

## GSA Council Meeting CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

Monday, 28 January 2019 at 6:00 pm  
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

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

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

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

### Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair

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

#### OPEN SESSION

#### Attached Numbered Pages

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the 28 January 2019 Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes from the 20 November 2018 GSA Council Meeting  
*Attachment:*
  - i. Minutes from the 20 November 2018 GSA Council Meeting **3.0 - 3.6**
4. Changes in GSA Council Membership
  - i. Introduction of New Councillors (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
  - ii. Farewell to Departing Councillors (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)

#### Councillor Announcements

5. GSA Council Member Announcements

#### Presentations

6. Campus Safety and Security Committee  
**Beth Richardson (Vice-President Labour) will present the item and introduce the guests.**

**Guests:** James Allen (Associate Vice-President of Operations and Maintenance), Andrew Leitch (Acting Director, Environmental Health and Safety), and Marcel Roth (Interim Director, Risk Management Services)

#### Action Items:

7. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council and GSA Standing Committees  
**Sasha van der Klein (President) will present the item.**  
*Attachments:*
  - i. Cover Letter from the President and Speaker **7.0 - 7.1**
  - ii. Outline of Issue **7.2**
  - iii. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council and GSA Standing Committees **7.3 - 7.12**

Prepared by C Thomas, L Hareuther and J Tanguay for GSA Council 28 January 2019

/Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/GSA Council/Meetings/2018-2019/January 2019/Second Mailing/GSA Council 28 January 2019 Item 2 - Agenda (Second Mailing).docx

- iv. Letter of Support from Dean Andersen, Faculty of Native Studies 7.13 - 7.14

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

**8. GSA Council Elections**

**Kenzie Gordon (GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair) will present the item.**

Dean of Medicine and Dentistry Selection Committee (1 vacancy)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the Dean of Medicine and Dentistry Selection Committee (1 vacancy) 8.0 - 8.9

GSA Standing Committees

a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (6 vacancies)

*Attachment:*

- ii. Nominees for the GSA ACB (4 vacancies) 8.10 - 8.16
- iii. Nominees for the GSA ACB Chair and Vice-Chair (2 vacancies) 8.17 - 8.23

b. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (1 vacancy)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSA BFC (1 vacancy) 8.24 - 8.28

**For Discussion:**

**9. GSA Health and Dental Plan Update**

**Fahed Elian (Vice-President Student Services) will present the item.**

*Attachments:*

- i. GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee: Process and Timeline 9.1 - 9.10

**10. GSA Board Strategic Work Plan: Update to GSA Council**

**Sasha van der Klein (President) will present the item.**

*Attachments:*

- i. Letter to GSA Council from the President 10.0 - 10.1
- ii. Letter to GSA Council from the Vice-President Academic 10.2
- iii. Letter to GSA Council from the Vice-President External 10.3
- iv. Letter to GSA Council from the Vice-President Labour 10.4
- v. Letter to GSA Council from the Vice-President Student Services 10.5
- vi. GSA Board 2018-2019 Strategic Work Plan **[For Information]** 10.6 - 10.12

**Reports**

**11. President (Sasha van der Klein, President)**

- i. President's Report 11.0 - 11.2
- ii. GSA Board 11.3
- iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee 11.4
- iv. GSA Governance Committee **(no written report at this time, next meeting will be 7 February 2019)**

**12. Vice-President Academic (Masoud Aliramezani, Vice-President Academic)**

- i. Vice-President Academic's Report 12.0 - 12.1

**13. Vice-President External (Zhihong Pan, Vice-President External)**

- i. Vice-President External's Report 13.0 - 13.1
- ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee 13.2

**14. Vice-President Labour (Beth Richardson, Vice-President Labour)**

- i. Vice-President Labour's Report 14.0 - 14.1
- ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee **(no written report at this time)**

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|---|-------------|
| 15. Vice-President Student Services ( <b>Fahed Elian, Vice-President Student Services</b> )                     |             |
| i. Vice-President Student Services' Report  | 15.0 - 15.1 |
|   |             |
| 16. Senator ( <b>Ahsan Ahmed, Senator</b> )   |             |
| i. Senator's Report ( <b>no written report at this time</b> )   |             |
|   |             |
| 17. Speaker ( <b>Pranidhi Baddam, Speaker</b> )   |             |
| i. Speaker's Report ( <b>no written report at this time</b> )   |             |
|   |             |
| 18. Chief Returning Officer ( <b>Vahid Ayan, Chief Returning Officer</b> )                                      |             |
| i. Chief Returning Officer's Report   | 18.0        |
|   |             |
| 19. GSA Nominating Committee ( <b>Kenzie Gordon, GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair</b> )                      |             |
| i. GSA Nominating Committee Report  | 19.0 - 19.1 |
|   |             |
| 20. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee ( <b>Leigh Spanner, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair</b> ) |             |
| i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report   | 20.0        |
|   |             |
| 21. GSA Management ( <b>Courtney Thomas, Executive Director</b> )   |             |
| i. Executive Director's Report  | 21.0 - 21.4 |

**Question Period**

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

**Adjournment**

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, 19 November 2018 at 6:00 pm  
2-100 University Hall, Van Vliet Complex

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sasha van der Klein (President)	Ruhul Amin (Biological Sciences)	Bethany McMillan (History & Classics)	Nicolas Ruel (Pharmacology)
Masoud Aliramezani (VP Academic)	Kevin Solar (Biomedical Engineering)	Jonathan Lai (Human Ecology)	Hamdah Al Nebaihi (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Zhihong Pan (VP External)	Teddy Carter (Business MBA)	Kristoffer Angelo Soliveh (Internetworking)	Mattia Sorgon (Philosophy)
Beth Richardson (VP Labour)	Rongrong Zhang (Business PhD)	Janita Frantsi (Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation)	Kimberley Dice (Physical Therapy)
Fahed Elian (VP Student Services)	Brett Roughead (Cell Biology)	Tabatha Plesuk; Julia Guy (Library & Info Studies)	Scott Karbashewski (Physics)
Pranidhi Baddam (Speaker)	Hareen Shafi (Chemical & Materials Engineering)	Lex Giesbrecht (Linguistics)	Yilun Wu (Physiology)
Raji Chokkalingam (Deputy Speaker)	Michael Armstrong (Chemistry)	Michelle Michelle (Math & Statistical Sciences)	Jason Zhang (Political Science)
Vahid Ayan (Chief Returning Officer)	Pedro Mateo (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Wasel-Ur Rahman (Mechanical Engineering)	Daniela Gomez (Psychiatry)
Ahsan Ahmed (Senator)	Lindsay Moore (Communication Sciences & Disorders)	Brendan Todd (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Emily Maplethorpe (Public Health)
Mahmud Amin (Councillor-at-Large)	Dylan Ashley (Computing Science)	Nariman Sepehrvand (Medicine)	Alesha Reed (Rehab Science)
Radhika Chakraborty (Councillor-at-Large)	Deneh'Cho Thompson (Drama)	Shahnaz Shahtoosi (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies)	Lea Lavy (Religious Studies)
Nuanyi Liang (Councillor-at-Large)	Alex Sheen (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences)	Rebecca Long; Andrew Schmaus (Neuroscience)	Yicong Luo (Resources Economics & Environmental Sociology)
Melissa Woghiren (Councillor-at-Large)	Zixuan Song (East Asian Studies)	Jennifer Stevenson (Nursing)	Robert Piazza (Secondary Education)
Hongbing Fan (Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science)	Areej Alshammiry (Educational Policy Studies)	Heather Capel (Occupational Therapy)	Jon Mora (Surgery)
Elizabeth Goldberg (Anthropology)	Chantal Labonté; Larissa Brosinsky (Educational Psychology)	Braden Chow (Oncology)	Samantha Wesch (Women's & Gender Studies)
Brianna Greenwood; Vineet Rathod (Biochemistry)	Krista Coté (English & Film Studies)	Khushmol Dhaliwal (Paediatrics)	

**Guests:** Dr. Steven Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic); Gitta Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration); Prerit Budhiraja (Mechanical Engineering, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate); Felipe Canavera (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences); Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal (AFNS, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate); Ashley Hynes (Renewable Resources); Peter Jun (Rehabilitation Science; GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate); Ronan Noble (Pediatrics, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate); Kanishk Patel (Mechanical Engineering, GSA Councillor-at-Large Candidate); Konstantin Tebenev (History & Classics); Britt Voaklander (School of Public Health); Kristine Wray (REES).

Speaker Pranidhi Baddam in the Chair.

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

**Roll Call****1. Roll Call of GSA Council Members in Attendance**

**Approval of Agenda****2. Approval of the 19 November 2018 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 19 November 2018 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. B Richardson **MOVED**; D Ashley **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes****3. Minutes from the 15 October 2018 GSA Council meeting**

Members had before them the 15 October 2018 GSA Council Minutes, which had been previously distributed on 9 November 2018. F Elian **MOVED**; S van der Klein **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

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

- i. **Introduction of GSA New Councillors:** N Sepehrvand (Medicine); L Moore (Communication Sciences & Disorders); L Lavy (Religious Studies); J Stevenson (Nursing); L Giesbrecht (Linguistics); H Shafi (Chemical & Materials Engineering).
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** None at this time.

**Councillor Announcements****5. GSA Council Member Announcements**

None at this time.

GSA Speaker asked GSA Council members if they were comfortable with moving forward with the action items on the agenda first, as Dr. S Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic) and G Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration) were not able to arrive until 6:30 PM. GSA Council members agreed.

**Action Items:****6. GSA 2018-2019 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report**

S van der Klein (GSA President) presented the item. Shirley Ball (Accountant) and Dorte Sheikh (Financial Manager) were present to answer questions.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2018-2019 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report.

S van der Klein reported that everything was on track and that the GSA was projecting a positive balance at the end of the fiscal year. She added that this positive balance was a smaller than in previous years, which indicated that the GSA had budgeted more effectively. She also noted that the majority of GSA revenue came from student fees, and so enrollment levels were closely monitored.

GSA Council members asked a few questions including, but not limited to: how significant the reductions and positive balance would be (S van der Klein responded that, last year, the balance was significantly higher than what was projected and that, this year, we expected the positive balance to be closer to what had been budgeted), and why the GSA was underspent in telephone expenses (D Sheikh responded that they had increased that line by CPI in anticipation that the University at any point could increase their telephone bill, but that these costs had not increased, which resulted in savings).

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the GSA 2018-2019 Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report. F Elian **MOVED**; P Mateo **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

As the guests has not yet arrived, the GSA Speaker suggested that GSA Council members move on with Item 9 and delay Item 8 until after the presentation, as it might require a full discussion that should not be interrupted. GSA Council members agreed.

**7. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on Graduate Student Groups**

S van der Klein (GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board) and Fahed Elian (GSA VP Student Services) presented the item.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and the addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

S van der Klein noted that these recommended changes included the addition to GSA Bylaw and Policy of former GSA Board Policy, the renaming of “Academically-Related Graduate Student Groups” to “GSA Graduate Student Groups,” and a few editorial changes. There were no questions.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and the addition of GSA Policy on Graduate Student Groups, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. S Wesch **MOVED**; B Todd **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

#### 8. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios

S van der Klein (GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board) presented the item.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council.

S van der Klein noted that the recommended changes were administrative and editorial in nature and incorporated former sections of GSA Board Policy into GSA Bylaw and Policy and that the changes also put into GSA Policy the current practice related to the appointment of the GSA’s third member to the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council. There were no questions.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Officer Portfolios and GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval by GSA Council. Z Pan **MOVED**; M Aliramezani **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

GSA Council then moved on to Elections, Reports, and Question Period.

### Elections

#### 9. GSA Council Elections

D Ashley (Vice-Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee) presented the item and introduced the nominees, who were given the opportunity to address GSA Council by responding to a question provided in advance. D Ashley asked the following question of the candidates for GSA Councillor-at-Large and the candidates were given 45 seconds to respond: “Please tell GSA Council what motivated you to run for this position.”

Nominees for GSA Councillor-at-Large:

Prerit Budhiraja (Mechanical Engineering)  
 Harleen Kaur Dhaliwal (Agriculture, Food, and Nutritional Sciences)  
 Peter Jun (Rehabilitation Science)  
 Ronan Noble (Pediatrics)  
 Kanishk Patel (Mechanical Engineering)

#### GSA Standing Committees

- a. GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (4 vacancy)

Nominee for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board:

Ludwig Paul Cabling (Civil and Environmental Engineering)  
 Ryan D’Orazio (Computing Science)

Marla Palakkamanil (Public Health)

- b. GSA Board (1 vacancy)

Nominee for GSA Board:

Milad Rezvani Rad (Mechanical Engineering)

- c. GSA Budget and Finance Committee (1 vacancy)

Nominee for GSA Budget and Finance Committee:

Tabatha Plesuk (Library and Information Studies)

David Tandio (Pharmacology)

## **Reports**

### **10. President**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

#### **iv. GSA Governance Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

### **11. Vice-President Academic**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition M Aliramezani stated that the supervisory committee meeting survey had closed and that the GSA office had worked on a summary report, which would be shared with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). He added that the participation rate was not high but it might be sufficient to start discussions with the FGSR.

### **12. Vice-President External**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition Z Pan stated that the GSA Awards Selection Committee finalized the list of nominees for the Alberta Graduate Citizenship Award and forwarded the list to the provincial government.

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

### **13. Vice-President Labour**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

#### **ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report**

No meetings this reporting period.

### **14. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

**15. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

**16. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**17. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.

**18. GSA Nominating Committee**

**i. GSA Nominating Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition D Ashley stated that there was a vacancy for a graduate student in the Faculty of Science on the Dean Selection for the Faculty of Science. He added that due to the tight timeline and the cancellation of the December meeting of GSA Council, GSA Council would be asked to vote electronically in early December to fill this vacancy. D Ashley encouraged graduate students in the Faculty of Science that had not yet heard about this opportunity to contact the GSA Nominating Committee. M Woghiren asked if GSA Council would have an opportunity to hear candidates speak if voting occurred outside of a GSA Council meeting (D Ashley confirmed that GSA Council would only vote on the Bio and Resume form submitted by the candidate and would not have the opportunity to hear the candidates speak). S van der Klein further added that usually with Dean Selection Committees there was a way for graduate students to share comments and feedback with the graduate student representative for them to take to the Committee.

**19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted.

**20. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 16 November 2018. The report stood as submitted. In addition C Thomas stated that the Early Call process was mostly concluded and a coffee wrap-up would be held on 5 December for current officers and anyone interested in running. GSA Council members were reminded that, if they did not have a chance to participate and were still interested, individual sessions could be provided upon request.

**Question Period**

**21. Written Questions**

None at this time.

**22. Oral Questions**

None at this time.

At this time, guests, Dr. S Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic) and G Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration), arrived and GSA Council moved to their presentation.

**Presentations:**

**23. University Budget and Graduate Tuition Fees**

Svan der Klein (GSA President) presented the item and introduced the guests, Dr. S Dew (Provost and Vice-President Academic) and G Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration). S Dew noted that they would be providing a formal presentation on the University's budget and discussing Bill 19, which was an important piece of legislation that would influence the U of A's tuition proposals for the upcoming years.

G Kulczycki provided a presentation on the University's budget. She noted that the operating budget was the area where the University could make decisions on how to allocate money, and that this was the area into which revenue from tuition and the Campus Alberta Grant went. She emphasized that the main revenue from the University came from student tuition and fees, and that the other major funding source was the provincial government. She highlighted that the operating budget was used to pay the vast majority of expenses related to staff, with the exception of those staff funded entirely through research grants. She then noted that the ancillary section of the budget related to food services, residences, parking, and the bookstore, and that the intention of these services was to break even, since no revenues from tuition, the Campus Alberta Grant, or research grants could be allocated to these areas of the budget. She emphasized that funding received through research grants was fully restricted and could only be used for the purpose the grant was intended for. She also noted that the University also received capital funding from the government for things such as infrastructure and maintenance. She also reviewed investment income, and the spending allocations related to endowments, noting that the money provided through an endowment could only be allocated towards the original purpose of the endowment, whether that was for research grants or scholarships for students.

G Kulczycki indicated that the University had started a three-year budget planning process, which had been introduced for the first time in fall 2017. She outlined that the University last year had set reduction targets of -4%, -2.5%, and -2.5% for the next three years. She then reviewed the University's expenses, noting that a large portion of the budget went towards salaries, given the nature of the work at the University. She further highlighted that last year they had made a conservative assumption that they would not receive backfill funding for the freeze in domestic tuition fees, and that they wouldn't receive an increase to the Campus Alberta Grant. G Kulczycki reported that the provincial government ended up increasing the base Campus Alberta Grant by 2% and giving backfill funding for domestic tuition, which had added \$16.9 million to the 2018-2019 budget. She reported that the University still had a structural deficit, given that their ongoing expenses exceeded revenues, and that there had been a number of important allocations made from the \$16.9 million received, following feedback from Deans and senior administration. She noted that these allocations had been made to various initiatives including campus safety and security, initiatives related to *For the Public Good*, signature programs, benefit increases, and one-time funding for mental health services.

G Kulczycki reported that they were now in their next budget planning cycle, which began in August 2018, and that they had issued planning guidelines, along with targets to faculties and support units outlining what assumptions to make in terms of revenue increases or decreases for the next three years. She added that, when developing their budget, all faculties and support units were asked to develop their budget in alignment with their mission and the University's strategic plan. She indicated that, following budget planning meetings in November and December, they would be presenting the final budget starting in February. She added that, with the 2% increase to the Campus Alberta Grant and the backfill funding received for 2018-2019, the University could avoid the original -2.5% reduction they had projected last year for 2019-2020. She highlighted some of the uncertainties they were facing in developing the 2019-2020 budget including the upcoming provincial election and the influence of the oil prices on the provincial government's budget. She stated that they were focused on conservative planning for 0% next year, and then -2.5% reduction each year for the following two years. She indicated that every percentage increase the University didn't receive from the provincial government equaled to \$6.4 million, that every percentage increase for domestic tuition equated to \$2 million, and every percentage increase for international tuition equated to \$1 million.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, but not limited to: what the specifics were related to allocating \$3.5 million from the backfill funding to benefits, and who received those benefits (G Kulczycki responded that they were short by \$7.4 million in this budget area, so the allocation of \$3.5 million alleviated part of the deficit and S Dew noted that this referred to the benefits provided for all faculty and staff paid under the operating budget); what assumptions were made about projected increases to tuition revenue (G Kulczycki responded that it was a combination of a number of factors, including the mix of students, as there were different tuition rates in different programs, the increases to international tuition, and increases in enrolment numbers); whether they had made assumptions that there would be another freeze on domestic tuition (G Kulczycki responded that the government had already confirmed a freeze on domestic tuition for 2019-2020); the specific benefits that were included in the University budget (G Kulczycki responded that these benefits were not associated with those related to graduate students, but rather the benefit plans that University employees were provided including health coverage and pension plans); whether the additional funding for mental health services would be sustained (G Kulczycki responded that this funding was only meant to be one-time funding for the current year, but that they would be adding the allocated amount to their base budget during the planning process moving forward; it was also noted that this one-time injection supported additional programming through the Dean of Students Office); the assumptions made when projecting a decrease in earnings through investment income in the three-year budget projection (G Kulczycki responded that this was an intentional decision, as they were trying to move away from funding ongoing expenses in the operating budget through investment income and that moving forward investment income would be used to set-up a strategic investment fund to support strategic initiatives); and given that such a large amount of the operating budget went towards salaries, whether there had been discussions about salary freezes (G Kulczycki responded that, most University employees were paid according to their Collective Agreement either under

the Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (AASUA) or the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA), and that discussion of salary freezes occurred during collective bargaining, which was currently ongoing with both unions; S Dew confirmed that staff not within bargaining units (mostly senior administration) had had their salaries frozen for the past four years).

