

Monday, August 19, 2024  
**Held online and in-person in L1-490 ECHA**  
 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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

*The GSA's confidentiality practices are outlined below and can be summarized as follows: information arising in a closed session of GSA Council or a committee, information about identifiable individuals, or information otherwise marked or indicated as confidential, needs to stay that way. Discussions that are off the record or confidential often involve personal information, information on negotiations, business information, or other information of a similar nature.*

**GSA SPEAKER:**  
Farhan Khalid in the Chair  
**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**  
Sumaira Niazi

**CLOSED SESSION:**  
Discussion of matters pertaining to the business interests of the GSA will occur in Closed Session

Time	Item #	Title	Presenter(s)
6:00	-	Land Acknowledgement	F. Khalid, Speaker
1 min	1	Approval of the Agenda for August 19, 2024 GSA Council	F. Khalid, Speaker
1 min	2.0-2.6	Approval of the GSA Council Minutes of June 24, 2024	F. Khalid, Speaker
2 min	3	Changes in GSA Council Membership	F. Khalid, Speaker
10 min	4	Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● VP External By-Election</li> </ul>	

15 min	5 To be distributed	<p><b><u>PRESENTATION ITEMS</u></b></p> <p>A. Shape the Future Campaign Presentation</p> <p>Lynn Hruczkowski (Senior Consultant, Alumni and Development), Sarah Wolgemuth (Director, Student Experience Strategy Office of the Deputy Provost Students and Enrolment), and Kelly Spencer (AVP Development and Alumni Relations) will present the item.</p>	L. Hruczkowski, S. Wolgemuth, K. Spencer
30 min	5.0-5.9 5.10-5.29	<p>B. GSA Health &amp; Dental Plan Survey Report</p> <p>a. Questionnaire</p> <p>b. Report</p>	H. Arshad, President
25 min	5.30-5.31	<p>C. Ellement Health &amp; Dental Presentation</p> <p>Corey Wright and Joshua Sankarlal, Ellement representatives, will present the item.</p>	C. Wright, J. Sankarlal
15 min	6 6.0  6.1 6.2-6.7  6.8 6.9-6.20	<p><b><u>ACTION ITEMS</u></b></p> <p>A. GSA Health &amp; Dental Provider Vote</p> <p>a. Outline of Issue</p> <p>B. GSA Governance Committee-Recommended Bylaw and Policy Changes</p> <p>a. Outline of Issue</p> <p>b. Recommended Bylaw &amp; Policy Changes to Sections</p> <p>C. GSA ERC-Recommended Policy Changes</p> <p>a. Outline of Issue</p> <p>b. Recommended Policy Changes to Sections D &amp; I</p>	
15 min	7	<p><b><u>DISCUSSION ITEMS</u></b></p> <p>A. Council Ad-Hoc Committee to Improve Council Efficiency</p>	H. Arshad, President
30 min	8  8.0-8.4  8.5-8.7	<p><b><u>ELECTIONS</u></b></p> <p><b>A. Appeals &amp; Complaints Board:</b></p> <p>a. Two Councillor Positions</p> <p>b. Three GSA Member Positions (Five Nominees)</p> <p><b>B. GSAB/NoC:</b></p> <p>a. One Councillor Position (One Nominee)</p> <p><b>C. Budget &amp; Finance Committee:</b></p>	A. Belosokhov, NoC Chair  No nominations received

	8.8-8.10	a. One Councillor Position (Three Nominees)	No nominations received
	8.11-8.12	b. One GSA Member Position <b>D. Elections &amp; Referenda Committee:</b> a. Three GSA Member Positions (One Nominee)	
	8.13-8.15	<b>E. Governance Committee:</b> a. Two Councillor Positions (One Nominee)	
30 min	9	<b>INFORMATION PIECES</b> Reports:	
	9.0-9.3	A. GSA President: Haseeb Arshad	None at this time
	9.4-9.5	B. Vice-President Academic: Rija Kamran	
	9.6-9.11	C. Vice-President Student Life: Benjamin Kucher	
	9.12-9.14	D. Vice-President Student Services: Saad Iqbal	
	9.15-9.16	E. Vice-President External	
	9.17	F. Associate Vice-President Labour: Muneeb Raja	
	9.18	G. GSA Senator: Ola Mabrouk	
	9.19	H. GSA Speaker: Farhan Khalid	
	9.20-9.25	I. Chief and Deputy Returning Officers: Sophie Shi and Zain Patel	
		J. GSA Nominating Committee Chair: Arseniy Belosokhov	
		K. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair: Andrew Pohlka	None at this time
		L. GSA Management, Executive Director: Lewie Moodley	None at this time
	10	Question Period A. Written Questions (May be submitted to the GSA Speaker before 4:00PM on Thursday, August 15, 2024) B. Oral Questions	
		Adjournment	

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
 Monday, 24 June 2024 at 12:00 pm  
 Held in-person and online [via Zoom] in Council Chambers

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Haseeb Arshad (President)	Ola Mabrouk (Senator)	Samantha Tan (Bio Sci)	Amber Smith (IGSA)	Toqa Abdelwahab (Alternate: Ophthalmology)
Rija Kamran (VP Academic)	Arseniy Belosokhov (Councillor-at-Large)	Gurparkash Singh (Biomedical Eng)	Joelle Kasongo (Alternate: Lab Med & Path)	Ahmed Ahmed (Pharm & Pharm Sci)
Mariam Mughees (VP External)	Abdul Syed (Councillor-At-Large)	Vishnu Pillai (Business MBA)	Taylor Zimmerman (Library & Info Studies)	Fulin Wang (Pharmacology)
Benjamin Kucher (VP Student Life)	Rebecca Reif (Councillor-At-Large)	Kiera Greenaway (Civil & Enviro Eng)	Pouneh Nejad (Math & Stat'l Sci)	Evan Vienneau (Physics)
Saad Iqbal (VP Student Services)	Ibrahim Khodabocus (Councillor-At-Large)	Noor Abdo (Alternate: Comm Sci & Disorders)	Kineshta Pillay (Mech Eng)	Cheryl Pan (Psychology)
Muneeb Masood Raja (AVP Labour)	Margaret DeCoste (Councillor-At-Large)	Iain Smith (Comp Sci)	Dana Villareal (Alternate: Media & Tech Studies)	Julie Tian (Alternate: Psychiatry)
Farhan Khalid (Speaker)	Georga Boffen Yordanov (Councillor-At-Large)	Michelle Bey (Dentistry)	Connor Oborn (Medical Genetics)	Kathryn Short (Public Health)
Sumaira Niazi (Deputy Speaker)	Christine Hymanyk (Councillor-At-Large)	Zhuohao Li (Drama)	Ataei Saeed (Neuroscience)	Aynaz Gerami (Resource Econ & Enviro)
Sophie Shi (CRO)	Uthman Khan (Anthropology)	Guadalupe Cornejo (Ed Policy Studies)	Nancy Hammer (Nursing)	
Zain Patel (DRO)	Andrew Poholka (Biochemistry)	Zoe Wagner (Human Ecology)	Fateema Muzaffar (Oncology)	

Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair. Deputy Speaker Sumaira Niazi in training.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm. The Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

**Approval of Agenda****1. Approval of the 24 June 2024 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 24 June 2024 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024.

