

GSA Council Meeting AGENDA
Monday, 22 February 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 Praniidhi Baddam in the Chair

OPEN SESSION

**Attached Numbered
Pages**

1. Approval of the 22 February 2021 Agenda (*suggested time: 1 min*)
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 18 January 2021 GSA Council Meeting (*suggested time: 1 min*)
Attachment:
 - i. Minutes from the 18 January 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*)

2.0-2.6

GSA Council Member Announcements

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

Action Items

5. Operating and Capital Budget (2021-2022) and Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2021-2022) AND Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) and Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) (*suggested time: 20 mins*)

Marc Waddingham (President) will present the item. Shirley Ball (Accountant) and Dorte Sheikh (Financial Manager) will be present to answer questions.

GSA BFC members who are also members of GSA Council: Marc Waddingham (President and GSA BFC Chair), Umesh Nimmathi (Vice-President Labour and GSA BFC Vice-Chair), Maggie Cascadden (Business PhD Council Member and GSA BFC Member), Omnath Ekambaram (Chemical & Materials Engineering Council Member and GSA BFC Member)

GSA BFC voting members invited to GSA Council as guests: Gary Grewal

Attachments:

- i. Cover Letter from the President to GSA Council

5.0-5.2

Prepared by C Thomas and E Heiberg for GSA Council 22 February 2021

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Outline of Issue: Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2021-2022) and Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2021-2022) <u>AND</u> Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) and Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) iii. Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) iv. GSA 2021-2022 Operating Budget (Including Capital Budget) Report (Narrative) v. Annual Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) vi. GSA 2021-2022 Restricted and Other Funding Budget and Expenditure Report (Narrative) | <p>5.3-5.4</p> <p>5.5-5.13</p> <p>5.14-5.24</p> <p>5.25-5.26</p> <p>5.27-5.28</p> |
|---|--|
6. GSA 2020-2021 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report (*suggested time: 10 mins*)
Marc Waddingham (President) will present the item. Shirley Ball (Accountant) and Dorte Sheikh (Financial Manager) will be present to answer questions.
- GSA BFC members who are also members of GSA Council:** Marc Waddingham (President and GSA BFC Chair), Umesh Nimmathi (Vice-President Labour and GSA BFC Vice-Chair), Maggie Cascadden (Business PhD Council Member and GSA BFC Member), Omnath Ekambaram (Chemical & Materials Engineering Council Member and GSA BFC Member)
- GSA BFC voting members invited to GSA Council as guests:** Gary Grewal
- Attachments:*
- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cover Letter from the President to GSA Council ii. Outline of Issue iii. GSA 2020-2021 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report | <p>6.0</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2-6.3</p> |
|---|---|

Discussion Items

7. Academic Restructuring Update
Marc Waddingham (President) will present the item.

Elections

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

GSA Standing Committees

- a. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (1 vacancy for a GSA Member)

Attachment:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Nominee for the GSA ERC (1 vacancy) | <p>8.0-8.1</p> |
|--|-----------------------|

Reports (*suggested time: 15 mins*)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>9. President (Marc Waddingham, President)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. President's Report ii. GSA Board Report iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report iv. GSA Governance Committee Report (no written report at this time) | <p>9.0-9.2</p> <p>9.3</p> <p>9.4</p> |
| <p>10. Vice-President Academic (Sachiketha Reddy, Vice-President Academic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-President Academic's Report | <p>10.0-10.1</p> |
| <p>11. Vice-President External (Anas Fassih, Vice-President External)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-President External's Report ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report | <p>11.0-11.1</p> <p>11.2</p> |

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 12. Vice-President Labour (Umesh Nimmathi, Vice-President Labour) | |
| i. Vice-President Labour's Report | 12.0 |
| ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report | 12.1 |
| 13. Vice-President Student Services (Sridhar Parasharamatham, Vice-President Student Services) | |
| i. Vice-President Student Services' Report | 13.0-13.1 |
| 14. Senator (Marla Palakkamanil, Senator) | |
| i. Senator's Report (no written report at this time) | |
| 15. Speaker (Pranidhi Baddam, Speaker) | |
| i. Speaker's Report (no written report at this time) | |
| 16. Chief Returning Officer (Michael Huang, Chief Returning Officer) | |
| i. Chief Returning Officer's Report | 16.0 |
| 17. GSA Nominating Committee (Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Chair) | |
| i. GSA Nominating Committee Report | 17.0-17.1 |
| 18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Jennifer Bertrand, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair) | |
| i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report | 18.0 |
| 19. GSA Management (Courtney Thomas, Executive Director) | |
| i. Executive Director's Report | 19.0-19.5 |

Question Period

20. Written Questions (**none received at this time; questions may be submitted to the GSA Speaker before 4 PM on Thursday, 18 February 2021**)
21. Oral Questions

Adjournment

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 18 January 2021 at 6:00 pm
Held online via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Marc Waddingham (President) | Zhiying Wang (AFNS) | Yina Liu (Elementary Education) | Braden Chow (Oncology) |
| Sachiketha Reddy (VP Academic) | Kyla Cangiano (Anthropology) | Jessica Kennedy (Human Ecology) | Shubham Soni (Paediatrics) |
| Anas Fassih (VP External) | Allan Yarahmady (Biochemistry) | M Idrees Afzal (Internetworking) | Erika Poitras (Pharmacology) |
| Umesh Nimmathi (VP Labour) | Jessica Grenke (Biological Science) | Matt Ormandy (Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation) | Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences) |
| Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker) | Georgio Cheruvellil (Business MBA) | Jenn Laskosky (Library & Information Studies) | Spencer Hayden (Philosophy) |
| Priyanka Maripuri (Deputy Speaker) | Maggie Cascadden (Business PhD) | Matt Kelley (Linguistics) | Zoe Frank (Physical Therapy) |
| Michael Huang (Chief Returning Officer) | Kazuki Ueda (Cell Biology) | Nishant Agrawal (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences) | Logan Cooke (Physics) |
| Sophie Shi (Deputy Returning Officer) | Arsh Hazrah (Chemistry) | David Gordon (Mechanical Engineering) | Robert Reklow (Physiology) |
| Marla Palakkamanil (Senator) | Michelle Gauthier (Communication Sciences & Disorders) | Jennifer McDevitt; Erin O'Neil (Media and Technology Studies) | Maura Roberts (Political Science) |
| Paramita Chaudhuri Basu (Councillor-at-Large) | Fernando Hernandez Garcia (Computing Science) | Adrienne Watson (Medical Genetics) | Precious Amusan (Psychiatry) |
| Nadia Daniel (Councillor-at-Large) | Harsimrat Kaur (Dentistry) | Julia May (Medical Microbiology & Immunology) | Connor Lambert; Ruby Prinsen (Psychology) |
| Tejasai Kommanpalli (Councillor-at-Large) | Collette Slevinsky (Drama) | Danielle Munsterman (Medicine) | Naima Riaz (Public Health) |
| Rakshith Gopu (Councillor-at-Large) | Avni Patel (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences) | Treesa Friesen (MLCS) | Kathryn Lambert (Rehabilitation Science) |
| Yashita Singh (Councillor-at-Large) | Jasen Aussant (Economics) | Noam Steinberg (Neuroscience) | Beckett Stark (Renewable Resources) |
| Md Solimul Chowdhury (Councillor-at-Large) | Banazeer Yaqoob (Educational Policy Studies) | Mary Olukotun (Nursing) | Michael Huang (REES) |
| Muhammad Zubair (Councillor-at-Large) | Lauren Trafford (Educational Psychology) | Takeisha Wang (Occupational Therapy) | Lindy Schaffrick (Surgery) |

Guests: Claudia Althoen (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences; GSA EDIC Nominee); Ana Perdomo (Business MBA; GSA EDIC Nominee).

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

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

Speaker offered an updated and more extensive land acknowledgement, a result of work with Dr. Florence Glanfield and the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association:

The GSA and the University of Alberta reside on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway, Saulteaux, Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to

influence our vibrant community. In acknowledging this traditional territory and its significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived and continue to live upon it, we recognize its longer history that reaches beyond colonization and the establishment of European colonies and recognize the GSA's ongoing collective responsibility in working with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) peoples and what that means for the work of the GSA as it aims to practice the principles of being Good Relations with FNMI peoples, Nations, communities, and lands.

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of the 18 January 2021 Consolidated Agenda

Members had before them the 18 January 2021 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. P Chaudhuri Basu **MOVED**; J Kennedy **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

2. Minutes from the 16 November 2021 GSA Council Meeting

Members had before them the 16 November 2021 GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed on 8 January 2021. N Daniel **MOVED**; U Nimmathi **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

i. **Introduction of New Councillors:** N Riaz (Public Health); M Gauthier (Communication Sciences & Disorders); L Cooke (Physics).

ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** None

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. GSA Council Member Announcements

P Chaudhuri Basu invited members to attend Startup Edmonton's Student Developers Conference DEVCON happening 16-19 February 2021. The event was free and online and could be registered for at: <https://studentstartuplife.com/devcon21>.

E O'Neil informed members that the Digital Humanities Student Association call for proposals for DiHuCon2021 was live. Please consider submitting a paper or workshop: <https://sites.google.com/uAlberta.ca/dihucon2021/home>.

Action Items

5. Establishment of GSA Labour Fund

U Nimmathi (Vice-President Labour) presented the item and noted that the fund, if established, would initially be grown with a one-time transfer of funds from the GSA's operating budget surplus at the end of the fiscal year, followed by a vote concerning the collection of a union due to be circulated to academically-employed graduate students (AEGSs). He noted that this vote would be circulated later in the winter term and the amount collected would be further discussed by the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) and would be dependent on the approval of AEGSs.

MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the establishment of a restricted fund (GSA Labour Union Fund) to be used to support the GSA's work as a labour union (with the utilization and reporting of such funds to be done in compliance with the provisions of the *Labour Relations Code*).

In the ensuing discussion, members raised a number of points, including but not limited to: the numbers of AEGSs (the number varied between terms but approximately 3,000 graduate students were members of the bargaining unit in a given term); the amount of the proposed union due (it was noted that comparable examples from other unions representing AEGSs were being considered by the GSA LRC and that any proposed due would be subject to a vote by AEGSs); the importance of such a fund as a source of leverage in bargaining processes; whether a union due would be deducted from the award portion of an AEGS's stipend or only from the salary portion (it was clarified that deductions would likely come from the salary component only but that this was also subject to the approval of members of the bargaining unit); whether the stipend of the Vice-President Labour would be paid from such a fund (it was noted that much of this conversation was dependent on the ramifications of the province's recently passed Bill 32 legislation and may involve an overhaul of the portfolio of the Vice-President Labour so that their focus was confined solely to labour matters (currently they served on a small collection of non-labour related committees and assisted with non-labour related projects but the implications of Bill 32 were such that this may change); whether individual AEGSs could opt out of a union due (it was noted that there was no legal requirement to have an opt-out mechanism and not having one would ensure sustained growth of the fund); whether votes on union dues would occur annually (it was

noted that, once approved, unless there were a change to the due being considered, votes would not need to occur regularly); when the fund would be grown to a level that a strike action could be meaningfully considered and whether forecasting on this matter had been conducted (it was noted that research and forecasting were ongoing and that many variables were at play (number of hours each AEGS worked and the number of members of the bargaining unit in a given term (both of which would affect the amount of dues collected if a percentage of salary model was approved), the potential length of a strike action (a largely unknowable factor until such an action actually occurred, although research on the duration of strikes among comparable bargaining units was ongoing), and that union labour funds were not typically designed to provide payments comparable to full salary in the event of a strike action); the background associated with the development of such a fund and why it had not occurred earlier (it was noted that members should review the confidential newsletter that was circulated to AEGSs in December and attached to the mailing of GSA Council meeting materials); *and* whether a communications plan for AEGSs regarding the creation of said fund was being considered (it was noted that preliminary communications were circulated to AEGSs and further updates, developed by the GSA LRC, were being discussed on an ongoing basis).

Additionally, a member expressed that, while they endorsed the concept of a labour fund, they felt it was a very important decision that required a great measure of due diligence and that not enough information was presented to make an informed decision (several other members were in agreement and it was noted that members should review the confidential newsletter that was circulated to AEGSs in December and which was included as an attachment in the mailing of GSA Council meeting materials, as it might help to provide additional information, and that future decisions regarding the growth and management of such a fund would be determined by the will of AEGSs and that information would continue to be shared with them regularly).

MOTION: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the establishment of a restricted fund (GSA Labour Union Fund) to be used to support the GSA's work as a labour union (with the utilization and reporting of such funds to be done in compliance with the provisions of the *Labour Relations Code*). M Kelley **MOVED**; L Trafford **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**; M Huang, N Daniel, and P Chaudhuri Basu Opposed; J May, A Watson Abstained.

Discussion Items

6. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP): Update to GSA Council

Marc Waddingham (President) opened with a recognition of the members of the GSA community that had been lost on Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS 752 last year. He noted that GSA Executive was available to assist anyone seeking support, and that the GSA would be installing a memorial plaque in Triffo Hall with the names of the GSA members lost, an initiative of past GSA President, F Elian.

M Waddingham then presented the item and reviewed the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) for the benefit of new members, noting that it was a practice and project that the GSA Executive undertake each year to establish goals and a vision for the next year, and that updating GSA Council helped to demonstrate where the GSA Executive had succeeded. He noted that the SWP focused on three key pillars: connect, support, and advocate.

M Waddingham next highlighted, under the Connect pillar, the establishment of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC), which would assist the GSA in upholding these principles as well as a watchful eye on how the University upheld these principles. U Nimmathi (GSA VP Labour) then highlighted the ongoing negotiations for the next Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement and increased communication with Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs) via the AEGS newsletter. He noted that town halls would be upcoming regarding the new Collective Agreement and encouraged members to attend.

M Waddingham then highlighted, under the Support pillar, the ongoing response to COVID-19 and the work that had been done to support international students through an open letter in partnership with the Students' Union and the International Students' Association to University President B Flanagan regarding mandatory asynchronous learning, the GSA's work with Studentcare that clarified the limits of services provided to members living outside of Alberta and outside of Canada, and the installment of a retroactive opt out program for those who would not be able to come to Canada during the policy year. He also noted that the GSA had increased support through the GSA Emergency Bursary with an extra \$200,000 transferred into this service and \$250,000 transferred to the University's Supplementary Bursary program to further assist graduate students during the pandemic. Most of these funds were transferred from the GSA's Academic Travel Grant fund, as this granting program was underutilized during the pandemic. He then highlighted the ongoing U-Pass negotiations, noting that the GSA had worked with other student associations across Edmonton to negotiate with Edmonton Transit Service for the next U-Pass agreement. He noted that while the cost may increase, it would remain the most affordable option for most students.

A Fassih next highlighted, under the Advocacy pillar, the GSA's work with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) and the participation in ab-GPAC's Advocacy Week in December, where members met with 18 MLAs and advocated for 4 key priorities for graduate students in Alberta, as well as prepared submissions to the Alberta Government regarding the McKinsey and Company review, Alberta 2030, and performance-based funding. ab-GPAC advocated against performance-based funding, which had been postponed by the Alberta Government for one year. He also noted that the GSA had been working with the Edmonton Student Alliance, posing questions and writing letters to city councillors regarding the concerns of graduate students. He then noted the GSA's financial contribution to Public Interest Alberta's campaign to reverse government cuts to post-secondary education and raise awareness of these cuts. S Reddy discussed the Graduate Supervisory Excellence Initiative and the ongoing work the GSA had done to support the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) in this effort, as well as advocating for asynchronous learning.

Members raised a number of points in the ensuing discussion, including, among others: when would performance-based funding be delayed until and when would Alberta 2030 be released (performance-based funding had been postponed for one year, but no details had been given on when exactly it would be; it was unclear when the Alberta 2030 report would be released, but it was expected that the review would be completed in February-March 2021) and whether there been any major changes to the SWP goals (various opportunities had arose that the GSA engaged in, including preliminary talks with the Students' Union on a daycare pilot project, asynchronous learning, the implications of academic restructuring, adjustments with Studentcare, etc).