S Dew then provided a brief overview on graduate tuition. He noted that normally they would come to GSA Council in the fall with a specific proposal, given that the government was expected to introduce a new bill providing clarity around tuition fee increases. He added that the Bill was titled Bill 19 and was awaiting the approval of the third reading. He noted that there were a number of elements within Bill 19 that affected post-secondary institutions, the biggest of which was tuition. S Dew outlined that Bill 19, starting in fall 2020, required that tuition increase for domestic students be no more than the rate of the Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) and that, for international students, Bill 19 required predictability for their tuition rates for the duration of their program. He added that, while this legislation had been tabled and would likely be passed, there were still further details that the Ministry of Advanced Education would need to set in further regulations including the length of a program. S Dew noted that the process to determine the future increases for the duration of a graduate program would have to be done through a combination of accurate forecasting but also having to estimate what increases would need to be for those future years. He indicated that two international students within the same classroom may be paying different tuition rates if they were admitted in different years. He added that these changes came as a result of hearing how important predictability was for international students. S Dew reported that the government had emphasized that international students have to pay the full cost of their education, which could not be subsidized through the Campus Alberta Grant, or domestic tuition. He further noted that to increase financial supports for international students, increases to international tuition would be necessary. He also indicated that the government had indicated that executive graduate programs, such as the executive MBA, would not be subject to these regulations, with a number of caveats from the government. He reported that while they worked on developing international tuition for 2019-2020, they would be working through the regular consultation process with graduate and undergraduate students, along with various U of A committees, and the U of A Board of Governors.

GSA Council members asked a series of questions concerning, including but not limited to: whether the Minister of Advanced Education had provided information regarding the standard length of a program for international students, and whether the University would be considering the actual average length of programs, or just four years (S Dew responded that he does not yet know the answer to this question, and that it would depend on the details included in the government's regulations, along with consultation from various stakeholders); what factors had been used to predict the potential increases to international tuition, and whether they were specific to the University, or whether these were province-wide factors (S Dew responded that there were a number of factors used, including a weighted estimate of increases in each area of the operating budget and that, while some elements increased by CPI, the most significant expense for the University was salaries and benefits, and these increased as a rate higher than CPI); whether the University had considered redirecting some funds to keep the University competitive, given that other universities, such as the University of Toronto, were decreasing international tuition (G Kulczycki indicated that the expectation from the provincial government was that international students would pay the full cost of their tuition, and so the increase to international tuition reflected the University's estimated cost increases and was not an extraordinary cost increase to deal with the University's budget pressures); the fact that last year the 3.14% increase to international tuition had been presented in the context that there would be a 4% budget reduction (G Kulczycki responded that last year the increase to international student tuition was to account for the increase in costs to deliver education (including increases salaries and benefits as well as inflationary costs) and the 4% budget reduction was to deal with the structural deficit; and the tuition backfill provided by the government was to cover the revenues not received due to the University not being able to increase tuition from domestic students); in terms of predictability, whether the University could tie international tuition to CPI increases (S Dew responded that international students would have to know what the cost of their tuition would be for the period of their program and that using CPI would be a challenge as CPI couldn't be known that long in advance); whether provincial opposition parties had made comments about Bill 19 (S Dew indicated that, in reading some of the transcripts of the debate in the legislature, he would characterize most of the opposition's conversations as supportive, and that the few concerns expressed were about the Bill's impact on the University's ability to manage its finances); given that the main source of revenue came from the provincial government, why was the University's budget cycle three years and how was the budget related to the provincial election (G Kulczycki responded that they were trying to look ahead to provide better long-term planning and that elections could bring a new government with very different priorities, which could affect the University's revenues); why the University didn't put its budget on a four-year cycle, which was what the City of Edmonton did with its budget (G Kulczycki responded that there were a variety of different ways to budget, but the idea was to always look a few years out); and whether the consultation process for the 2019 tuition proposal would be limited to faculty, or whether it would be open to students and student representatives (S Dew responded that their consultation process around tuition was well-defined, and utilized a number of committee, including the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee, which had representatives from both the GSA and the Students' Union; he added that the consultation started with students, and that students served on

committees at all levels of approval for these proposals, including the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, the General Faculties Council, the Board Finance and Property Committee, and the Board of Governors).

Following this item, GSA Council then moved on to the final action items.

#### **Action Items:**

#### **24. Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council and GSA Standing committees**

S van der Klein (GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board) presented the item.

**MOTION BEFORE GSA COUNCIL:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C: GSA Council and GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy.

S van der Klein explained that the first part of the recommended proposal was to integrate the Standing Orders of GSA Council into GSA Policy and Bylaw. She noted that the second aspect of the proposal was to introduce a seat on GSA Council aimed at representing Indigenous graduate students. S van der Klein explained that this was the right thing to do as, in advocating toward more indigenous representation across the University, it was key for the GSA to start with itself. She added that one part of this year's Strategic Work Plan was to support indigenous students and she noted that she had worked on this proposal with the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA), who also provided some background for the cover letter, and solicited support from the Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies (included in the meeting material). S van der Klein noted that she was proud to be bringing forward this proposal.

GSA Councillors brought up a number of questions and comments, including but not limited to: their appreciation for the initiative and while increasing indigenous representation was positive, some GSA Council members expressed concern about creating ethnic quotas within the GSA (it was noted that the role of indigenous peoples in Canadian history was specific to the Canadian context, and that, not only was the proposal aimed at increasing the representation of a underrepresented demographic, but was also geared at giving a voice where before there was none, both of which were important).

**MOTION:** That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C: GSA Council and GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon the second reading by GSA Council in the case of GSA Bylaw and the approval of GSA Council in the case of GSA Policy. L Giesbrecht **MOVED**; Z Pan **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

16 November 2018

Attached you will find a proposal for recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council developed by the GSA Speaker (who is a non-voting member of the GSA Governance Committee and who is responsible for presiding over all meetings of GSA Council) and myself. The recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy presented in the attached proposal can be summarized thusly:

- The Standing Orders of GSA Council currently exist as a freestanding document. It contains the rules by which GSA Council operates. The recommended changes have incorporated the core elements of the Standing Orders into current GSA Policy on GSA Council, and have made clarifications and removed redundancies where needed.
- The creation of a seat on GSA Council for an Indigenous graduate student. As members are aware, when myself and my Vice-Presidents developed the GSA Board Strategic Work Plan for 2018-2019 we included among our priorities:
  - “Initiatives and programs that specifically support Indigenous and international graduate students.”
  - “The GSA will work to sustain a respectful, supportive, and welcoming environment for all graduate students, (including Indigenous graduate students, international graduate students, and graduate students who parent, among others), and will further sustain working relationships with stakeholders to ensure an inclusive campus free from discrimination; one that offers support for graduate students in diverse circumstances and with diverse needs.”

In pursuit of these goals, we discussed, among other matters, the lack of representation from Indigenous students in both the University and the GSA governance structure. Accordingly, over the summer, I (as GSA President) met with representatives from the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) to seek their assistance in developing a proposal concerning the addition of a seat for an Indigenous graduate student on GSA Council. As a result of those discussions, they have put forward the following background information regarding the creation of this seat:

- “The Indigenous Graduate Student Association is a new graduate student group at the University of Alberta. We consist of graduate students who have come together from a variety of departments and faculties across the University of Alberta with the goal of expanding, developing and strengthening opportunities for Indigenous graduate student voices to be heard on campus



and in University governance. We support the creation of an Indigenous graduate student voting seat on the GSA Council for the following reasons.

(ONE) Alignment with broader institutional movements and previously established commitments: The greater institutions we live and work within (the University of Alberta, the Government of Canada, the United Nations) have recognized that making space for Indigenous peoples and their voices is a priority.

(TWO) Recognition: That Indigenous people in Canada have been historically and currently are marginalized in decision-making.

(THREE) Representation: Indigenous graduate students are found in every department and faculty at our University. However, there is no forum at the graduate level for these students to bring forth their specific concerns related to being an Indigenous student except through their departmental or faculty GSA representative. We suggest that Indigenous students rarely, if ever, approach their departmental or faculty GSA representative to carry forth a specific issue related to Indigenous graduate students, and we suspect that non-Indigenous GSA student representatives may not feel comfortable or equipped to bring these issues forward.”

- Myself and my Vice-Presidents agree strongly with the points they put forward and, following this conversation, we developed this proposal, which details that the seat will be filled by an appointment process carried out by the IGSA and subject to the same GSA Council attendance and remuneration policies as departmental representatives, and clarifies that the representative will also be eligible to be elected by GSA Council to serve on various GSA Standing Committees.
- The recommended changes outline what occurs in the case of a tie vote within GSA Council and GSA Standing Committee, which is not addressed in current GSA Bylaw and Policy. Current practice is that a tie is considered a loss and the addition of wording to this effect is recommended.

We look forward to discussing these recommended changes with you in November.

Sasha van der Klein,  
GSA President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee

*and*

Pranidhi Baddam,  
GSA Speaker and non-voting member of the GSA Governance Committee

### Outline of Issue

#### **Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy and Addition of GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council and GSA Standing Committees**

#### **Suggested Motion for the GSA Council Board:**

That the GSA Council, on the recommendations of GSA Governance Committee and GSA Board, **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C: GSA Council and GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, as shown in the attached double column document and effective upon approval of GSA Council.

**NOTE 1:** The recommended changes apply to Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council; Section C: GSA Policy, GSA Council; Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, GSA Council Attendance; and Section F: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees.

**NOTE 2:** This is the second reading of recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and first and only reading of recommended changes to GSA Policy. The first reading of recommended changes to GSA Bylaw was approved at the November GSA Council meeting.

#### **Background:**

The attached proposal for recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy address the following:

- The addition of a seat on GSA Council for a representative from the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association, following consultation with this group over the summer.
- On the recommendation of the GSA Speaker, integrating the Standing Orders of GSA Council (currently a separate document) into existing GSA Bylaw and Policy on GSA Council, in the interests of streamlining the GSA's governing documents.
- The addition of language concerning what occurs in the event of a tie vote in a GSA Council or GSA Standing Committee meeting to align with current practice that a tie is considered a loss.

The GSA Governance Committee reviewed and recommended this proposal to GSA Council at its 25 October 2018 meeting. The GSA Board reviewed and made its own recommendation to GSA Council at its 31 October 2018 meeting.

Please see the attached cover letter to GSA Council from the President and Chair of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Speaker for additional information.

#### **Jurisdiction:**

##### Section F: Standing Committees, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, Section F.POL.4.2.a

The GSA GC will *"advise GSA Council on matters of GSA Bylaw and Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governance issues, and recommend changes to GSA Council."*

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

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

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

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

<b>Recommended Additions to GSA Bylaw and Policy (GSA Council) and Rescission of the Standing Orders of GSA Council</b>	
<b>Current GSA Bylaw and Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Recommended Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<b>Section C: GSA Council</b>	<i>No change.</i>
<b>Purpose and Scope:</b> This bylaw and associated policies govern procedures related to GSA Council, as well as attendance at GSA Council.	<i>No change.</i>
<b>Definitions:</b> "Working Day" is defined as a day that the GSA office is open	<i>No change.</i>
<b>Other Specifically Related Sections of GSA Governing Documents:</b> GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios	<i>No change.</i>
C.BYL.1 ...	<i>No change.</i>
<b>C.BYL.2 General</b>	<i>To parallel other sections of GSA Bylaw indicating the presence of an associated governing Policy.</i>
<u>C.BYL.2.1 GSA Council and attendance at GSA Council will be governed by GSA Policy (see Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, GSA Council and Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, GSA Council Attendance).</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<del>C.BYL.2 C.BYL.3.2.c ...</del>	<i>Recommended removal as incorporated into proposed sections of GSA Policy, below.</i>
<del>C.BYL.3.2.d A petition signed by at least one hundred (100) members of the GSA.</del>	<i>Recommended removal as a petition process already exists in the PSLA.</i>
<del>C.BYL.3.3 C.BYL.4.1 ...</del>	<i>Recommended removal as incorporated into proposed sections of GSA Policy, below.</i>
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Council</b>	<i>Recommended relocation of items currently in GSA Bylaw (C.BYL.2-C.BYL.4) to GSA Policy (in keeping with the GSA's convention of having Bylaw be very high level and accompanied by more detailed Policy).</i>
<b>C.POL.1 GSA Council Composition</b>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.1 GSA Council is comprised of:</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.1.a All Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) as voting members,</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.1.b All GSA Council-Elected Officers and Deputies as non-voting members,</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>

<u>C.POL.1.1.c One (1) graduate student elected from each department, faculty, or extra-departmental unit at the University that offers a graduate program (Departmental Councillors) as voting members.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.1.d One (1) Councillor elected by the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) as a voting member.</u>	<i>See above rationale and recommended addition of a seat for the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.1.d Ten (10) Councillors-at-Large (CALs) as voting members, and</u>	<i>Recommended relocation of items currently in GSA Bylaw (C.BYL.2-C.BYL.4) to GSA Policy (in keeping with the GSA's convention of having Bylaw be very high level and accompanied by more detailed Policy).</i>
<u>C.POL.1.1.e The GSA Directors as non-voting members.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.2 Departmental Councillors and the IGSA Councillor, and their alternates, will be elected (or, in the case of alternates, appointed) annually for a one (1) year term by graduate students from their department ('constituents') or from the membership of the IGSA according to their own procedures or their group Constitution.</u>	<i>See above rationale and recommended addition of a seat for the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.2.a The duties of Departmental Councillors and the IGSA Councillor will be:</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.2.a.i To act as the primary liaison between the GSA and their constituents, including sending their constituents a brief report on GSA Council meetings and soliciting feedback,</u>	<i>Recommended relocation of items currently in GSA Bylaw (C.BYL.2-C.BYL.4) to GSA Policy (in keeping with the GSA's convention of having Bylaw be very high level and accompanied by more detailed Policy).</i>
<u>C.POL.1.2.a.ii To attend all meetings of GSA Council or, if they are unable to attend, to ensure their alternate can attend in their place, and</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.2.a.iii To ensure that the Speaker and GSA office are kept up to date with their names, departmental addresses, and contact information.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.2.b For the benefit of graduate students in each department, faculty, or extra-departmental unit at the University, as represented by their Departmental Councillors or alternates that meet the attendance requirements, GSA Council remuneration will be provided, as specified in GSA Policy, GSA Council Attendance.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.2.b.i The IGSA will be provided with GSA Council remuneration, as specified in GSA Policy, GSA Council Attendance.</u>	
<u>C.POL.1.3 CALs will be members of the GSA, excluding associate members, elected annually, with their terms to run from 1 May until 30 April of the following year.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.3.a In the case of CALs, 'constituents' will refer to all members of the GSA.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>

<u>C.POL.1.3.b The duties of CALs will be:</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.3.b.i To attend all meetings of GSA Council,</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.3.b.ii To ensure that the Speaker and GSA office are kept up to date with their names, departmental addresses, and contact information, and</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.3.b.iii To provide additional voices on GSA Council from those offered by DEOs, Departmental Councillors, and the IGSA Councillor.</u>	<i>See above rationale and recommended addition of a seat for the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association.</i>
<u>C.POL.1.4 Members of the public are required to sign in with the Speaker and will be given a placard. They may not vote and do not have speaking privileges unless extended them by GSA Council following a vote on the matter.</u>	<i>Recommended relocation of the current Standing Orders of GSA Council to GSA Policy.</i>
<b><u>C.POL.2 GSA Council Meetings</u></b>	<i>Recommended relocation of items currently in GSA Bylaw (C.BYL.2-C.BYL.4) to GSA Policy (in keeping with the GSA's convention of having Bylaw be very high level and accompanied by more detailed Policy).</i>
<u>C.BYL.3.1 Regular meetings of GSA Council will be scheduled to be held on a monthly basis in accordance with Standing Orders of GSA Council. C.POL.2.1 The Speaker sets GSA Council meeting dates annually. If lacking sufficient agenda items, up to two (2) meetings may be cancelled at the discretion of the Speaker and President, but never two (2) sequential meetings.</u>	<i>Recommended relocation of the current Standing Orders of GSA Council to GSA Policy, and removal of specifically noting that GSA Council meetings are normally held on Mondays at 6 pm.</i>
<u>C.POL.2.2 Quorum for any GSA Council meeting will consist of thirty (30) voting members of GSA Council.</u>	<i>Recommended relocation of items currently in GSA Bylaw (C.BYL.2-C.BYL.4) to GSA Policy (in keeping with the GSA's convention of having Bylaw be very high level and accompanied by more detailed Policy).</i>
<u>C.POL.2.3 Agendas for GSA Council meetings will normally include time for: receiving the names of new GSA Council members, presentations, announcements from GSA Council members, action items, elections, reports from DEOs, GSA Standing Committees, and Management, and question period.</u>	<i>Editorial and recommended relocation of the current Standing Orders of GSA Council to GSA Policy.</i>
<u>C.POL.2.3.a Agenda items normally come to GSA Council from the GSA Board (GSAB) or other GSA Standing Committees. Members of GSA Council who wish to place an item on the agenda should contact the Speaker.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>

<u>C.POL.2.3.b Substantive agenda items are circulated to GSA Council members at least one (1) week prior to the date of the meeting on instruction of the Speaker. Substantive items received after this will be added to the agenda at the discretion of the Speaker. Reports for information are circulated the Friday (or Thursday, in the event of a holiday related closure of the GSA office) before a Monday meeting.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.2.3.c Changes to the agenda made at meetings require a two-thirds majority vote.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.2.4 Special Meetings of GSA Council</u>	<i>Recommended relocation of items currently in GSA Bylaw (C.BYL.2-C.BYL.4) to GSA Policy (in keeping with the GSA's convention of having Bylaw be very high level and accompanied by more detailed Policy).</i>
<u>C.POL.2.4.a Special meetings of GSA Council will have specific and limited agendas and may be called when important matters arise for decision either between regular meetings or at a time when pressure of business would not allow them to be adequately disposed of at a scheduled meeting. Procedures governing scheduled meetings will apply to special meetings.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.2.4.b With reasonable notice (when possible five (5) working days), special meetings will be called by the Speaker following receipt of any of the following:</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.2.4.b.i A Motion of GSA Council at any GSA Council meeting,</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.2.4.b.ii A Motion of the GSAB, or</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.2.4.b.iii A petition request to the GSAB made signed by ten (10) or more members of GSA Council, to be received by the GSAB, or</u>	<i>Recommended to not use the terminology of petitioning as a petition process already exists in the PSLA, distinct from this different process of the GSA.</i>
<u>C.POL.2.4.c Any request for a special meeting of GSA Council as denoted in Section C.BYL.3.2 above will specify the intended purpose of that meeting, and all business at the meeting must, unless otherwise mandated by GSA Bylaw, be restricted to the specified purpose of the meeting.</u>	<i>Editorial and recommended relocation of items currently in GSA Bylaw (C.BYL.2-C.BYL.4) to GSA Policy (in keeping with the GSA's convention of having Bylaw be very high level and accompanied by more detailed Policy).</i>
<b><u>C.POL.3 Procedure at GSA Council Meetings</u></b>	<i>Recommended relocation of the current Standing Orders of GSA Council to GSA Policy.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.1 The duties of the Speaker are outlined in Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Policy, GSA Officer Portfolios.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.1.a If the Speaker is unable to perform any of his/her duties, the Deputy Speaker will act. If neither is available, the President and the Executive Director (ED) (or delegate) will consult on the action(s) to be taken.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>

<u>C.POL.3.2 Motions (formal proposals that GSA Council take certain actions), are normally accompanied by a Notice of Motion (advance written notice that a Motion will be presented and debated at an upcoming meeting of GSA Council). Notices of Motion must be presented in time to be circulated with the first mailing of the GSA Council material, as described above.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.a To move a Motion, voting members of GSA Council must first be recognized by the Speaker. A Motion must be seconded; a second simply indicates that the seconder agrees that the Motion should be debated and not that the seconder necessarily favours the Motion.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.b During discussion and debate, voting members of GSA Council may:</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.b.i Move an amendment to a Motion. Amendments to a Motion must be germane; that is, they must be closely related to the subject of the Motion.</u>	<i>See above rationale and removal of language concerning friendly amendments (overly complicated and never used before by GSA Council).</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.b.ii Move a Motion to Defer, which enables the discussion of a substantive issue to be put off to a later, specified time.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.b.iii Move a Motion to Table, which allows GSA Council to lay aside a Motion until some future time. This Motion is not debatable, except with respect to when the Motion will return to GSA Council.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.c Following discussion and debate, a Motion goes to a vote.</u>	<i>Recommended inclusion of text from the GSA Council Handbook in GSA Policy.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.c.i A majority vote is needed for a Motion to pass; in the event of a tie a Motion is considered to have failed.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.d Voting members of GSA Council may also:</u>	<i>Recommended relocation of the current Standing Orders of GSA Council to GSA Policy.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.d.i Move a Motion to Refer, which allows GSA Council to refer an issue to another body, usually a GSA Standing Committee.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.d.ii Move a Motion to Rescind, which allows GSA Council to cancel or stop an entire Motion that had already been adopted.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.d.iii Move a Motion to Reconsider, which allows GSA Council to return to a Motion that has been voted on at the meeting, in an instance where new information emerges or the situation changes, allowing GSA Council to consider and vote anew, as if GSA Council had not previously voted on the Motion.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>