MOTION to move up Item 9 and move Item 7 to the end of the session due to guest arrival at 2:30pm.

**BK MOVED. HA SECONDED.**

Motion **PASSED.**

Approval of Minutes**2. Minutes from the 27 May & 4 June 2024 GSA Council Meetings**

Members had before them the 27 May & 4 June GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed. MOTION to APPROVE 27 May 2024 Minutes.

BK **MOVED**. SI **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

MOTION to APPROVE 4 June 2024 Minutes.

BK **MOVED** HA **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**. 1 Abstained.

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

- i. **Introduction of New Councillors:** S. Ribeiro (Political Science, VP External); G. Yordanov (CAL)
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** K. Pillai (Mechanical Engineering)

GSA Council Member Announcements

- 4. GSA Council Member Announcements:** Closed session will occur at end of meeting and only one question per councillor will be permitted.

Haseeb Arshad, GSA President, presented the item and stated that the GSA has achieved \$200,000 for a coursework-based scholarship - a hybrid award with academics, community service and need-based requirements. H. Arshad will be working with FGPS for the adjudication, with the plan of launching in September. H. Arshad is also collaborating with UNICEF to collect donations for women and children in Gaza and working to get the university to match student donations.

Action Items:

- 5. Creation of the new GSA Vice President of Indigenous Relations role** (*suggested time: 20 min*)

Haseeb Arshad (President) presented the item and introduced the guest, Tiffany Kung

Motion to **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, as noted in the attached proposal, effective following two readings by GSA Council (in the case of GSA Bylaw) and approval by GSA Council (in the case of GSA Policy), with the changes to take effect on 1 May 2025.

BK **MOVED**. A. Smith **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED**.

BK stated that no formal bylaw changes have occurred since the May Council due to the remaining description and responsibilities of this role being decided when the role is in place.

Motion to **APPROVE**, on the recommendation of the GSA Governance Committee and the GSA Board, the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, as noted in the attached proposal, effective following two readings by GSA Council (in the case of GSA Bylaw) and approval by GSA Council (in the case of GSA Policy), with the changes to take effect on 1 May 2025.

Motion **PASSED**. 1 Abstained.

- 6. GSA 2024-2025 SWP (GEAR)** (*suggested time: 20 min*)

Haseeb Arshad (President) presented the item

Motion for GSA Council to **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the 2024-2025 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

BK MOVED. HA SECONDED.

Motion **PASSED**.

HA discussed the final GSA workplan for the year term and three-year recommendation. AB asked for clarification re changes going forward after this Board's term. HA clarified that the plan will be revised each year with each new Board along with bylaws, and as such, it will be available in transition documents for the next Board.

Motion to **APPROVE** the 2024-2025 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan. BK MOVED. SI SECONDED.

Motion **PASSED**. Two abstained.

**Presentation Items:**

**7. Encampment Updates** (*suggested time: 20 min*)

Haseeb Arshad (President) will present the item and introduce the guests: Dr. Ravina Sanghera, Dr. Carrie Smith and Dr. Ali Shiri.

Haseeb Arshad (GSA President) presented the item and the guests: Dr. Ravina Sanghera (Vice-Provost and Dean of Students), Dr. Carrie Smith (Vice-Provost, EDI) and Dr. Ali Shiri (Vice-Dean, Education). The guests discussed their close work with addressing supports regarding the encampment sweep, acknowledging the traumatic experience and the need for more student support. C. Smith discussed the two-fold response of addressing immediate needs and academic support, collaborating closely with direct faculty and staff. R. Sanghera acknowledged the power imbalance between professors/supervisors and students in asking for academic accommodations and encouraged students to reach out to her and the Dean of Students office for individualised academic advising and accommodation planning. The Dean of Students office encouraged coming forward with complaints of professors/supervisors being insensitive regarding these accommodations and purported that three symposiums have been planned for student care improvements. Ali Shiri added that FGPS works with graduate deans, faculty members and students in a contextual way to approach issues properly, and that they reach out to different stakeholders to give context to handle issues in an informed and appropriate way. Her office is working to provide a list of services and supports in the university community and encourages feedback on these services. She emphasised that she is looking for ways to take the burden of navigating to find these services off of students and has been working closely with the GSA to help improve support and outreach.

Questions from the Council centered around what supports are currently available and awareness of these resources. R. Sanghera is acting as the navigator to services currently, which is not sustainable, and her office is working on a better system that takes the burden of navigation off of students. R. Sanghera stated that awareness of these services are currently by word of mouth, but it will be posted on the university website, but they encourage Councillors and Executives to share the knowledge and encourage students to reach out to their offices. They emphasized that for academic advising, it is very important to involve the Dean of Students office and faculty, as individual accommodations can be arranged. C. Smith is working on identifying paths forward and anticipates the website outreach will improve awareness. B. Kucher, VP Student Life, inquired about opportunities for focus groups. C. Smith stated that an EDI series to advance Indigenous advancement and engagement has been built and developed with students, faculty and staff, and will begin rolling out with discussions regarding what is needed, individually or policy-wide.

**8. ACB Bylaw Review Report** (*suggested time: 15 min*)

Lewie Moodley (GSA ED) will present the item. Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024. The report stood as submitted.

Lewie Moodley, GSA Executive Director, presented the item and discussed the work being done to incorporate escalation steps for resolution before a complaint is taken to the ACB, as well as requiring ACB members to be external to Council to reduce conflicts of interest. Sophie Shi, CRO, discussed the need for a division of responsibility and clarification in bylaw between the ERC and ACB; L. Moodley stated that an Executive Oversight Committee is in the works to decide what issue goes to which committee for resolution and to have oversight over the other two committees. Those with a legal background would be encouraged to obtain a seat on this committee. L. Moodley emphasised that the ACB should be the final stop when all other conflict resolution avenues have been exhausted and encouraged emailing staff with any suggestions. Proposed bylaw changes will be brought before Council in September.