7. Academic Restructuring Update

M Waddingham (President) presented the item and noted that the academic restructuring initiative was undertaken by University administration in a climate of severe budgetary reductions by the UCP government and then reviewed the various models that were previously put forward to General Faculties Council (GFC) and then, ultimately, approved by the Board of Governors (BoG) (with the GSA and Students' Union representatives dissenting on the question of the leadership model for the new structure and supporting the model advanced by GFC, which was voted down by the BoG). He also commented on the newly seconded Deans who would head the various colleges and noted that the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) initiative was set to fully begin in June of 2021 and he hoped that the member of University Administration overseeing SET, R Munro, would be able to attend GSA Council in the coming months to take questions directly from GSA Council members. M Waddingham also noted that engagement at the departmental level was now key – he urged GSA Council members to pay close attention to departmental conversations and get involved and bring forward issues to the GSA and to GSA Council and emphasized that local organization was critical. He likewise noted that the intention of having this item as a standing item on forthcoming GSA Council agendas was to create a centralized hub to share concerns, ask questions, and bolster advocacy efforts.

In the ensuing discussion, members raised a number of points, including but not limited to: was there going to be room made for graduate students to discuss academic restructuring within the GSA (this would be a standing item on the GSA Council agenda, as the highest governing body; forming a GSA committee was discussed, but given the global nature of academic restructuring and its effect on all GSA members, it seemed most fair to keep the discussion in GSA Council, where there was the broadest representation and discussion could be immediate, whereas forming a committee and populating it would take time) and why M Waddingham abstained from voting at GFC and the BoG in December (there were three motions recommended to GFC concerning the college model, the organization of the colleges, and how they would be governed, and GFC opted to recommend that a college of deans be created, as opposed to executive dean positions; M Waddingham noted that he was only one of 15 graduate student representatives on GFC and that S Reddy (the Vice-President Academic) was actually the GSA's statutory member, and that M Waddingham had voted in favour of the first two motions, but felt that there was conflicting information on the final motion and chose to abstain as an individual.; he also noted that as GFC had oversight on academic matters, it was important to vote in at the BoG in a manner that reflected GFC's role, and so he voted in favour of the first two motions, but, following several amendments made to the third motion by the BoG that he did not feel were aligned with GFC's recommendation, he voted against it).

Elections

8. GSA Council Elections

Nadia Daniel (GSA Nominating Committee Member) presented the items.

Standing Committees

- a. **GSA Board (GSAB)** (1 vacancy for a GSA Councillor)
Erin O'Neil (Media and Technology Studies)

N Daniel asked the nominee the following: “please tell us why you'd like to serve on the GSA Board” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

- b. GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (GSA EDIC) (11 vacancies for GSA Members)
 - Claudia Althoen (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)
 - Mashal (Nursing)
 - Kallum McDonald (Agriculture, Food, and Nutritional Science)
 - Ana Perdomo (MBA)
 - Andrea Petryk (MBA)
 - Simran Pherwani (Medical Science)
 - Varshini Prakash (Computing Science)
 - Nicole Rodriguez (Pediatrics)
 - Danni Xu (Nursing)
 - Lisa Zhu (MBA)

As not all nominees were present; no oral statements were made.

- c. GSA Board (GSAB) and GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) (1 vacancy for a GSA Councillor)
 - Maura Roberts (Political Science)

Speaker presented this item and asked the nominee the following: “please tell us why you'd like to serve on the GSA Board and the GSA Nominating Committee” and the nominee was given the opportunity to respond.

Reports

9. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Waddingham acknowledged the one-year anniversary of the Flight PS752 tragedy, an incident that claimed the lives of ten University community members. M Waddingham also highlighted several items from his report, such as ongoing work on tuition and fees, an issue that would always be a point of contention with Administration. He noted he would continue to meet with the Provost to discuss these increases and how they affected graduate students, and to offer alternative strategies.

He noted that AB2030 had been delayed to a degree and Skills for Jobs was a sector-wide review to look deeply at Alberta post-secondary and to propose how it could be adjusted or improved. M Waddingham commented that the process had, so far, lacked transparency and the proposals brought forward were not what graduate students would have proposed (some were simply too outdated); other parts of the process were not being addressed at all. Indeed, although the Alberta government has said the province's post-secondary institutions have a problem with skills for jobs, the available statistics did not suggest that. A member asked where these statistics could be found and M Waddingham explained that while the Ministry of Advanced Education had numbers from post-graduate surveys, they were about a decade old. The University more recently released confidential numbers broken down by field; if these were made public, M Waddingham would find them.

M Waddingham also shared a recent Students' Union proposal brought forward for the University to hire a Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator. The job description was currently under consideration, as well as how it would fit within the governance structure. The proposal included a modest increase to the Health & Wellness Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) (\$4 on a fee of over \$100). Member were encouraged to contact M Waddingham for questions or comments regarding this increase and no concerns were raised with that fee being increased to support the initiative.

ii. GSA Board

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. The report stood as submitted.

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

No written report at this time.

iv. GSA Governance Committee

No written report at this time.

10. Vice-President Academic

i. Vice-President Academic's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. S Reddy highlighted the meetings he attended, including the General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC) meeting where they continued to discuss synchronous and asynchronous learning challenges as well as the institutional Clean Air Strategy, which addressed moving toward an entirely smoke-free campus, continued meetings with Dean Milne of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) to discuss the one-time COVID-related funding now available, and the FGSR Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC) that met to make recommendations to GFC, in this instance, regarding deferrals.

He noted that FGSR had announced a new support program intended to alleviate financial pressures for students with immediate financial needs in the Winter 2021 term that have arisen directly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/awards-and-funding/scholarships/fgsr-covid-graduate-student-support.html>. Applications opened on Monday, January 18, 2021 and closed on Friday, 22 January 2021 at 4 PM.

11. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. In addition, A Fassih stated that the Public Interest Alberta Post-Secondary Education Campaign, which the GSA contributed to financially, launched on 11 January with letters to MLAs. GSA Council members were encouraged to also send letters to their own MLA. Members could go to the campaign website for further information: <https://www.stopsecuts.ca/action>.

He also noted that the GSA had received 141 applications for the GSA Recognition Awards and the adjudication process would begin soon.

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.

12. Vice-President Labour

i. Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. In addition, U Nimmathi stated that the GSA Negotiating Team hoped to conclude collective agreement negotiations by the end of the month and would begin hosting town halls soon after that. GSA Council members were welcome to share this information with their Academically-Employed Graduate Student (AEGS) constituents.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No written report at this time.

13. Vice-President Student Services

i. Vice-President Student Services' Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. The report stood as submitted.

14. Senator

i. Senator's Report

No written report at this time.

15. Speaker

i. Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

16. Chief Returning Officer

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Huang stated that the 2021 GSA General Election and associated referenda would be starting soon and encouraged all who were motivated to throw their hats in the ring and participate in this democratic experience.

M Waddingham pointed out that the campaign season would look different this year with many building closures and a lack of in-person campaigning and M Huang agreed that an increase in online campaigning was expected this year as in-person, on-campus campaigning was not permitted.

M Huang also noted that the International Students' Association was considering hosting its own forum, in addition to and separate from the one the GSA would host. Outside forums were welcome and those interested in hosting one were encouraged to contact the M Huang.

17. GSA Nominating Committee

i. GSA Nominating Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, N Daniel stated that a number of vacancies were still available and strongly encouraged members to consider these positions. For those concerned about the time commitment, it was noted it was often minimal (for example, only 4 email correspondences related to the GSA Governance Committee since May and no meetings). Members were encouraged to consider these positions and not to let scheduling be a deterrent.

18. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. The report stood as submitted.

19. GSA Management

i. Executive Director's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 15 January 2021. The report stood as submitted. In addition, C Thomas stated that the GSA was focusing on work associated with the 2021 General Election and associated referenda, as well as the development of next year's operating budget. She noted that Budget 101 sessions would be offered in February to those interested.

Question Period

20. Written Questions: No written questions were submitted.

21. Oral Questions: No oral questions were raised.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.



Dear Colleagues,

11 February 2021

As President and Chair of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, I am excited to present you with the recommended GSA 2021-2022 operating budget. In assembling this budget, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) reviewed multiple budget scenarios over December and January (following an initial meeting to discuss budget priorities in November) and I am confident that a great deal of work and consideration have gone into the attached recommended budget.

Below I have summarized the assumptions made when developing this budget as well as the key elements of this budget organized by budget line heading. Let me stress that the GSA remains in an excellent financial position; I look forward to further discussing the proposed budget with you on 22 February.

Assumptions:

COVID-19 prevention measures will be relaxed by September 2021; this assumption is applied to GSA revenue (in particular the revenue associated with the lease payments for the Chopped Leaf food venue) and selectively to expenses (including business travel, isolated human resources expenses, and expenses associated with hosting GSA Council meetings and other events). This is a very conservative approach that essentially projects reduced revenue and commensurately reduced expenses for April to August, and then normal expenditures and revenue thereafter. Should COVID-19 prevention measures not ease by September 2021 then revenues will decrease (owing to lower investment interest rates, potential decreases in enrolment, and possibly further reduced revenue associated with the Chopped Leaf food venue) but spending will also decrease and projections will be amended in the term financial reports (similar to how this was handled in 2020-2021).

Enrollment will remain static at 2020-2021 levels and increase at 1% each year thereafter. Should enrollment either increase or decrease, projections will be amended in the term financial reports.

A Consumer Price Index (CPI) factor equivalent to that being used by the University has been utilized (1.7%).

Operating Budget (projected inflationary increases based on the Consumer Price Index applied to multiple lines based on previous budgets; other recommended changes noted below):

Revenue – GSA Fees

Following on a 4% decrease in the GSA membership fee in 2020-2021 (at which point lower potential future decreases were also discussed), the GSA BFC reviewed the economic impacts of COVID-19 prevention measures set against an array of different budget scenarios and members agreed that it was advisable to not further decrease the GSA membership fee at this time. Thus, it is now recommended that the GSA membership fee remain at its 2020-2021 level for 2021-2022. This allows the GSA to achieve a more balanced budget while also allowing for small annually declining surpluses in case revenue further decreases as a result of a drop in enrollment or other factors.

Revenue – External Committed Funding (Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Dean of Students)

In 2020-2021, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (from whom request funds annually) provided \$3,000 instead of the \$5,000 offered in previous years as a result of the University's fiscal constraints. As these constraints will no doubt persist in 2021-2022, it is recommended that this be decreased from \$5,000 to \$3,000. Additionally, the GSA's agreement with TDIMM (expiring in September 2021) has been renegotiated and the amount of the sponsorship provided to the GSA through that agreement will remain at its current level for the period 2021-2026. The Studentcare agreement was renewed in April 2020 for a 5-year term (beginning 1 September 2020) with an increase in sponsorship commitment of \$3,000 per year.



Revenue – Commercial Activities

With campus closures and the Students' Union providing reduced rent to its tenants, we will receive less than previously budgeted in association with the rent related to the Chopped Leaf food venue. Currently, the GSA is receiving \$500/month in relation to this and this amount is projected to be in place for the next fiscal year.

Expenses – Advocacy

Recommendation of reduced spending until September 2021 in the "Business Travel and External Relations and Advocacy" line until September. Additionally, the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council is pursuing a \$0.50 increase to their membership fee. As the GSA benefits from the advocacy work of this body, which provides reports and updates to GSA Council, it is recommended that this line be increased to accommodate the new membership rate of \$4.50 per graduate student per year.

Expenses – Services

As funding for academic workshop subsidies, external grants, and GSA Graduate Student Group Grants has increased over the past several years and the GSA is still in a climate of fiscal uncertainty, it is recommended to leave the budget for these lines at 2020-2021 levels. A modest increase in support for the Campus Food Bank of \$3,000 (as was planned for in last year's budget) is recommended based on usage reports. The addition of \$5,000 under "Grants and Subsidies" is recommended to facilitate a partnership with the Students' Union on an annual corporate membership for a pilot daycare program for the children of students who parent through Kids & Company child care (details on this pilot are forthcoming, and program launch is expected to take place in Fall 2021). An increase of \$1,000 to the "GSA Council Remuneration" line is also proposed, based on a projection of 69 departments/groups potentially eligible for remuneration at \$250 each. Based on spending levels in 2020-2021, a small increase to the "External Grants" line is recommended (bringing the total amount of funding available to \$4,000). Finally, it is recommended to apply a small increase to the "Engagement, Orientation, and Outreach" line to permit continued advertising on SUTV (as the GSA's events calendar essentially runs from September to March, this line reflects the assumption made throughout the budget that expenditures return to pre-COVID levels by September 2021).

Expenses – Governance

Increases to "Directly-Elected Officer Benefits" to reflect the new costs of the U-Pass (pending a February 2021 referendum vote) and the GSA Health and Dental Plan (see below under "Restricted"). Additionally, recommended decrease to the "Committee Food and Other Expenses" line as this line is historically underspent.

Expenses – Human Resources

Increase to the "Support Staff Development" line in accordance with the newly renegotiated collective agreement covering the GSA's NASA-represented staff. Increases to other lines to reflect the new costs of the Graduate Student Assistance Program and the GSA Health and Dental Plan (see below under "Restricted"). Recommended removal of the "Parking" line, as the small costs associated with paying for occasional parking costs can be absorbed into other lines.

Expenses – Office Administration and Operational Costs

Amounts in the "Capital Items" line accord with projected expenses in the GSA's ten-year evergreening plan concerning anticipated purchases). Funds from "Office Supplies and Maintenance" carried over from 2020-2021 to support a long-planned space reconfiguration within the office to provide more functionality for staff members. "Computer Software" line updated to reflect annual costs associated with recently acquired software, including Microsoft 365 and ActiveCampaign.

Expenses – Professional

Recommended decrease of \$5,000 to the "Consultants" line, based on a lack of projected consulting needs for next year. Recommended increase of \$1,000 to the "Investment Advisor" line, based on actual costs in 2020-2021.

Restricted:*GSA Planner*

Anticipate selling no ad space in 2021, as a result of COVID-related financial pressures, beyond the dedicated payments received from Studentcare and the Office of the Dean of Students and so recommend reducing that line from \$9,500 to the actual amount received, as per negotiated agreements, from Studentcare and the Dean of Students. The costs of printing Planners will be accordingly offset from the "Engagement, Orientation, and Outreach" line in the operating budget.

Graduate Student Support Fund

The University has indicated that they will maintain funding for the Graduate Student Support Fund in 2021-2022 at 2020-2021 levels (\$964,000), although this may change in later years.

Graduate Student Assistance Program

The fee is proposed to increase via referendum vote in February 2021 from \$12 per graduate student per year to \$21.80, \$10.90 per fall term and \$10.90 per winter term but, pending the results of that referendum, the funds presented here remain the same as in 2020-2021.

GSA Health and Dental Plan

Projected 5% increase; GSA Council will set the fee in March 2021.

U-Pass

Pending the results of the upcoming referendum concerning the U-Pass program, the GSA, as opposed to the University, may be collecting and remitting the U-Pass fee to the transit providers. While a restricted budget line related to this has not yet been added, should the contract extension for the service be approved at the end of February in the referendum, this will be built into forthcoming term financial reports.

My thanks to the members of the GSA's financial team (Accountant Shirley Ball, Financial Manager Dorte Sheikh, Executive Director Courtney Thomas, and Associate Director Erika Heiberg) and the members of the GSA BFC. I'll be happy to answer any questions when we meet on 22 February 2021.



Marc Waddingham, President and Chair of the GSA BFC

Outline of Issue

**Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2021-2022) and Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2021-2022)
AND
Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) and Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year
Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024)**

Suggested Motions for GSA Council:

MOTION 1: That GSA Council **APPROVE**, having also been unanimously recommended by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board, the Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2021-2022) (found on pages 5.5 to 5.13 in the attached material in the “2021-2022 Budget for Approval” column bordered in red on each page) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2021-2024) (found on page 5.25 to 5.26 in the attached material in the “2021-2022 Budget for Approval” column bordered in red).

MOTION 2: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION**, having been reviewed and advised upon by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and recommended to GSA Council by the GSA Board, the Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) and the Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) (pages 5.5 to 5.13 and 5.25 to 5.26 in the attached material).

Background:

The GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) unanimously recommended to GSA Council the Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2021-2022) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2021-2022) at its meeting of 25 January 2021. The GSA BFC also reviewed and advised upon the Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) and Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024). Members of the GSA BFC have been invited to attend the 22 February 2021 GSA Council meeting.

The GSA Board (GSAB), as the “senior administrative authority” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section: F, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, Section F.POL.3.2.a), also recommended to GSA Council the Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2021-2022) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2021-2024) and recommended that GSA Council receive for information the Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) and Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) at its 10 February 2021 meeting.