<u>C.POL.3.2.e GSA Council may choose to close meetings by a simple majority vote, in which case only GSA Council members and GSA staff may attend; others wishing to attend must have permission extended by GSA Council following a vote.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.2.e.i Open session minutes of GSA Council will be posted on the GSA website. Closed session minutes are confidential.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.3 Prerogatives of GSA Council Members</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.3.a After being recognized by the Speaker, any member of GSA Council may:</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.3.a.i Ask a question for information,</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.3.a.ii Provide a Point of Information (request or provide information),</u>	<i>Recommended inclusion of text from the GSA Council Handbook in GSA Policy.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.3.a.iii Provide a Point of Order (ask that the Speaker enforce procedures governing GSA Council),</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.3.a.iv Provide a Point of Personal Privilege (protest a personal remark),</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.3.a.v Call the Question (call for a vote on an associated Motion if it is felt that there has been a fulsome discussion and it is time to move to a vote), or</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.3.a.vi Motion for adjournment (separate from the adjournment as listed on the meeting agenda); this Motion must be moved and seconded by voting members, is not debatable, and requires a majority vote to pass.</u>	<i>Recommended relocation of the current Standing Orders of GSA Council to GSA Policy.</i>
<u>C.POL.3.4 If a member of GSA Council considers that a ruling made by the Speaker is not in order, they may appeal the Speaker's ruling. If this happens, the Speaker will give a brief explanation of their ruling. After questions and debate, the Speaker then asks voting members to vote on whether their ruling is upheld. If the ruling of the Speaker is overturned, the Speaker is bound to take the necessary remedial action to correct the situation.</u>	<i>See above rationale.</i>
<b><u>GSA Policy: GSA Council Attendance</u></b>	<i>No change.</i>
<u>C.POL.5 – C.POL.5.2</u>	<i>No change aside from renumbering C.POL.5 – C.POL.5.2.e to C.POL.4 – C.POL.4.2.e.</i>

C.POL.4.2.a The Speaker, <u>Deputy Speaker</u> , Chief Returning Officer (CRO), <u>Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)</u> , and Senator are expected to attend all GSA Council meetings.	<i>Editorial, to reflect the current content in C.POL.5.2.d.</i>
C.POL.5.4.2.b	<i>Renumbering.</i>
C.POL.5.4.2.c If the CRO cannot attend a meeting, they will provide an advance written reason to the Speaker and the <del>Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)</del> . If the CRO miss two (2) consecutive GSA Council meetings or a total of three (3) GSA Council meetings during their term, without an advance written reason acceptable to the Speaker and the DRO, the Speaker, in consultation with the DRO and the ED (or delegate), will consider what action(s) should be taken.	<i>Editorial.</i>
C.POL.5.2.d – C.POL.5.2.e	<i>No change aside from renumbering C.POL.5.2.d – C.POL.5.2.e to C.POL.4.2.d – C.POL.4.2.e</i>
C.POL.5.4.3 Departmental Councillors and <u>the Representative of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association</u>	<i>Recommended addition of a seat for the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association.</i>
C.POL.5.4.3.a It is a duty of a <del>Departmental Councillors</del> <u>and the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) Councillor</u> “to attend all meetings of GSA Council or, if they are unable to attend, to ensure their alternate can attend in their place” (Section C: GSA Council, <del>GSA Bylaw, GSA Council, Section C.BYL.2.2.b.ii</del> <u>GSA Policy, GSA Council, Section C.POL.1.2.a.ii</u> ). If both the Departmental Councillor and the alternate cannot attend a meeting, they will provide an advance written reason to the Speaker. If a Departmental Councillor, or alternate, <del>or the IGSA Councillor, or alternate,</del> misses two (2) consecutive GSA Council meetings or a total of three (3) GSA Council meetings within a year, without an advance written reason acceptable to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, the Speaker, in consultation with the Deputy Speaker and the ED, will declare the position vacant and seek to have the position filled (see Section C: GSA Council, <del>GSA Bylaw, GSA Council, Section C.BYL.2.2.a</del> <u>GSA Policy, GSA Council, Section C.POL.1.2.a</u> ).	<i>Recommended addition of a seat for the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association.</i>
C.POL.5.3.b The GSA will provide, for the benefit of graduate students in each department, faculty, or extra departmental unit, remuneration based on a Departmental Councillor or alternate attendance rate of at least 50% at GSA Council meetings in a given year, which is defined as 1 May to the following 30 April.	<i>Replaced by new C.POL.4.3.b, below, which also recommends the addition of a seat for the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association.</i>

C.POL.4.3.b The GSA will provide, for the benefit of graduate students in each department, faculty, or extra-departmental unit, and for the benefit of graduate students represented by the IGSA, remuneration based on an attendance rate of at least 50% at GSA Council meetings in a given year, which is defined as 1 May to the following 30 April, by a Departmental Councillor, or alternate, and the IGSA Councillor, or alternate.	<i>See above rationale.</i>
C.POL.5.3.e 4.3.c The yearly amount budgeted for GSA Council remuneration shall be divided equally amongst the total number of eligible departments recipients.	<i>Recommended addition of a seat for the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association.</i>
<b>No further changes aside from renumbering the rest of the GSA Council Attendance policy and cross-checking all other sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy for any needed numbering updates or references to now amended sections and to the Standing Orders of GSA Council.</b>	
<b>GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees</b>	<i>No change.</i>
<b>F.POL.2 General</b>	<i>No change.</i>
<b>F.POL.2.1-F.POL.2.5 ...</b>	<i>No change.</i>
F.POL.2.6 GSA Standing Committees will consider any matters referred to them by GSA Council, the GSA Board (GSAB), the President, or the ED (or delegate).	<i>No change.</i>
F.POL.2.6.a A majority vote is needed for a Motion to pass; in the event of a tie a Motion is considered to have failed.	<i>To parallel recommended language in the section on GSA Council.</i>
<b>No further changes aside from adding to Section H that the IGSA Councillor may serve on the GSA ACB.</b>	

**The Standing Orders of GSA Council will be rescinded as content has been relocated to GSA Policy, as outlined in the above double column document.**

Standing Orders of GSA Council

GSA Council Meeting Procedures  
 Authority of GSA Council:

**Post-Secondary Learning Act:**

95(2)d: "The council of a student organization may make bylaws governing ... the calling of meetings of the council and the quorum and conduct of business at those meetings."

**Composition of GSA Council:** As set out in Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council, Section C.BYL.2.1, GSA Council is comprised of the following:

- "All Directly-Elected Officers as voting members,
- All Council-Elected Officers and Deputies as non-voting members,
- One (1) graduate student elected from each department, faculty, or extra-departmental unit at the University that offers a graduate program (Departmental Councillors) as voting members,
- Ten (10) Councillors-at-Large (CALs) as voting members, and
- The GSA Directors as non-voting members."

**Meetings of GSA Council:** The Speaker of GSA Council sets the meeting dates annually. GSA Council normally meets monthly on Mondays at 6:00 pm. If lacking sufficient agenda items, up to two (2) meetings may be cancelled at the discretion of the Speaker and President – but never two (2) sequential meetings.

GSA Council meetings are attended by GSA Council members, GSA management, staff and invited guests. Members of the public are required to sign in with the Speaker and will be given a guest placard. They may not speak or vote. GSA Council may choose to close meetings by a simple majority vote, in which case only GSA Council members and GSA staff may attend; others require a GSA Council vote.

Special meetings have specific and limited agendas and may be called when important matters arise for decision either between regular meetings or at a time when pressure of business would not allow them to be adequately disposed of at a scheduled meeting. Provisions governing scheduled meetings shall apply to special meetings. With reasonable notice (when possible five (5) working days ("Working Day" means a day the GSA office is open)), special meetings may be called by the Speaker following receipt of any of the following (as set out in Section C: GSA Council, GSA Bylaw, GSA Council, Section C.BYL.3.2):

- "A Motion of GSA Council at any GSA Council meeting,
- A Motion of the GSA Board,
- A petition signed by ten (10) or more members of GSA Council, to be received by the GSA Board, or
- A petition signed by at least one hundred (100) Members of the GSA."

Quorum for any GSA Council meeting shall consist of thirty (30) voting members of GSA Council.

**GSA Council Coordinator and Recording Secretary:** The GSA Executive Director will assign a manager as the Coordinator of GSA Council and a staff member as Recording Secretary to GSA Council.

**Normal Agenda Template:**

- I: Approval of Agenda
- II: Approval of Minutes
- III. Receiving Names of New Councillors and Introductions
- IV: Presentations and Councillor Announcements
- V: Action Items, Elections, Appointments, Special Business, Updates
- VI: Reports from Directly-Elected Officers, GSA Committees and Management, and Questions
- VII: Question Period
- VIII: Adjournment

**Agenda:** Agenda items normally come to GSA Council from the GSA Board or other GSA Standing Committees. Councillors who wish to place an item on the Agenda should contact the Speaker.

Copies of the first Agenda mailing (ie the bulk of the agenda material) is sent to all GSA Council members at least one (1) week prior to the date of the meeting by the Recording Secretary to GSA Council on instruction by the Speaker. Substantive items received after this initial mailing date are added at the discretion of the Speaker. Reports for information are emailed the Friday before a Monday meeting.

Changes to the Agenda made at meetings require a two-thirds majority vote of those present.

**Minutes:** GSA Council Minutes are taken by the GSA Council Recording Secretary and are circulated with the Agenda for the following meeting. Open session Minutes are posted on the GSA website. Closed session Minutes are confidential; brief notes will be taken by the Executive Director or delegate.

**Role of Speaker:** “The Speaker is responsible for presiding over all meetings of GSA Council” (Section D: GSA Officers, GSA Bylaw, GSA Officers, Section D.BYL.3.3.a). The Speaker strives to act in a neutral capacity and maintains order and decorum in GSA Council so that GSA Council can conduct its business in a fully-informed, fair fashion. If the Speaker is unable to perform any of his/her duties, the Deputy Speaker will act. If neither is available, the President will act.

**Attendance:** Attendance at GSA Council is governed by GSA Policy. See Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, GSA Council Attendance.

**Discussion:** The Speaker regulates the flow of discussion.

**Motions:** A Motion is a formal proposal that the GSA Council take certain action. To move a Motion, the member of GSA Council is recognized by the Speaker (ie raise your hand). A Motion must be seconded; a second simply indicates that the seconder agrees that the Motion should be debated and not that the seconder necessarily favours the Motion.

**Notice of Motion:** A Notice of Motion is a written advance notice that a Motion will be presented and debated at a future meeting of GSA Council. It must be presented in time to be circulated with the first mailing of the Agenda. Contact the Speaker for details.

**Amendments to a Motion:** An amendment must be germane; that is, it must be closely related to the subject of the Motion. Friendly Amendments are those which are acceptable to the mover and seconder of the Motion being amended.

**Motion to Refer:** A Motion to Refer allows GSA Council to refer an issue to another body, usually a committee of GSA Council.

**Motion to Defer:** A Motion to Defer enables the discussion of a substantive issue to be put off to a later, specified time.

**Motion to Table:** A Motion to Table allows GSA Council to lay aside a Motion until some future time. This Motion is not debatable, except with respect to when the Motion will return to GSA Council.

**Motion to Rescind:** A Motion to Rescind allows GSA Council to cancel or stop an entire Motion that had already been adopted.

**Motion to Reconsider:** A Motion to Reconsider allows GSA Council to return to a Motion that has been voted on *at the meeting*, in an instance where new information emerges or the situation changes, allowing GSA Council to consider and vote anew, as if GSA Council had not previously voted on the Motion.

**Motion to Adjourn:** This Motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and requires a majority vote of those present.

**GSA Council Members’ Prerogatives:** Any member may ask a question for information or about the decorum of GSA Council.

**Voting:** Voting is by majority vote of those present unless otherwise stated. Abstentions are called for at the discretion of the Speaker.

**Councillor Voting Ethics:** All members of GSA Council are charged with promoting and protecting the well-being of the GSA and serving their constituents. Councillors are charged with acting ethically and rising above local interests.

**Challenging the Speaker:** If a member of GSA Council considers that a ruling made by the Speaker is not in order, a Councillor may appeal the Speaker’s ruling. If this happens, the Speaker will give a brief explanation of his/her ruling. After questions and debate, the Speaker then asks this question: “Is the ruling of the Speaker upheld?” A majority (or tied) vote is needed for approval of the Speaker’s ruling. If the ruling of the Speaker is overturned, the Speaker is bound to take the necessary remedial action to correct the situation.

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November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Establishment of Indigenous Graduate Student Seat within the GSA

The newly formed Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA) aims to serve all Indigenous graduate students (both Masters and PhD level) within the University of Alberta. They have completed the necessary paperwork to become an official student group, which has provided them the opportunity to elect a governing executive to speak on behalf of students. This group has filled a gap at the university by creating a formal mechanism for Indigenous graduate students to organize, come together to share ideas, and also support each other. While the membership of this group continues to grow, it is vital that IGSA be incorporated into university governance from the outset. As Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies and Co-Lead of the Indigenous Initiatives Office (in the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic) I am writing in support of the establishment of an Indigenous Graduate Student Association's representative seat on the Graduate Student Association.

While the Faculty of Native Studies (FNS) already holds a seat within GSA for our student body, it is important to note that FNS does not and cannot speak on behalf of all Indigenous graduate students. Furthermore, the Faculty of Native Studies is a student-centred, research-oriented faculty that provides a common ground for all students regardless of ethnic background to learn, research, explore, and critically examine the historical and contemporary experiences of Native peoples and communities, and their relationships with Canada and other countries. Therefore, it would be a disservice to the FNS students and all Indigenous Graduate Students at the University of Alberta to conflate the role of FNS and IGSA within the GSA.

In the spirit of reconciliation, I encourage the GSA to establish a voting seat on its council for the Indigenous Graduate Student Association to represent the voices of **all** Indigenous graduate students at the University of Alberta.

Pishshapmishko,



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Dr. Chris Andersen  
Professor and Dean  
Faculty of Native Studies  
2-31 Pembina Hall  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB, CANADA  
T6G 2H8

Interim Co-Lead, Indigenous Initiatives  
Office of the Provost, University of Alberta  
2-40 South Academic Building  
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Member, Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
**DEAN OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY SELECTION COMMITTEE (ONE (1) POSITION):  
 SEVEN (7) NOMINEES**

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

“Each Departmental Graduate Student Association shall forward a name to the Graduate Students’ Association and the representative will be elected by the Graduate Students’ Association Council. If no Departmental Graduate Student Association exists or if no names are forwarded by the existing associations, the Graduate Students’ Association shall be responsible for forwarding a name to the Graduate Students’ Association Council for ratification” ([UAPPOL Faculty Deans Selection Procedure Appendix A: Dean Selection Committee for Individual Faculties](#)).

On 8 January 2019, the GSA began the work of contacting all ten (10) departmental GSAs in the FoMD and requesting that they inform the GSA NoC by 11 January 2019 if they were unable to conduct a process to identify a nominee from their respective departments and whether the GSA would be responsible for forwarding a name to the GSA Council. No departmental GSAs indicated so. Departmental GSAs were asked to submit the name of their respective nominees to the GSA by the deadline of 22 January 2019. Five (5) nominations in total were submitted from each of the departments of Biochemistry, Medicine, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, and Physiology via their respective departmental GSAs.

On 14 January 2019, the GSA circulated a call to graduate students in each of the eight (8) departments in the FoMD without a departmental GSA, inviting nominations with a deadline of 22 January 2019. One (1) nomination was submitted from the department of Pediatrics and was circulated to graduate students in the department of Pediatrics with an electronic ballot to approve this student as their departmental nominee. One (1) nomination was received from the department of Ophthalmology, in which only one (1) graduate student was registered at the start of this election process.

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 28 January 2019 GSA Council meeting for the Graduate Student Position on the Dean Selection Committee (Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry)**

*If you are unable to attend the 28 January 2019 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 28 January 2019 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 not be considered a nominee for the purpose of this ballot, as University regulations must be followed.**

**Ophthalmology Nominee:**

**Matthew Benson**

**Pediatrics Nominee:**

**Khushmol Dhaliwal**

**Biochemistry Nominee:**

**Brianna Greenwood**

**Neuroscience Nominee:**

**Abdullah Ishaque**

**Medicine Nominee:**

**Saima Rajabali**

**Pharmacology Nominee:**

**Nicholas Ruel**

**Physiology Nominee:**

**Yilun Wu**

The names and biographies received for the seven (7) nominees are **ATTACHED on pages 8.1 - 8.9**. Biographies and resumes have been attached as **received** (ie not edited).

**Nominations for Dean of Medicine and Dentistry Selection Committee  
(1 Vacancy for a Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Graduate Student)  
Seven (7) Nominees**

**1. Matthew Benson**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
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**Statement of Interest**

I believe I have experience in areas that would be of value and would enable me to effectively contribute as the GSA representative on the FoMD Dean Selection Committee. I have served as an interviewer on the U of A Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry admissions committee and more recently as an interviewer and file reviewer for the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences in the resident selection process. I have also been a member of several other curriculum review committees including the Neurosciences and Ophthalmology curriculum review groups as a medical student. Finally, I have been involved in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada accreditation process last year for the Department of Ophthalmology at the U of A. These experiences have provided me with an opportunity to develop skills for functioning and participating effectively in committees and have fostered in me the value of the diverse opinions of other members and the importance of collaboration and confidentiality. Furthermore, my work on previous interview committees has provided me with perspectives on evaluating candidates and critical factors to consider when making a decision on an applicant.

**Bio**

I was born in South Africa and emigrated to Canada at a young age. I have lived in several communities across Western Canada but I have been in Edmonton for 11 years and call Edmonton home. As an undergraduate student, I studied Physiology and Developmental Biology at the University of Alberta and received Bachelor of Medical Sciences and Doctor of Medicine degrees from the University of Alberta in 2013 and 2015, respectively. I am currently a 4<sup>th</sup> year post-graduate ophthalmology resident in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and I have extended my training by an additional year to pursue a Master of Science degree in ophthalmology. When I'm not in lab or at the hospital, I value spending time with my family. I am also an avid hockey player and I volunteer weekly as a Vision Mate for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB).

**Summary Resume**

I am currently a full-time Master of Science student in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences in Dr. Ian MacDonald's lab. My project involves examining the mechanism of disease in a patient who has a peroxisomal biogenesis disorder. My work involves both basic science and clinical elements, including participation in a clinical trial in collaboration with another Canadian university. I completed my MD degree in 2015 at the U of A and I am also a 4<sup>th</sup> year resident physician in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. I plan on pursuing fellowship training in ophthalmic genetics with the aspiration for becoming a clinician-scientist. I am also a member of the Research Committee for my department and I have given numerous teaching and research seminars throughout my training. Finally, I strongly value volunteerism and it's my 6<sup>th</sup> year as a Vision Mate for the CNIB. In this role, I support an individual with vision loss with managing daily activities such as reading mail and grocery shopping. I will be able to attend all of the meetings outlined for the FoMD Dean Selection Committee. I feel that it would be an honor to be part of a team responsible for selecting a leader for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

## 2. Khushmol Dhaliwal

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA council & Search and Selection Committee for the dept. of pediatrics chair
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### Statement of Interest

The skills I've attained from serving on other governance bodies have provided me with experience in understanding the process and importance of this position. I have various leadership skills through different student groups on campus which also allows me to understand the importance of not only hearing but understanding various perspectives and making sure all voices are heard. I am passionate about getting involved in the campus community and contributing to the growth and future of the FoMD by serving as a voice for my colleagues and peers.

### Bio

I am born and raised in Edmonton. I graduated with Distinction from the U of A with a BSc in Psychology and minor in Biological Sciences. I have volunteered extensively with children and teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) during my time in undergrad and this experience led me to pursue an MSc in Pediatrics where I am working to better understand why there are higher rates of obesity and overweight in children and teens with ASD. I have also volunteered with various programs outside of the U of A such as the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights and Capital Care Grandview.