9. **Robert's Rules of Order** (*suggested time: 20 min*)

Presented by Sumaira Niazi (Deputy Speaker) and Sophie Shi (CRO).

Sumaira Niazi, Deputy Speaker, and S. Shi, CRO, presented the item, detailing the Council procedures and Councillor member responsibilities for engagement. Clarification was required for the deadline for raising a motion to Council - motions are required two Fridays before Council as the motion needs to achieve GSA Board approval before it can be forwarded to Council as a discussion item. Councillor training modules are being developed with the goal of being uploaded to the GSA website. The GSA website and bylaws are currently being updated; the training modules will reflect these changes. L. Moodley, GSA Executive Director, stated that it will be a requirement for new Councillors to view these materials before their first meeting. It was suggested adding this requirement into bylaw. The timeline for the modules is currently between six to eight months.

10. **GSA Proposed Clarifying Statement (Closed Session Item)**

Presented by Haseeb Arshad (President). (*Suggested time: 20 mins*)

- i. Outline of the Issue
- ii. GSA Proposed Clarifying Statement

MOTION: For GSA Council to move into a **CLOSED SESSION**.  
BK MOVED. HA SECONDED.

Motion **PASSED**. Moved into Closed Session 12:52pm.

MOTION: For GSA Council to move into **OPEN SESSION**.  
BK MOVED. HA SECONDED.

Motion **PASSED**. Moved into OPEN SESSION at 1:12pm.

The GSA Council agreed to not send out a statement at this time.

## Reports

### 11. President

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024. The report stood as submitted. H. Arshad, GSA President, discussed the delay in a third-party investigation of the protest encampment sweep, stating that a leader for the review could not be found, but a list has been put together, which is confidential. Candidates have agreed to participate, but some are not currently available or need time to consider, hence the pending decision.

H. Arshad discussed meeting with the UofC VP External, Hunter Yaworski, to discuss forming a subcommittee within the ab-GPAC to focus specifically on labour issues with the goal of separating labour issues from the association and any potential conflicts of interest. The idea of a subcommittee with labour representatives from all unions was proposed to advocate for union issues with the provincial government. This idea and its structure will be discussed in the following weeks.

H. Arshad met with Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost, to discuss increasing travel grant funding and the GSSF, which has not been increased since 2020. Negotiations will be finalized in August. H. Arshad attended a Deputy Minister Breakfast, where President Flanagan highlighted the Canadian Net-Zero Energy Solutions (CNZES) initiative, sharing his success in securing \$100 million for research in this area through collaborations with Alberta industries. He also mentioned ongoing efforts to secure federal matching funds for this research initiative. H. Arshad has highlighted issues around Bill 13 and 18, and has sent out an Open Letter regarding Bill 18 specifically to the provincial government and BoG. President Flanagan and the BoG are working on exemptions to institutions re Bill 18 and on a framework to reduce red tape, particularly to reduce delays in research. H. Arshad has reached out to ministers regarding Bill 13 to meet and discuss the bureaucratic barriers for universities dealing with surplus lands and utilising federal funding for affordable housing on such lands.

**ii. GSA Board**

No written report at this time

**iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee**

No written report at this time

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

No written report at this time

**v. GSA Governance Committee**

No written report at this time.

**12. Vice-President Academic**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024. The report stood as submitted.

**13. Vice-President Student Life**

- **Vice-President Student Life's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024. The report stood as submitted. B. Kucher, VP Student Life, discussed his work on restructuring the EDI committee for accurate representation of minority groups in decision-making and policy design. Rija Kamran, VP Academic, and B. Kucher are working on a survey on supervisor-student relationships and conflicts, with the idea of advocating for researched conflict areas. They will be reaching out to FGPS for a faculty-level survey to add additional context to this investigation.

**14. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024. The report stood as submitted. S. Iqbal arrived at 1:30pm. Saad Iqbal, VP Student Services, highlighted the U-Pass negotiations taking place from the 15th-17th of July with the city and encouraged any suggestions re the negotiation. S. Iqbal emphasized the lack of knowledge of services on campus, including the GSA parents' room and campus lactation stations. S. Iqbal has committed to improving these services on campus. S. Iqbal noted October 10th as World Mental Health Day. S. Iqbal also gave an update on and encouraged volunteering with the Campus



Food Bank, which is focusing on improving its financial stability, space and resource needs, engagement and volunteers. H. Arshad and S. Iqbal have begun work on a Campus Food Strategy in coalition with the university to help meet and build strategies to continue providing for the increasing need among both domestic and international students, staff and faculty members. S. Iqbal also met with the SU's VPSL re shared initiatives, particularly around the Campus Saint-Jean. S. Iqbal encouraged bilingual students to reach out to himself or Grace Kinley, GSA Admin Support, for engagement with the CSJ campus.

## **15. Vice-President External**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024. The report stood as submitted. M. Mughees discussed transit maps and information for orientation to help students plan their accommodation.

## **16. Associate Vice-President Labour**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024. The report stood as submitted.

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

No written report at this time.

## **17. Senator (Ola Mabrouk)**

### **• Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

## **18. Speaker (Farhan Khalid)**

### **• Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

## **19. Chief & Deputy Returning Officers (Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer & Zain Patel, Deputy Returning Officer)**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024. The report stood as submitted. S. Shi, CRO, encouraged interest in GSA Board and Councillor-At-Large roles and discussed avenues for improving election bylaws and voter turnout. Social media and website campaigns were agreed to be the most effective, particularly for events, as consistent emailing burns out interest. Council members were encouraged to inform and encourage constituent and volunteer participation, as well as forward any suggestions for improvement. Engagement initiatives around debates were discussed and the need for bylaw updates to incorporate social media rules. S. Shi, CRO, discussed the possibility of budgeting options to allow for the reallocation of funds to encourage engagement at election events.

### **ii. Deputy Returning Officer's Report**

No written report at this time.

## **20. GSA Nominating Committee**

### **• GSA Nominating Committee Report reported by Violet Sun, NoC Chair (no written report at this time)**

## **21. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

### **• GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report reported by Andrew Pohlka, GSA ERC Chair**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024. The report stood as submitted. A. Pohlka encouraged election turnout and participation.