See the attached cover letter from the President and GSA BFC Chair for full background.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Bylaw, Finances, Section K.BYL.1.1:

“The Executive Director (or delegate), Accountant, Financial Manager, and the President, in consultation with the GSA Board and Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC), will draft an annual budget as part of a three (3) year, rolling budget and business plan, to be reviewed by the GSA BFC no later than the GSA BFC’s last meeting in the February prior to the April in which the annual budget will take effect. The GSA BFC will advise and recommend to GSA Council via the GSA Board (GSAB) on the annual budget. The GSAB will forward the GSA BFC’s recommendation with its own recommendation to GSA Council.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Bylaw, Finances, Section K.BYL.1.2:

“GSA Council will receive a recommendation on the annual operating and capital budgets, together with a recommended three (3) year budget and business plan, no later than its March regular meeting.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee, Section K.POL.3.1:

“The overall mandate of the GSA BFC is to advise the President and management on the financial affairs of the GSA and to provide for the long-term financial health of the organization. Members are expected, by GSA Council, to rise above any local/departmental views or issues and to take into account the needs of the GSA as a whole.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee, Section K.POL.3.4:

“The GSA BFC will review and advise on the annual three (3) year rolling budget and business plan.”

Prepared by E Heiberg for GSA Council 22 February 2021

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee, Section K.POL.3.5:

"The GSA BFC will make recommendations to GSA Council on the annual operating and capital budgets."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures, Section K.POL.5.1.a:

"In planning and managing its budget, the GSA will ... be open and transparent, encouraging comprehensive input and consultation from both the GSA Board (GSAB) and the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures, Section K.POL.5.1.b:

"In planning and managing its budget, the GSA will ... take into account the GSA's vision, mission, and mandate, which are based largely on the GSA's duties as set out in the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA), and be guided by the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures, Section K.POL.5.1.c:

"In planning and managing its budget, the GSA will ... ensure the long-term viability and robust health of a fees-driven organization which delivers a range of services."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures, Section K.POL.5.1.e:

"In planning and managing its budget, the GSA will ... facilitate long-term planning by developing a three (3) year rolling budget and business plan for revenue and expenditure."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures, Section K.POL.5.1.f:

"In planning and managing its budget, the GSA will ... enable provision of the key financials, budget projections, information notes, and any other documentation required by GSA Council, the GSAB, GSA BFC, or the GSA's Auditor."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures, Section K.POL.5.1.j:

"In planning and managing its budget, the GSA shall ... propose to GSA Council a budget that represents all aspects of the GSA's operations."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures, Section K.POL.6.1:

"The Unrestricted and Restricted Operating Budget will be organized into broad budget divisions which are presented to the GSA BFC, the GSAB, and GSA Council in the fall, winter, and spring/summer terms reports and the annual three (3) year rolling budget and business plan."

The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta 2021-2024 GSA Operating Budget (including Capital Budget)

DRAFT ONLY-FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

NO CHANGE IN THE GSA FEE, 0%/1%/1% INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT PER YEAR AND 1.7% INCREASE INFLATION FACTOR APPLIED TO SELECTED EXPENSES. SEE NARRATIVE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY - OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET

| | 2021-2022 Budget for Approval | 2022-2023 Budget | 2023-2024 Budget | 2020-2021 Budget | 2019-2020 Actual |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| REVENUE | | | | | |
| Annual GSA Membership Fees | 1,184,184 | 1,196,026 | 1,207,986 | 1,169,558 | 1,234,299 |
| Interest Income | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 30,000 | 39,292 |
| External Committed Funding | 26,880 | 26,880 | 26,880 | 25,880 | 26,380 |
| Revenue from Commercial Activities | 25,929 | 40,162 | 40,162 | 40,162 | 40,162 |
| Other Revenue | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 3,603 |
| Total Revenue | 1,253,293 | 1,279,368 | 1,291,328 | 1,266,900 | 1,343,736 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Advocacy | 48,472 | 60,349 | 61,121 | 54,935 | 48,024 |
| Services Expenses | 142,842 | 146,842 | 148,342 | 129,650 | 87,820 |
| Governance | 219,978 | 227,143 | 229,077 | 219,779 | 204,838 |
| Human Resources | 700,575 | 712,996 | 725,694 | 692,877 | 648,702 |
| Office Administration and Operational Costs | 43,946 | 36,991 | 41,207 | 44,267 | 20,990 |
| Professional | 60,700 | 60,700 | 61,700 | 64,200 | 30,575 |
| Operating/Contingency Fund | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 20,000 | 21,381 |
| Sub-total | 1,231,513 | 1,260,021 | 1,282,140 | 1,225,707 | 1,062,330 |
| Revenues Exceed Expenditures | 21,779 | 19,346 | 9,188 | 41,193 | 281,406 |

GOAL: BALANCED BUDGET

**The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta
2021-2024 GSA Operating Budget (including Capital Budget)**

NO CHANGE IN THE GSA FEE PER YEAR, 0%/1%/1% INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT PER YEAR AND 1.7% INCREASE INFLATION FACTOR APPLIED TO EXPENSES WHERE NOTED. SEE NARRATIVE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Revenue

| | 2021-2022 Budget for Approval | 2022-2023 Budget | 2023-2024 Budget | 2020-2021 Budget | 2019-2020 Actual | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| GSA Fees (see below for detailed calculations) | 1,184,184 | 1,196,026 | 1,207,986 | 1,169,558 | 1,234,299 | |
| Interest Income | | | | | | |
| Interest Income | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 30,000 | 39,292 | NO CPI, PER INTEREST RATES |
| External Committed Funding | | | | | | |
| Funding from the Dean of Students and the Dean of FGSR | 7,190 | 7,190 | 7,190 | 9,190 | 9,190 | PER AGREEMENT |
| Funding From Studentcare | 8,190 | 8,190 | 8,190 | 5,190 | 5,190 | AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE 2021-2022 |
| Funding from TDIMM | 11,500 | 11,500 | 11,500 | 11,500 | 12,000 | PER AGREEMENT |
| | 26,880 | 26,880 | 26,880 | 25,880 | 26,380 | |
| Revenue from Commercial Activities | | | | | | |
| Chopped Leaf (in Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre) Revenue | 25,929 | 40,162 | 40,162 | 40,162 | 40,162 | PER AGREEMENT |
| Other Revenue | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 3,603 | NO CPI |
| Total | 1,253,293 | 1,279,368 | 1,291,328 | 1,266,900 | 1,343,736 | |

| GSA Fees (Calculations) | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of full-time graduate students (estimate) | 6,390 | 6,454 | 6,518 |
| Fees (per annum per student) | 156.02 | 156.02 | 156.02 |
| | 996,968 | 1,006,937 | 1,017,007 |
| Number of part-time graduate students (estimate) | 1,600 | 1,616 | 1,632 |
| Fees (per annum per student) | 117.01 | 117.01 | 117.01 |
| | 187,216 | 189,088 | 190,979 |
| | 1,184,184 | 1,196,026 | 1,207,986 |

The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta
2021-2024 GSA Operating Budget (including Capital Budget)

NO CHANGE IN THE GSA FEE PER YEAR, 0%/1%/1% INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT PER YEAR AND 1.7% INCREASE INFLATION FACTOR APPLIED TO EXPENSES WHERE NOTED. SEE NARRATIVE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Advocacy

| | 2021-2022 Budget for | 2022-2023 Budget | 2023-2024 Budget | 2020-2021 Budget | 2019-2020 Actual | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Advocacy | | | | | | |
| Business Travel and External Relations and Advocacy | 11,500 | 23,000 | 23,391 | 22,475 | 16,554 | |
| University Relations | 1,017 | 1,034 | 1,052 | 1,000 | 634 | CPI |
| Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) | 35,955 | 36,315 | 36,678 | 31,460 | 30,836 | BASED ON GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLMENT |
| Total | 48,472 | 60,349 | 61,121 | 54,935 | 48,024 | |
| ab-GPAC Estimate | | | | | | |
| Student Numbers | 7,990 | 8,070 | 8,151 | | | |
| Fee Per Student | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | | | |
| Total | 35,955 | 36,315 | 36,678 | | | |

inflation factor 1.0170

**The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta
2021-2024 GSA Operating Budget (including Capital Budget)**

NO CHANGE IN THE GSA FEE PER YEAR, 0%/1%/1% INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT PER YEAR AND 1.7% INCREASE INFLATION FACTOR APPLIED TO EXPENSES WHERE NOTED. SEE NARRATIVE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Services Expenses

| | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2020-2021 | 2019-2020 | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| | Budget for Approval | Budget | Budget | Budget | Actual | |
| Grants and Subsidies | | | | | | |
| Academic Workshop Subsidies | 12,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 12,000 | 9,500 | INCREASE IN SUBSIDIES STARTING 2022-2023, NO CPI |
| External Grants | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 2,900 | 2,775 | INCREASE IN REQUESTS, NO CPI |
| Campus Food Bank | 23,000 | 25,000 | 26,500 | 20,000 | 15,000 | INCREASE IN SUBSIDY, NO CPI |
| Child Care Access (NEW) | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | | | NEW LINE, CHILD CARE ACCESS INITIATIVE WITH THE STUDENTS' UNION |
| | 44,000 | 48,000 | 49,500 | 34,900 | 27,275 | |
| Graduate Student Groups | | | | | | |
| GSA Council Remuneration | 17,250 | 17,250 | 17,250 | 16,250 | 14,000 | INCREASE DUE TO GROWTH OF COUNCIL, NO CPI |
| GSA Graduate Student Group Grant | 36,000 | 36,000 | 36,000 | 36,000 | 24,105 | NO CPI |
| | 53,250 | 53,250 | 53,250 | 52,250 | 38,105 | |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | |
| Annual Strategic Plan Initiatives | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 800 | |
| Engagement, Orientation, and Outreach | 31,342 | 31,342 | 31,342 | 29,000 | 19,605 | INCREASE TO ALLOW PURCHASE OF AD TIME ON SUTV, NO CPI |
| GSA Awards & Events | 11,750 | 11,750 | 11,750 | 11,000 | 2,035 | INCREASED TO INCLUDE NEW GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS AND EVENT HOSTING, NO CPI |
| | 45,592 | 45,592 | 45,592 | 42,500 | 22,440 | |
| Total | 142,842 | 146,842 | 148,342 | 129,650 | 87,820 | |

**The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta
2021-2024 GSA Operating Budget (including Capital Budget)**

NO CHANGE IN THE GSA FEE PER YEAR, 0%/1%/1% INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT PER YEAR AND 1.7% INCREASE INFLATION FACTOR APPLIED TO EXPENSES WHERE NOTED. SEE NARRATIVE FOR

Governance

| | 2021-2022 Budget for | 2022-2023 Budget | 2023-2024 Budget | 2020-2021 Budget | 2019-2020 Actual | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Directly-Elected Officers Stipends | | | | | | |
| Directly-Elected Officers Stipends (VPs) | 135,056 | 137,352 | 139,688 | 132,800 | 129,961 | CPI |
| President Stipend | 42,203 | 42,921 | 43,650 | 41,498 | 40,612 | CPI |
| | 177,259 | 180,273 | 183,338 | 174,298 | 170,573 | |
| Directly-Elected Officers Benefits | | | | | | |
| GSA Health and Dental Plan | 2,627 | 2,758 | 579 | 2,627 | 2,502 | |
| U-Pass | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,370 | 2,270 | PER AGREEMENT |
| | 5,327 | 5,458 | 3,279 | 4,997 | 4,772 | |
| Directly Elected Officers - Employer Contributions | | | | | | |
| Employer CPP Contributions | 8,707 | 9,278 | 9,867 | 8,232 | 8,078 | COMPLIES WITH GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CPP RATES |
| Employer EI Contributions | 3,917 | 3,984 | 4,052 | 3,852 | 3,874 | COMPLIES WITH GOVERNMENT OF CANADA EI RATES |
| | 12,624 | 13,262 | 13,919 | 12,084 | 11,952 | |
| Directly-Elected Officers - Other Expenses | | | | | | |
| Insurance (<i>Director and Officer Liability Insurance</i>) | 1,326 | 1,349 | 1,372 | 1,304 | 1,035 | CPI |
| Transition/Discover Governance | 5,140 | 5,227 | 5,316 | 5,054 | 785 | CPI |
| Training/Development | 3,102 | 3,155 | 3,208 | 3,050 | 3,680 | CPI |
| Directly-Elected Officers' Expenses | 2,860 | 2,908 | 2,958 | 2,812 | 1,887 | CPI |
| GSA Standing Committee Food and Other Expenses | 500 | 509 | 517 | 1,501 | 497 | DECREASED |
| | 12,928 | 13,148 | 13,371 | 13,721 | 7,884 | |
| GSA Council Expenses | | | | | | |
| GSA Council Food and Other Expenses | 3,000 | 6,101 | 6,205 | 5,899 | 3,577 | DECREASED |
| Election Expenses | 3,621 | 3,682 | 3,745 | 3,560 | 2,729 | CPI |
| GSA Council Speaker Honorarium | 2,220 | 2,220 | 2,220 | 2,220 | 1,850 | NO CPI |
| Chief Returning Officer Honorarium | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | NO CPI |
| Other Honoraria | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | - | NO CPI |
| | 11,841 | 15,003 | 15,169 | 14,679 | 9,656 | |
| Total | 219,978 | 227,143 | 229,077 | 219,779 | 204,837 | |

inflation factor 1.017

**The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta
2021-2024 GSA Operating Budget (including Capital Budget)**

NO CHANGE IN THE GSA FEE PER YEAR, 0%/1%/1% INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT PER YEAR AND 1.7% INCREASE INFLATION FACTOR APPLIED TO EXPENSES WHERE NOTED. SEE NARRATIVE FOR ADDITIONAL

Human Resources

| | 2021-2022 Budget for Approval | 2022-2023 Budget | 2023-2024 Budget | 2020-2021 Budget | 2019-2020 Actual | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Support Staff (Represented by NASA) | | | | | | |
| Salaries | 293,773 | 298,690 | 303,691 | 285,752 | 230,495 | CPI |
| Benefits | | | | | | |
| Benefits | 23,142 | 23,446 | 23,844 | 22,500 | 18,157 | |
| RRSP | 31,820 | 32,361 | 32,911 | 30,938 | 24,965 | |
| GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSAP (Graduate Student Assistance Program) | 2,188 | 2,234 | 2,263 | 2,185 | 1,501 | |
| | 57,150 | 58,041 | 59,018 | 55,623 | 44,623 | |
| Employer Contributions | | | | | | |
| Employer CPP Contributions | 12,664 | 13,728 | 14,804 | 11,560 | 9,499 | COMPLIES WITH GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CPP RATES |
| Employer EI Contributions | 4,981 | 4,981 | 4,981 | 4,796 | 4,090 | COMPLIES WITH GOVERNMENT OF CANADA EI RATES |
| | 17,645 | 18,709 | 19,785 | 16,356 | 13,589 | |
| Other | | | | | | |
| Staff Development (\$1500 per staff) | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 3,200 | 1,600 | INCREASE PER CONTRACT |
| Professional Development | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | - | |
| | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 4,700 | 1,600 | |
| Total for Support Staff Represented by NASA | 376,068 | 382,940 | 389,994 | 362,431 | 290,307 | |
| Administrative/Professional Staff | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Merit Pay | | | | | | |
| Salaries | 236,087 | 240,024 | 244,027 | 243,441 | 254,963 | CPI |
| Merit Pay | 23,776 | 23,776 | 23,776 | 23,776 | 28,776 | |
| | 259,863 | 263,800 | 267,803 | 267,217 | 283,739 | |
| Benefits | | | | | | |
| Benefits | 17,144 | 17,435 | 17,732 | 17,030 | 20,234 | |
| RRSP | 23,573 | 23,973 | 24,381 | 23,417 | 27,822 | |
| GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSAP (Graduate Student Assistance Program) | 1,639 | 1,718 | 1,801 | 1,639 | 2,335 | |
| | 42,356 | 43,126 | 43,914 | 42,086 | 50,391 | |
| Employer Contributions | | | | | | |
| Employer CPP Contributions | 8,520 | 9,188 | 9,865 | 7,868 | 9,235 | COMPLIES WITH GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CPP RATES |
| Employer EI Contributions | 3,378 | 3,392 | 3,406 | 3,277 | 4,041 | COMPLIES WITH GOVERNMENT OF CANADA EI RATES |
| | 11,898 | 12,580 | 13,271 | 11,145 | 13,276 | |
| Total for Administrative/Professional Staff | 314,117 | 319,506 | 324,988 | 320,448 | 347,406 | |
| Other HR Expenses | | | | | | |
| Office Recognition | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 820 | NO CPI |
| Professional Expense Allowance | 6,886 | 7,003 | 7,122 | 6,771 | 8,591 | CPI |
| Workers' Compensation | 2,504 | 2,546 | 2,590 | 2,227 | 1,578 | PER PREMIUM + CPI |
| | 10,390 | 10,550 | 10,712 | 9,998 | 10,989 | |
| Total | 700,575 | 712,996 | 725,694 | 692,877 | 648,702 | |

inflation factor 1.017

**The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta
2021-2024 GSA Operating Budget (including Capital Budget)**

NO CHANGE IN THE GSA FEE PER YEAR, 0%/1%/1% INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT PER YEAR AND 1.7% INCREASE INFLATION FACTOR APPLIED TO EXPENSES WHERE NOTED. SEE NARRATIVE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Office Administration and Operational Costs

| | 2021-2022 Budget for | 2022-2023 Budget | 2023-2024 Budget | 2020-2021 Budget | 2019-2020 Actual | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Capital Items (per evergreening plan) | 4,980 | 5,700 | 9,600 | 7,700 | 2,124 | PER EVERGREENING PLAN |
| Information Technology Service Agreement | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 3,150 | PER AGREEMENT |
| Telephone & Cable | 3,153 | 3,206 | 3,261 | 3,100 | 2,960 | CPI |
| Office Supplies and Maintenance | 13,000 | 5,100 | 5,187 | 13,000 | 2,550 | CPI + OFFICE REORGANIZATION |
| Computer Software | 7,541 | 7,669 | 7,800 | 5,236 | 2,742 | CPI + INCREASE FOR NEW SOFTWARE |
| Payroll and Banking Service Charges | 1,836 | 1,867 | 1,899 | 1,805 | 1,283 | CPI |
| Photocopier Lease and Meter | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 4,921 | PER AGREEMENT |
| General Liability Insurance (Office) | 712 | 724 | 736 | 700 | 535 | CPI |
| AMICCUS-C Membership | 725 | 725 | 725 | 725 | 725 | |
| Total | 43,946 | 36,991 | 41,207 | 44,266 | 20,990 | |