### Summary Resume

I am in my second year of my MSc and working on my research project in better understanding differences in blood biomarkers and hormonal factors between children with ASD and typically developign populations. I am the current GSR for the Department of Pediatrics and hold various student group positions such as with Obesity Canada and the Pediatric Student's Involvement Group (PSIG). I am available during all of the currently scheduled meetings and am also flexible in accomodating any further schedule changes.

### 3. Brianna Greenwood

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA Council, FoMD Graduate Student's Advisory Committee
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#### Statement of Interest

I believe my experience advocating for students as a GSA Councillor and FoMD Graduate Student Advisory Committee representative will give me a leg up on ensuring the candidate who will best support graduate students is chosen as the new Dean of the FoMD. Graduate student funding in the FoMD has been historically as low as 1% of the FoMD budget, while the Faculty of Science has funded graduate students at up to 15% of the faculty budget. This means that many departments in the FoMD require all funding for graduate students to be provided by the principal investigator and scholarships brought in by the students. I believe that experience both as a graduate student and overseeing graduate students should be a necessity for the new Dean, which would provide a strong foundation to understanding how these budget issues impact graduate students and departments as a whole. As a new budget model for funding is being discussed within the University, I am dedicated to choosing a Dean that values graduate students and what they can provide to the faculty.

#### Bio

I received my BSc in Molecular Cellular Biology from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington down in the United States. After my undergraduate career, I spent a year in a lab in Redmond, Washington, as a member of the Research and Development team, before returning to Edmonton to begin my graduate studies in Dr. Stuart's lab in the department of Biochemistry. I am currently the GSA Councillor and Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Graduate Student Advisory Council representative for the Biochemistry department. I volunteer at the Stollery in the University hospital as well as running with the Edmonton Trail Runners.

#### Summary Resume

In my undergraduate career, I was involved in athletics, competing as a varsity swimmer all four years and spending my final year leading the team as a senior captain. I spent a year volunteering at the hospital in the Emergency Room after classes, ensuring all patients and families were comfortable. I was also a member of the Alpha Phi sorority and the Phi Sigma biological honors society on campus. In Alpha Phi, I spent time as the Director of Philanthropy, Vice President of Marketing, and Red Dress Gala chair, raising over \$18,000 towards women's cardiac care during one Red Dress Gala event. As a Phi Sigma member, I helped clean up parks in Washington and tutor younger students in the sciences. My involvement outside of academics - both in athletics and in groups that

helped me give back to my community - taught me time management skills and showed me how important advocating for my community can be. I will be able to attend all of the required town halls and meetings for this committee.

#### 4. Abdullah Ishaque

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	MD Admissions Committee
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#### Statement of Interest

I am involved with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry in the capacity of both as a medical student and as a student representative on their MD Admissions Committee, for which I have served a four-year commitment. I gained substantial experience in administrative roles and have been involved with refining critical Faculty policies on Indigenous students and their admissions process. Furthermore, I have served one-year terms on the Canadian Federation of Medical Students and the Clinician Investigator Trainee Association of Canada in leadership positions to advocate and develop national guidelines for clinician scientist trainees in Canada. Throughout these experiences, I have gained a passion for advocating for greater accessibility and sustainability for Indigenous trainees in the Faculty and for improved research training and education in the undergraduate MD program. I aim to represent these views, along with the perspective of the GSA on the Dean Selection committee.

#### Bio

After completing my undergraduate degree at UofT (2013), I joined the MSc program at UAlberta with the neuroscience institute. In the Fall of 2015, I was accepted to the MD/PhD program at UAlberta with research activities in neuroscience. I was an active member of the Medical Students' Association during my medical training for which I was awarded their Involvement Award. As part of the NMHI, I volunteered my time with their annual events.

#### Summary Resume

I am in my final of PhD and will return to medical training in the Fall of 2019. My PhD involves studying amyotrophic lateral sclerosis using advanced magnetic resonance imaging methods. I am supervised by Dr Kalra (neurology), Dr Beaulieu (biomedical engineering), and Dr Yang (computing science). I am available/flexible during the times indicated as part of the mandate for the committee.

### 5. Saima Rajabali

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	-FGSR Council - Councillor -Department of Medicine Graduate Students' Association - VP Academic
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#### Statement of Interest

I believe that my diverse educational, work and volunteer experiences make me a well-suited candidate to serve as a graduate student representative on the FoMD Dean Selection Committee. As a Research Coordinator in the Division of Geriatric medicine, Councillor on FGSR Council, Vice President (Academic) of the Department of Medicine Graduate Students' Association and Vice President of the student body of the International Association of Geriatrics and Gerontology (IAGG), I have further developed my verbal and written communication skills as well as improved my abilities to work with diverse groups of internal and external stakeholders. In addition, through my involvement in various leadership roles, I know the importance of maintaining confidentiality and have developed skills in giving pertinent feedback and evaluation. I believe these skills will be essential as a member of the Dean selection Committee.

#### Bio

I was born and raised in Pakistan and obtained my medical degree of MBBS there. I then came to Edmonton to do my MSc in Medical Sciences from the University of Alberta and subsequently gained certification as a Clinical Research Professional. I am working as Clinical Trials Project Coordinator in the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Alberta in addition to pursuing my PhD. I am also a student representative for the Canadian Association of Gerontology and Vice president of the IAGG student committee. In my free time I enjoy live theatre, trying new restaurants and watching Oilers games with my husband.

#### Summary Resume

I am a PhD student in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine. My research focuses on the impact of peer education and support on healthy aging behaviours in community dwelling seniors and the identification of priorities with regards to the health education needs of seniors. I also facilitate Discovery Learning sessions for first and second year medical students and supervise undergraduate students doing their research in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. I have extensive experience in conducting and managing clinical trials. In addition to various leadership roles, I volunteer with Aga Khan Health Board for Edmonton as a member for health professionals' networking.

## 6. Nicholas Ruel

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA ACB, PGSA Treasurer
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### Statement of Interest

In my teenage life I was a soccer referee, meaning that I was put in high stress and challenging environment that forced me to make a clear and concise call on any plays that happened on the field of play. This experience taught me how to make a rational and fair choice under circumstances of pressure. I will use this as an asset to help in the selection of a new Dean for the FoMD. I am also a passionate member of the Department of Pharmacology and the FoMD and would like to be a part of such a critical component for the future of the Faculty moving forward.

### Bio

I was born in Calgary but raised in Cold Lake, Alberta where I went to middle school and high school. Following this, I came to the University of Alberta where I attained my BSc Specialization in Pharmacology (2017). Immediately after this I joined an MSc program in the Department of Pharmacology with the intention of transferring to a PhD this spring. I have been a part of many clubs in the past including: Science Mentors, RuSH, and Science FUNdamentals, in which I served on the executive team for RuSH as the Run With Kids Director. Currently, I am a member of the GSA ACB and the PGSA as the Treasurer which has given me lots of experience in governance and leadership. I am also intending to stay on the GSA ACB and PGSA in the future.

### Summary Resume

I am currently a 2<sup>nd</sup> year MSc student serving on the PGSA as the Treasurer, as well as a member of the GSA ACB. As the PGSA Treasurer I am responsible for the finances of the PGSA along with the general tasks associated with being an executive like: organizing events, planning Research Day, holding meetings, etc. These experiences have helped me to understand a lot about leadership and organization that would be an asset on this committee. Finally, my schedule is quite flexible in order to incorporate all the meetings that are necessary for this process.

## 7. Yilun Wu

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA, GFC.
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### Statement of Interest

I have previously represented students on the Dean's advisory committee for selection of a Chair of Department of Physiology, and I have understanding of similar selection committee procedures and the relevant evaluation criteria. Throughout my undergraduate and graduate studies I have represented students in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry in departmental meetings, departmental GSA's, faculty meetings, and the broader community in GSA and GFC.

I am familiar with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry as not only is it my home faculty, but also I have served its students on the Faculty Council. I believe my experience with the process and the faculty will contribute to the selection committee for the next Dean of FoMD.

### Bio

I completed my Bachelors of Science Honours in Physiology (FoMD) at the University of Alberta in 2016 and continued onto my Masters in Physiology in the same department. I work in kidney transplantation research, and my supervisor and colleagues are largely from the department of surgery. I have always been interested in advocating for student interests in various University governance bodies, and I believe the selection of a capable Dean to follow in the footsteps of late Dr. Fedorak would benefit students in the FoMD greatly.

### Summary Resume

I have served on the Dean's advisory committee for Department of Physiology Chair selection in 2016 as a graduate student representative. I have served as the president of the Physiology GSA since 2016 and continued to involve myself in departmental student organization. I served as the department councilor to GSA since 2016. I served as the GSA elected student representative to the FoMD Faculty Council in 2017-2018. In 2018 I began my term as a GSA elected student representative on the General Faculties Council (GFC) and the GFC Nominating Committee.

My graduate program is a MSc in Physiology, though I work with many students across different departments through my research projects, volunteering, and student governance work.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
**GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (GSA ACB) (THREE (3) POSITIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS):  
 FIVE (5) NOMINEES**

Information regarding the three (3) vacancies for graduate students was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 11 and 18 January 2019 with a nomination deadline of 22 January 2019. Five (5) nominations were received. The nominees were then interviewed by members of GSA NoC: GSA NoC Vice-Chair Kenzie Gordon conducted two (2) interviews, GSA NoC member David Tandio conducted one (1) interview, and GSA NoC Chair Radim Barta and GSA NoC member Dylan Ashley together conducted two (2) interviews. These members have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. GSA Assistant Director Lisa Hareuther was also present for four (4) of the interviews, and GSA Executive Director Courtney Thomas was present for one (1) interview. During each of the interviews, the nominees were asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB receive training in procedural fairness).

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 28 January 2019 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the 28 January 2019, meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 28 January 2019 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

**GSA ACB Election by GSA Council: GSA Nominating Committee Procedures**

Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name and will be presented in *reverse alphabetical* order on the ballot.

1. **Nishant Agrawal (Mathematical and Statistical Sciences)**
2. **Benjamin Decardi-Nelson (Chemical and Materials Engineering)**
3. **Emmanuel Marfo (Nursing)**
4. **Gertrude Omoro (Public Health)**
5. **Shubham Soni (Pediatrics)**

**The Ballot**

- There will be one ballot with candidates listed in reverse alphabetical order.
- For each candidate, there will be a “yes” box and a “no” box.

**Voting**

- The voter ticks one box per candidate, or abstains by not voting for a particular candidate (both boxes are left empty).

**Counting**

- If a candidate has more “no” votes than “yes” votes, the candidate is eliminated.
- If after the elimination round, there are **fewer candidate(s) or an equal number of candidates as there are positions**, the candidate(s) with at least one “yes” vote is/are successful.
- If after the elimination round, there are **more candidates than positions**, the candidates with the highest number of “yes” votes, equivalent to the number of positions, are the successful candidates.
- If, after the elimination round, there is a **tie for last place** in the number of “yes” votes, the candidate with the fewest number of “no” votes is successful. If the tied vote has the same number of both “yes” and “no” votes, the Speaker will draw one (1) name from a hat.

**Jurisdiction:**

Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.7.1.a

*“Eight (8) graduate students elected by GSA Council as voting members.”*

Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.9.4

*“The GSA NoC will interview all nominees to the GSA ACB and forward selected nominees to GSA Council.”*

**The names and biographies received for the five (5) nominees are BELOW on pages 8.11 - 8.16. The biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (ie not edited).**

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**Nomination for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB)**  
**(3 Vacancies for Graduate Students)**  
**Five (5) Nominees**

**1. Nishant Agrawal**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	None
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**Statement of Interest**

I think that I have the ability to be neutral. I don't have a position experience to back that claim, but by nature I am a person who is calm and likes to listen to everyone before speaking. I am a PhD student in Mathematics and hence I also think that I have developed and have ability to think independently and differently

**Bio**

I am from Delhi, India. I did my schooling and College in 4 different cities in India which helped me in exploring various parts of India. My upbringing was focused on academics and family values. I did well in my high school and subsequent competitive exams which helped me get through one of the best colleges in India for undergraduate studies.

**Summary Resume**

I am presently a first year PhD in Mathematical Finance. I have done Masters from University of Kansas, Kansas, USA. In US I have taught Calculus and Pre Calculus courses for three years. During my Undergraduate studies I have served as Department Representative. During my Undergraduate studies I have also done some volunteer work along with YATN which works for upliftment of the families of the migrant construction labourers

## 2. Benjamin Decardi-Nelson

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA ACB
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### Statement of Interest

My experiences serving as the Judicial Council/Committee Chairman for the Ghana Engineering Students' Association (GESA) during my undergraduate studies, a student member of the Faculty of Native Studies Appeals Committee, and a member of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) will be invaluable to the operation of the GSA ACB. Also, aside my area of studies, I have keen interest in legal matters (law) and fairness, which align well with the mandate of the GSA ACB. I also served as the Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB last year. These constitute the reasons for opting for a second term as the Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB.

### Bio

I am an open-minded individual born in Ghana, a country located in West Africa. I moved to Saskatchewan, Canada in 2014 to study for my masters in Process Systems Engineering at the University of Regina after obtaining my bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering in my home country. I am fluent in English and two other local languages in my homeland. I was a first-choice player in my department's soccer team and my year group because of my outstanding soccer prowess. I currently play for Fulvaso soccer club in the Edmonton indoor soccer league. While at the University of Regina, I volunteered to be an International peer adviser helping undergraduate students smoothly transition to the University environment.

### Summary Resume

I am a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering working on computer process control. I am a member of the Process Systems and Control Engineering research group headed by Dr. Jinfeng Liu. I worked on research that sought to address one of the most challenging issues facing humanity - Climate change and global warming mitigation - at the University of Regina for my master's degree. I also collaborated on research at the design lab at Rensselaer, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA during my summer break in 2011. I have a schedule that is flexible enough to accommodate sitting on a working committee.

### 3. Emmanuel Marfo

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
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#### Statement of Interest

Having served as the Chairman of Council of elders at the School of Nursing during my final year at the undergraduate level and also as a Vice-President in the same organization, the experiences I gained in making unbiased decisions would be fully utilized when given the position. My experience and knowledge through courses on communication and conflict resolution have equipped me to be more assertive in engaging people.

#### Bio

I was born in Kumasi Ghana, speaks Asante Twi but have had all my formal education in English Language. I studied Bsc. Nursing at the University of Ghana, served as a Teaching Assistant in the following year and practiced as a Rotation Registered General Nurse in a sub-urban area within Ghana's capital city, Accra for a year. I also worked as an industrial nurse at Nestle Ghana Limited before setting off to further my studies here in UofA. This is my second semester here and I would like to engage in student activities to contribute to society and expand my experiences as well.

#### Summary Resume

I am currently in the second term of my MN-thesis program. My research interest is centered on factors that influence curriculum development in nursing education. I am yet to begin my training as a volunteer at the Good Samaritan Society come January 16. I am usually unoccupied besides course assignments

#### 4. Gertrude Omoro

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	N/A
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#### Statement of Interest

I believe the skills that I garnered in my role as a Student Chapter Executive (2016-2018) for the Canadian Coalition of Global Health Research (CCGHR) would be an asset to the GSA Appeals and Complaint Board. In my role, I supported over 11 CCGHR institutional student chapters with their strategic planning, recruitment and events. As such I am able to: analyze conflicts and apply ethical knowledge from organization policies, guideline and standards and listen, ask questions and foster effective communication and collaboration among various stakeholders.

#### Bio

I was born in Kenya and raised in Canada. As a child of immigrant parents I have learned, first hand, lessons of hard work, perseverance and patience. During my junior year in high school, my geography teacher suggested that I join my schools' Model United Nations (MUN) team due to my passion for fairness and social justice. Joining the team changed my trajectory in life and led me to undertake a BSc in Health Studies at University of Waterloo. In my first year at UofWaterloo as I awarded the Leadership Award due to my extensive work as the Athletic Co-ordinator for Residence Council. Throughout my academic years, I was a volunteer for UW's WELL-FIT cancer exercise program and spent most of my free time working as a Student Ambassador; while also juggling my interest in salsa dance and Muy Thai. Here at the U of A, I am looking forward to joining Dr. Sangita Sharma Indigenous Health research team and the on-campus Community Helpers Program to be of service to my fellow peers in their time of need.

#### Summary Resume

After my undergrad, my experience working with the refugee population in Waterloo, ON and vulnerable mothers and children in Malawi made me realize that I needed more skills and experience to effect greater change in the world. With this realization, I became an associate member of the Ontario Council for International Cooperation and student member of the Canadian Society of International Health. Being part of these two groups has given me the opportunity to see the great work that many local NGO's are doing both on the ground and overseas. They further instilled the virtues of equity, cooperation and collaboration; virtues that I continue to hold dear in my personal and professional life.

### 5. Shubham Soni

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	None
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#### Statement of Interest

Although I'm not a political person by nature, I do believe that it is in everyone's best interest to be involved in some way. I would imagine that the responsibilities and experiences of a GSA Appeals and Complaints Board member are not strictly political, but directly relate to the concerns that exist amongst a vast governing body. Luckily for me, and by virtue of adoring the scientific process, my experiences and actions comprehensively illustrate my ability to observe thoroughly, think exhaustively, and act impartially, all of which would serve in direct concordance with the role of this position and the efforts of the board. Between being a volunteer resource coordinator, training and curriculum manager, resident assistant, I have capitalized on chances to produce unique solutions to otherwise difficult problems. Although I continue to learn more approaches to problem solving, I will certainly bring valuable insight to any situation.

#### Bio

I was born in India and moved to Langley, BC (Vancouver area) at the age of six, but am still able to converse in Hindi and most of Punjabi. Growing up I was heavily involved in athletics and played many major sports competitively to some degree. Most notably, I was involved with tennis, which led me to play at the varsity/intercollegiate level for the University of Alberta Golden Bears. Although I am no longer on the team, I stay involved in tennis and other athletic outlets. In addition to research, I dedicate my time in the community. Specifically, I promote sustainability and sustainable initiatives with the Sustainability Council, develop health-related presentations for elementary-high school students and train volunteers in executing these presentations with SIHA (student volunteer organization), and tutor introductory biochemistry for undergraduate students.

#### Summary Resume

I am a first year MSc student investigating the prospect of "ketone therapy" as a treatment for heart failure and cardiovascular disease with Dr. Jason Dyck. In my BSc, I worked with Dr. Peter Light in assessing the immunoregulatory role of vitamin-D in type-1 diabetes via calcium imaging; collectively, I have experience with cell and animal work, and different realms of academia. For 3 years of my BSc, I was a Resident Assistant in Lister Centre and directly dealt with emergency situations, conflict resolution (in various facets of residence), and fostering a nurturing community for first year university students while upholding the UofA's Code of Student Behaviour. Amongst the countless

instances, the goal was to restoratively resolve any issue/concern in a balanced and nonpartisan manner. As a volunteer resources coordinator for the Canadian Blood Services Youth Committee, I have experience overseeing and managing the performance and responsibilities of volunteers to ensure it aligns with their contract requirements and that everyone is accountable. Most notably, although the contract is black and white by definition, many situations arrive where expectations do not work out as projected; the goal is to closely examine the situation, work with the volunteer and the president of the Youth Committee to ensure a balanced resolution and implement a system that will mitigate the plausibility of future "hiccups" while keeping the rest of their responsibilities balanced. From my understanding, these should serve as valuable background experiences for the purpose of this position. I would love to speak further about additional experiences which reflect my successful capacity to synthesize a neutral plan of action.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
**GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair and Vice-Chair**  
**THREE (3) NOMINEES**

As set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.7.4:

“GSA Council will elect one (1) member of the GSA ACB as Chair and one (1) member of the GSA ACB as Vice-Chair on the recommendation of the GSA NoC, for a term of office, also recommended by the GSA NoC, not to exceed two (2) years. Members may stand for re-election as Chair or Vice-Chair.”

In recommending these nominees, the GSA NoC considered their previously conducted interviews (as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.9.4), their experience relevant to the position of Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB, and their knowledge of fair process.

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, Section H.POL.6.1, the jurisdiction of the GSA ACB is as follows:

“The GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) is responsible for hearing and deciding appeals of GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO) decisions and complaints about GSA Officers and Councillors-at-Large (CALs) as allowed by Section 94(3) of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.”