## **22. GSA Management (reported by Executive Director Lewie Moodley)**

### **• Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 21 June 2024. The report stood as submitted. L. Moodley, GSA Executive Director, introduced the new GSA summer intern student, Isca Irangwe, who is updating the GSA Bylaw and Policy document to resolve discrepancies, confusion and absences before it is sent to the Governance Committee and GSA Council for approval. Bylaw and policy suggestions to discuss with management were encouraged.

**Question Period****22. Written Questions**

- No written questions were received.

**23. Oral Questions**

- No oral questions were received.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 PM.

# GSA Health and Dental Survey

Hey Grad Students!

We need your input! The GSA is conducting a Health and Dental Survey to gather your feedback and improve our services. Your participation is crucial, and to show our appreciation, we have some exciting prizes up for grabs:

## Prizes

- 3 winners: **Single Day Admission at K-Days**
- 5 winners: **Amazon e-Gift cards** (\$20 each)
- 5 winners: **Tim Hortons gift cards** (\$10 each)

Welcome to the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Health and Dental Plan Feedback Survey. **Our current health and dental provider is Studentcare**, and we are dedicated to ensuring that our plans meet the needs of all graduate students at our university. Your feedback is invaluable as it helps us understand what aspects of the current plans are working well and what areas could be improved. This survey will ask you about your experiences with the plan's coverage options, ease of use, customer service, and overall satisfaction. Your responses will guide our negotiations with providers and help us enhance the benefits offered to you.

All responses are confidential. Names will remain anonymous and will only be collected if you want to be part of the prize draw.

### *Personal Information Protection Act*

*By filling out the survey, you agree to the collection of your personal information. The information collected will be used for the purpose outlined above and is collected under the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA). For more information on the act, please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/collecting-personal-information>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [gsaca@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsaca@ualberta.ca)*

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\* Indicates required question

1. What year are you in your studies? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- First Year
- Second Year
- Third Year
- Fourth Year
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What program are you currently enrolled in? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Masters Thesis- Based
- Masters Course-Based
- PhD

3. Are you currently enrolled in the GSA Health and Dental Plan services (Studentcare)? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

4. Are you a part-time or a full-time student? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Full time
- Part time

5. Please **rank** the following benefits in order of importance to you (5 being the most important and 1 being the least important) \*

Mark only one oval per row.

	1 - Least Important	2 - Slightly Important	3 - Moderately Important	4 - Very Important	5 - Most Important
<b>Mental Health Support</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Dental Coverage</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Vision Care</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Prescription Medication Coverage</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Wellness programs</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. How user-friendly do you find the current apps/websites for navigating information about your health and dental plan coverage? \*

Mark only one oval.

1   2   3   4   5

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Very      Very Easy

- 7. How do you feel about having to use multiple apps/websites to check medication coverage? \*

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

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Very      Very Convenient

- 8. Do you currently use network practitioners (doctors, dentists, therapists, etc.) provided by the StudentCare? \*

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

- 9. How would you rate your experience with the enrolment and opt-out process for the current health and dental plan? \*

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

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Very      Very Satisfied

- 10. How clear are the policies regarding exceptions for you in the current health and dental plan? \*

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

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Very      Very Clear

- 11. Please indicate your satisfaction with the ease of submitting claims with your current health plan. \*

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

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Very      Very Satisfied

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- 12. Have you encountered any difficulties when filing for refunds with your current health plan? \*

If yes, please specify the difficulties you encountered when filing for refunds (Long processing time, complex documentation requirements, difficulty accessing the online portal, poor customer support, etc.)

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- 13. How would you rate the claim processing time of the StudentCare?

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

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Very      Very Fast

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14. How would you rate the customer service provided by the StudentCare? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

1 2 3 4 5

Poc      Excellent

15. Are you aware that wellness support is provided by a separate provider (Homewood Health)? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

Not sure

16. How satisfied are you with the wellness support services provided by the Homewood Health? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neutral

Satisfied

Very satisfied

Have not used their services



17. How important is it for you to have a comprehensive health plan that includes services like cognitive behavioural therapy, mindfulness, and health coaching? \*

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Not      Extremely Important

18. How likely are you to use a service that provides 24/7 virtual mental health support and unlimited access to virtual healthcare consultations?? \*

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Very      Very Likely

19. How would you rate the significance of having a health plan that offers a financial support fund for students in need and tailored health services for international students? \*

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Not      Extremely significant

- 20. How important is it for you to have quick claim processing times (e.g., 24-48 hours) included in your health plan? \*

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Not      Extremely important

- 21. How important is personalized legal services included in your health plan? \*

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Not      Extremely important

- 22. How significant is it for you to have health and dental coverage for your parents? \*

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Not      Extremely important

- 23. Comment on your experience overall with the current health and dental plan of the GSA (StudentCare) \*

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24. What additional benefits or services would you like to see included in your health and dental plan?

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25. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the future GSA health and dental plan?

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**GSA Prize Draw Entry**

If you would like to participate in the raffle for a chance to win one of our exciting prizes, please **provide your name and email below.**

By entering the raffle, you agree to have your name collected for the purpose of administering the draw. Winners' names may be published for announcement purposes. Your personal information will be kept confidential and used solely for the raffle. Thank you for your participation!

26. I agree and will be participating in the raffle \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No, I will not participate

27. UAlberta email \*

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28. Full Name (first name\_last name) \*

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Google Forms



# HEALTH & DENTAL

## Survey Results

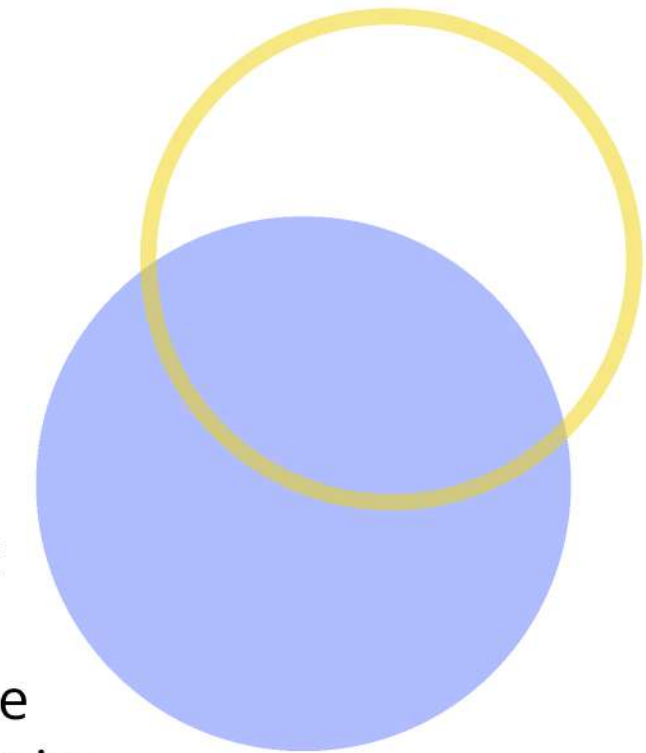




## Introduction

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) conducted a comprehensive survey to gather insights into the effectiveness and areas of improvement for the current GSA Health and Dental Plan services. With a **response count of 858 students**, this survey aimed to capture the needs and preferences of the graduate student community at the University of Alberta.