**The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta
2021-2024 GSA Operating Budget (including Capital Budget)**

NO CHANGE IN THE GSA FEE PER YEAR, 0%/1%/1% INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT PER YEAR AND 1.7% INCREASE INFLATION FACTOR APPLIED TO EXPENSES WHERE NOTED. SEE NARRATIVE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Professional

| | 2021-2022 Budget for | 2022-2023 Budget | 2023-2024 Budget | 2020-2021 Budget | 2019-2020 Actual |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Financial Auditing | 12,700 | 12,700 | 12,700 | 12,200 | 12,150 |
| Consultants | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 15,000 | - |
| Investment Advisor | 16,000 | 16,000 | 17,000 | 15,000 | 16,645 |
| Legal Fees - General | 22,000 | 22,000 | 22,000 | 22,000 | 1,780 |
| Total | 60,700 | 60,700 | 61,700 | 64,200 | 30,575 |

NO CPI, INCREASE AS PER 2020-2021 ACTUAL EXPENSE

INCREASE

NO CPI

2021-2024 GSA Operating Budget (including Capital Budget)

NO CHANGE IN THE GSA FEE PER YEAR, 0%/1%/1% INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT PER YEAR AND 1.7% INCREASE INFLATION FACTOR APPLIED TO EXPENSES WHERE NOTED. SEE NARRATIVE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Operating/Contingency Fund

| | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2020-2021 | 2019-2020 |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| | Budget for | Budget | Budget | Budget | Actual |
| Operating/Contingency Fund | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 20,000 | 21,381 DECREASED |
| Total | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 20,000 | 21,381 |

| Account Name and Budget | Brief Description | Narrative and Variance |
|---|---|---|
| REVENUE | | |
| GSA Fees | | |
| Annual GSA Membership Fees \$1,184,184 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) is supported by annual graduate student membership fees which are levied by GSA Council and collected by the University. The fees received are based on the number of full-time and part-time graduate students attending the University. Following approval of the fee amount by GSA Council, the annual fees are submitted to the University Board of Governors to provide for collection. ● Based on the three-year funding agreement signed between the GSA and the University on February 6, 2019, the GSA will receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 40% advance in May based on the projected fall/winter enrollment; ○ 90% (of fall term fees) in October based on the assessed fees for the fall/winter terms, <i>after the fall term 100% withdrawal deadline in October;</i> ○ 90% (of winter term fees) in February based on the assessed fees for the fall/winter terms, <i>after the winter term 100% withdrawal deadline in February;</i> ○ Final payment in April (next fiscal year) after the actual graduate student enrollment is reconciled. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No change in GSA fees ● For 2021-2022, the projected GSA revenue is \$1,184,184. This is based on fees paid by a projected 6,390 full-time graduate students (6,390 @ \$156.02 per graduate student) and a projected 1,600 part-time graduate students (1,600 @ \$117.01 per graduate student). ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,169,558. This was based on fees paid by 6,390 full-time graduate students (6,390@\$156.02 per graduate student) and 1,475 part-time graduate students (1,475@\$117.01). ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,234,299. |
| Interest Income | | |
| Interest Income \$15,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interest income on bank accounts is deposited monthly. ● The GSA also holds an investment portfolio and the income from these investments is re-invested and is reported in the annual audited financial statements. ● ATB Investment Management Inc. manages the investment portfolio in compliance with the GSA Investment Strategy. This strategy includes monthly reporting of the investment activity and bi-annual meetings with the investment advisor and the GSA Budget and Finance Committee. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Due to lower interest rates the interest income is decreasing. ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$30,000. ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$39,292. |

| External Committed Funding | | |
|---|---|---|
| Funding from the Dean of Students and the Dean of FGSR \$7,190 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This funding is described in letters from the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) and Dean of Students and covers, for instance, the expenses of the GSA-hosted fall and winter orientation events and other graduate student engagement activities. FGSR funding has to be requested yearly and was reduced by \$2,000 in 2020-2021. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget decreased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$9,190. The 2019-2020 actual was \$9,190. |
| Funding from Studentcare \$8,190 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studentcare provides \$8,190 per year to the GSA to be used for the benefit of graduate students entirely at the discretion of the GSA. The commitment is for a 5-year term: 2020-2025. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$5,190. The 2019-2020 actual was \$5,190. |
| Funding from TDIMM \$12,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed agreement with TD Insurance Meloche Monnex (TDIMM) (from 2021-2026) provides funding for various events and initiatives organized by the GSA, such as GSA Awards Night and orientation/engagement events. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$11,500. The 2019-2020 actual was \$11,500. |
| Revenue from Commercial Activities | | |
| Chopped Leaf (in Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre) Revenue \$40,162 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GSA has a financial arrangement, in the form of a sub-lease, with the Students' Union to receive rental revenue from the Chopped Leaf food outlet. Revenues commenced in August 2015. In 2020 there was a brief interruption in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a decrease in revenue is expected to continue through 2021-2022. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget decreased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$40,162. The 2019-2020 actual was \$40,162. |
| Other Revenue | | |
| Other Revenue \$1,300 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This line is used to record revenue that may arise from other sources such as Studentcare Continuum payments or one-time funding/grant opportunities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,300. The 2019-2020 actual was \$3,603. |

| EXPENSES | | |
|---|--|---|
| Advocacy | | |
| Business Travel and External Relations and Advocacy \$11,500 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship-building, with a focus on advocacy, between the GSA, government, and other organizations. (usually in the form of travel expenses, hosting, or meetings related to advocacy). In its Strategic Work Plan (SWP), the GSA Board (GSAB) identified the need for a strong voice at the table with the government (the Alberta government in particular) and other decision-making and influential groups at the local and national levels in order to promote the best interests of graduate students. Reduced spending from April 2021 until September 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Normal spending projected for the remainder of the year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$22,475. The 2019-2020 actual was \$16,554. |
| University Relations \$1,017 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenses related to the building and maintenance of relationships between the GSA and University units (usually in the form of hosting/meeting expenses). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$634. |
| ab-GPAC \$35,955 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees for the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) have been set at \$4 per graduate student per year, effective September 2018. ab-GPAC was formed under the <i>Societies Act</i> in October 2014. Its mandate is to lobby the Alberta government and promote the interests and concerns of graduate students. Budget increased due to the proposed increase of \$0.50 per student. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$31,460. The 2019-2020 actual was \$30,836. |
| Services | | |
| Grants and Subsidies | | |
| Academic Workshop Subsidies \$12,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidies to the Academic Success Centre and the Career Centre increased in 2020-2021 to ensure that their graduate student programs can be accessed by more students. Graduate students' reviews (reviewed regularly by the GSAB) of the workshops are outstanding. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$12,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$9,500. |
| External Grants \$4,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds request for external grants such as a grant for the Student Advisors' Conference and International Week. Budget increase due to increased requests. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$2,900. The 2019-2020 actual was \$2,775. |
| Campus Food Bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution made to the Campus Food Bank (CFB) (which was founded by | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>\$23,000 budget</p> | <p>the GSA) in recognition of the valuable support it provides to graduate students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFB Executive Director and Board Chair report annually to the GSAB. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2020-2021 budget was \$20,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$15,000. |
| <p>Child Care Access (NEW) \$5,000 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New budget line to support a partnership with the Students’ Union for a membership with a local daycare provider to facilitate limited child care services for students who parent. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New budget line for 2021-2022. |
| <p>Graduate Student Groups</p> | | |
| <p>GSA Council Remuneration \$17,250 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of \$250 for eligible graduate student groups based on the attendance of their Councillor at GSA Council meetings from 1 May to 30 April. Increased to reflect the actual numbers of eligible groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$16,250. The 2019-2020 actual was \$14,000. |
| <p>GSA Graduate Student Group Grant \$36,000 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GSA provides a grant program, ongoing through the year, for GSA Graduate Student Groups to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring in special guest lecturers or host events. Support the academic activities of graduate students. Provide modest start-up funding for new groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$36,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$24,105. |
| <p>Other Expenses</p> | | |
| <p>Annual Strategic Work Plan Initiatives \$2,500 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any new SWP initiatives may be funded from this account. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$2,500. The 2019-2020 actual was \$800. |
| <p>Engagement, Orientation, and Outreach \$31,342 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers the expenses of the GSA-hosted fall and winter orientation events for new graduate students, other engagement events, swag purchases and SUTV ads. Depending on graduate student demand for the GSA Planner, and the ad revenue, this budget is also used to cover the cost of printing additional Planners not covered by the revenue from ad sales. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$29,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$19,605. |
| <p>GSA Awards Night \$11,750 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenses for the annual GSA Awards Night (normally in March). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$11,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$2,035. |

| Governance | | |
|---|--|---|
| Directly-Elected Officer Stipends | | |
| Directly-Elected Officers Stipends \$177,259 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) include the President, the VP Academic, the VP External, the VP Labour, and the VP Student Services. In 2021-2022, the President receives an annual stipend of \$42,203 and the four VP positions each receive \$33,764. Any changes in the stipends above the Alberta Consumer Price Index are subject to explicit approval by GSA Council (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.2.3.b). ● Note that the stipends are gross stipends and include tax, Employment Insurance (EI) and Canada Pension Plan (CPP). Remittances are made on behalf of DEOs from their stipend totals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$174,298. ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$170,573. |
| Directly-Elected Officer Benefits | | |
| GSA Health and Dental Plan \$2,627 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The estimated 2021-2022 rate is \$525 per DEO per annum (assumes a 5% increase with the actual fee set by GSA Council in March). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget increased for 2021-2022. ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$2,627. ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$2,502. |
| U-Pass \$2,700 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The U-Pass is set at \$180 each term in 2021-2022 per agreement with the transit systems and municipal student associations. This amount is reimbursed in May, September, and January. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget increased for 2021-2022. ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$2,370. ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$2,270. |
| Directly-Elected Officer Employer Contributions | | |
| Employer CPP Contributions \$8,707 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CPP is calculated at the Government of Canada rate for 2021. ● This line shows the employer’s contribution only (not the employee contribution). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Detailed calculation performed on actual salaries. ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$8,232. ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$8,078. |
| Employer EI Contributions \$3,917 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EI is calculated at the Government of Canada rate for 2021. ● This line shows the employer’s contribution only (not the employee contribution). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Detailed calculation performed on actual salaries. ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$3,852. ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$3,874. |

| Directly-Elected Officers - Other Expenses | | |
|---|---|--|
| Insurance \$1,326 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directors and Officers Liability Insurance paid annually in January. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,304. The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,035. |
| Transition/Discover Governance (Early Call) \$5,140 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover Governance (formerly known as the Early Call for Talent and Training) programming occurs in the fall. Transition programming typically occurs in March and April. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. The 2020-2021 budget was \$5,054. The 2019-2020 actual was \$785. |
| Training/Development \$3,102 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenses for the training and development of the DEOs to promote the effective performance of their duties. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. The 2020-2021 budget was \$3,050. The 2019-2020 actual was: \$3,680. |
| Directly-Elected Officers' Expenses \$2,860 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenses related to hosting/food/conferences to pursue GSA goals or initiatives. (eg. one-on-one meetings with graduate students to discuss the role of the GSA in the lives of graduate students). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. The 2020-2021 budget was \$2,812. The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,887. |
| GSA Standing Committee Food and Other Expenses \$500 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of light refreshments, where warranted, at GSA standing committees meetings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget decreased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,501. The 2019-2020 actual was \$497. |
| GSA Council Expenses | | |
| GSA Council Food and Other Expenses \$3,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The estimate is based on 12 meetings per year. Provision of food at GSA Council (alternates between pizza and sandwich offerings) and other hosting expenses. Budget decreased for 2021-2022 as COVID-19 restrictions will likely preclude in-person meetings for approximately six months. Includes printing of GSA Council placards and celebratory/acknowledgement events. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget decreased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$5,899. The 2019-2020 actual was \$3,577. |
| Election Expenses \$3,621 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is used to cover expenses associated with the GSA General Election that takes place in February/March. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. The 2020-2021 budget was \$3,560. The 2019-2020 actual was \$2,729. |
| GSA Council Speaker Honorarium \$2,220 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker is paid an honorarium for chairing (and related duties) each GSA Council meeting (\$185 per meeting). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$2,220. The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,850. |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Chief Returning Officer Honorarium \$1,500 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) is paid an honorarium for managing the GSA General Election, including any by-elections and referenda. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,500. The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,500. |
| Other Honoraria \$1,500 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This pool of money may be used to pay an honorarium to an individual(s) for significant and high-level work similar to that done by the Speaker or CRO (eg. the Deputy Returning Officer needs to significantly assist the CRO for a significant period). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,500. The 2019-2020 actual was \$0. |
| Human Resources | | |
| Support Staff (Represented by NASA) | | |
| Support Staff - Salaries \$293,773 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are four full-time support staff positions. Includes contractual cost of living increases and one-time payments (eg. responsibility pay). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. The 2020-2021 budget was \$285,752. The 2019-2020 actual was \$230,495. |
| Support Staff – Benefits \$23,142 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculated on the basis of 8% of salary. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$22,500. The 2019-2020 actual was \$18,157. |
| Support Staff – RRSP \$31,820 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support staff receive RRSP payments for contribution to their own plans. Calculated on the basis of 11% of salary beginning in 2019-2020. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$30,938. The 2019-2020 actual was \$24,965. |
| Support Staff – GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSAP \$2,188 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The estimated 2021-2022 rate is \$525 per support staff member per annum (assumes a 5% increase with the actual fee set by GSA Council in March). The Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP) is \$21.80 per support staff per annum. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$2,185. The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,501. |
| Support Staff – Employer CPP Contributions \$12,664 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPP is calculated at the Government of Canada rate for 2021. This line shows the employer’s contribution only (not the employee contribution). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed calculation performed on actual salaries. The 2020-2021 budget was \$11,560. The 2019-2020 actual was \$9,499. |
| Support Staff – Employer EI Contributions \$4,981 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EI is calculated at the Government of Canada rate for 2021. This line shows the employer’s contribution only (not the employee contribution). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed calculation performed on actual salaries. The 2020-2021 budget was \$4,796. The 2019-2020 actual was \$4,090. |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Support Staff Development \$6,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The support staff NASA contract provides for support of \$1,500 per support staff for courses related to staff development. Budget increased due to change in contract. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$3,200. The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,600. |
| Support Staff Required Professional Development \$1,500 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This line is to support staff training and professional development opportunities as required by management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,500. New budget line for 2020-2021. |
| Administrative/Professional Staff | | |
| Administrative/ Professional Staff - Salaries \$236,087 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Director's (ED) salary and other employment related expenses are established in a contractual agreement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget decreased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$243,441. The 2019-2020 actual was \$254,963. |
| Administrative/ Professional Staff - Merit Pay \$23,776 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with the ED's contract, the ED has the opportunity to receive an annual merit payment. Additionally the other administrative/professional staff are eligible to receive merit payments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$23,776. The 2019-2020 actual was \$28,776. |
| Administrative/ Professional Staff - Benefits \$17,144 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculated on the basis of 8% of salary. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$17,030. The 2019-2020 actual was \$20,234. |
| Administrative/ Professional Staff - RRSP \$23,573 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative/professional staff receive RRSP payments for contribution to their own plans calculated on the basis of 11% of salary. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$23,417. The 2019-2020 actual was \$27,822. |
| Administrative/ Professional Staff - GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSAP \$1,639 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The estimated 2021-2022 rate is \$525 per administrative/professional staff per annum (assumes a 5% increase with the actual fee set by GSA Council in March). The GSAP is \$21.80 per administrative/professional staff per annum. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change for 2020-2021. The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,639. The 2019-2020 actual was \$2,335. |
| Administrative/ Professional Staff - Employer CPP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPP is calculated at the Government of Canada rate for 2021. This line shows the employer's contribution only (not the employee contribution). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed calculation performed on actual salaries. The 2020-2021 budget was \$7,868. |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Contributions \$8,520 budget | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$9,235. |
| Administrative/ Professional Staff - Employer EI Contributions \$3,378 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EI is calculated at the Government of Canada rate for 2021. ● This line shows the employer's contribution only (not the employee contribution). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Detailed calculation performed on actual salaries. ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$3,277. ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$4,041. |
| Other HR Expenses | | |
| Office Recognition \$1,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This pool of money is used for recognition of GSA staff members (eg. when a staff member leaves or reaches significant benchmarks). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No change to the 2021-2022 budget. ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,000. ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$820. |
| Professional Expense Allowance \$6,886 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contractual arrangement with the ED. ● Budget also used for the professional development of administrative/professional staff. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$6,771. ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$8,591. |
| Workers' Compensation \$2,504 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WCB-Alberta is disability insurance for workers against the impact of workplace injuries. Our insurance providers strongly recommended that the GSA enrol in Workers' Compensation. ● WCB-Alberta requires an annual return be filed by the last day of February each year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Per annual premium summary. ● The 2020-2021 budget was \$2,227. ● The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,578. |