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the Monday, 28 January 2019 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday, 28 January 2019 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday, 28 January 2019 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

**Nominee for Chair of the GSA ACB (One (1) nominee for one (1) position):**

1. **Samantha Wesch (Women’s and Gender Studies) for the duration of their term on the GSA ACB**

**Nominees for Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB (Two (2) nominees for one (1) position):**

1. **Benjamin Decardi-Nelson (Chemical and Materials Engineering) for the duration of their term on the GSA ACB**
2. **Marla Palakkamanil (School of Public Health) for the duration of their term on the GSA ACB**

Please note that the results of this vote rely on the results of the previously held GSA ACB membership vote; that is, if one of the nominees for Vice-Chair is not voted to serve as a member of the GSA ACB, they will not be eligible to serve as Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB.

**The names and biographies received for the three (3) nominees are ATTACHED on pages 8.18 - 8.23. Biographies and resumes have been attached as received (ie not edited).**

**Nomination for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair  
(1 Vacancy for a GSA ACB Member)  
One (1) Nominee**

**1. Samantha Wesch**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA (department councillor) Appeals and Complaints Board
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<b>Statement of Interest</b>
<p>My previous education and work and volunteer experience have provided me the skills required of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Appeals and Complaints board.</p> <p>I hold a BA (hons) in Philosophy with a focus on Ethics from the University of Alberta and an MA in Philosophy with a focus on Ethics from the University of Toronto. My education in Ethics has allowed me to develop skills in complex and sensitive decision making, understanding of the relationship between ethics and policy and value the importance of procedural fairness and neutrality in decision making. Ethics, as the study of action-guiding theories, is central to conducting fair judgements, and my extensive education in this field would be extremely valuable for the Chair of the Appeals and Complaints Board.</p> <p>I am currently working on an MA in Gender and Social Justice. My knowledge of intersectionality and implicit bias will not only help ensure that I myself examine my own biases and prejudices when making neutral decisions and understand how bias (both positive bias and negative bias) can effect decision making, but support neutrality throughout the Board by modelling and encouraging being conscious of implicit bias.</p> <p>M previous work with policy with the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters and with the Ministry of the Status of Women (Violence Against Women and Girls Unit) has taught me how to read, interpret and follow complex policy. As following policy is central to the work of the Appeals and Complaints Board, my previous experience with policy would make me an excellent leader in interpreting and following the policy which the Board works with. Together, my education in Ethics and Gender and Social Justice will allow to be a leader in modelling and teaching anti-bias tools and decision making strategies based in ethics.</p> <p>My current work as the Chief Returning Officer of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) requires me to closely follow and make judgements based on the current APIRG and University of Alberta policy pertaining to elections. As the Appeals and Complaints Board deals primarily with concerns regarding UAlberta governance and</p>

elections, my direct experience dealing with election policy would be an indispensable quality in a Chair.

## **Bio**

I grew up all over Western Canada, living in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta throughout my childhood.

In 2012, I moved to Edmonton to study at the University of Alberta. During my undergraduate degree, I was a volunteer with the Campus Food Bank, received a Roger S. Smith research award for my paper “Resisting Ilsa: Foucaultian Ethics and the Sexualization of Nazism”, served as a Senior Reviewer for the undergraduate journal Constellations, and acted as an Arts Advisor to the undergraduate journal Spectrum - both of these required me to make difficult decision regarding the publication of papers. I was an active member of the undergraduate research committee, speaking at many conferences and publishing my work in two undergraduate journals, and completed an honours degree in Philosophy in 2016.

In 2016, I moved to Toronto to attend the University of Toronto. While at U of T, I served as a Graduate Associate with the Centre for Ethics and as a member of the Women’s Caucus. I also worked as a University-approved tutor for students with learning disabilities, primarily teaching Ethics and German Philosophy. I continued to be an active member of the research community, speaking at various conferences and continuing to publish original research in Ethics and Cultural Studies. I graduate with an MA in Philosophy in 2017.

In 2017, I returned to the University of Alberta to begin an MA in Gender and Social Justice. I have long been passionate about ending domestic violence and violence against women and girls. I led a four-month long research project of the needs of trans women using women’s shelters with the Women’s Emergency Accommodation Centre. After this project, I became the Anti-Domestic Violence Intern with Public Service Graduate Internship (PSGI) program through IPAC (each intern is specialized to their skills and interests and placed based on this). I was placed first with the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters and worked on their #LiftHerUp Campaign, which works to end violence against women in Alberta politics. Next, I was placed with the Government of Alberta in the Ministry of the Status of Women in the Violence against Women and Girls Unit. Here, I led the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign and was the primary organizer of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women and Girls Vigil.

Currently, I am finishing my thesis and working as the Chief Returning Officer of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group.

I live in downtown Edmonton with my boyfriend and our cat Winston. In my spare time I like to long-distance run, dance, write fiction and creative non-fiction and cook.

### **Summary Resume**

I am currently a second-year MA student in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, working on a thesis comprised of a Cultural Studies analysis of the rapper Eminem. I am currently the Chief Returning Officer overseeing the 2019/2020 Board of Directors election for the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG). I am passionate about theoretical ethics and advocacy working to end violence against women and girls - together, my knowledge of ethics and its relationship to policy and procedure and my education in intersectionality and implicit bias would make me an excellent Chair of the Appeals and Complaints Board. My specialized knowledge of ethics, intersectionality and policy are exactly what is required for the Appeals and Complaints Board, and I believe this would make me an excellent leader to the Board.

My schedule is flexible enough to accommodate the precarious schedule of the Appeals and Complaints Board.

**Nominations for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Vice-Chair  
(1 Vacancy for a GSA ACB Member)  
Two (2) Nominees**

**1. Benjamin Decardi-Nelson**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA ACB
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**Statement of Interest**

My experiences serving as the Judicial Council/Committee Chairman for the Ghana Engineering Students' Association (GESA) during my undergraduate studies, a student member of the Faculty of Native Studies Appeals Committee, and a member of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) will be invaluable to the operation of the GSA ACB. Also, aside my area of studies, I have keen interest in legal matters (law) and fairness, which align well with the mandate of the GSA ACB. I also served as the Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB last year. These constitute the reasons for opting for a second term as the Vice-Chair of the GSA ACB.

**Bio**

I am an open-minded individual born in Ghana, a country located in West Africa. I moved to Saskatchewan, Canada in 2014 to study for my masters in Process Systems Engineering at the University of Regina after obtaining my bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering in my home country. I am fluent in English and two other local languages in my homeland. I was a first-choice player in my department's soccer team and my year group because of my outstanding soccer prowess. I currently play for Fulvaso soccer club in the Edmonton indoor soccer league. While at the University of Regina, I volunteered to be an International peer adviser helping undergraduate students smoothly transition to the University environment.

**Summary Resume**

I am a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering working on computer process control. I am a member of the Process Systems and Control Engineering research group headed by Dr. Jinfeng Liu. I worked on research that sought to address one of the most challenging issues facing humanity - Climate change and global warming mitigation - at the University of Regina for my master's degree. I also collaborated on research at the design lab at Rensselaer, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA during my summer break in 2011. I have a schedule that is flexible enough to accommodate sitting on a working committee.

## 2. Marla Palakkamanil

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	GSA ACB
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### Statement of Interest

In my role as Clinical Consultant Pharmacist with Medical Pharmacies Group Limited, I have been able to proficiently deal with a wide set of challenges at each of my five continuing care facilities. For example, there have been several instances of differing opinions, objectives, and some cases, friction between the pharmacy staff, facility staff, and facility management. In such situations, I took the lead to build consensus and ensured all parties were correctly understood and a resolution achieved. I was able to curb potential conflicts by gaining trust, actively listening and dealing with issues head-on. In addition, my experience as a dance instructor has taught me to be mindful of holding a positive disposition and outlook on life. As a leader, I believe it is important to elicit feedback and input from my own dance teacher, students, and their parents. In doing so, I am able to understand and incorporate new perspectives within my role as an instructor.

### Bio

I was born and raised in Edmonton, and am of East Indian heritage. I graduated from pharmacy school in 2014 from the University of Alberta, and have been practicing as a clinical pharmacist since then.

I have been trained in the classical Indian dance forms of Kathak and Bharathanatyam for the past 25 years. I have performed at various festivals in Canada and the United States. I have also toured across India, performing in seven major cities. Since 2006, I have been working as a dance instructor at the Usha Kala Niketan School of Dance.

In addition to dance, I enjoy playing sports and as well as cooking and reading. I also thoroughly enjoy travelling.

### Summary Resume

I am in my final year as an MSc student at the School of Public Health. Having completed all coursework, I am in the process of writing my thesis on concurrent opioid and antidepressant use. I have a flexible schedule at this time, and would be able to accommodate sitting on a busy committee.

Prior to returning to school this past September, I worked as a clinical consultant pharmacist with Medical Pharmacies Group Limited. In this role, I was responsible for

caring for over 464 patients across five continuing care facilities in Edmonton, Ponoka, Drayton Valley, and Wetaskiwin. I would regularly review patients' medications, and provide recommendations to physicians to optimize the service of care provided. In collaboration with the physician, I would lead a team of other healthcare professionals (nurses, occupational therapists, social workers) through patient care rounds each week to discuss patients' concerns, and review lab values, appropriate use of antipsychotics, behavioral changes, and recommend modifications to their medications, when appropriate.

I am currently serving as a dance instructor on the weekends. I also volunteer on campus as a USchool Classroom Mentor.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
**GSA BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (GSA BFC) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GRADUATE STUDENT):  
 FOUR (4) NOMINEES**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy for graduate students was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 11 and 18 January 2019 with a nomination deadline of 23 January 2019. Four (4) nominations were received.

The broad 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.3.1).

**There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 28 January 2019 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 28 January 2019 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator ([gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 28 January 2019 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. Shovit Barua (Civil and Environmental Engineering)**
- 2. Gary Grewal (Business - MBA)**
- 3. Milad Nazarahari (Mechanical Engineering)**
- 4. Kim-Cuong Nguyen (Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging/Biomedical Engineering)**

**Member Leaving GSA BFC:** Sina Yansori (Mathematical and Statistical Sciences)

**Members Staying on GSA BFC:** Dasha Smirnow (Business), and Tabatha Plesuk (GSA Councillor, Library and Information Studies)

**Jurisdiction:**

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

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

The names and biographies received for the four (4) nominees are **BELOW on pages 8.25 - 8.28**. The biographies and resumes are presented as **received** (ie not edited).

**Nominations for GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)**  
**(1 Vacancy for a Graduate Student)**  
**Four (4) Nominees**

**1. Shovit Barua**

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	No
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**Statement of Interest**

Due to my involvement in a no. of project related activities, I've become familiar with cost scheduling for project by collaborating with purchase department. For this reason, I try to look at a situation from analytical point of view, which can be useful for serving in this position. Moreover, I always ready to take up new challenges, especially if they involve implementing and developing schemes.

**Bio**

Hailed from a middle-class family in Bangladesh, I've spent most time of my life in Bangladesh before moving to Canada. After completing my high school, I got admission at Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology and obtained my Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering in 2015. By working for about 2 years in various positions, I tried to familiarize myself with various real problem-solving approaches. I'm now pursuing my graduate studies at University of Alberta for acquiring in-depth professional knowledge in relevant field.

**Summary Resume**

Currently, I'm a full-time graduate student at University of Alberta pursuing Masters degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. After completing my undergraduate studies, I started working as site engineer (civil) with Engineering Resources International (ERI) Ltd in cooling tower renovation & construction project in a consortium with SPIG S.P.A (<http://www.spig-int.com>). Before moving to graduate studies, I also worked as project engineer in Welkin's Property Management Ltd. In addition to project supervision, reporting about daily activities & associated cost was included in my responsibility during that time. Adjustments in budgetary problems were addressed for ensuring smooth project operation.

## 2. Gary Grewal

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	NA
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### Statement of Interest

I am working in Utility industry from past 6 years and my current job title is Senior Project Manager. I deal with a lot of complex projects and typically look at costs and scheduling on day to day basis working with different stakeholders. I am exceptionally good with quantitative analysis and can definitely bring my knowledge and expertise to the committee.

### Bio

I was born in India and came to Canada 12 years ago. I am fluent in English, Hindi and Punjabi. I am a technical person who is keen in business and finance . I have an Engineering background. I am also very active in financial markets and trade a lot of derivatives. I have passion for finance. I have an open mind and always willing to expand my knowledge and gain exposure in different fields.

### Summary Resume

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering and Master's degree from University of Alberta in Electrical and Computer Engineering. I am currently enrolled in part time MBA program where I am learning some of the key skills required to run an organization and business effectively. I am also an EIT and working on my P.Eng and PMP at the same time and looking to get them both this year. I have worked as a Design Engineer, Project Manager and Senior project manager. I also help my dad in his business . These skills combined with my education can be beneficial as a member of the committee .

### 3. Milad Nazarahari

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	NA
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#### Statement of Interest

As the VP Academic of Mechanical Engineering Graduate Students Association (MEGSA 2017-2018), I extensively developed my interpersonal and communication skill during liaison with the faculty and graduate students. I also had the chance to serve as the Mechanical Engineering Department Councilor at the GSA meetings. Through these meetings, I got familiar with major challenges that our graduate students are dealing with and the solutions to tackle these difficulties.

Also, as an engineering student, I have been always interested in financial aspects of my engineering work and tried to develop my skills in this area. Thus, I believe that my experiecne as GSA Councilor and my interest in finance make me an ideal candidate for this position.

#### Bio

I was born and raised in Tehran, Iran. I did both B.Sc. (2012) and M.Sc. (2014) programs at the Iran University of Science and Technology. Taking advantage of my experience in Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics, I started working in the R&D office of a manufacturing company with a focus on developing mass production lines. Motivated by the joy of learning, I considered pursuing my graduate studies in a well-recognized international institution not only to benefit from research facilities but also to develop my interpersonal skills in a multi-cultural environment.

#### Summary Resume

I started my third year of Ph.D. studies in September 2018 at the Department of Mechanical Engineering under the supervision of Dr. Hossein Rouhani. My research is related to biomedical and rehabilitation engineering, particularly, developing technologies for facilitating the rehabilitation of stroke survivors. As an RA, not only I had the chance to develop biomedical technologies and conduct clinical studies, but also I mentored undergraduate students during their co-op program. As a TA, I am engaged in teaching activities both in content delivering and marking. I also have been awarded several prestigious scholarships like Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, 2018.

#### 4. Kim-Cuong Nguyen

<b>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</b>	Treasurer of VSUE (Vietnamese Student Union in Edmonton) in UAlberta
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#### Statement of Interest

I am good at Word, Excel, Matlab, and SPSS as I use them often for my projects. The experiences and skills I got during my studying and volunteer activities as a ticket/souvenir seller in Fringes festival, Heritage days and or budget/expense planning as a Treasurer of VSUE will help me if I can have a chance to work for GSA Budget and Finance Committee.

#### Bio

I was born in Vietnam and moved to Edmonton in 2011. My mother is an accountant and my father is a Physics teacher. Therefore I am in love with both physics and numbers. I used to help my mom who is an accountant with number checking every time she needed to work late. Since then, I found comfortable to work with the numbers. I got the MSc in Medical Sciences in University of Alberta in 2013 and then I worked as Research Assistant in Dentistry Department for almost 3 years. I am doing an interdisciplinary PhD program in Medical Sciences-Radiology and Biomedical Engineering. I am also a Treasurer of the Vietnamese Student Union in Edmonton (VSUE).

#### Summary Resume

I am now in the third year of my PhD program. My project involves collaboration between many experts in different Departments and Faculties in UAlberta. I used to help my supervisors with the budget planning for invited visitors as well as funding applications. I did data analysis for many years. Besides those festivals in Edmonton, I have also spend time volunteer in UAlberta such as Shinerama, UAlberta Alumni and Week of Welcome. As I have done all the required courses, my schedule can be flexible to adapt with the Committee meeting time.

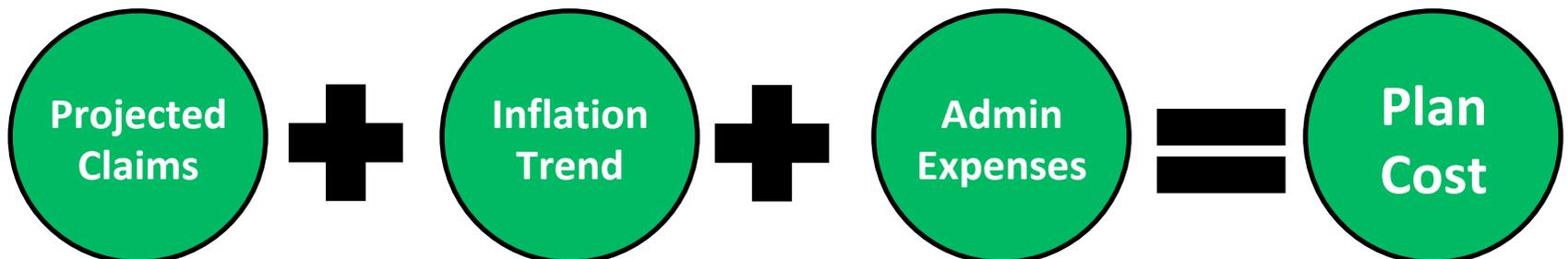


# 2019-2020 GSA Health and Dental Plan Fee



## Setting the Plan Cost

- ★ Claims drive the cost of the Plan.
- ★ Claims can increase by:
  - ★ **Volume** (better awareness, more coverage, etc can increase usage)
  - ★ **Cost** (new drugs on the market, Dental Fee increases, etc can increase the cost of claims)





## Cost vs. Fee

- ✦ The cost of the Plan is not negotiable, it is based on actual services used in previous years.
- ✦ After Studentcare communicates the projected cost of the Plan, the GSA can decide to apply various levers (ie usage of the HDPRF or reduction of coverage) to lower the cost.
- ✦ The end result is the fee for the Plan, which is what graduate students are assessed.



## The Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund (HDPRF)

- ✦ The HDPRF is a restricted fund that can be used to offset the fee for the Plan or to increase coverage.
- ✦ The HDPRF grows when the fee is higher than the cost (either because claims decreased between Studentcare making their cost projection and the end of the claims period or because GSA Council decided to grow the fund by setting the fee at a lower rate than the cost).



## Fees and Cost over the Years

The table below shows the breakdown of projected cost, actual cost, and the fee charged to graduate students from 2008-2009 to 2017-2018. Any differences between the actual premium and the fee paid by graduate students reflects either payment into the HDPRF of the positive difference between premium and fee or, when the difference is negative, use of the HDPRF to offset cost to students.

Plan Year	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Fee Paid by Students	Use of HDPRF*
2009-10	\$345.93	\$330.70	\$346.12	+ \$15.42
2010-11	\$361.75	\$360.00	\$360.00	--
2011-12	\$384.15	\$384.12	\$378.00	- \$6.12
2012-13	\$405.00**	\$376.08	\$396.90	+ \$20.82
2013-14	N/A***	\$376.08	\$396.90	+ \$20.82
2014-15	\$414.05	\$413.16	\$396.90	- \$16.26
2015-16	\$440.37	\$440.28	\$428.65	- \$11.63
2016-17	\$495.76	\$495.72	\$492.95	-\$2.77
2017-18	\$500.36	\$485.76	\$500.36	--
2018-19	\$460.01	<not known until final invoice>	\$500.36	~ + \$25.00

\* A positive figure indicates payment **into** the HDPRF; a negative figure indicates **use of** the HDPRF

\*\* High jump in premium resulted in a request for proposals and switch to Desjardins as the plan provider

\*\*\* No projected premium necessary because of two-year guaranteed premium rate



## What Will the 2019-2020 Plan Fee Be?

- ✦ Claims for 2018-2019 have decreased compared to previous years.
- ✦ It is expected that the cost of the Plan will stay stable or decrease again.
- ✦ What can be done?
  - ✦ Increase Dental Coverage
  - ✦ Increase Prescription Drugs Coverage
  - ✦ Grow HDPRF



## Timeline

- ★ **Mid-February:** Studentcare *projects* the 2019-2020 cost of the Plan based on the 2018-2019 claims to date.
- ★ **20 February 2019:** GSA Board reviews and discusses the *projected* cost of the Plan and whether it is necessary to increase the fee or if levers should be applied to lower it, or if it is advisable to increase coverage, or grow the HDPRF.