The primary focus was on **assessing the importance of various benefits, user experience with existing services, and identifying additional services that could enhance the overall health and well-being of students.**



# Methodology



## Survey Design

The survey consisted of 25 questions, structured to capture a wide range of data, including:

- Demographic information
- Enrolment status in the GSA Health and Dental Plan
- Importance of various health and dental benefits
- User experience with current health and dental plan services
- Suggestions for additional benefits and services

## Data Collection

The survey was open to responses from July 8 to July 19, 2024. To ensure maximum participation, the online survey link was primarily distributed through our weekly GSA newsletters and further amplified its reach with a special bulletin on July 8 and July 17, 2024. Besides from that, social media was also used to share the survey link.

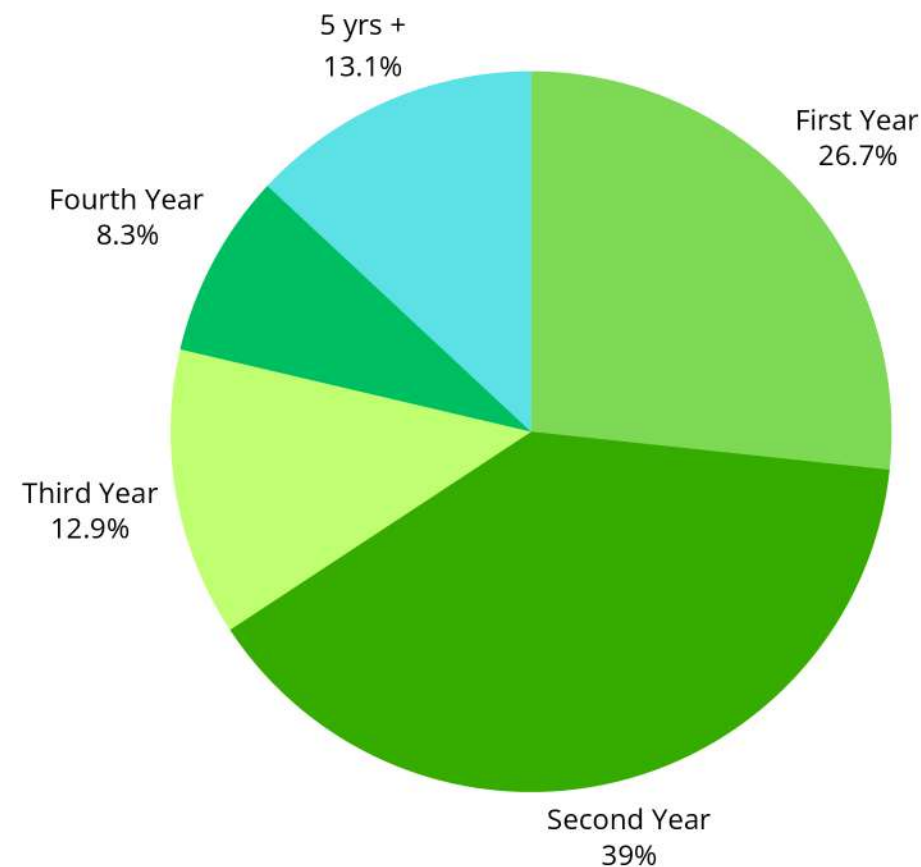
## Data Analysis

The analysis of the survey focused on the following key areas:

- Enrolment Status to the Health and Dental Plan
- Importance of Benefits
- User Experience with the Current Service Provider
- Additional benefits, services, and other changes
- Correlation Analysis

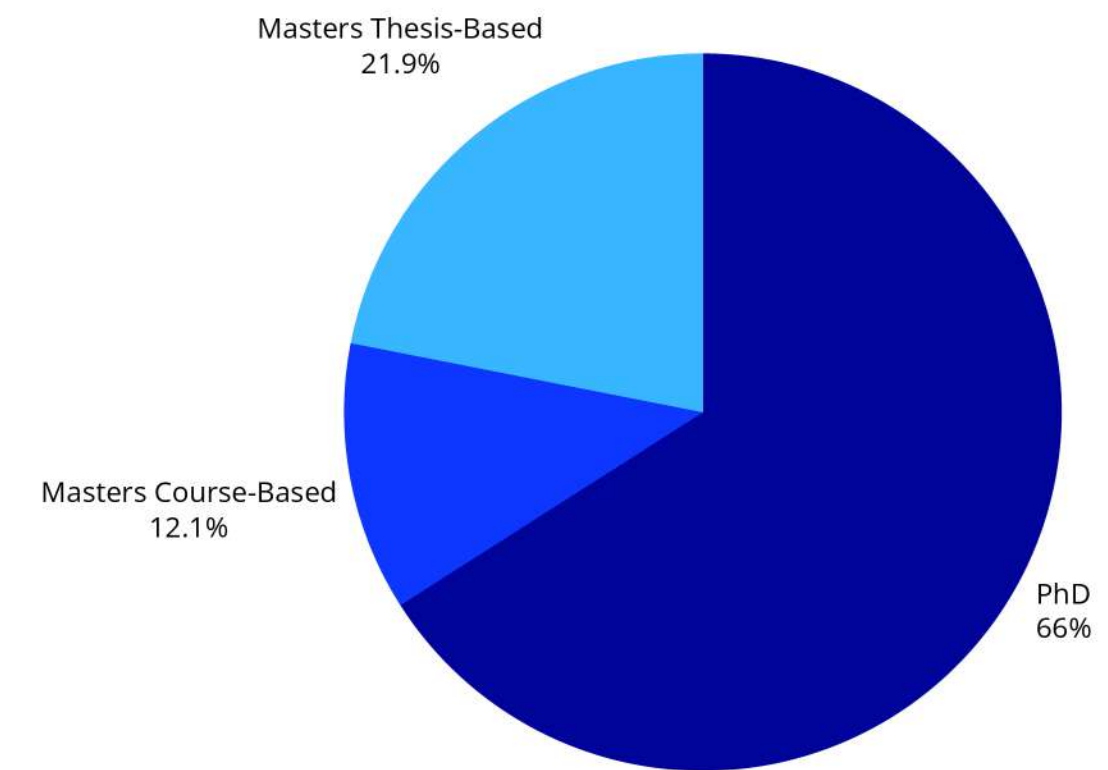


# Demographics and Enrollment



The **majority of the respondents are in their second year of study**, followed by first-year students, those with over 5 years of study experience, and those in their third year & fourth year.