| Office Administration and Operational Costs | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Capital Items</p> <p>\$4,980 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This budget line refers to purchases of major assets that the GSA will need and is part of a ten-year ever-greening plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget decreased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$7,700. The 2019-2020 actual was \$2,124. |
| <p>Information Technology Service Agreement</p> <p>\$6,000 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective 2017 a service agreement was established with Information Service Technology (IST) to support the GSA's IT (recently upgraded to minimum University standards by an IT consultant) to provide regular reviews and troubleshooting services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$6,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$3,150. |
| <p>Telephone and Cable</p> <p>\$3,153 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Billed monthly. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. The 2020-2021 budget was \$3,100. The 2019-2020 actual was \$2,960. |
| <p>Office Supplies and Maintenance</p> <p>\$13,000 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General office expenses including office supplies, postage, printing/photocopying, and miscellaneous office expenses. A physical office reorganization was planned in 2020-2021 but was deferred until 2021-2022 to maximize the effective use of the office space. There will be a one-time expense of approximately \$8,000 for this. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$13,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$2,550. |
| <p>Computer Software</p> <p>\$7,541 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly or annual fees for Adobe Creative Cloud, Canva, JibJab, Zoom, ActiveCampaigner, Microsoft 365, and Sage Simply Accounting. Usage of computer software has increased as a result of additional on-line programming. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$5,236. The 2019-2020 actual was \$2,742. |
| <p>Payroll and Banking Service Charges</p> <p>\$1,836 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The payroll processing charges to CERIDIAN (payroll service provider). Business banking plan fees and corporate MasterCard annual fees. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. The 2021-2022 budget was \$1,805. The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,283. |
| <p>Photocopier Lease and Meter</p> <p>\$6,000 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GSA leases two photocopiers from Xerox for office use. Billing for the lease and metering (variable according to usage) charges occurs monthly. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$6,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$4,921. |
| <p>General Liability Insurance (Office)</p> <p>\$712 budget</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General liability insurance to cover property damage, personal injury, tenants' legal liability, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied a 1.7% CPI increase. The 2020-2021 budget was \$700. The 2019-2020 actual was \$535. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AMICCUS-C Membership \$725 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership to AMICCUS-C (Association of Managers in Canadian Colleges and University Student Centers). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$725. The 2019-2020 actual was \$725. |
| Professional | | |
| Financial Auditing \$12,700 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSA has an annual audit performed by RSM. Required by <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> and submitted to the University Board of Governors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$12,200. The 2019-2020 actual was \$12,150. |
| Consultants \$10,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultancy fees, should a need arise (eg. labour relations consultant). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget decreased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$10,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$0. |
| Investment Advisor \$16,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment advisor fees for ATB Investment Management Inc. These fees are charged at a rate commensurate with the dollar value of our portfolio (which has increased) so a moderate increase has been applied for 2021-2022. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget increased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$15,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$16,645. |
| Legal Fees - General \$22,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal advice on significant operational issues as needed. If there are monies remaining at year-end these funds are added to the Legal Defence Fund, on advice from our auditor. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the 2021-2022 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was \$22,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,780. |
| Operating/Contingency Fund | | |
| Operating /Contingency Fund \$15,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fund set aside to handle unexpected and unanticipated expenses that are outside the range of the Operating Budget. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget decreased for 2021-2022. The 2020-2021 budget was \$20,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$21,381. |

**The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta
2021-2024 Restricted and Other Funding Budget**

GSA - Restricted and Other Funding - Revenue

| | 2021-2022 Budget for Approval | 2022-2023 Budget | 2023-2024 Budget | 2020-2021 Approved Budget | 2019-2020 Actual | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Fundraised Activity | | | | | | |
| GSA Agenda/Handbook | 3,620 | 3,620 | 3,620 | 9,500 | 8,570 | BASED ON CONTRACTUAL AD COMMITMENTS AND NO AD SALES IN 2021-2022 |
| Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) Projects (Restricted Revenue) | | | | | | |
| GSA Recognition Awards | 18,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 | 16,500 | PROJECTED PER PREVIOUS MOS |
| GSA Child Care Grants | 331,100 | 331,100 | 331,100 | 331,100 | 344,000 | PROJECTED PER PREVIOUS MOS |
| GSA Emergency Bursaries | 141,900 | 141,900 | 141,900 | 141,900 | 161,151 | PROJECTED PER PREVIOUS MOS |
| GSA Academic Travel Awards | 473,000 | 473,000 | 473,000 | 473,000 | 439,431 | PROJECTED PER PREVIOUS MOS |
| | 964,000 | 964,000 | 964,000 | 964,000 | 961,082 | |
| Other Restricted Funding | | | | | | |
| CJSR Fees Collected Per Referendum | 15,980 | 16,140 | 16,301 | 15,730 | 15,989 | BASED ON GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLMENT |
| GSAP (Graduate Student Assistance Program) Fees Collected Per Referendum | 82,000 | 82,820 | 83,648 | 82,000 | 76,419 | BASED ON GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLMENT |
| Health Plan Fees Collected Per Referendum | 1,667,407 | 1,684,081 | 1,700,922 | 1,667,407 | 1,568,790 | ESTIMATE - THE ACTUAL FEE RATE IS DETERMINED BY GSA COUNCIL AT A SEPARATE MEETING |
| Dental Plan Fees Collected Per Referendum | 1,246,248 | 1,258,710 | 1,271,298 | 1,246,248 | 1,092,649 | ESTIMATE - THE ACTUAL FEE RATE IS DETERMINED BY GSA COUNCIL AT A SEPARATE MEETING |
| | 3,011,635 | 3,041,751 | 3,072,169 | 3,011,385 | 2,753,847 | |
| | 3,979,255 | 4,009,371 | 4,039,789 | 3,984,885 | 3,723,499 | |

Restricted and Other Funding - Expenses

| | 2021-2022 Budget for Approval | 2022-2023 Budget | 2023-2024 Budget | 2020-2021 Budget | 2019-2020 Actual | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| Fundraised Activity | | | | | | |
| GSA Planner | 3,620 | 3,620 | 3,620 | 9,500 | 8,570 | TWO CONTRACTUAL ADS AND NO AD SALES IN 2021-2022 |
| Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) Projects (Restricted Revenue) | | | | | | |
| GSA Graduate Student Recognition Awards | 18,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 | 16,500 | PROJECTED PER PREVIOUS MOS |
| GSA Child Care Grants | 331,100 | 331,100 | 331,100 | 331,100 | 344,000 | PROJECTED PER PREVIOUS MOS |
| GSA Emergency Bursaries | 141,900 | 141,900 | 141,900 | 141,900 | 161,151 | PROJECTED PER PREVIOUS MOS |
| GSA Academic Travel Grants | 473,000 | 473,000 | 473,000 | 473,000 | 439,431 | PROJECTED PER PREVIOUS MOS |
| | 964,000 | 964,000 | 964,000 | 964,000 | 961,082 | |
| Other Restricted Funding | | | | | | |
| CJSR Fees Collected - \$1.00 per student goes to the radio station's operations | 15,980 | 16,140 | 16,301 | 15,730 | 15,989 | BASED ON GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLMENT |
| GSAP (Graduate Student Assistance Program) Fees Collected | 82,000 | 82,820 | 83,648 | 82,000 | 76,419 | BASED ON GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLMENT |
| Health Plan Revenue | 1,667,407 | 1,684,081 | 1,700,922 | 1,667,407 | 1,568,790 | ESTIMATE - THE ACTUAL FEE RATE IS DETERMINED BY GSA COUNCIL AT A SEPARATE MEETING |
| Dental Plan Revenue | 1,246,248 | 1,258,710 | 1,271,298 | 1,246,248 | 1,092,649 | ESTIMATE - THE ACTUAL FEE RATE IS DETERMINED BY GSA COUNCIL AT A SEPARATE MEETING |
| | 3,011,635 | 3,041,751 | 3,072,169 | 3,011,385 | 2,753,847 | |
| | 3,979,255 | 4,009,371 | 4,039,789 | 3,984,885 | 3,723,499 | |

GSA 2021-2022 Restricted and Other Funding Budget (Narrative)

5.27

| Account Name and Budget | Brief Description | Narrative |
|---|--|--|
| Restricted and Other Funding | | |
| Fundraised Activity | | |
| GSA Planner \$3,620 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GSA sells advertising space in the yearly graduate student planner to subsidize printing costs. • There are agreements with the Office of the Dean of Students and Studentcare for the purchase of ad space. For 2021-2022 it is anticipated that no other ad space will be purchased as a result of COVID-19-related financial pressures. The cost of printing Planners will be accordingly offset from the “Engagement, Orientation and Outreach” line in the Operating budget. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget decreased for 2021-2022. • The 2020-2021 budget was \$9,500. • The 2019-2020 actual was \$8,570. |
| Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) (Restricted Revenue) In January 2021 the University advised the GSA that the GSSF funds would remain at the 2020-2021 level of funding for 2021-2022 (Total of \$964,000). | | |
| GSA Recognition Awards \$18,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds provided for various awards presented at the annual GSA Awards Night. • Revenue is received in the form of Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) monies. • Expenses for the GSA Awards Night are processed in March. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020-2021 budget was \$18,000. • The 2019-2020 actual was \$16,500. |
| GSA Child Care Grants \$331,100 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate students can apply for this grant to offset the cost of child care. • Revenue is received in the form of GSSF funds. • Expenses are processed throughout the year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020-2021 budget was \$331,100. • The 2019-2020 actual was \$344,000. |
| GSA Emergency Bursaries \$141,900 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Bursaries are a non-repayable bursary for graduate students who need assistance due to an unanticipated emergency. • Revenue is received in the form of GSSF funds. • Expenses are processed throughout the year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020-2021 budget was \$141,900. • The 2019-2020 actual was \$161,151. |
| GSA Academic Travel Grants \$473,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate students can apply for this grant to participate in academic activities such as conferences and research trips. • Revenue is received in the form of GSSF funds. • Expenses are processed throughout the year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020-2021 budget was \$473,000. • The 2019-2020 actual was \$439,431. |
| CJSR Fees \$15,980 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U of A campus radio station (CJSR) receives \$1 per graduate student per term. This is a dedicated fee that was implemented by a referendum in 1999. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020-2021 budget was \$15,730. • The 2019-2020 actual was \$15,989. |

GSA 2021-2022 Restricted and Other Funding Budget (Narrative)

5.28

| Account Name and Budget | Brief Description | Narrative |
|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue and the related expenses are processed in October and February. | |
| GSAP (Graduate Student Assistance Program) \$82,000 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSAP began in September 2009, and until March 30, 2021 is funded in part by a \$12 per graduate student per year dedicated fee that was implemented by a referendum in 2009. The \$12 is split up as \$4 per fall term, and \$8 per winter term. In February 2021 a referendum will be held during the GSA elections to determine if students approve continuation of this program at a cost of up to \$21.80 per graduate student. The University provides a subsidy against the cost of this plan until March 2022. Revenue and the related expenses are processed in October and February. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2020-2021 budget was \$82,000. The 2019-2020 actual was \$76,419. |
| Health Plan \$1,667,407 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the fee that is charged to graduate students for the health part of the Health and Dental Plan. The 2020-2021 fee is \$285.61 per graduate student per year and is estimated to increase by 5%. Revenue and the related expenses are processed in October, February, and March. There is a Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund which was established to ensure that adequate funds are available in the event the Health and Dental Plan costs exceed the amounts collected in fees. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,667,407. The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,568,790. |
| Dental Plan \$1,246,248 budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the fee that is charged to graduate students for the dental part of the Health and Dental Plan. The 2020-2021 fee is \$214.75 per graduate student per year and is estimated to increase by 5%. Revenue and the related expenses are processed in October, February, and March. There is a Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund which was established to ensure that adequate funds are available in the event the Health and Dental Plan costs exceed the amounts collected in fees. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2020-2021 budget was \$1,246,248. The 2019-2020 actual was \$1,092,649. |



Dear Colleagues,

11 February 2021

Following on the GSA's last term financial report in the fall, I am pleased to report that we remain on track overall as we near the end of our fiscal year. Indeed, we are projecting a positive balance, which we will utilize (based on recommendations developed by our Auditor when they conduct our annual audit) to continue to grow our various reserve funds and also to make an initial transfer to the newly established GSA Labour Fund, a restricted fund that will, hopefully, be further grown through the collection of a union due from academically-employed graduate students. Please note, additionally, that the numbers we are projecting may change over the next few months before the fiscal year-end.

With respect to revenue, and as was the case with past reports, we have projected a small decrease in GSA membership fee revenue due to a small decrease in graduate student enrollment in Fall 2020 owing to ongoing COVID-19 prevention measures (enrollment numbers in Winter 2021 are unconfirmed at this time so the projected fee revenue could still change). Likewise, we have projected a decrease in interest income revenue due to drop in bank interest rates (again, as a result of the pandemic), and a decrease in revenue in the Commercial Activities line due to partial closure of Chopped Leaf outlet in the PAW Centre, combined with lower rent due to COVID-19. We have also reflected a previously reported decrease in the External Committed Funding line due to reduced funding from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

Commensurately, we have projected savings in the Advocacy line as a result of less travel due to COVID-19 and in the Services line owing to lower expenses associated with events (such as orientation) and fewer applications for Graduate Student Group Grants. We have also projected savings in the Governance line due to the pandemic, and in the Human Resources line due to a decrease in contract hourly expenses and lower expenses in the Professional Expense Allowance line. Finally, we have projected savings in the Office Administration and Operational Costs line (owing to fewer purchases being needed while the office remains closed), the Professional line (due to lower than originally forecast expenses in legal fees), and in the Operating/Contingency Fund line (due to the general slowdown of activity related to COVID-19).