## Timeline

- ★ **27 February 2019:** GSA Board recommends the 2019-2020 Plan fee to GSA Council (remember the fee is set based on the *projected* cost from Studentcare).
- ★ **18 March 2019:** GSA Council considers GSA Board's recommendations and sets the 2019-2020 Plan fee as well as any changes in coverage.



## Timeline

- ✦ The Plan fee needs to be sent to the Board of Governors for approval of the fee collection in April.
- ✦ Following the end of the claims year in August, Studentcare calculates the *actual cost* of the Plan (based on the full 12-months of claim data as opposed to the 5-months of claims data on which they based the *projected cost*) and adjustments are made accordingly (keeping in mind that the Plan fee can't be lowered at this point as it has already been assessed).



Graduate Students' Association  
University of Alberta

## Questions?

You can also email me at  
[gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vpstudentservices@ualberta.ca)



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

18 January 2019

As many of you will remember, my team and I began the development of the 2018-2019 Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) in May and we presented the finalized Plan to GSA Council in July. The complete SWP is available on the [GSA website](#).

As outlined at the July 2018 meeting of GSA Council when this plan was presented, we divided our SWP into two documents. The first is an outward facing document that is crisp and visually engaging. The main audiences for this document include University administration, the U of A Board of Governors, the Government of Alberta, other partners, and graduate students.

The second document is an internal task list, which was shared in-person at the July meeting of GSA Council. This task list is a living document that evolves as my team strategizes issues and approaches and it is the document where we outline the specific actions we will be taking to work towards our goals and identify those responsible for each task. Content from this internal document has been used to develop the second update on our progress to GSA Council. The first update was presented at the October 2018 meeting of GSA Council.

Highlights from my portfolio include:

- I have continued advocating for the establishment of minimum funding packages at the U of A, which is a major component of our 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan, and a project that has been ongoing for a number of years. While attending this year's Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) conference, I connected with individuals from universities that have already implemented minimum funding packages, to learn about any potential challenges. I have continued to discuss the importance of establishing minimum funding packages during various Board of Governors meetings, and individually with Board of Governors members. The Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) and the Provost continue to examine the logistics of establishing minimum funding packages at our institution.
- I invited the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (Finance and Administration) to attend GSA Council on 19 November 2018 to discuss the important topics of the University budget and graduate student tuition, and to answer questions from GSA Council members. Before the end of the year, along with Masoud (Vice-President Academic), I also participated in meetings of the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee to review the University's preliminary proposal for international graduate tuition rates for 2019-2020. In early December, I also met individually with the University of Alberta Vice-President (Finance and Administration) to further discuss the University's budget with respect to how funds are allocated under the new budget model.
- Two years ago, the U of A GSA was an active participant in the Government of Alberta's review of tuition and funding. On 29 October, I was able to attend the introduction of Bill 19 to the Alberta Legislature. Following the announcement of this Bill, the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) issued a [statement](#). Bill 19 has now passed through all required readings in the Alberta Legislature, and it is anticipated that the Bill will receive Royal Assent in February 2019. Following the passing of Bill 19, I have had continued conversations with the Minister of Advanced Education, through my role as the Chair of ab-GPAC, as well as with various stakeholders, about what Bill 19's accompanying regulations will be. Specifically, we are discussing the issue of how to define the length of graduate students' programs, given that Bill 19 will require that international students are informed of the total cost of their program at its outset, starting in Fall 2020.
- I continue to work closely with ab-GPAC on spearheading the three main advocacy priorities identified at the beginning of our term (tuition and fees, post-graduate employment, and the indigenization of graduate education). Recently, ab-GPAC released a [policy statement on post-graduation employment](#), which supports the provision of funding for ongoing professional development opportunities for graduate students to increase their post-graduation employability, advocates for policies to increase the retention of highly-skilled workers in the province, and endorses the promotion of entrepreneurial mindsets and ecosystems.
- I continue to meet monthly with representatives from the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association, and, in pursuit of supporting "initiatives and programs that specifically support Indigenous [...] graduate students" (2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan), I am hopeful that GSA Council will approve the creation of a seat on GSA Council for an Indigenous graduate student. Along with the rest of my team, I will continue to emphasize the importance of establishing this seat at the January 2019 meeting of GSA Council.



# Graduate Students' Association

University of Alberta

- With the support of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), Masoud and I were able to attend this year's Canadian Association for Graduate Studies conference in Winnipeg. I was able to present a poster at the conference on the topic of graduate student mental health and financial supports, and we're very pleased that the GSA was able to participate in conversations about several important topics, such as experiential learning and the future of the PhD dissertation.
- In advance of the upcoming 2019 provincial election, ab-GPAC continued to meet with MLAs from all political parties in the province to discuss graduate student issues.

Recent team goals that spanned across different Directly-Elected Officers' portfolios included:

- In furtherance of our work to advocate, on behalf of graduate students, for the prompt resolution of ongoing and systemic issues associated with the Collective Agreement, in November, Beth (Vice-President Labour) and I delivered a presentation to the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee on the topics of minimum funding packages and graduate student supervision.
- In the fall, Masoud, Fahed (Vice-President Student Services), and I, along with representatives from the Students' Union, participated in a meeting of the Joint Oversight Committee on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs), where we received a report on the University's use of revenue generated through MNIFs. Though the Government of Alberta has recently announced that they will be freezing MNIFs for all students for fall 2019 (both domestic and international students), we raised concerns about the student health and wellness fee, given that the government has now mandated that the funding the U of A receives through the mental health grant cannot be used for treatment, and is emphasising that students utilize Alberta Health Services' resources, which are located off-campus. Both student associations continue to raise issues with this shift, and the Dean of Students will be sharing these concerns with the government.
- In early 2019, along with Masoud, I will be scheduling a meeting with the FGSR to review and discuss the importance of clear and transparent letters of offer associated with admissions.
- At the beginning of November, we hosted a dedicated coffee break for graduate student group executives, in order to support and connect with departmental graduate student groups and networks.

Sincerely,

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

Sasha van der Klein  
2018-2019 GSA President



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

18 January 2019

This report includes my updates from the internal task list for the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The following are projects that I have initiated in the past few months since the most recent updates on the SWP to GSA Council in October, in addition to attending the regularly scheduled meetings of the many governance committees on which I represent the GSA.

- I continue to raise the importance of monitoring the frequency of supervisory committee meetings to ensure that graduate students benefit from the required amount of contact with their supervisory committees. Following conversations with the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), I worked to help develop a survey that was circulated to graduate students through the GSA newsletter, asking about their experiences with the frequency of their supervisory committee meetings. Data from this survey has now been shared with the Interim Dean of the FGSR, and at the December meeting of the FGSR Policy Review Committee (FGSR PRC), these survey results, and next steps, were discussed. I also discussed this matter with Associate Dean Krogman, I continue to emphasize the importance of including annual supervisory committee meetings as one of the milestones that can be recorded in the online tracking platform that the FGSR will be implementing in the next few years.
- Other recent and important conversations within the FGSR PRC have included the creation of a support document for students pursuing research or courses at partner institutions, which do not have appropriate student support services. Additionally, the FGSR is currently reviewing its appeals policy, including how to best educate graduate students about the policy and discussing the creation of a supportive document to assist students in navigating it.
- Following discussions with the Interim Dean of the FGSR, the topic of graduate student exam deferrals was further discussed during recent FGSR Policy Review Committee meetings. During these discussions, I encouraged the FGSR to make it clear in their policies or communications that graduate students are covered by the University's exam deferral policies and processes in cases of unexpected emergencies for written exams, and the FGSR has agreed to incorporate language in the University calendar outlining that this is the case.
- In response to some graduate students bringing to my attention concerns about the scheduling of graduate courses during evenings and weekends or last-minute changes in scheduling, I met with my delegate on the General Faculties Council Academic Standards Committee (GFC ASC) to discuss bringing these concerns forward to the University. We then raised this issue to the General Faculties Council Committee on the Learning Environment and the matter has now been given to the FGSR PRC, who will be working on developing language to add to University policy.
- Finally, I have tackled a few individual issues, including working with a graduate student concerned about their ability to apply for various scholarships as a result of department specific regulations, and meeting with a representative of the Undergraduate Research Initiative to both learn more how their programming impacts graduate students and about how it intersects with a academic employment of graduate students under the GSA/Board of Governors Collective Agreement.

Sincerely,

Masoud Aliramezani, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President Academic



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

18 January 2019

This report includes my updates from the internal task list for the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The following are projects that I have initiated in the past few months since the most recent updates on the SWP to GSA Council in October.

- Along with Sasha, and in keeping with the non-partisan nature of the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC), I have continued participating in ab-GPAC's ongoing meetings with representatives of Albertan political parties.
- During the fall semester, I continued to participate in several meetings related to residence issues, and actively participated in the Housing for Students Who Parent Committee, to review all student feedback collected through the University's consultation process in order to determine what kind of supports the University should provide for families. The consultation sessions have now wrapped up and the committee is now working on a final report.
- As a member of the Residence Advisory Committee and the Joint Residence Oversight Committee, I have also been discussing the University's residence budget, and the proposed increases to residence rates and meal plans that are anticipated for 2019-2020. I am happy to discuss this matter further with GSA Council.
- In support of student mental health, and as the GSA's representative on the Alumni Council, I am part of the new Volunteerism with Students Committee, which has been working to establish a program to recruit alumni as volunteers to support students and student mental health programming. The program is called ASSET, which stands for Alumni Student Support and Engagement team. I took an active role in the interview process for alumni wanting to participate in this program, and advised on the training they will receive to complete their roles.
- As Sasha reports, we have been working with ab-GPAC on implementing our three priorities for 2018-2019. As I reported in October, I participated in developing ab-GPAC's tuition and fees policy, which can be found [here](#).

Finally, in my role as the Chair of the GSA Awards Selection Committee, I am looking forward to overseeing the upcoming adjudication of the GSA Recognition Awards. I am also happy to report that in December, the GSA office team developed a 'GSA Awards 101' session, to provide information and assistance to graduate students interested in applying for these recognition awards. Five graduate students attended this session.

Sincerely,

Zhihong Pan, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President External



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

18 January 2019

This report includes my updates from the internal task list for the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The following are projects that I have initiated in the past few months since the most recent updates on the SWP to GSA Council in October.

- Negotiations for the next Graduate Assistantship Collective Agreement (CA) have been ongoing for several months and updates on negotiations have been shared with all current academically-employed graduate students. As per the regulations outlined in the *Labour Relations Code*, a final ratification vote will be sent to all current academically-employed graduate students.
- Over the fall I have continued working to improve transparency around graduate student pay issues and I will continue this work for the duration of my term of office.
- As reported previously, a large portion of my portfolio involves meeting with individual graduate students in person or over email regarding the interpretation of and compliance with the Collective Agreement. I have continued this work by responding to approximately 3-6 email conversations with graduate students per week, and meeting with approximately 3-8 graduate students per month, to assist with more complex issues.
- In October, I hosted a well-attended Collective Agreement 101 information session for academically-employed graduate students to help spread awareness about the provisions of the Collective Agreement. We are planning to host another session in the current term.
- In late November, I attended the University's new Joint Worksite Health and Safety Committee, which was established as part of the provincial government's new Occupational Health and Safety Legislation. This committee will be examining third party oversight of health and safety violations on campus, and will work on establishing a process for graduate students to electronically report any perceived violations that they feel have not been addressed properly.
- Following the replenishment of the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) in the fall, this committee had its first meeting in November. Part of the mandate of the GSA LRC, as set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy, is to advise the Vice-President Labour with respect to educating academically-employed graduate students on the Collective Agreement.
- I have continued my participation in the Campus and Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Working Group, and we have been working on the final report that will be sent to the Vice-President (Finance and Administration) and Vice-President (Facilities and Operations). We have been utilizing the feedback received through GSA Council, and the personal safety survey, to develop the final recommendations that will be included in this report. Additionally, at their request, the co-chairs of the CFSS will be attending the January meeting of GSA Council to assist me in providing an update on these recommendations.
- Along with Sasha, I have continued consultations with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research regarding the supervisory training that is now required under the new Occupational Health and Safety Legislation, in order to ensure that this training benefits graduate students and facilitates collegial working relationships with their supervisors.

Sincerely,

Beth Richardson, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President Labour



Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

18 January 2019

This report includes my updates from the internal task list for the 2018-2019 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The following are projects that I have initiated in the past few months since the most recent updates on the SWP to GSA Council in October.

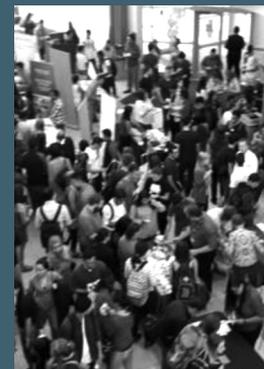
- I have continued to take all opportunities to discuss mental wellness with various stakeholders on campus, and participated in the second Healthy Campus Alberta Summit in November, which was held at the University of Alberta. In addition, in October, I attended the Canadian Mental Health Association Conference, along with the Students' Union Vice-President Student Life, to learn more about post-secondary institutions' role in supporting mentally healthy campuses.
- Through my work with the Dean of Students' Advisory Council (DAC), I brought forward issues that my attention has been drawn to concerning mental health supports and Indigenous experiences on campus. Finally, in collaboration with the Students' Union Vice-President Student Life, we developed a mental health world café to assist DAC in collecting further feedback about student mental health, campus supports, and potential barriers.
- Along with a representative from the Students' Union, I met with the Assistant Dean of Students, Health and Wellness Services, to review the University's report to the Government of Alberta on the use of the mental health grant funding that they provide to the U of A, and providing feedback on the University's mental health strategy. I will continue to focus on advocating for the continuation and enhancement of dedicated funding from the University and the government to support mental health services on campus (with respect to government funding, I will work in consultation with Sasha and Zhihong as they serve on the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council). We also continue to raise concerns about the Government of Alberta's new mandate that the U of A use this funding to increase the awareness and prevention of mental health, rather than on-campus treatment.
- I attended the recent Studentcare Stakeholder Conference to learn more about the services provided through the current GSA Health and Dental Plan and have worked with several graduate students to resolve issues they experienced with the Plan.
- In furtherance of the goal of maintaining a strong advocacy presence within the U of A concerning the necessity of top tier health and wellness resources, I met with a representative from University Human Resources to evaluate the services provided through the Graduate Student Assistance Program, and to review the GSA's usage of this program.
- In working to ensure that students' culture and/or religious requirements are appropriately accommodated, and following conversations with the Dean of Students, Campus & Community Recreation circulated a survey to explore the possibility of offering gender-specific swim times. This survey was circulated through the GSA newsletter to all graduate students. Gender specific swim times are now available on an ad hoc basis, more information can be found [here](#).
- In consultation with the GSA office team, we developed a 101 session on the topic of GSA funding opportunities, and fifteen graduate students attended. Another GSA Funding 101 session will be scheduled prior to the opening of the April 1, 2019 granting period.

Sincerely,

Fahed Elian, 2018-2019 GSA Vice-President Student Services

The Graduate Students' Association Board Strategic Work Plan 2018-2019

Foster  
Support  
Advocate  
Connect



# Our Vision and Mission

To advocate for all graduate students to the University of Alberta and the Alberta Government for a safe, supportive, respectful, accessible, and inclusive community that fosters the multi-faceted roles played by graduate students.



## WHAT IS THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION?

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA), as mandated by the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, represents graduate students at the University of Alberta. The GSA, as a separate corporation, is both a part of the University of Alberta and apart from the institution. The GSA Board believes that a healthy organization is nurtured through effective relationships with all stakeholders. To sustain the organization's long-term health and excellent reputation, the GSA fosters a culture of respect and professionalism among staff and graduate student leaders, engages in regular review of governance processes, and ensures an annual transition process that facilitates the on-going education of elected graduate student leaders.

## WHAT IS A GRADUATE STUDENT?

A graduate student is a junior colleague who contributes to their field of study in pursuit of an advanced degree through collaborative work with the professoriate in research, teaching, and the development of University learning environments. These contributions may be accomplished through: extensive coursework, for which graduate students pay tuition; academic employment, for which graduate students are paid; the co-creation and writing of scholarly work; the securing of academic funding; presentations, conferences, and community engagement; and capstone projects, theses, or dissertations. This multi-faceted position takes place in an environment of mutual respect and fairness aimed at developing skills and knowledge for future careers and is one that provides appropriate remuneration for labour in service of the enhancement of the institution.

## WHAT IS THE GSA BOARD'S STRATEGIC WORK PLAN?

The GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan is the document that steers and prioritizes the work and initiatives of the GSA. The GSA sees this as a living document, shifting directions as needed as the provincial, federal, and University landscapes change. It is developed annually with reference to the Strategic Work Plans of previous GSA Boards, and provides a planning document for this and future years.



Graduate students elect GSA leaders each February. Here are the 2018-2019 GSA Directly-Elected Officers (from left to right): Vice-President Academic, Masoud Aliramezani; Vice-President Student Services, Fahed Elian; President, Sasha van der Klein; Vice-President Labour, Beth Richardson; and Vice-President External, Zhihong Pan.

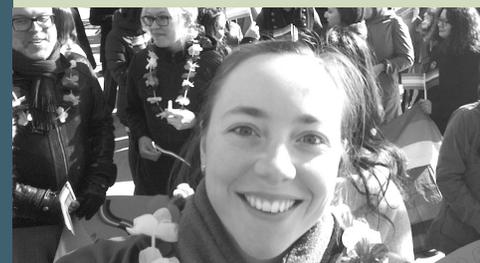
## Our Goals

**Foster** a welcoming environment and an equitable, sustainable, safe, and healthy campus.

The GSA values the contributions and diversity of graduate students and fosters a culture of inclusion and acceptance. The GSA will work to sustain a respectful, supportive, and welcoming environment for all graduate students, (including Indigenous graduate students, international graduate students, and graduate students who parent, among others), and will further sustain working relationships with stakeholders to ensure an inclusive campus free from discrimination; one that offers support for graduate students in diverse circumstances and with diverse needs.

The GSA will advocate for and support:

- Initiatives and programs that specifically support Indigenous and international graduate students.
- Leadership in environmental sustainability.
- Review and improvement of safety and security on campus.
- Campus-wide health and wellness initiatives.



**Support** graduate students by working with the University and government to ensure affordable tuition, cost-effective housing, and food security, and to provide access to financial means to empower graduate students to complete their programs.

The GSA advocates for:

- Guaranteed, transparent and sustainable funding packages that support a reasonable standard of living for all thesis-based graduate students for the duration of their programs.
- Greater financial supports for all graduate students, including higher compensation for assistantships, increased merit based and non-merit based financial support (as well as greater accessibility to these supports), and increases to the Graduate Student Support Fund.
- A predictable tuition model that ties graduate student tuition increases (for both domestic and international graduate students) to the Alberta Consumer Index.
- Sustainable, affordable, and well-maintained graduate student housing (for individuals and families).
- Enhanced resources and supports for graduate students who parent, and their families.
- Implementation of initiatives to prevent homelessness, improve (mental) wellness, and enhance supports for graduate students with dependents.

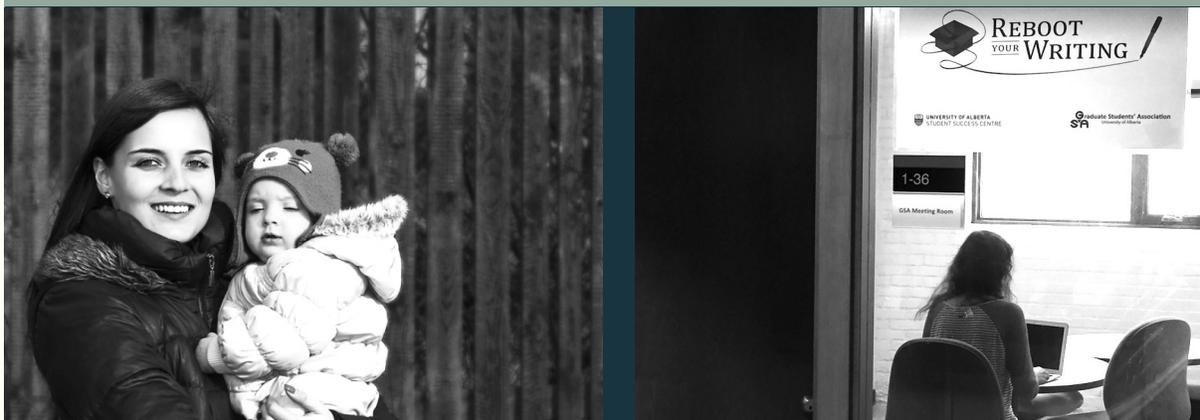
## Did you know?