**This distribution captures both new students' fresh perspectives and experienced students' insights on long-term trends and evolving needs.** This comprehensive view helps understand the diverse health and dental requirements of the graduate student community.

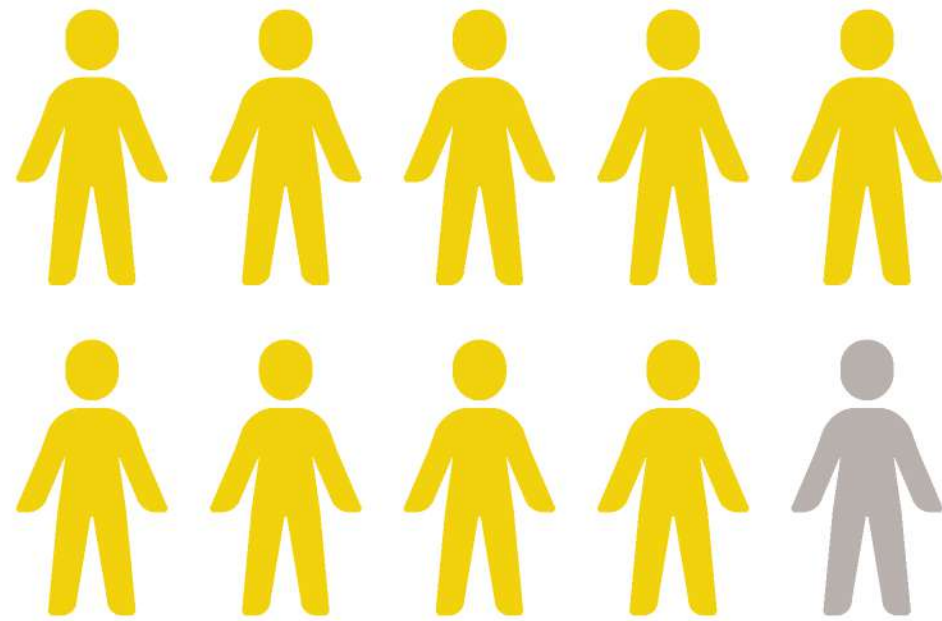


The survey captures a diverse range of graduate students, with a **significant proportion enrolled in PhD programs (66%)**, followed by Masters Thesis-Based (21.9%), and Masters Course-Based (12.1%).

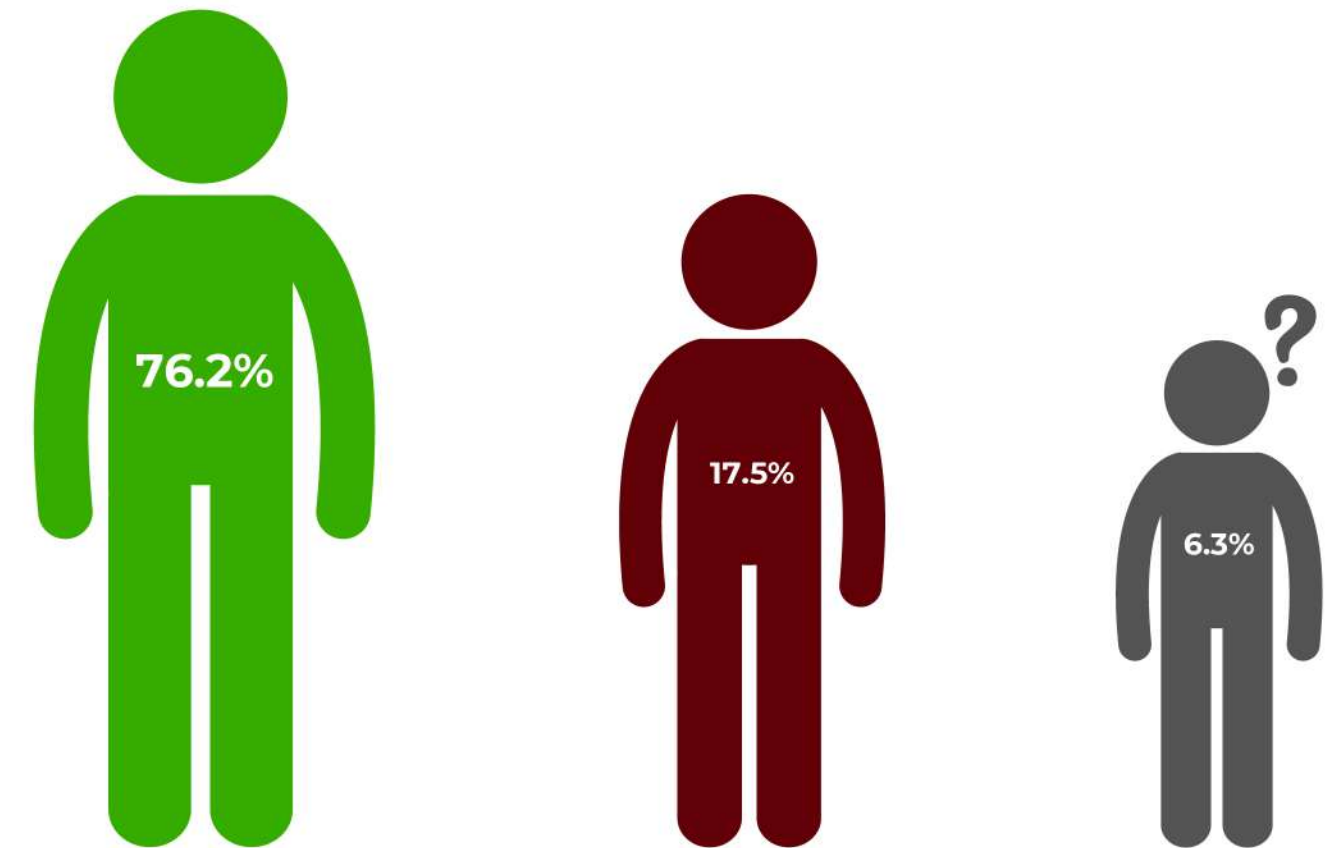




## Demographics and Enrollment



**9 out of 10 respondents are full-time students**, emphasizing the importance of the GSA Health and Dental Plan for their academic and well-being needs. Full-time students require comprehensive coverage, while the minority of part-time students indicates a need for flexible options to accommodate their diverse schedules and responsibilities.