One final note concerns the Graduate Student Support Fund, which funds GSA Child Care Grants, GSA Academic Travel Grants (GSA ATGs), and GSA Emergency Bursaries. As a result of COVID-19 prevention measures, we saw a pronounced decrease in applications for GSA ATGs and this continues to be true. Accordingly, the GSA has been working with the Office of Student Financial Support to allocate a portion of these funds to them for distribution in the form of supplemental/emergency bursaries to graduate students facing financial challenges tethered to the ongoing pandemic (as reported previously). In this way, we are projecting that the funds will be fully expended by the fiscal year end, while also ensuring they go to the graduate students that need them the most.

Again, while the numbers we are projecting may change over the next few months before the fiscal year-end, the GSA remains financially strong, strategic, and flexible in its financial operations. I'll be happy to answer any questions when we meet on 22 February 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Waddingham'.

Marc Waddingham, President and Chair of the GSA BFC

Outline of Issue

GSA 2020-2021 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2020-2021 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report.

Background:

These regular financial reports ensure year-over-year tracking and monitoring into the GSA's financial systems, and allow greater control over budget. In addition to yearly comparisons, regular reporting allows for better forward planning and illustrates the GSA yearly financial cycle. This is the third and last budget and expenditure report on the 2020-2021 GSA's fiscal year.

The Financial Team (Executive Director Courtney Thomas, CPA and Accountant Shirley Ball, Financial Manager Dorte Sheikh, and Associate Director Erika Heiberg) agrees that the GSA's budget is on track and there are no issues of concern at the end of this reporting period.

The GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Board reviewed and received the GSA 2020-2021 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report at their 25 January 2021 meeting and 10 February 2021, respectively.

Additional information can be found in the attached cover letter.

Jurisdiction:

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

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

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Budget Principles and Procedures, Section K.POL.3.4.a:

"The Accountant and Financial Manager will regularly (in the fall, winter, and spring/summer terms) prepare a Budget and Expenditure Report which will first be submitted to the Executive Director (ED) (or delegate), then the GSA President and then to the GSA BFC, the GSAB, and to GSA Council for information. It is suggested that these reports be organized by budget divisions and lines, with the following information in easy-to-follow columns: current budget; actual year-to-date expenditure, forecast to the year end, total forecast, balance remaining, percent remaining, informative comment on any variance or approved reallocation, and comment on significant comparisons from previous years. All such reports will be compliant with Alberta's Personal Information Protection Act and other applicable laws."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee, Section K.POL.5.7:

"The GSA BFC will receive for information and forward to the GSAB reports on expenses and revenues in the fall, winter, and spring/summer terms; these reports will present comparative information from previous years in a way that shows, in transparent fashion, the percent of the annual budget spent to date, by budget division."

The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta
2020-2021 GSA Operating Budget (including Capital Budget)
 Budget and Expenditure Report
 Winter Term Update, April to December 2020 actuals and January 2021 to March 2021 forecast

| | CURRENT YEAR April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 | | | | | | | PRIOR YEAR Comparative | |
|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 2020-2021 | Actual | Forecast | Total | Variance | Ref # | % Variance | Actual | Total Actual |
| | Approved Budget | Apr 2020 to Dec 2020 | Jan 2021 to Mar 2021 | | | | | Apr 2019 to Dec 2019 | Apr 2019 to Mar 2020 |
| REVENUE | | | | | | | | | |
| GSA Fees Revenue | 1,169,559 | 901,224 | 256,600 | 1,157,824 | (11,735) | 1 | -1% | 979,426 | 1,234,299 |
| Interest Income | 30,000 | 9,795 | 3,400 | 13,195 | (16,805) | 2 | -56% | 27,644 | 39,292 |
| External Committed Funding | 25,880 | 7,190 | 16,690 | 23,880 | (2,000) | 3 | -8% | 9,190 | 26,380 |
| Revenue from Commercial Activities | 40,162 | 4,847 | 2,000 | 6,847 | (33,315) | 4 | -83% | 30,122 | 40,162 |
| Other Revenue | 1,300 | - | 1,300 | 1,300 | - | | 0% | - | 3,603 |
| Total Revenue | 1,266,901 | 923,056 | 279,990 | 1,203,046 | (63,855) | | -5% | 1,046,382 | 1,343,736 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | | | | |
| Advocacy | 54,935 | 32,382 | 930 | 33,312 | 21,623 | 5 | 39% | 40,469 | 48,024 |
| Services | 129,650 | 59,161 | 16,570 | 75,731 | 53,919 | 6 | 42% | 66,329 | 87,820 |
| Governance | 219,779 | 145,348 | 53,154 | 198,502 | 21,277 | 7 | 10% | 150,676 | 204,838 |
| Human Resources | 692,877 | 501,680 | 162,656 | 664,336 | 28,541 | 8 | 4% | 482,257 | 648,729 |
| Office Administration and Operational Costs | 44,267 | 17,350 | 12,061 | 29,411 | 14,856 | 9 | 34% | 10,822 | 20,990 |
| Professional | 64,200 | 38,782 | 10,317 | 49,099 | 15,101 | 10 | 24% | 23,605 | 30,575 |
| Operating/Contingency Fund | 20,000 | - | - | - | 20,000 | 11 | 100% | 21,381 | 21,381 |
| Total Expenses | 1,225,708 | 794,703 | 255,688 | 1,050,391 | 175,317 | | 14% | 795,539 | 1,062,357 |
| BALANCE | 41,193 | 128,353 | 24,302 | 152,655 | 111,462 | | 271% | 250,843 | 281,379 |

Explanatory notes:

Under the variance column red numbers indicates less revenue received than budgeted. Black numbers indicate an expense savings. 0% means no variance at this point, budget is on target.
 Variance formula: for Revenue the variance is the total for the 2020-2021 year subtracted by the approved budget amount.

for Expenses the variance is the approved budget amount subtracted by the total for the 2020-2021 year.

Projected surplus funds, less a to-be-determined contribution to the GSA's restricted labour fund, will be applied to the Financial Stabilization Fund.

1. Projected slight decrease in GSA Fees revenue due to a small decrease in graduate student registrations.
2. Projected decrease in Interest Income revenue due to drop in bank interest rates.
3. Projected decrease in External Committed Funding due to reduced funding from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.
4. Projected decrease in Revenue from Commercial Activities due to partial closure of Chopped Leaf outlet in the PAW Centre combined with lower rent due to COVID-19.
5. Projected savings in Advocacy as a result of less travel due to COVID-19.
6. Projected savings in Services due to lower events expenses (such as orientation) and applications for Graduate Student Group Grants.
7. Projected savings in Governance due to lower DEO expenses and GSA Board, Council and other committee expenses due to COVID-19.
8. Projected savings in Human Resources due to decrease in contract hourly expenses and lower expenses in the Professional Expense Allowance line.
9. Projected savings in Office Administration and Operational costs due to lower expenses for Capital Items and Office Supplies and Maintenance.
10. Projected savings in Professional due to lower forecast expenses in Legal Fees.
11. Projected savings in the Operating/Contingency Fund due to the general slowdown of activity related to COVID-19.

For further reference, see the attached narrative.

The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta

2020-2021 GSA Restricted and Other Funding

Budget and Expenditure Report

Winter Update, April to December 2020 actuals and January 2021 to March 2021 forecast

| | CURRENT YEAR April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 | | | | | | | PRIOR YEAR Comparative | |
|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------|-------|------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| | 2020-2021 | Actual | Forecast | Total | Variance | Ref # | % Variance | Actual | Total Actual |
| | Approved Budget | Apr 2020 to Dec 2020 | Jan 2021 to Mar 2021 | | | | | Apr 2019 to Dec 2019 | Apr 2019 to Mar 2020 |
| Fundraised Activity | | | | | | | | | |
| GSA Planner | 9,500 | 2,885 | - | 2,885 | (6,615) | 1 | -70% | 6,760 | 8,570 |
| Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) Projects (Restricted Revenue) | | | | | | | | | |
| GSA Recognition Awards | 18,000 | - | 18,000 | 18,000 | - | | 0% | - | 16,500 |
| GSA Child Care Grants | 331,100 | 331,337 | (237) | 331,100 | - | | 0% | 225,000 | 344,000 |
| GSA Emergency Bursaries | 141,900 | (43,209) | 185,109 | 141,900 | - | | 0% | 42,903 | 161,151 |
| GSA Academic Travel Grants | 473,000 | 166,505 | 306,495 | 473,000 | - | 2 | 0% | 251,051 | 439,431 |
| | 964,000 | 454,633 | 509,367 | 964,000 | - | | 0% | 518,954 | 961,082 |
| Other Restricted Funding | | | | | | | | | |
| CISR Fees Collected - \$1.00 per student goes to the radio station's operations | 15,730 | - | 15,730 | 15,730 | - | | 0% | - | 15,989 |
| GSAP (Graduate Student Assistance Program) Fees Collected | 82,000 | - | 82,000 | 82,000 | - | | 0% | - | 76,419 |
| Health Plan Revenue | 1,667,407 | 718,479 | 948,928 | 1,667,407 | - | | 0% | - | 1,568,790 |
| Dental Plan Revenue | 1,246,248 | 239,493 | 1,006,755 | 1,246,248 | - | | 0% | - | 1,092,649 |
| | 3,011,385 | 957,972 | 2,053,413 | 3,011,385 | - | | 0% | - | 2,753,847 |
| BALANCE | 3,984,885 | 1,415,490 | 2,562,780 | 3,978,270 | (6,615) | | 0% | 525,714 | 3,723,499 |

Explanatory notes:

- GSA Planner deficit due to a decrease in ad revenue. Deficit covered in Engagement, Orientation and Outreach budget line in Operating.
- There is an expenditure of \$150,000 and a forecast of \$200,000 in GSA Academic Travel Grants which are actually transfers to Emergency Bursaries spending/COVID-19 related Supplementary Bursaries (dispensed by the University) since there is an increased demand for Emergency Bursaries rather than Academic Travel Grants due to COVID-19.

Red numbers indicate an overexpenditure.
0% means no variance at this point, budget is on target.
For further reference see the attached narrative.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR GSA MEMBER): ONE (1) NOMINEE

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy for a GSA member was advertised in the GSA Newsletters of 22 and 29 January, and 5 and 11 February 2021 with a nomination deadline of 17 February 2021. One (1) nomination was 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: Elections, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda, Section I.POL.18.1).

There will be an electronic vote held at the 22 February 2021 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 22 February 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) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 22 February 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 and will be presented in *reverse alphabetical* order on the ballot. ‘None of the Candidates’ will also be considered a nominee.

- 1. Gangyi Li (Mechanical Engineering)**

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 biography received for the one (1) nominee is BELOW on page 8.1. The biography and resume are presented as received (ie not edited).

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC)
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR GSA MEMBER)
One (1) Nominee**

1. Gangyi Li (Mechanical Engineering)

Statement of Interest:

The skills I've gained from experience of serving in Engineering Faculty Student Group when I was in ShanDong university. I think this experience benefits to the ability of teamwork and studying new things quickly. Furthermore, I'm interested to join GSA group and meet more people.

Bio:

I'm from China. After studying IELTS, I am fluent in both Chinese and English. I studied at ShanDong Univerisity from 2015 to 2019. During this period, I served on Student Council and work to prepare many academic meetings for students.

Summary Resume:

Now, I'm a graduate student (MEng) in Electrical Computer Engineering Faculty. Although I don't have similar experience for this position, I have schedule that is flexible to partcipate in commite meeting.

President
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Marc Waddingham
Date: 19 February 2021

To my colleagues in Council,

I am glad to share with you a selection of pertinent updates from the previous month, including the requested update on academic restructuring.

AB2030

GSA Vice-President External Anas Fassih and I, as well as members of the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC), attended the latest pan-Alberta student leaders meeting with the Ministry of Advanced Education and their departmental staff. While the Minister was characteristically evasive in answering questions, we did learn some key takeaways; first, that McKinsey and Co. have completed the AB2030 report, but that the Minister is resistant to having it released to the public despite the \$3 million price tag. Second, tuition deregulation is back on the table, with four different models for tuition going forward for consideration. Finally, that this phase of AB2030 will likely be completed sometime at the end of March or early April, barring any further time extensions. I will be having a follow-up meeting with Minister Nicolaides on 25 February, to discuss in detail further concerns with AB2030, including the lack of a comprehensive plan for student financial aid or research commercialization.

GSA & SU Childcare Access Pilot

Following a productive meeting with University of Alberta Students' Union (SU) Vice-President Student Life Katie Kidd and Vice-President Finance & Operations Alana Krahn, and making the necessary adjustments to our 2021/22 GSA Budget, the GSA Board is opting to go forward with a one-year contract with Kids & Co. The contract will provide access to childcare services for GSA members, including infant, toddler, and preschool care as well as placements for after school care for children up to the age of 12. Each member will also be entitled to ten "back-up days" for \$50/day, including meals, and a selection of locations across Edmonton, some of which offer below-market average pricing. Additionally, the terms are flexible to allow for GSA members to set-up their own care plan with Kids & Co., should they only need a few days per week, which will also lower the cost. I am currently reviewing the contract, and after a final review by the GSA Board and our management team, we will go forward with the pilot. We will circulate the information through our website, social media, and newsletter channels when the service becomes available.

University of Alberta Tuition & 12 March Board of Governors

Following on my January GSA Council update, we remain in an unfortunate position for thesis-based domestic students beginning their studies in Fall 2020-onwards who will be subject to 7% year-over-year increases to their tuition, despite the University of Alberta not utilizing a continuing fee scheme or giving any indication that minimum-funding arrangements will be revised. As a result, I have made clear to Central Administration that it will be their due diligence to inform incoming students of the already-planned tuition hikes to ensure those students can make an informed decision whether to pursue their studies at the U of A. I have warned that besides making departmental minimum-funding arrangements

increasingly uncompetitive/unattractive to prospective students, the continuing increase of tuition on thesis-based students in particular will exacerbate other issues, including an ongoing mental health crisis and record-levels of graduate students utilizing support services like the Campus Food Bank.

If you are interested in assisting, one relatively simple way is to attend the 12 March Board of Governors meeting at 8:00 AM (MST) (information on how to register will be available on the University Governance website), and encourage members in your respective spheres to do so as well. Ensuring that graduate students are paying attention and able to put pressure on our higher governing bodies is a first step to ensuring the GSA has increased capacity to resist tuition increases into the future. This is only possible if graduate students are aware, engaged, and willing to publicly dissent against decisions that impact them directly. I am always glad to hear from members of the Council regarding strategy on this front.

University of Alberta Innovation Network (UAIN)

We continue to provide representation at the UAIN, as well as circulate opportunities related to professional development and internships through our newsletter and other channels, although the start of 2021 has been relatively slow on this front. Current conversations revolve around how to better integrate internship/entrepreneurship training and opportunities at the University, and how the many entities working in the innovation space on campus could consolidate or better centralize efforts to improve accessibility for the campus community. We will update councillors and members as opportunities arise.

This concludes my primary report; I am glad to receive any questions or comments related to my latest activities.

Kind regards,
Marc Waddingham, President 2020-2021

GSA President Academic Restructuring Update

At time of writing, the Academic Restructuring-front remains relatively stable following my January GSA Council update, at which time the College Deans were announced. Since then, there have been productive conversations at the General Faculties' Council (GFC) and the GFC Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC). In brief, these conversations were concerned with further specifying the role of the GFC and the Board of Governors (BoG) in a bicameral system, acknowledgements that issues pertaining to collegial governance at the University long-preceded the University of Alberta for Tomorrow Project, and that further inter-connections between GFC and BoG are likely warranted to prevent similar issues from arising in the future by assisting in more active cross-communication between the bodies. I am in particular support of this last item, both as a member of BoG and GFC, as it makes sense for the bicameral entities to engage in bicameral discussion; it is brilliant in its simplicity.

The other major update pertains to the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) Initiative, which has now entered into its active phase. Unfortunately, this is not good news; of the initially estimated ~400 layoffs, a significant portion will take place in the coming weeks, and some have already transpired. You may note emails of support and non-academic staff position closures within your own units. I recommend members remain vigilant and support those outgoing staff when possible, some whom have dedicated many years to the public service and whose removal is no fault of their own. Corollary to this, there may be instances in which these layoffs and position closures adversely impact our graduate

student members. Should this occur, I strongly encourage local GSA's to contact their Departmental and Faculty leadership to advise them of the impact, and CC me on those correspondences; without those notifications, it will be nearly impossible to adequately respond to our membership's needs in a timely and effective manner. You can also keep abreast of the [latest SET updates](#) from the desk of University Vice-President (Services & Finance) Todd Gilcrest, in addition to submitting feedback on the SET rollout directly through the [available online form](#).

