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### Management Report to the GSA Board, 25 August 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 11 August 2021:

#### Strategic

- Reopening of the GSA office to the public.
- Beginning to plan the 2022 GSA General Election and the fall Discover Governance program.
- Scheduling meetings with various stakeholders to discuss the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.
- Drafting the GSA Report to FGSR Council.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (advising individual graduate student workers, circulating an August labour newsletter, etc), preparing for the beginning of the collection of a union due, as well as the next round of negotiations, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee as it reviews a service agreement with an outside union).
- Developing amendments to GSA Bylaw and Policy (sections detailing the operation of the U-Pass program and changing the timing of the election of the GSA Senator to align with terms of office for the Senate). Beginning to work on drafting a proposal amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large.

#### Operations

- Circulating the orientation e-class.
- Coordinating the delivery of the GSA planner and a mailout to departments that have requested a supply for in-coming students.
- Continued work on the annual Council remuneration process (the first round of cheques has been prepared).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council and via the GSA newsletter), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Faculty of Arts Academic and Grades Appeals Committee (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty), the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Faculty of Science Council (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty), the FGSR Graduate Program Support Team (FGSR GPST) (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the review committee for the Dean of Native Studies (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty), and the executive of the Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science GSA (advertised directly to graduate students in the department).
- Facebook = 1,701 likes (up 9 from 18 August) and 1,852 followers (up 13 from 18 August); Facebook posts reached 195 users last week and our “post engagement” count was 6. Twitter = 1,221 followers (up 6 from 18 August); our tweets earned 1,400 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 695 followers (up 22 from 18 August); Instagram posts reached 307 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 July (as the University has updated its travel directive, we are now accepting applications for travel with Canada, as well costs associated with online events); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 July. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 1 September 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 25 August 2021:

#### Strategic

- Preparing for increased busyness at the GSA front desk and ensuring staff feel safe in their work environment.
- Beginning to plan the 2022 GSA General Election (and possible International Students' Association referendum) and the fall Discover Governance program.
- Scheduling meetings with various stakeholders to discuss the 2021-2022 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.
- Meeting with representatives from the International Students' Association to discuss a potential referendum and other matters.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (advising individual graduate student workers, developing a September labour newsletter, etc), preparing for the beginning of the collection of a union due, as well as the next round of negotiations, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee as it reviews a service agreement with an outside union – a legal opinion has been solicited on a draft service agreement and is being reviewed).
- Beginning to work on drafting a proposal amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large.

#### Operations

- Monitoring completions of the orientation e-class.
- Planning online peer panels to connect current and incoming graduate students in an informal setting.
- Finishing work on the annual Council remuneration process.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council and via the GSA newsletter), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Faculty of Arts Academic and Grades Appeals Committee (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty), the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Council (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty).
- Facebook = 1,708 likes (up 9 from 25 August) and 1,852 followers (up 0 from 25 August); Facebook posts reached 1066 users last week and our “post engagement” count was 131. Twitter = 1,226 followers (up 5 from 25 August); our tweets earned 1,600 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 716 followers (up 11 from 25 August); Instagram posts reached 331 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 July (as the University has updated its travel directive, we are now accepting applications for travel with Canada, as well costs associated with online events); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 July. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 8 September 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 1 September 2021:

#### Strategic

- Meeting with the Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer concerning a potential referendum initiated by the International Students' Association.
- Beginning to plan the 2022 GSA General Election (and possible International Students' Association-initiated referendum) and the fall Discover Governance program.
- Preparing the first mailing of GSA Council.
- Reviewing meeting material associated with various University governance bodies.
- Coordinating distribution of recently received Arc cards for the U-Pass program.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (advising individual graduate student workers, planning a Labour 101 session, and preparing for the the next round of negotiations) and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee as it reviews a service agreement with an outside union – a legal opinion has been solicited on a draft service agreement and questions raised are being follow up on).
- Beginning to work on drafting a proposal to amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large.

#### Operations

- Planning online peer panels to connect current and incoming graduate students in an informal setting and planning a Grants 101 session for October.
- Monitoring GSA orientation e-class completion levels (numbers are very strong (more so than we get at in-person orientations) and we have received complimentary remarks on the design, etc).
- Developing new messaging around masking requirements within the GSA office, given updates to provincial measures.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council and via the GSA newsletter), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Council (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty), and the Medical Sciences Library Committee (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty of Medicine and Dentistry).
- Facebook = 1,712 likes (up 4 from 31 August); Facebook posts reached 1,140 users last week and our “post engagement” count was 150. Twitter = 1,226 followers (up 5 from 31 August); our tweets earned 677 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 731 followers (up 15 from 31 August); Instagram posts reached 422 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July (as the University has updated its travel directive, we are now accepting applications for travel with Canada, as well costs associated with online events); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 15 September 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 8 September 2021:

#### Strategic

- Working with the Office of the Provost to find a representative from Arts to serve on the Dean of Arts Selection Committee (the UAPPOL guidelines on finding representatives for decanal selection committees are complex and sometimes difficult to navigate).
- Finalizing the 2020-2021 GSA annual report – will come before the GSA Board shortly.
- Developing a follow up survey for the GSA newsletter concerning the return to campus and associated COVID prevention/safety measures and beginning to draft the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan update to GSA Council – will also come before the GSA Board shortly.
- Planning for an upcoming meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and sharing updates on financial matters with that body.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (advising individual graduate student workers, delivering a Labour 101 session, and preparing for the next round of negotiations) and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee as it reviews a service agreement with an outside union – a legal opinion has been solicited on a draft service agreement and questions raised are being follow up on).
- Beginning to work on drafting a proposal to amend the mandate of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board with respect to Councillors-at-Large (hoping to bring forward to GSA Council in January).

#### Operations

- Planning online peer panels to connect current and incoming graduate students in an informal setting and planning a Grants 101 session for October. Also monitoring enrollments in the GSA orientation e-class (970 thus far, as a comparison, we typically average 300 participants for in-person orientation).
- Preparing for the second mailing of GSA Council meeting material.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council and via the GSA newsletter), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the GSA Nominating Committee (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council (advertised via the GSA newsletter), the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Council (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty), the Medical Sciences Library Committee (advertised directly to graduate students in the faculty of Medicine and Dentistry), and the Faculty of Arts Dean Selection Committee (advertised directly to graduate students in the Faculty of Arts). Also advertising a vacant Councillor-at-Large position via the GSA newsletter and supporting the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee as it begins to plan the 2022 GSA General Election and a potential ISA initiated referendum.
- Facebook = 1,712 likes; Facebook posts reached 307 users last week and our “post engagement” count was 150. Twitter = 1,229 followers (up 3 from 8 September); our tweets earned 2,900 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 732 followers (up 1 from 8 September); Instagram posts reached 146 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 July (as the University has updated its travel directive, we are now accepting applications for travel with Canada, as well costs associated with online events); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 July; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 July. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.