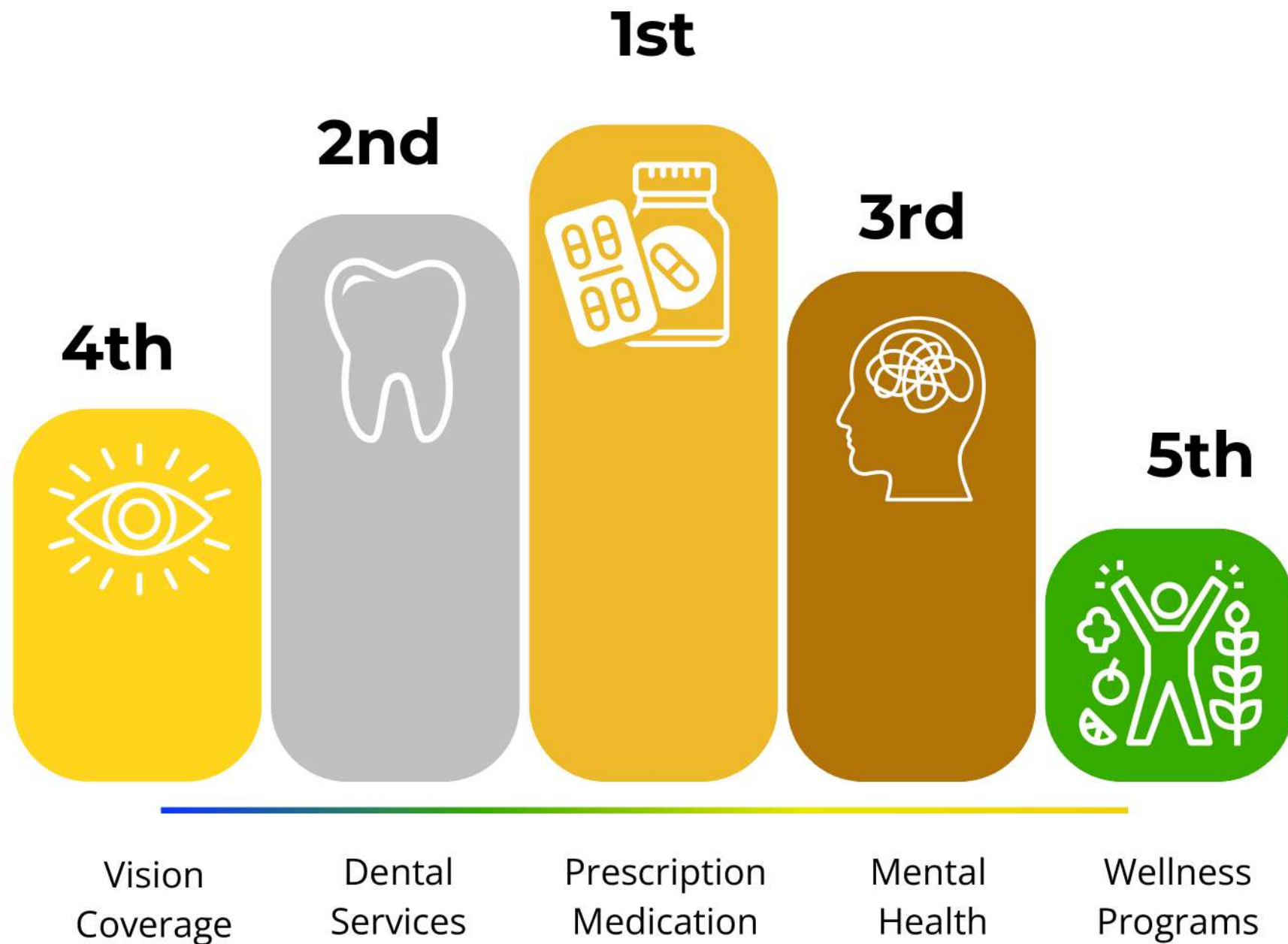
Most graduate students (**76.2%**) are enrolled in the **GSA Health and Dental Plan**, showing strong reliance on this service. 17.5% opted out likely because they have alternative coverage with better or higher benefits. Additionally, 6.3% are unsure, indicating potential communication gaps.



# Benefits and Priorities



# Benefits



Graduate students, typically older than undergraduates, may have more complex medical needs, requiring extensive health services like regular prescriptions and dental care. Robust health and dental coverage is crucial due to the financial burden, ensuring their well-being and academic success.

A study published in [Health Services Research](#) highlights the higher medical needs of graduate students due to their age and life stage with emphasis on the importance of comprehensive health plans that cover a wide range of services to meet these needs. Graduate students are more likely to require medical attention for *chronic conditions, mental health support, and dental care*, further supporting the prioritization of these benefits in health plans.

Q5: Rank the following benefits in order of importance to you (5 being the most important and 1 being the least important).



**STUDENTCARE**

**Current H&D Plan**



The overall average rating for the Studentcare Health and Dental Plan stands at 3.25 out of 5, indicating a **mostly neutral perception** among respondents. While this suggests that the services are generally satisfactory, there is **significant room for improvement to better meet the needs and expectations of our students.** To provide the best possible support for our students, it is crucial to aim for higher ratings in the range of 4 to 5.





**Rating: 3.19** 😐

Access and User-Friendliness of App/Website

*"Does what it needs to do. The website is difficult to navigate. I click one link and it takes me to another page with another link which takes me back to the first page."*



**49%** of respondents have used the services from Network Practitioners

*"The doctors are very nice but very limited in network doctors."  
"I would like to be able to use my own eye doctor and dentist."*



**Rating: 3.32** 😐

Enrolment and Opt-out Process

*"Need to be more accurate when enrolled family member. One of our family missed out on Desjardins plan because of GSA Studentcare mistake. Still no solution from them yet"*

Q6: How user-friendly do you find the current apps/websites for navigating information about your health and dental plan coverage? (1 = Very Difficult, 5= Very Easy)

Q7: How do you feel about having to use multiple apps/websites to check medication coverage? (1 = Very Inconvenient, 5= Very Convenient)

Q8: Do you currently use network practitioners (doctors, dentists, therapists, etc.) provided by the StudentCare?