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 January 2021 and 22 February 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). Please note that the GSA office was closed from 12 February until 15 February 2021. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 19 January | Meeting with S Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) |
| 20 January | Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council |
| 21 January | UAlberta Innovation Network (UAIN) Meeting |
| 25 January | GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) |
| 25 January | General Faculties Council (GFC) |
| 26 January | Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean |
| 26 January | Meeting re Professional Development for Graduate Students |
| 27 January | Joint Student/University Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs) |
| 28 January | Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students |
| 29 January | Meeting with C Swindlehurst, Chief Strategy Officer |
| 29 January | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Special Board Meeting |
| 1 February | PAW Centre Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC) |
| 2 February | Meeting with D James, Associate Vice-President (Innovation) |
| 3 February | Meeting with the Students' Union re Child Care Pilot Project |
| 4 February | Meeting with B Flanagan, University President |
| 4 February | La Bruyère-Eccles-MacLaren Virtual Engagement Evening |
| 4 February | GSA General Faculties Council Caucus (GSA GFC Caucus) |
| 5 February | University Governance Budget Briefing with the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC) |
| 5 February | Board of Governors (BoG) Strategy Session |
| 5 February | Black History Month Keynote Lecture |
| 8 February | General Faculties Council (GFC) |
| 9 February | Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) |
| 9 February | Alberta Student Leaders Meeting |
| 10 February | General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC) |
| 12 February | Board Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee (BLRSEC) |
| 12 February | Meeting with the Office of University Relations |
| 17 February | Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council |
| 18 February | Meeting with C Swindlehurst, Chief Strategy Officer and Interim Vice-President (University Relations) |
| 18 February | GSA Caucus for General Faculties Council (GSA GFC Caucus) |
| 18 February | Campus Associations Meeting |
| 19 February | GSA/Student Collective Monthly Meeting |
| 19 February | Meeting with Board of Governors Member D Konrad |
| 22 February | Graduate Student Societies of U15 - 2nd General Meeting |
| 22 February | General Faculties Council (GFC) |

**GSA Board
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Marc Waddingham, President
Date: 19 February 2021

The GSA Board (GSAB) reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, Motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. GSA Council members are always able to ask questions about items that were discussed in closed session. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The President, Vice-Presidents, and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 12 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council).

20 January 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update; GSA Council Debrief; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: Members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION**. Members discussed the **Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board Meeting**. Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

27 January 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update; GSA President's Citations; Housing Survey; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION: Members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION**. Members discussed the **General Faculties Council (GFC)**. Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

3 February 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update; GSA President's Citations; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

10 February 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2021-2022) and Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2021-2022) **AND** Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) and Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024); GSA 2020-2021 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report; GSA President's Citations COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

MOTION 1: That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL**, having also been unanimously recommended by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2021-2022) (found on pages 3.5 to 3.13 in the attached material in the "2021-2022 Budget for Approval" column bordered in red on each page) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2021-2022) (found on pages 3.25 to 3.26 in the attached material in the "2021-2022 Budget for Approval" column bordered in red). **SP MOVED**. **UN** Seconded. **CARRIED**.

MOTION 2: That the GSA Board **RECOMMEND TO GSA COUNCIL TO RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION**, having also been reviewed and advised upon by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) and the Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) (pages 3.5 to 3.13 and 3.25 to 3.26 in the attached material). **SP MOVED**. **UN** Seconded. **CARRIED**.

MOTION: That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION AND FORWARD TO THE GSA COUNCIL (FOR INFORMATION)** the GSA 2020-2021 Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report. **UN MOVED**. **SP** Seconded. **CARRIED**.

Members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION**. Members discussed the **GSA President's Citations**. Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

MOTION: That the GSA Board **APPROVE** the awarding of GSA President's Citations to the individuals/groups noted in the attached list of 2021 proposed recipients. **AF MOVED**. **SP** Seconded. **CARRIED**.

Members **AGREED** to move into **CLOSED SESSION**. Members discussed the **Alberta Student Leaders Meeting**. Members **AGREED** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**.

17 February 2021 GSA Board Meeting:

Main Agenda Items:

COVID-19 Update; and Meeting Reports.

Motions and Agreements:

None to report.

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Marc Waddingham
Date: 19 February 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

On 25 January, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) met to review and advise on the Annual Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) and the Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2021-2024) and to consider a motion to recommend to GSA Council the Annual Operating and Capital Budget (2021-2022) and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2021-2022). There is a great deal of positive news in this budget (while still maintaining a cautious outlook in the midst of the pandemic), which will be before GSA Council for consideration on Monday, and I thank members of the committee for their insightful feedback and discussion. My thanks as well to those of you who participated in the Budget 101 sessions in anticipation of this item coming before GSA Council.

Additionally, at this same meeting, the GSA BFC reviewed the GSA's Winter Term Budget and Expenditure Report. The report will also be before you on Monday and I encourage you to read the associated cover letter and the financial statements themselves for additional information.

The GSA BFC will next meet on 1 March to review the GSA's investment portfolio with our investment manager from ATB.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Marc Waddingham, President and Chair of the GSA BFC

**Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sachiketha Reddy Paspula
Date: 19 February 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone has enjoyed the reading week and is ready for learning, teaching, and research. As Vice-President Academic, in the past month I have attended several meetings and been involved with various discussions; I share the highlights with you in this report.

- I attended the General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC), and a couple of GFC meetings. The Chair of GFC made note of the important work students had undertaken to raise issues regarding the remote learning environment. Dr. Dew, Provost noted that the main issues were for students who were learning remotely in a different time zone or who had connectivity issues when synchronous participation was required, and that the University was committed to the development of better practices to support students and instructors with these challenges.
- Dr. Rodgers, Deputy Provost, spoke about the unexpected and profound challenges on students and instructors related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the move to remote learning and assessment in March 2020. Dr. Nychka, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives) pointed out that many instructors were working hard at how to be effective in the remote environment. I will be representing graduate students on a task force to address this issue (see below).
- We also discussed the University of Alberta's Clean Air Strategy. The committee recommended prohibiting smoking and vaping of all products on all campuses effective 1 September 2021. Although the prohibition would apply to University residences, there would be exemptions for ceremonial use.
- I had a meeting with Chanpreet Singh, the president of the International Students' Association (ISA). We discussed issues related to participation grades and mandatory recording of lectures. The ISA prepared an anonymous form for students to fill out, including the course names in which they were facing these issues. The GSA extended support by circulating the form in the GSA newsletter.
- President Marc Waddingham and I attended a couple of meetings with Dr. Brooke Milne, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). We discussed the support provided by FGSR to graduate students who have been financially affected by COVID-19. Applicants could receive \$1500 support from FGSR in the form of a COVID-19 Bursary.
- I was offered a seat on the Remote Learning Task Force Working Group. In this group, we identified short term priorities - what is most pressing and what can be done this semester (if anything) and what can be done for the spring/summer semesters. Members discussed the recording of lectures, participation grades, remote proctoring and that the current semester is where we need to focus efforts. It was also noted that it is important to look at broader topics into the future as well. As we progress into long term and midterm goals, it will be necessary to

be more proactive. Another clear area is communication - identifying where the gaps are and getting a fulsome understanding of where we are right now.

- I attended a Graduate Program Support Team (GPST) meeting, which is the standing advisory committee acting under the authority of the GFC Program Committee (GFC PC). The GPST informally endorses and/or recommends changes it has reviewed to move forward for formal consideration and approval by several university governance committees.
- I attended an FGSR Council Caucus meeting, in which Caucus members discussed the services provided by FGSR to the graduate community and we also discussed the new travel restrictions, which are going to be implemented in the coming days.

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

Regards,

Sachiketha Reddy Paspula, Vice-President Academic 2020-2021

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 January 2021 and 22 February 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). Please note that the GSA office was closed from 12 February until 15 February 2021. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 19 January | GSA Brunch and Learn |
| 21 January | GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus |
| 22 January | Meeting with International Students' Association (ISA) |
| 27 January | General Faculties Council Nominating Committee (GFC NC) |
| 27 January | Centre of Teaching and Learning (CTL) Executive Director Selection Committee |
| 28 January | Grad Program Support Team (GPST) |
| 29 January | University Research Policy Committee (UROC) |
| 29 January | Vice-President (Research and Innovation) Search Committee |
| 2 February | Meeting with a Graduate Student |
| 2 February | Meeting with D James, Associate Vice-President (Innovation) |
| 3 February | General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE) |
| 4 February | GSA General Faculties Council Caucus (GSA GFC Caucus) |
| 9 February | Meeting with B Milne, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) |
| 10 February | General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC) |
| 10 February | Remote Learning Task Force Working Group |
| 11 February | General Faculties Council Programs Committee (GFC PC) |
| 12 February | Meeting with the Office of University Relations |
| 16 February | GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (GSA FGSR) Caucus |
| 17 February | Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council |
| 18 February | U-Pass Administrative Committee |
| 18 February | GSA Caucus for General Faculties Council (GSA GFC Caucus) |
| 22 February | General Faculties Council (GFC) |

**Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 22 February 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I trust you are all well. I have attended a couple of meetings this month and here are the main updates:

- I attended various meetings with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC). We discussed the contract of the ab-GPAC Executive Director which needed an amendment in the vacation leave part, which was overlooked in the initial draft. Second, we revised ab-GPAC's governance policy regarding elections of the next executives as we await the member GSAs to introduce three board directors. The policy will remain the same as it centers on nomination for executive positions from the floor. We also discussed various ways of selecting three directors, and agreed it is the responsibility of the president of each member GSA to select the third director, which could theoretically be an executive member of the GSA instead of a Councillor-at-Large. The other aspect of the discussion revolved around figuring out a way to delay ab-GPAC elections until member GSAs have decided on who to introduce as a third director.
- The selection process for GSA Recognition Awards has concluded. As the chair of the selection committee, I assure you it was a fair process as many applications went through a third adjudication and an extensive deliberation in the last meeting before we approved the final recipients. I thank members of the selection committee for their great work selecting nominees. Special thanks also go to all those who applied, and congratulations to the recipients.
- I met with K. Huising, Associate Vice-President (Ancillary), and discussed the UAlberta Isolation Program. Given the new regulations introduced by the federal government for international students to quarantine three days in the city they land in before they come to university residence, I asked to decrease the price and shorten the length of the isolation program. Basically, the three-day quarantine in a hotel before coming to university residence should be counted toward the 14-day quarantine duration, and students can only quarantine for 11 days instead of 14.
- I met with the Graduate Student Societies of U15. This is a very important platform for our federal advocacy. While it is still in its rudimentary stage, we have already started drafting a letter to the federal government in which we outline three key priorities for graduate students: funding for care-giving students, increase of tri-council funding, and international immigration. I took care of drafting the latter ask.
- I also had a meeting with UTILE regarding our proposed housing research survey. We have negotiated reducing the price so that it is affordable for other student associations in the province. While I am still working on securing buy-in from various student groups in the province, I envisage to run the survey by mid-March. More details will follow.
- I attended the Alberta Student Leaders meeting with the Ministry of Advanced Education. The Minister talked about tuition deregulation and sought to garner feedback from student leaders. He also talked about the AB2030 report, which will roll out soon.
- I attended a meeting to discuss the Student Equity Survey. The University is working on a student census around diversity, equity and inclusion. I gave my feedback on the survey as necessary and expressed interest to remain available for any further feedback.

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

Anas Fassih, Vice-President External 2020-2021

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 January 2021 and 22 February 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). Please note that the GSA office was closed from 12 February until 15 February 2021. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

| | |
|------------|--|
| 19 January | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee |
| 19 January | Student Transitions Committee Meeting |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 19 January | Edmonton Students' Alliance (ESA) |
| 20 January | Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) Wednesday Group Meeting |
| 21 January | Residence Advisory Committee (RAC) |
| 22 January | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Special Board Meeting |
| 25 January | International Students' Association (ISA) Council |
| 27 January | Alumni Council Meeting |
| 29 January | Meeting re Student Housing Survey Initiative |
| 29 January | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Special Board Meeting |
| 2 February | Public Interest Alberta (PIA) Post-Secondary Campaign Meeting |
| 2 February | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Meeting |
| 3 February | Meeting with K Husing, Associate Vice-President (Ancillary Services) |
| 4 February | GSA Emergency Bursary Appeal Hearing |
| 4 February | Meeting re Student Equity Survey |
| 9 February | Alberta Student Leaders Meeting |
| 10 February | Meeting with K Husing, Associate Vice President, Ancillary Services |
| 11 February | GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) |
| 11 February | General Faculties Council Facilities Development Committee (GFC FDC) |
| 12 February | Meeting with the Office of University Relations |
| 16 February | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Committee |
| 18 February | Residence Advisory Committee (RAC) |
| 19 February | GSA/Student Collective Monthly Meeting |
| 19 February | Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Advocacy and Outreach Committee |
| 22 February | Joint Residence Oversight Committee (JROC) |
| 22 February | Graduate Student Societies of U15 – 2 nd General Meeting |

**GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Anas Fassih
Date: 19 February 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA ASC is “responsible for selecting the recipients of the GSA Council approved GSA Recognition Awards” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O.POL.5.1). Additionally, “the GSA ASC Chair will report the list of the recipients of the awards to GSA Council for information as soon as possible after the recipients are selected” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O.POL.5.5).

On 16 February 2021, the GSA ASC finalized the following names as recipients of the 2021 GSA Recognition Awards:

| | |
|---|---|
| Non-Academic Staff Awards | Allan Harms Tonia Harris Robin McClelland |
| Academic Staff Award | Lucia Secchia |
| Graduate Student Supervisor Awards | SSHRC – Maria Cutumisu NSERC – Anastasia Elias CIHR – Justine Turner |
| Graduate Student Service Awards | Heba Aref Pranidhi Baddam Vineet Rathod Nayiar Shahid |
| TDIMM Award | Sushmitha Thirumalaivasan |
| Graduate Student Principal Instructor Awards | Tanya Ball Katherine Koskie Myungjune Song |
| Martha Piper Awards | Noel Hoffer Shannon Pynn Shubham Soni |
| Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Awards | Reza Azadi Miguel Baritto Loreto João Henrique Falk Neto Md Minhajul Islam Marina Lazic Michael Staelens Basem Zakaria Reda |
| Graduate Student Research Assistant Awards | Fernanda Arthuso Parinaz Jafari Chang Lu Dalia Carolina Martinez Cano Alleson Mason Stephanie Ntoukas Mingjian Wu |
| Graduate Student Rising Star Awards | Jenneffer Rayane Braga Tibaes Kimberley Edmondson Ana Paula Pagano |
| International Graduate Student Award | Nicholas Wilkins |
| Graduate Student Spirit Awards | Prof-Collins Ifeonu Lauren Thompson |
| Graduate Student Group Award | Black Graduate Students’ Association |

Congratulations to all the recipients!

I would also like to thank the members of the GSA ASC for their time and effort in adjudicating the applications we received this year.

Best,
Anas Fassih, Vice-President External and Chair of the GSA ASC

**Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Umesh Nimmathi
Date: 19 February 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy. Below are some of the highlights of the meetings that I have attended:

Collective Agreement Negotiations: We have concluded the negotiations and signed the settlement documents. We will host a couple of townhalls before holding a ratification vote, and I encourage Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs) to attend these townhalls in March and bring forward concerns or questions regarding the Collective Agreement and proposed labour union due. We will share the timeline of townhalls, the ratification vote and the labour union due vote with our bargaining unit after consulting with the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC).

Meetings with Graduate Students: As always, myself and Erika Heiberg, GSA Associate Director, have several meetings a month with graduate students who have concerns about their labour contracts, etc. These meetings are always held in confidence to protect those coming forward with concerns and we work closely with them to find resolutions.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me at gsavplab@ualberta.ca. As always, if you are encountering a labour issue, please reach out to me as well.

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

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 January 2021 and 22 February 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). Please note that the GSA office was closed from 12 February until 15 February 2021. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 20 January | Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council |
| 21 January | GSA Collective Agreement Negotiating Team |
| 21 January | Infrastructure and Operations Planning Team |
| 22 January | Alberta Labour Relations Roundtable |
| 25 January | University of Alberta Safety and Security Committee |
| 25 January | GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) |
| 26 January | GSA Collective Agreement Bargaining Meeting |
| 28 January | Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students |
| 1 February | GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) |
| 1 February | Meeting with a Graduate Student |
| 3 February | Labour 101 |
| 4 February | Infrastructure and Operations Planning Team |
| 5 February | Meeting with a Graduate Student |
| 11 February | Meeting with a Graduate Student |
| 12 February | Meeting with the Office of University Relations |
| 16 February | GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (GSA FGSR) Caucus |
| 16 February | Meeting with a Graduate Student |
| 17 February | Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council |

**GSA Labour Relations Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Umesh Nimmathi
Date: 19 February 2021

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) met on 1 February 2021. Members discussed the conclusion of the collective bargaining process and the development of the GSA labour fund to support the GSA's work as a union, including the proposal to collect a union due (which must be approved by Academically-Employed Graduate Students via a vote) to help grow the fund.