The GSA offers:

- GSA Emergency Bursaries
- GSA Child Care Grants
- GSA Academic Travel Grants
- GSA Graduate Student Group Grants
- GSA Recognition Awards
- GSA Health and Dental Plan
- Graduate Student Assistance Program
- Collective Agreement Advice

Graduate education plays an important role in a prosperous society. Graduate students' success is dependent upon access to sustainable and appropriately sized funding packages and predictable expenses for the duration of their programs. A lack of sustainable graduate student funding and unpredictable increases in educational costs create significant strain on graduate students' health and wellness and can lead to increased drop-out rates.

In furtherance of the goal of supporting graduate students, the GSA will continue to support the Campus Food Bank, as well as workshops and services that assist graduate students with their academic progress. Additionally, the GSA will assist graduate students living in residences, and their Residence Associations, to ensure safe living conditions and excellent services.



**Advocate** for a supportive learning and work environment based on respectful and professional relationships, and for compliance with the GSA's Collective Agreement (CA) governing graduate student assistantships.

Graduate student success relies on quality education and quality supervision throughout a degree program. In addition, professional development opportunities for graduate students are essential for future career success. Furthermore, all graduate students are entitled to a safe and respectful study and work environment, free from harassment, discrimination, and bullying; the GSA is dedicated to working toward this. With specific reference to academically-employed graduate students, the CA negotiated by the GSA is a legally binding document between the GSA and the University of Alberta Board of Governors that outlines expectations for fair compensation and a healthy work environment and the GSA is committed to ensuring campus-wide compliance with its provisions.

The GSA will:

- Advocate for high-quality graduate-level programs and courses and opportunities to provide graduate students with international research and study opportunities.
- Collaborate with and advocate to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and senior University administrators to make quality graduate student supervision an institutional priority (including creating an accountability structure for supervisory evaluation and establishing a means of safe disclosure and reporting of concerning supervisory behaviour).

## Did you know?

The GSA:

- meets regularly with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Dean of Students
- is a member of the provincial advocacy group the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council
- has seats on the Board of Governors, the General Faculties Council, and their sub-committees
- works individually with students to help them

The GSA will:

- Support and collaborate with partners and stakeholders with respect to the establishment of a variety of high-quality professional development and internship opportunities in recognition of the diverse future career paths ahead of graduate students.
- Support and advocate for graduate students with CA issues and ensure University-wide awareness of and compliance with the CA while highlighting that, as per the *Labour Relations Code*, the GSA is a “trade union for the purposes of acting as bargaining agent for the academically employed graduate students” at the University.
- Provide guidance to graduate students experiencing issues outside the scope of the CA and aid them in navigating University processes and structures.



## Connect

with GSA stakeholders to support graduate student success and build connections between graduate students and the GSA.

Relationship building is key to the mission of the GSA to create a common vision of excellence in graduate education at the University, as well as across Alberta and Canada.

The GSA will reinforce strong relationships with:

- Key players of the Government of Alberta (such as the Minister of Advanced Education).
- Members of senior University Administration (such as the University's President, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), the Dean of Students, the Chair of the Board of Governors, and the Chancellor).
- Other campus stakeholder associations (such as the Students' Union, the Association of Academic Staff, University of Alberta, the Postdoctoral Fellows' Association, and the Non-Academic Staff Association).

### Did you know?

The GSA has:

- graduate student lounges at Triffo Hall
- rooms available for booking
- several fun events per year
- two large orientations specific to graduate students and participates in 40-45 departmental orientations
- a weekly newsletter, website, and social media profiles that highlight events and ways to get involved

Relationship building between the GSA and its members is also pivotal to foster a strong basis for our mission and vision of advocacy. The GSA will create opportunities for graduate student awareness of and engagement with the GSA by:

- Exploring and utilizing effective communication methods.
- Offering orientation sessions and 101s on key issues.
- Offering engagement and celebratory events.
- Maintaining involvement in discussions concerning dedicated graduate student social space.
- Supporting and connecting with departmental graduate student groups and networks.



# Events:

GSA Fall Orientation	Late August
GSA Fall Event	Early October
GSA Winter Orientation	Early January
GSA Winter Event	Mid February
GSA GSA General Election	Late February
GSA Volunteer Appreciation	Early March
GSA Awards Night	Late March
GSA Coffee Breaks	One Friday Monthly



Come visit us at  
The Graduate Students' Association  
1-49 Triffo Hall  
University of Alberta  
T6G 2E1

780-492-2175  
gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca

[www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association](http://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association)

**GSA President  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sasha van der Klein  
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

Welcome to the winter term! I hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved rest during the holidays, or if you kept on working on your research like many grad students, at least enjoyed the quiet time on campus until the undergraduates returned. Below you find some highlights from the last few weeks.

**External**

**Ab-GPAC** – We submitted feedback on the draft guidelines for the tuition and fee framework that the Government of Alberta released. We met with the minister of Advanced Education to highlight our priorities for Budget 2019. Related to the upcoming elections, we continue to stay connected with members of the several political parties in Alberta to highlight our advocacy priorities and explain the importance of our stakeholder group and post-secondary education in general. We also met with the Alberta Student Awards Personnel Association, to find overlap in our advocacy efforts related to graduate student financial aid, scholarships, and awards.

**Ontario** – Last week the Ontario government announced various measures related to tuition, fees (including student association fees), and student loans, which has started discussions across Canada around these topics. [Here](#) you can find the announcement and [here](#) you can find a response from Adam Brown, CASA Chair and VP External of the U of A Students' Union.

**Internal**

**U of A Board of Governors** – I met with the working group that organized the General Faculties Council (GFC)/Senate/Board of Governors (BoG) summit on January 25. The theme this year will be “The Case for Post-Secondary Institutions: Public Perceptions of Universities in an Election Year” and the desired outcome of the day will be to develop several elevator speeches to communicate the importance of post-secondary education and universities to differing audiences. I also met with Lynn Parish, Board of Governors member and Vice-Chair of the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee. We discussed the GSA's priorities to improve the graduate student experience and also the representation of graduate students on Board Committees. I also discussed this latter topic with the Chair of the Board of Governors, Michael Phair.

**Winter Orientation** – As we had outgrown our capacity at Triffo Hall, for the first time we held our Winter Orientation in the Education building. It was really nice to meet some of our new colleagues!

**Guaranteed Minimum Funding Packages and Supervision** – In our meetings with the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), Masoud and I have continued to push for the establishment of guaranteed funding packages. Additionally, Associate Dean Naomi Krogman has hired a graduate student intern to work on designing workplace safety training for supervisors of graduate students (which includes the provision of a socially safe workplace).

Don't feel afraid to shoot me an email, or knock on my door in Triffo Hall, I always like to hear from you!

Thanks,

Sasha van der Klein, GSA President 2018-2019

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 7 December 2018 and 28 January 2019. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

10 December	Meeting with G Kulczycki, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
10 December	Meeting with N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
12 December	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
12 December	Meeting with S Dew, Provost and Vice-President Academic
12 December	University President's Holiday Party
13 December	Board of Governors (BoG) Holiday Dinner
14 December	Board of Governors (BoG)
14 December	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Committee
17 December	Web Conference with Alberta Minister of Advanced Education re: Bill 19
17 December	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
18 December	Board of Governors (BoG)/General Faculties Council (GFC)/Senate Advisory Working Group
20 December	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
4 January	UAlberta International Orientation
4 January	GSA Winter Orientation
7 January	Meeting with N van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
8 January	Quarterly Meeting with Advanced Education and Student Leaders
9 January	GSA Departmental Orientation: Biomedical Engineering
10 January	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
11 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) consultation with Alberta Student Awards Personnel Association (ASAPA)
14 January	University Budget Model Townhall
14 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
15 January	Meeting with R Larsen, Students' Union (SU) President
15 January	Alberta Advanced Education Budget 2019 Priorities
17 January	General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee (GFC APC)
17 January	Meeting with A Bieman, Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Chair
17 January	Board of Governors (BoG)/General Faculties Council (GFC)/Senate Advisory Working Group
17 January	Meeting with Students' Union (SU) re: Capital Plan
18 January	Lunch with L Parish, Board of Governors (BoG) Member
21 January	Meeting with M Phair, Board of Governors (BoG) Chair
21 January	Meeting with N Van Kuppeveld, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Executive Director
23 January	Meeting re: Pride Week Planning
23 January	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
23 January	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
23 January	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
24 January	Meeting with Office of the Registrar re: Graduate Student Grant Funding

24 January	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
24 January	Meeting with D Turpin, President
24 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
25 January	Board of Governors (BoG)/General Faculties Council (GFC) Summit
28 January	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Dean Selection Committee

**GSA Board (GSAB)  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Courtney Thomas, Executive Director; Julie Tanguay, Associate Director; and Lisa Hareuther, Assistant Director  
Date: 25 January 2019

The GSAB reports regularly to GSA Council by listing its agenda items, Motions/agreements, and main items of discussion (meeting reports are also offered at each meeting). Motions of Agenda approval and approval of the Minutes are not included unless there were amendments made. Closed session items are not minuted. GSA Council members are always able to ask questions about items that were discussed in closed session. Open session Minutes are available upon request. The President, Vice-Presidents, and the administrative team will be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the GSA Council meeting. Also see the weekly Management Reports to the GSAB in Item 21 (Executive Director's Report to GSA Council) on pages 21.1 - 21.4.

**12 December 2018 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

Hate Free Yeg Initiative; International Graduate Student Tuition Increase for 2019-2020; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

Members **AGREED** to join the Hate Free Yeg initiative.

**9 January 2019 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

Peter Lougheed Leadership College; GSA Health and Dental Plan Change of Coverage Report Fall 2018 and Annual Claims Report 2017-2018; and Actual Expenses for Attendance at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference, 6-9 November 2018, in Winnipeg, MB: Business Travel Expenses.

Motions and Agreements:

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Change of Coverage Report Fall 2018, as prepared by Studentcare. SvK **MOVED**. BR Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION:** That the GSA Board **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached Annual Claims Report 2017-2018, as prepared by Studentcare. SvK **MOVED**. FE Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**MOTION:** The GSA Board is asked to **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary of actual expenses incurred through attendance at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference, 6-9 November 2018, in Winnipeg, MB. SvK **MOVED**. ZP Seconded. **CARRIED**.

**16 January 2019 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

Actual Expenses for Attendance at the Studentcare Stakeholder Meeting, 28-30 November 2018, in Montreal, QC: Business Travel Expenses; GSA Board Strategic Work Plan: Update to GSA Council; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**Motion:** The GSA Board is asked to **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the attached summary of actual expenses incurred through attendance at the Studentcare Stakeholders Meeting, 28-30 November 2018, in Montreal, QC. SvK **MOVED**. MA Seconded. **CARRIED**.

Members **AGREED** to go into **CLOSED** session.

Members discussed **ab-GPAC**.

Members **AGREED** to return to **OPEN** session.

**23 January 2019 GSA Board Meeting:**

Main Agenda Items:

Student Advisors' Conference: Request for an External Grant; GSA President's Citation; and Meeting reports.

Motions and Agreements:

**Motion:** That the GSA Board **APPROVE** an external grant, in an amount of \$300, for the 2019 Student Advisors' Conference, as requested in the attached letter from chair, Wendy Doughty, Assistant Dean of Students, Student Success. SvK **MOVED**. FE Seconded. **CARRIED**.

SvK **MOVED** that Board Members **AGREE** to move into **CLOSED SESSION**. Seconded MA. **CARRIED**.

Board Members discussed the **GSA President's Citation**.

SvK **MOVED** that Board Members **AGREE** to move out of **CLOSED SESSION**. Seconded MA. **CARRIED**.

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sasha van der Klein  
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

On 23 January, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) met to review and advise on the GSA's three-year budget/business plan, to recommend the GSA's 2019-2020 budget to GSA Council, to review the winter term budget and expenditures report, and to recommend to GSA Council changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Policy, Section K, Budget Principles, Practices, and Procedures and GSA Budget and Finance Committee. The committee had an engaging discussion concerning these matters and unanimously recommended that all of these items progress forward to GSA Council.

The main highlights from the 2019-2020 GSA Operating Budget are:

- recommended a 2% reduction in the GSA membership fee (followed by another 2% reduction in 2020-2021 and another 2% reduction in 2021-2022) as the GSA moves to a more balanced budget without compromising service provision,
- CPI factor of 2.2% (the same as that utilized by the University) applied selectively to certain lines
- a small increase is recommended in the GSA Council support budget line
- a small decrease in the training and development for Directly-Elected Officers line is recommended, to align with actual amounts spent in previous years
- a recommended decrease in the human resources budget line (due to the retirement of a part-time employee)
- a recommended increase to the funding offered to the Academic Success Centre, the Career Centre, and the Campus Food Bank, and
- a recommended increase to the GSA Council Remuneration budget line to reflect the actual number of GSA departmental councillors eligible to receive this funding.

These noted above items will be presented to GSA Council at the February meeting. In advance of this meeting, the GSA will hold a Budget 101 session on 19 February at 2 PM and encourage anyone interested in learning about the GSA's budget to attend.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,  
Sasha van der Klein, GSA President and Chair of the GSA BFC

**GSA Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Masoud Aliramezani  
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

January is almost over, but still, Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the winter break and I wish you all the best in the upcoming 11 months of 2019.

In the past month, I have attended several meetings, and I am going to highlight some important ones in this report.

I have been attending a few meetings with the FGSR Learning Outcomes (LO) Working Group and subgroups during the past month. This newly established group will work on developing guiding principles, along with the U of A definitions for graduate program learning outcomes, and will also work to articulate learning outcomes for FGSR-mandated program requirements and link these to U of A Graduate [Attributes](#), which were developed in 2013. The LO Working Group consists of several subgroups: *Guiding Principles*, *Scoping Exercise*, *FGSR Requirements - Template and LO*, *Plan to Implement with Programs*, *Online Platform Scoping*, *Framework Document*, *Template for Recruitment/Website*, and *Guide for Graduate Program Learning Objectives (PLO) and Assessment*. I have been working with the *Scoping Exercise* and *Guide for Graduate PLO and Assessment* subgroups.

I attended two General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC) meetings during the past month. A variety of items were discussed in these meetings, including the amendment to the Academic Schedule for 2019-2020 to include a Fall Term Reading Week exemption for PharmD students in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and to add two additional days off for PharmD students. The other topic that I would like to highlight is the terms of reference for the Council on Student Affairs (COSA). The Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA), in collaboration with the GSA, has proposed to allocate a voting seat on COSA to an Indigenous graduate student representative. I have been following up with this proposal through Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs).

I also attended the Signature Areas Development Panel (SADP), where we discussed a few proposals for potential U of A [Signature Areas](#).

Should you have any questions or comments about this report, please let me know, and I will be more than happy to answer. Please do not hesitate to share your suggestions or concerns regarding any academic-related issue you or anyone from your department may have.

Warm Regards,  
Masoud Aliramezani, GSA Vice-President Academic 2018-2019

## 12.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 7 December 2018 and 28 January 2019. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

10 December	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)
12 December	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Learning Outcomes Working Group
13 December	Meeting with N Krogman, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Associate Dean
17 December	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
18 December	Meeting re: General Faculties Council (GFC) Policy Manual
4 January	GSA Winter Orientation
9 January	Signature Areas Development Panel (SADP)
10 January	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
10 January	GSA Departmental Orientation: Mechanical Engineering
14 January	General Faculties Council Executive Committee (GFC Exec)
17 January	Learning Outcomes Subgroup: Graduate Program Learning Outcomes and Assessment
17 January	Learning Outcomes Subgroup
17 January	Peter Loughheed Leadership College (PLLC) Academic Oversight Committee Meeting
17 January	Meeting with a Graduate Student
21 January	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council Caucus
23 January	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)
23 January	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
24 January	Meeting with D Burshtyn, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Interim Dean
24 January	GSA General Faculties Council (GFC) Caucus
25 January	University Research Policy Committee (URPC)
25 January	Board of Governors (BoG)/General Faculties Council (GFC) Summit
28 January	General Faculties Council (GFC)

**GSA Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the 29 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Zhihong Pan  
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely holiday and brought fresh energy back to the University. Below are highlights of the meetings and events I have been involved with during the last month.

**Residence Related Meetings**

I went to an Open House at Michener Park hosted by Ancillary Services (Michener Park is an important University residence that accommodates many graduate students). We discussed the needs of students living there and talked about the potential supports for them with the upcoming closure of the residence in late August of 2020. In addition, I also attended a consultation with Residence Services regarding their strategic occupancy management plan. We discussed how to improve the experiences of students living in residence.

**Provincial Advocacy Group Meeting**

As mentioned in Sasha's report, we have continued to attend several meetings related to provincial advocacy. We had an Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) board meeting, during which we mainly talked about a survey of Indigenous students and the new membership policy. We also went to a ab-GPAC consultation with Alberta Student Awards Personnel Association (ASAPA). During this consultation, we stressed the limited funding resources for graduate students and advocated for more scholarships.

**GSA Awards Selection Committee**

With the closure of the GSA Recognition Award nomination period on 15 January 2019, the GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) organized a meeting to discuss the adjudication timeline and associated training for committee members. For more information, please refer to the GSA ASC report (Item 13a).

**Other Meetings and Events**

I also attended some Students' Union Governance Week sessions, including one on the topic of Indigenizing Student Governance. They invited people working with Indigenous matters to share their rich experiences, which was an amazing opportunity for me to learn and to see how to better provide supports for Indigenous graduate students. I also attended the "UAlberta International Update" meeting, where I learned more about UAlberta International's organizational structure and their global activities with various partners.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the report.

Sincerely,

Zhihong Pan, GSA Vice-President External 2018-2019

## 13.1

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 7 December 2018 and 28 January 2019. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. Please note that I was on research leave 12 – 18 December 2018.

10 January	Community Engagement Advisory Committee Meeting
11 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Governance Committee
11 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) consultation with Alberta Student Awards Personnel Association (ASAPA)
14 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
14 January	GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)
15 January	Open House at Michener Park
16 January	UAlberta International Update
17 January	Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)
18 January	Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Scoping Group Meeting
21 January	Students' Union Governance Week: Indigenous Governance and Partnership Panel
23 January	Students' Union Governance Week: Reclaiming our Space – Indigenizing Student Governance
23 January	Consultation with Residence Services re: Strategic Occupancy Management Plan
24 January	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) Board of Directors Meeting
25 January	GSA Coffee Break

**GSA Awards Selection Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Zhihong Pan  
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) is responsible for selecting the recipients of the twelve different GSA Recognition Awards. The GSA Recognition Awards honour graduate students who have distinguished themselves in research, teaching, academic achievement, leadership, and service to the University and to the wider community. The GSA also recognizes University faculty and staff members for their outstanding contribution to graduate education, and acknowledges those who support and champion graduate students at the University. These awards will be presented at the annual GSA Awards Night, taking place on 22 March 2019.

The deadline for the GSA to receive nominations for GSA Recognition Awards was 15 January 2019. The GSA received 150 applications in total, and saw an increase in the applications received compared to last year.

GSA ASC members met for adjudication training on 14 January 2019. GSA ASC members will be adjudicating the nominations until early February, after which they will meet to determine the final recipients in each category. The recipients will be reported to GSA Council in February.

Best,  
Zhihong Pan, GSA Vice-President External and Chair of the GSA ASC

**GSA Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Beth Richardson  
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a productive and/or restful holiday break and that you're staying warm in this wintry weather. Most of my updates for this month are for ongoing projects and some highlights are below, but I would also like to particularly highlight the Labour Rights 101 sessions that Associate Director Julie Tanguay and I offer for any graduate student group or department. Please do consider inviting us to your student group if you would like to know more about what rights you have as a worker at the U of A; I have a PowerPoint presentation and I will travel!

**Collective Agreement Ratification Vote**

I would like to notify you that the ratification vote for Academically-Employed Graduate Students has been sent to all students who currently work under a Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA), Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA), and Graduate Research Assistant Fellowship (GRAF) contracts. This is our first official ratification vote as a legally recognised labour union and, regardless of the outcome of that vote, I am proud to have represented (and will continue to represent) graduate student workers on this campus and I hope that future collective bargaining processes will be accompanied by ever greater levels of engagement from graduate students concerning their rights.