The GSA LRC met again on 19 February 2021. Members discussed plans for town halls in advance of a ratification vote concerning the recently negotiated Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement and further discussed the potential collection of a union due.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Umesh Nimmathi, Vice-President Labour and Chair of the GSA LRC

**Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Sridhar Parasharamatham
Date: 19 February 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

Hope you are well and staying warm. I am happy to share my activities and to give you a brief update of the meetings I attended in the last month.

Firstly, I attended the Infrastructure and Operations Planning Team meeting. While some institutions, such as Wilfred Laurier, are planning for the return of students, the U of A is still developing an approach for the Fall 2021 term. We also discussed the 2020 tax season - work from home conditions may offer some tax breaks for staff and others. COVID-19 case counts are reducing significantly through the province and the hospital occupancy rate has declined. Isolation requirements could be expanded to add an additional 14 days (on top of the 10 already required). Admission to the U of A Libraries has been granted to certain professionals for resource materials that will be on hold for now until government restrictions on libraries are lifted.

Secondly, I attended some U-Pass advisory and administrative committee meetings. The draft of the next 4-year agreement contract is out to the student associations for review. Also, NAIT has successfully passed their referendum with almost 80% support. We have given feedback to ETS on the language surrounding misuse of U-Pass and the associated penalizations to students to be written in the agreement. The U-Pass referendum is happening along with the GSA General Elections (voting opens tomorrow), and it is one of the best programs for students in terms of price and ease to access. I encourage each of you to vote in the upcoming referenda for both U-Pass and the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP), which likewise offers important services to graduate students at a small cost. For more information on these services, [please read this important message](#).

Thirdly, I attended a couple of meetings related to e-scooters on campus. The committee has decided to extend the pilot up to 31 October 2021. Also, it was decided to add nests at Lister and Fine Arts, and near the bus loop and Hub mall.

I attended an Edmonton Regional Post-Secondary Mental Health Committee (ERPSMHC) meeting. Jason Brown, Program Manager with Alberta Health Services - Urgent Services was a guest at this meeting. He gave a presentation on ACCESS 24/7. It opened in June 2018. The purpose of ACCESS 24/7 is to provide significant referral support, individual walk-ins, consultation assessments, intervention/treatment, crisis outreach and stabilization.

Also, I attended meetings of the Campus Food Bank Board, Days of Action Committee, and took a part in the Deans Advisory Committee.

Feel free to reach out to me for any comments/concerns regarding this report or any other specific issue you want to discuss regarding services to students at gsavpsse@ualberta.ca.

Regards,
Sridhar Parasharamatham, Vice-President Student Services 2020-2021

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 19 January 2021 and 22 February 2021 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). Please note that the GSA office was closed from 12 February until 15 February 2021. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

| | |
|------------|----------------------|
| 19 January | GSA Brunch and Learn |
|------------|----------------------|

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 19 January | U-Pass Advisory Group Meeting |
| 21 January | Infrastructure and Operations Planning Team |
| 27 January | Joint Student/University Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs) |
| 7 January | Public Health Response Team (PHRT) Sub-Committee on Academic Issues |
| 8 January | Student Equity Survey |
| 11 January | Meeting re e-Scooters on Campus |
| 14 January | Edmonton Regional Post-Secondary Mental Health Committee (ERPSMHC) |
| 14 January | Campus Food Bank Board Meeting |
| 15 January | Meeting with C Swindlehurst, Interim Vice-President (University Relations) |
| 27 January | Days of Action Committee |
| 28 January | Meeting with R Paches, Program Manager, Studentcare |
| 28 January | Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students |
| 1 February | eScooter Meeting |
| 1 February | PAW Centre Strategic Operating Committee (PAWSOC) |
| 5 February | Canadian Graduate Students' Associations Vice-President Students Meeting |
| 8 February | Leadership Network Meeting |
| 10 February | Deans Advisory Committee |
| 11 February | Infrastructure and Operations Planning Team |
| 11 February | Campus Food Bank Board |
| 12 February | Meeting with the Office of University Relations |
| 16 February | U-Pass Working Committee |
| 17 February | Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Student Experience of Teaching and Learning (SETL) Taskforce |
| 18 February | U-Pass Administrative Committee |
| 18 February | Infrastructure and Operations Planning Team |
| 18 February | Meeting with R Paches, Program Manager, Studentcare |
| 19 February | FGSR Professional Development Training Series |

**GSA Chief Returning Officer
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Michael Huang
Date: 19 February 2021

Hello everyone,

Voting in the 2021 GSA General Election and the 2021 GSA Referenda will begin on Tuesday, 23 February at 10:00 AM and will close on Thursday, 25 February at 10:00 AM. The link to the ballots will be circulated directly to all graduate students on Tuesday morning.

Alongside the Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, my main message to you is:

I urge you to encourage all graduate students to vote in the 2021 GSA General Election and the 2021 GSA Referenda! You can learn more by visiting:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/governance/elections-and-referenda/index.html>

If you have questions in regard to the voting process, please don't hesitate to contact me via email at gsacroff@ualberta.ca.

Best,

Michael Huang, GSA Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Nominating Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Kenzie Gordon
Date: 19 February 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,
Kenzie Gordon, Chair of the GSA NoC

Memorandum to GSA Councillors

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

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

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

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

GSA Standing Committees

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 22 and 29 January and 5 and 11 February 2021 with a nomination deadline of 16 February 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillor was circulated via email to GSA Council on 22 and 29 January and 5 and 11 February 2021 with a nomination deadline of 17 February 2021. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

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

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA member was circulated via the GSA newsletter on 22 and 29 January and 5 and 11 February 2021 with a nomination deadline of 17 February 2021. **One (1) nomination was received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 8a – Nominee 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 22 and 29 January and 5 and 11 February 2021 with a nomination deadline of 17 February 2021. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

External Committees: Vacancies and Vacancies Filled

5) Community Connections Awards Selection Committee (One (1) GSA Member Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Member was circulated via GSA Newsletter on 22 and 29 January 2021 with a nomination deadline of 3 February 2021. **Alex Ouellette Zuk** was elected to serve.

6) Images of Research Committee (IoR) (Two (2) GSA Member Positions)

Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Members was circulated via email to via the GSA Newsletter on 8, 15, and 22 January 2021 with a nomination deadline of 27 January 2021. **Andrew Locke and Nathalia Fernandes Fagundes** were elected to serve.

7) University of Alberta Museum Policy and Planning Committee (One (1) GSA Member Position)

Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Member was circulated via GSA Newsletter on 22 and 29 January 2021 with a nomination deadline of 3 February 2021. **Rebecca Bourgeois** was elected to serve.

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Jennifer Bertrand
Date: 19 February 2021

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA ERC met on 22 January 2021 to finish the planning of the 2021 GSA General Election and the 2021 GSA Referenda, and has continued its involvement through consultations with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO). The campaign period started on 10 February 2021 and is ongoing; voting in the 2021 GSA General Election and the 2021 Referenda will begin on Tuesday, 23 February at 10:00 AM and will close on Thursday, 25 February at 10:00 AM. Throughout the campaigning and voting periods, and as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.18.1, “the GSA ERC will advise the CRO on all matters pertaining to elections, referenda, and by-elections.”

My main message as GSA ERC chair, along with that from the CRO is:

I urge you to encourage all graduate students to vote in the 2021 GSA General Election and the 2021 GSA Referenda! You can learn more by visiting:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/governance/elections-and-referenda/index.html>

Sincerely,
Jennifer Bertrand, Chair of the GSA ERC

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the 22 February 2021 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Courtney Thomas
Date: 19 February 2021

Dear GSA Council Members,

Below are a few highlights of the GSA office team's work since my last report to you in January:

2021-2022 GSA Budget – The 2021-2022 GSA operating budget and associated three-year budget projections is before you and I am very pleased to note that the GSA remains in solid financial shape and next year's proposed budget reflects this. We are drawing ever closer to our goal of a balanced budget, while also directing more funds towards graduate student supports and ensuring cautious budgeting principles amidst the ongoing pandemic. My thanks to Shirley Ball, Dorte Sheikh, Erika Heiberg, and the members of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee for this work on this budget.

GSA Events – Having re-released our online orientation e-class module in January, we are now planning several online engagement events for the winter term. Additionally, while our annual GSA Awards Night (typically held in March) will be necessarily cancelled again this year, we are investigating other means to honour the recipients of the GSA Recognition Awards.

2021 GSA General Election and GSAP and U-Pass Referenda – the office has been providing support to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), the Deputy Returning Officer, and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) as they oversee the 2021 GSA General Election and associated referenda happening this year. I would like to echo the CRO and the Chair of the GSA ERC in encouraging you all to, in turn, encourage your colleagues and friends to vote!

In addition to the above, the office team, as always, remains engaged in offering support to the executive team. The detailed weekly reports from the management team to the GSA Board are attached for your review and I am happy to answer any questions.

Best,
Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, 20 January 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 13 January 2021:

Strategic

- Preparing for the opening of the nomination period and campaign registration periods for the GSA General Election and associated referenda (the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee is meeting on Friday to continue the planning process) and communications are being reviewed by the Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer.
- Hosting Discover Governance sessions for those interested in running for elected positions.
- Action associated with Monday's GSA Council meeting (including planning for the inaugural meeting of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee).
- Preparing the draft 2021-2022 operating budget following a review of various scenarios by the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and drafting associated materials for the GSA BFC, GSA Board, and GSA Council.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (negotiations remain ongoing), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due, and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee and the University's negotiating team are ongoing).

Operations

- Receipt of applications for GSA Recognition Awards (deadline was on Friday and 144 applications were received) and preparing for the adjudication process.
- Planning upcoming Brunch and Learn sessions and facilitating Tuesday's session with Studentcare.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via the newsletter and directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the Images of Research Selection Committee (advertised via the newsletter), and the University Museum Policy and Planning Committee (advertised via the newsletter).
- Facebook = 1,603 likes (up 8 from 6 January) and 1,745 followers (up 9 from 6 January); Facebook posts reached 132 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 16. Twitter = 1,124 followers (up 1 from 6 January); our tweets earned 382 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 571 followers (up 10 from 6 January); Instagram posts reached 222 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 April (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 27 January 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 20 January 2021:

Strategic

- Opening of the nomination period and campaign registration periods for the GSA General Election and associated referenda (the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee met on Friday to wrap up the planning process) and communications are being reviewed by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) (weekly meetings with the CRO and DRO are also scheduled for the duration of the elections and referenda cycle).
- Preparing messaging in support of the referenda (the GSA Communications Specialist will preview for GSA Board members).
- Forward planning concerning the renewal of the GSA's Director and Officers insurance, as well as the GSA's lease on space in Triffo Hall.
- Ongoing conversations with the administrative team at the Students' Union concerning U-Pass distribution for Fall 2021 (and onwards).
- Reviewing the draft 2021-2022 operating budget with the GSA Budget and Finance Committee – the committee has formally recommended the budget to the GSA Board and GSA Council so it will come forward on 10 February and 22 February, respectively, to those bodies.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (negotiations are expected to be concluded shortly, after which work associated with preparing for a ratification vote will begin), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due and associated campaign to enhance awareness, and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee and the University's negotiating team are ongoing).

Operations

- Adjudication of applications for GSA Recognition Awards.
- Scheduling Budget 101 sessions in advance of the 22 February 2021 GSA Council meeting.
- Planning for the inaugural meeting of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via the newsletter and directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the Images of Research Selection Committee (advertised via the newsletter), and the University Museum Policy and Planning Committee (advertised via the newsletter).
- Facebook = 1,615 likes (up 5 from 20 January) and 1,758 followers (up 9 from 20 January); Facebook posts reached 131 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 7. Twitter = 1,128 followers (up 4 from 20 January); our tweets earned 351 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 582 followers (up 11 from 20 January); Instagram posts reached 179 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 April (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 3 February 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 27 January 2021:

Strategic

- Support for the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) concerning receipt of nomination forms and campaign registration forms for the GSA General Election and associated referenda and weekly meetings with the CRO and Deputy Returning Officer.
- Preparing ballots for the General Election and associated referenda.
- Renewal of the GSA's Director and Officers insurance, as well as forward planning for the renewal of the GSA's lease on space in Triffo Hall.
- Planning for the inaugural meeting of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion meeting.
- Human resource matters and management.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (preparing for a ratification vote), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due and associated campaign to enhance awareness (town halls are being scheduled and briefing notes are being developed/circulated, and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee are ongoing).

Operations

- Adjudication of applications for GSA Recognition Awards.
- Staffing the virtual front desk.
- Planning for the next online engagement event.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via the newsletter and directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), the Community Connections Awards Selection Committee (advertised via the newsletter), and the University Museum Policy and Planning Committee (advertised via the newsletter).
- Facebook = 1,617 likes (up 3 from 27 January) and 1,761 followers (up 3 from 27 January); Facebook posts reached 196 users last week and our "post engagement" count was 12. Twitter = 1,131 followers (up 3 from 27 January); our tweets earned 704 "impressions" over the past week. Instagram = 579 followers (down 3 from 27 January); Instagram posts reached 207 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 April (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 10 February 2021

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 3 February 2021:

Strategic

- Support for the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) concerning receipt of nomination forms and campaign registration forms for the GSA General Election and associated referenda and weekly meetings with the CRO and Deputy Returning Officer.
- Providing support for the All-Candidates Meeting and the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives.
- Forward planning upcoming engagement events and Brunch and Learn sessions.
- Reviewing meeting materials for various University committees, councils, etc.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (preparing for a ratification vote), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due and associated campaign to enhance awareness (town halls are being scheduled and briefing notes are being developed/circulated, and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee are ongoing).

Operations

- Adjudication of applications for GSA Recognition Awards.
- Staffing the virtual front desk.
- Processing grant applications.
- Preparing the first mailing of GSA Council meeting materials.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via the newsletter and directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and various Faculty of Arts standing committees (advertised directly to Faculty of Arts graduate students).
- Facebook = 1,622 likes (up 5 from 3 February) and 1,766 followers (up 5 from 3 February); Facebook posts reached 283 users last week and our “post engagement” count was 15. Twitter = 1,131 followers (up 3 from 3 February); our tweets earned 704 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 581 followers (up 2 from 3 February); Instagram posts reached 259 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 April (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 17 February 2021

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

Strategic

- Support for the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) (planning the 2021 GSA General Election Forum, advising on questions from candidates, etc) and weekly meetings with the CRO and Deputy Returning Officer.
- Drafting GSA reports to various University governance bodies.
- Hosting Budget 101 sessions.
- Reviewing meeting materials for various University committees, councils, etc.
- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (preparing for a ratification vote), the development of a vote to academically-employed graduate students concerning the collection of a union due and associated campaign to enhance awareness (town halls are being scheduled and briefing notes are being developed/circulated, and assessing strategies to build engagement through a steward network (conversations with the GSA Labour Relations Committee are ongoing).

Operations

- Adjudication of applications for GSA Recognition Awards.
- Staffing the virtual front desk.
- Forward planning upcoming engagement events and Brunch and Learn sessions.
- Preparing the second mailing of GSA Council meeting materials.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee: vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to GSA Council), the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via the newsletter and directly to GSA Council), the GSA Governance Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and various Faculty of Arts standing committees (advertised directly to Faculty of Arts graduate students).
- Facebook = 1,627 likes (up 5 from 10 February) and 1,771 followers (up 5 from 10 February); Facebook posts reached 255 users last week and our “post engagement” count was 12. Twitter = 1,139 followers (up 8 from 10 February); our tweets earned 1,200 “impressions” over the past week. Instagram = 585 followers (up 4 from 10 February); Instagram posts reached 272 users last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 April (not accepting applications for travel outside the province; online costs accepted); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 April; GSA Emergency Bursaries = no funding periods for GSA EBs; GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 April. All funding continues to be closely monitored so we can direct it to where the most need is and funds not projected to be spent are being transferred to the University to dispense in the form of COVID-related supplementary bursaries for graduate students.