**Campuses and Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS) Working Group Report**

The CFSS report is nearly completed and ready to submit to the Board of Governors for consideration. Members of this committee will be attending the GSA Council meeting this month to discuss this draft further. Despite the report almost being finished, I want to remind everyone that this does not mean that the University is considering the issue of campus safety solved; the report includes provisions for ongoing consultation and problem solving on a yearly basis. If you have any concerns around your safety (whether in the workplace or on campus more broadly), I can continue to collect this data to report to the CFSS Working Group, Environmental Health and Safety, or Risk Management even after the report is submitted.

**Labour Rights 101 Sessions**

Julie and I have developed a presentation around labour rights for graduate students, which includes Collective Agreement information, health and safety information, and information about other resources available on campus to help support your labour rights. We are looking to spread this information as widely around campus as we can. If you belong to a student group or departmental GSA and you'd like to learn more about your rights as a student, send me an email and I'd be happy to set something up.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns around your work, safety or wellbeing at the U of A.

Best wishes,  
Beth Richardson, your GSA Vice-President Labour 2018-2019.

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 7 December 2018 and 28 January 2019. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. Please note that I was on vacation 3 – 4 January 2019.*

14 December	GSA Coffee Break
17 December	Meeting re: Collective Agreement Negotiations
7 January	GSA Departmental Orientation: Chemical and Materials Engineering
9 January	Meeting with a Graduate Student
10 January	Meeting with a Graduate Student
14 January	GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)
15 January	Meeting re: Dean's Doctoral Student Award
17 January	International Student Advisory Council (ISAC)
22 January	Meeting with a Graduate Student
23 January	Student Parent Project Committee Meeting
23 January	GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)
23 January	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council
24 January	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students

**GSA Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Fahed Elian  
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had some time off and got away from school and work stress. I hope this year is full of positive energy and you accomplish all the personal and career goals you set for 2019. I am happy to share my activities and to give you a brief update of the meetings I attended in the last month.

### **Sexual Violence Steering Committee**

I attended this meeting on Beth's (GSA VP Labour) behalf. The main discussion was around restorative initiatives and their applicability in cases of sexual harassment. The committee made it clear at the beginning of this meeting that restorative initiatives were not and would not be used under any circumstances in the case of a reported sexual assault when the guilty offender was known. The discussion was more focused on restorative initiatives and whether they could be applied to some work space practices, or whether these initiatives could be viewed by some students or staff as not appropriate based on culture, background and/or religious point of views.

### **Meeting with Ben Louie, University Architect, re: CAB Renewal**

I had a meeting with Ben Louie to discuss the University's CAB renewal plan. The timeline for this project is that phase one of the renewal be completed by September 2019. CAB will be renovated to become a more student friendly space where students can find quiet space for studying and/or relaxing with desks, couches, and rooms that can be rented by student groups and clubs to run various activities. Also, the University is anticipating having more food options in the space to meet students' needs.

### **U-Pass Advisory Committee**

The City of Edmonton has informed the University that the initial launching phase of Smart Fare is anticipated to take place on September 2020. Following the launch of Smart Fare, U-Pass stickers will not be utilized, and smart cards will be used instead. More details on the timelines, procedures, and action plan will be shared in the future as they become available.

### **Meeting with A Bourgeois, Students' Union (SU) Vice-President Student Life, and K Friese, Assistant Dean of Students, Health and Wellness, re: National Mental Health Strategy**

In my November GSA Council report (19 November 2018), I touched on the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) conference that was held in Montreal in October, as well as on the committee that is working on national standards and recommendations on mental health for post-secondary education institutions in Canada. I shared my contact with that committee and showed interest in the benefits of having the U of A GSA active in this project. The goal of this committee is to have these standards adapted and applied within Canadian post-secondary institutions in order to improve and sustain mental health wellness for all students. The expected date of completion for this project is 2020. I am happy to share with you that I heard back from the committee and we received a partnership invitation. In order to make sure that this is done in the most efficient way, and to cover various student demographics, I reached out to the Dean of Students Office and, along with the Students'

Union (SU), have coordinated that the Dean of Students Office will take the lead on overseeing this consultation process, and the SU and the GSA will be key stakeholders. In our meeting to discuss this strategy, I indicated that it would be important to reach out to the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association as a key stakeholder.

Now, I need your help and support to provide our vision on the ideal mental health standards for our institution that meet graduate student needs. The national committee has asked institutions to provide feedback before May 2019. This is a tight timeline as several other projects are in-progress. In collaboration with the Dean of Students Office, and the SU, we are planning to develop a town hall and a student survey, which will be advertised through the GSA newsletter and social media. I am kindly asking you all, as the representatives of your departments, to also encourage your colleagues to participate in these consultations. The most efficient way to improve our student experience at the U of A is to communicate our needs and advocate for them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information about any of these sessions or meetings. Also, please reach out if you have any ideas, suggestions, concerns, or comments, I would be more than happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,  
Fahed Elian, GSA Vice-President Student Services

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 7 December 2018 and 28 January 2019. The meetings were accurate at the time of printing. Please note that I was on vacation 14 December 2018 – 7 January 2019.*

10 December	Sexual Violence Prevention Steering Committee
13 December	Board of Governors (BoG) Holiday Dinner
11 January	Meeting with B Louie, University Architect, re: CAB Renewal
11 January	GSA Departmental Orientation: Medicine
15 January	Days of Action Committee
16 January	U-Pass Advisory Committee
17 January	Campus Food Bank (CFB) Board Meeting
23 January	Meeting with A Bourgeois, Students' Union (SU) Vice-President Student Life, and K Friese, Assistant Dean of Students, Health and Wellness, re: National Mental Health Strategy
24 January	U-Pass Admin Committee Meeting
24 January	Monthly Meeting with A Costopoulos, Dean of Students
25 January	Board of Governors (BoG)/General Faculties Council (GFC) Summit

**GSA Chief Returning Officer  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Vahid Ayan  
Date: 25 January 2019

Election time is almost upon us! I have been working with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) since August 2018, as noted by Leigh Spanner (Chair of the GSA ERC), to ensure we are ready for the 2019 GSA General Election.

The timeline for the 2018 General Election was approved by myself on the recommendation of the GSA ERC. The full timeline is available on the GSA website [here](#). Below are some highlights:

**Thursday, 31 January 2019:** Nominations open for the General Election

**Thursday, 14 February 2019 at 1 PM MST:** Nominations close for the General Election

**Monday, 25 February 2019 at 12 PM MST:** GSA General Election Forum – Lunch will be served

**Tuesday, 26 February 2019 to Thursday, 28 February 2019 at 10 AM MST:** Voting period for the General Election

I would like to ask all Councilors to invite their colleagues to participate in the GSA General Election by attending the GSA General Election Forum on 25 February at noon (the Forum will also be livestreamed and made available on the GSA website for those unable to attend) and voting on 26 February through 28 February. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [gsa.elections@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.elections@ualberta.ca).

Thank you,

Vahid Ayan, GSA Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Radim Barta  
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,

Radim Barta, Chair of the GSA NoC

**GSA Standing Committees**

**1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (One (1) Departmental Councillor Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) Departmental Councillor was circulated on two (2) instances via email to GSA Council with a deadline of 22 January 2019. No nominations were received. This vacancy will be advertised again.

**2) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) (Three (3) Graduate Student Positions)**

Information regarding the three (3) vacancies for graduate students was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 11 and 18 January 2019 with a nomination deadline of 22 January 2019. Five (5) nominations were received. The nominees were then interviewed by members of GSA NoC: GSA NoC Vice-Chair Kenzie Gordon conducted two (2) interviews, GSA NoC member David Tandio conducted one (1) interview, and GSA NoC Chair Radim Barta and GSA NoC member Dylan Ashley together conducted two (2) interviews. These members have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. GSA Assistant Director Lisa Hareuther was also present for four (4) of the interviews, and GSA Executive Director Courtney Thomas was present for one (1) interview. During each of the interviews, the nominees were asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB receive training in procedural fairness). There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item 8a – Nominees for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.**

**3) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair and Vice-Chair (Two (2) GSA ACB Member Positions in Total)**

Members of the GSA ACB were informed of these vacancies via email on 11 and 18 January 2019 and were invited to submit nominations by 21 January 2019. One (1) nomination was received for the position of GSA ACB Chair; two (2) nominations were received for the position of GSA ACB Vice-Chair. The GSA NoC recommends that GSA Council consider these nominees during the paper ballot. **See Item 8b – Nominees for GSA ACB Chair and GSA ACB Vice-Chair.**

**4) GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) (One (1) Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy for graduate students was advertised in the GSA newsletters of 11 and 18 January 2019 with a nomination deadline of 23 January 2019. Four (4) nominations were received. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item 8c – Nominees for GSA Budget and Finance Committee.**

### External Committees

#### **1) Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD) Dean Selection Committee (One (1) FoMD Graduate Student Position)**

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

“Each Departmental Graduate Student Association shall forward a name to the Graduate Students’ Association and the representative will be elected by the Graduate Students’ Association Council. If no Departmental Graduate Student Association exists or if no names are forwarded by the existing associations, the Graduate Students’ Association shall be responsible for forwarding a name to the Graduate Students’ Association Council for ratification” ([UAPPOL Faculty Deans Selection Procedure Appendix A: Dean Selection Committee for Individual Faculties](#)).

On 8 January 2019, the GSA began the work of contacting all ten (10) departmental GSAs in the FoMD and requesting that they inform the GSA Nominating Committee by 11 January 2019 if they were unable to conduct a process to identify a nominee from their respective departments and whether the GSA would be responsible for forwarding a name to the GSA Council. No departmental GSAs indicated so. Departmental GSAs were asked to submit the name of their respective nominees to the GSA by the deadline of 22 January 2019. Five (5) nominations in total were submitted from each of the departments of Biochemistry, Medicine, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, and Physiology via their respective departmental GSAs.

On 14 January 2019, the GSA circulated a call to graduate students in each of the eight (8) departments in the FoMD without a departmental GSA, inviting nominations with a deadline of 22 January 2019. One (1) nomination was submitted from the department of Pediatrics and was circulated to graduate students in the department of Pediatrics with an electronic ballot to approve this student as their departmental nominee. One (1) nomination was received from the department of Ophthalmology, in which only one (1) graduate student was registered at the start of this election process.

There are seven (7) nominees in total. There will be a paper ballot vote. **See Item 8 – Nominees for Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD) Dean Selection Committee.**

#### **2) Community Connections Awards Committee (One (1) Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) graduate student was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 21 January 2019. Two (2) nominations were received. **Jon Lai (Human Ecology)** was elected to serve on the Community Connections Awards Committee.

#### **3) Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF) Selection Committee (One (1) Graduate Student Position)**

Information regarding the position for one (1) graduate student was circulated on two (2) instances in the GSA newsletter with a deadline of 21 January 2019. Three (3) nominations were received. **Rozzlynn Zulla (Public Health)** was elected to serve on the TLEF Selection Committee.

### Addendum – Meeting of GSA NoC

On 14 January 2019 members of GSA NoC met to review proposed editorial changes to GSA Policy on the GSA Nominating Committee, as well as to discuss current election procedures pertaining to GSA Standing Committees and GSA Council-Elected Officers (Senator, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO), and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)).

The proposed editorial changes to GSA Policy on the GSA Nominating Committee sought to streamline language regarding the GSA Early for Talent and Training initiative—in particular the section regarding the Early Call training sessions—and align it with current practice. GSA NoC members agreed that these editorial changes should be implemented, and the proposal will therefore be presented to the GSA Governance Committee for consideration.

In the discussion regarding election procedures, members agreed that current election procedures regarding positions on the GSA Standing Committees should continue, but that procedures pertaining to the GSA Council-Elected Officer positions may benefit from reconsideration. The GSA NoC will bring this discussion to the GSA Council at the 18 March 2019 meeting for feedback.

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Leigh Spanner  
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear Council Colleagues,

The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) met on 18 January 2019 to continue planning the 2019 GSA General Election.

At this meeting, the GSA ERC reviewed and finalized various posters advertising the GSA General Election and agreed to again utilize Safewalk to distribute these posters across campus. The GSA ERC also discussed various issues related to the 2019 GSA General Election Forum and made some planning decisions.

As mentioned in the GSA CRO's report, nominations for the five Directly-Elected Officer and the ten Councillor-at-Large positions will open on 31 January 2019.

Finally, I would like to invite you to attend the GSA General Election Forum on 25 February 2019 at noon, in the Alumni Room (located on the main floor of SUB). Lunch will be served. Please also encourage your colleagues to attend. The Forum will also be livestreamed, with a link to the feed shared closer to the Forum.

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

**GSA Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the 28 January 2019 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Courtney Thomas  
Date: 25 January 2019

Dear GSA Council Members,

I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday break. Below are a few highlights of the GSA office team's work since my last report to you in December:

**GSA Events** – our winter orientation event took place on 4 January 2019. This year we moved the event to a new location and, while we saw a small decrease in the number of attendees (the weather was also poor that day), the space itself worked very well for our hosting needs. We are currently planning a GSA Funding 101 session, the winter term engagement event, and GSA Awards Night, and remain engaged in the continuation of GSA Coffee Breaks.

**GSA Recognition Awards** – at the close of the nomination period on 15 January 2019, 150 nominations were received (a significant increase from last year's numbers). As has been the case in previous years, the office received the majority of applications close to the deadline and that resulted in considerable email and front desk traffic. The adjudication process (done by the GSA Awards Selection Committee) will be wrapped up in early February.

**2019-2020 GSA Budget** – as previously noted (and noted in the report from the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC)), the financial team and the GSA BFC have developed the draft 2019-2020 GSA budget and associated three-year budget projections. The budget will be brought forward to GSA Council in February; I am pleased to note that the GSA remains in excellent financial shape and next year's proposed budget reflects this.

**2019 GSA General Election** – the office has been providing support to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) as they prepare for the 2019 GSA General Election. The nomination period will open on 31 January 2019. More information can be found in the CRO and the GSA ERC's report to GSA Council, and on the GSA website. Please encourage your colleagues to run for positions, attend the GSA General Election Forum, and vote!

As always, 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 at the upcoming meeting.

Best,  
Courtney Thomas, Executive Director

**Management Report to the GSA Board, 12 December 2018**

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 5 December 2018:

**Strategic**

- Developing the 2019-2020 operating budget following a meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (the committee will meet again in January) and developing some recommended revisions to GSA Bylaw and Policy on finances for the GSA Budget and Finance Committee to review.
- Starting to work on the next GSA Board SWP update to GSA Council (will go forward in January).
- Developing general survey of GSA Council members.
- Review SU services to gain a better understanding of what is solely funded by the SU and which ones the University contributes to.
- Working on various in-progress proposals to amend GSA Bylaw and Policy and planning when they will go to GSA Council.
- Preparing for the 2019 GSA General Election (developing the timeline, planning the forum, etc) and work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

**Grants and Office Operations**

- In the interests of streamlining things, meeting reports will now be circulated in bulk on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and, because this schedule aligns with that of the circulation of GSA Board material, reports will now longer be circulated on Tuesdays with GSA Board materials. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns and remember to get meeting reports into the office by 2 pm on Tuesdays and Fridays so they can be circulated.
- Planning Winter Orientation and the final GSA Coffee Break of the term.
- Receiving nominations for GSA Recognition Awards and preparing for the associated adjudication process (hosting a GSA Recognition Awards 101 session on 11 December).
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (Arts Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and Early Call for Talent and Training wrap up).
- Facebook = 1,258 likes (up 2 from 28 November); Facebook posts reached 604 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 235. Twitter = 904 followers (down 1 from 28 November); our tweets earned 3,300 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period starts 1 January (162 applications funded and \$73,628.56 disbursed in the current period); GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period starts 1 January (56 applications funded and \$85,000 disbursed in the current period); GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries and, since then, 18 applications have been funded and \$65,059 has been disbursed); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period starts 1 January (5 applications funded and \$3,400 disbursed).

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 9 January 2019

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 12 December 2018:

#### Strategic

- Developing the 2019-2020 operating budget, the most recent term financial report, and preparing for a January meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee.
- Drafting GSA reports to several University governing bodies.
- Reviewing material associated with the new Tuition and Fees Regulation and possibly changes to Government of Alberta awards and scholarships.
- Preparing for a meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the 2019 GSA General Election.
- Drafting materials for the first mailing of GSA Council and preparing a general survey of GSA Council members.
- Working on various in-progress proposals to amend GSA Bylaw and Policy and planning when they will go to GSA Council.
- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

#### Grants and Office Operations

- Winter Orientation (attendance slightly down this year) and planning the GSA Winter Engagement Event.
- Preparing to host another GSA Funding 101 session.
- Receipt of nominations for GSA Recognition Awards and preparing for the associated adjudication process.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Search and Selection Committee election, Early Call for Talent and Training wrap up, several upcoming GSA Standing Committee vacancies).
- Facebook = 1,266 likes (up 8 from 12 December); Facebook posts reached 443 users this week and our “post engagement” count was 53. Twitter = 911 followers (up 7 from 12 December); our tweets earned 3,400 “impressions” over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 January.

## Management Report to the GSA Board, 16 January 2019

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 9 January 2019:

### Strategic

- Developing the 2019-2020 operating budget, the most recent term financial report, and preparing for a January meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee.
- Reviewing the GSA's fees disbursement agreement with the University (expires in 2019) and preparing to renegotiate it.
- Discussion of GSA Council election procedures with the GSA Nominating Committee.
- Preparing for a meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the 2019 GSA General Election.
- Drafting materials for the first mailing of GSA Council and preparing a general survey of GSA Council members.
- Working on various in-progress proposals to amend GSA Bylaw and Policy and planning when they will go to GSA Council (GSA Bylaw and Policy on Grants and Bursaries, Finances, membership categories, etc).
- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes.

### Grants and Office Operations

- Planning the GSA Winter Engagement Event.
- Preparing to host another GSA Funding 101 session.
- Receipt of nominations for GSA Recognition Awards and preparing for the associated adjudication process (the GSA Awards Selection Committee met on 14 January 2019).
- Renewal of one of the GSA's insurance policies.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the Community Connections Awards Selection Committee, the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund Selection Committee, and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Dean Selection Committee.
- Facebook = 1,269 likes (up 3 from 9 January); Facebook posts reached 512 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 338. Twitter = 914 followers (up 3 from 9 January); our tweets earned 4,200 "impressions" over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 January.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, 23 January 2019

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 16 January 2019:

#### Strategic

- Discussions around the recent events in Ontario with respect to voluntary student unionism.
- Developing the 2019-2020 operating budget, the most recent term financial report, and preparing for a 23 January meeting of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee – as members were updated last week, we are in a good financial position.
- Renegotiating the GSA's fees disbursement agreement with the University (expires in April 2019).
- Action associated with a recent meeting of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and preparing for the 2019 GSA General Election (this year's forum will be livestreamed).
- First mailing of GSA Council meeting materials and preparing for the second mailing.
- Working on various in-progress proposals to amend GSA Bylaw and Policy and planning when they will go to GSA Council (GSA Bylaw and Policy on Grants and Bursaries, Finances, and membership categories) and preparing for a February meeting of the GSA Governance Committee.
- Work associated with changes to the Collective Agreement and supporting negotiations processes and strategic work around building a strike fund (contacting a consultant).

#### Grants and Office Operations

- Planning the GSA Winter Engagement Event.
- Preparing to host another GSA Funding 101 session.
- Receipt of nominations for GSA Recognition Awards and preparing for the associated adjudication process (the GSA Awards Selection Committee met on 14 January 2019). 150 applications were received (applications are significantly up from last year). Planning for GSA Awards Night.
- Supporting the work of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee (vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, the GSA Budget and Finance Committee, the Community Connections Awards Selection Committee, the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund Selection Committee, and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Dean Selection Committee).
- Facebook = 1,270 likes (up 1 from 16 January); Facebook posts reached 322 users this week and our "post engagement" count was 8. Twitter = 914 followers (up 0 from 16 January); our tweets earned 1,800 "impressions" over the last week.
- GSA Academic Travel Grants = new funding period started 1 January; GSA Child Care Grants = new funding period started 1 January and closed on 22 January; GSA Emergency Bursaries = new funding year started 1 April (there are no funding periods for GSA Emergency Bursaries); GSA Graduate Student Group Grants = new funding period started 1 January.