Q9:How would you rate your experience with the enrolment and opt-out process for the current health and dental plan? (1= Very Unsatisfied, 5= Very Satisfied)

*“Satisfactory, but it took time to understand what the policy entailed. Without going through the entire website multiple times, I wouldn’t understand what the insurance covered.”*

*“My experience has been good with prescribed drugs and access to medical appointments. However, I would improve the processing times of claims and exceptions to drugs, as well as the coverage for Dental and Mental Care.”*

*“Overall, a good experience. Sometimes the customer service seemed a little bit unsure of what they were doing / had no answers.”*

**Rating: 3.36** 😐  
Clarity of Policies

**Rating: 3.20** 😐  
Submitting Claims and Processing Time

**Rating: 3.34** 😐  
Customer Service



Q10: How clear are the policies regarding exceptions for you in the current health and dental plan? (1 = Very unclear, 5= Very Clear)  
Q11: Please indicate your satisfaction with the ease of submitting claims with your current health plan? (1 = Very Dissatisfied, 5= Very Satisfied)  
Q13: How would you rate the claim processing time of the StudentCare? (1= Very Slow, 5= Very Fast)  
Q14: How would you rate the customer service provided by the StudentCare?? (1= Very Unsatisfied, 5= Very Satisfied)

# Key Areas and Recommendations



## Simplifying the Claims Process

Simplify the claims submission process to make it more user-friendly and less time-consuming. Provide real-time updates on claim status to keep students informed throughout the process. This can alleviate frustration and uncertainty.



## Enhancing Customer Service

Ensure customer service representatives are able to handle a variety of issues effectively and empathetically. Studentcare should also find a way to improve response time.



## Coverage

Studentcare must provide more regular updates and reviews plan utilization and recommend changes to the health and dental coverage that meets the ever evolving and diverse needs of students.



## Clarifying Policies

The policies of the H&D Plan must use clear, straightforward language to make them easily understandable. Improving means of communicating these to the members is also expected from Studentcare.



## Enhancing User Experience

Focus on user experience design to ensure the integrated platform is intuitive and easy to navigate, enhancing overall satisfaction. Some students feel that the "out-of-date" look of the website/app reflects the kind of service Studentcare is providing.





# Homewood Health

**Graduate Student Assistance  
Program Provider**



## Awareness of Wellness Support Provided by Homewood Health

When inquired about their knowledge of the wellness support services offered by Homewood Health, **7 out of 10 respondents expressed uncertainty or lack of awareness.** This suggests that a large majority of participants are uninformed or unsure about Homewood Health's wellness support services.

This underscores a critical communication gap that must be resolved to ensure that students are well-informed about the resources available.

*Q15: Are you aware that wellness support is provided by a separate provider (Homewood Health)?*





# Satisfaction Level



The satisfaction levels reveal a mixed picture but majority rated their experience as **neutral**, suggesting that while the services are adequate, there is considerable room for improvement.

Recommendations:

- **Increase Awareness:** Develop communication strategy to ensure all students are informed about the wellness support services offered by Homewood Health.
- **Enhance Service Quality:** Concentrate on improving the quality and accessibility of services to meet the diverse needs of students and listen to student feedback
- **Remove Barriers:** Simplify students' access to these services by removing any entry barriers (cultural/language barriers, etc.).

*Q16: How satisfied are you with the wellness support services provided by the Homewood Health?*

# OTHER BENEFITS



65.4%  
find it  
IMPORTANT

## Comprehensive Health Plan Services (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Mindfulness, Health Coaching)

With 65.4% of students seeking a comprehensive health and dental plan, **there is a strong demand for coverage that includes mental health services such as cognitive behavioral therapy, mindfulness, and health coaching.** The rising recognition of mental health's critical role in overall well-being and academic performance underscores the importance of these services, especially for graduate students who frequently experience high levels of stress and anxiety.

## Using 24/7 Virtual Mental Health Support and Virtual Healthcare Consultations



48.3%  
find it  
IMPORTANT

With 48.3% of students desiring 24/7 virtual mental health support, the demand for these services is clear. **The flexibility and convenience of virtual care are highly valued,** as they allow students to access essential mental health support and healthcare consultations anytime, fitting seamlessly into their busy schedules.



73.5%  
find it  
IMPORTANT

## Financial Support Fund and Tailored Health Services for International Students

With 73.5% of students preferring a health provider that offers financial support, the importance of a financial support fund and tailored health services is clear, especially for international students. These students often face unique challenges, such as financial difficulties and unfamiliarity with the local healthcare system. **Tailored services are crucial in addressing these issues and providing the targeted support they need.**

Q17: How important is it for you to have a comprehensive health plan that includes services like cognitive behavioural therapy, mindfulness, and health coaching? (1= Not Important, 5= Very Important)

Q18: How likely are you to use a service that provides 24/7 virtual mental health support and unlimited access to virtual healthcare consultations? (1= Very Unlikely, 5= Very Likely)

Q19: How would you rate the significance of having a health plan that offers a financial support fund for students in need and tailored health services for international students? (1= Not Significant, 5= Very significant)

# OTHER BENEFITS



## Quick Claim Processing Times

With 75.1% of students emphasizing the importance of quick claim processing times, this aspect is **critical for ensuring timely reimbursements and reducing financial stress**. Fast claim processing is especially vital for students with limited financial resources, as it provides essential access to funds when they need it most.

## Personalized Legal Services in Health Plan



With 54.6% of students expressing the importance of personalized legal services, these are seen as a **valuable addition to a health plan**. Such services provide crucial support for legal issues that may arise during their academic journey, including matters related to tenancy, employment, and immigration, which are relevant for both domestic and international students.



## Health and Dental Coverage for Parents

For 42.8% of respondents, health and dental coverage for parents is important, particularly for those financially responsible for their parents' well-being. This benefit **can significantly ease the burden on students who might otherwise struggle to provide adequate healthcare for their family members**.

Q20: How important is it for you to have quick claim processing times (e.g., 24-48 hours) included in your health plan? (1= Not Important, 5= Very Important)

Q21: How important is personalized legal services included in your health plan? (1= Not Important, 5= Very Important)

Q22: How significant is it for you to have health and dental coverage for your parents? (1= Not Important, 5= Very Important)



# Key Findings & Summary



### Better User Experience

Students who find the apps/websites user-friendly are also likely to find the policies clearer, the claim submission process easier, and the overall customer service better. So the GSA must be able to **find a H&D provider that offers excellent online user experience.**



### Comprehensive Mental Health Support

Students emphasize the importance of services like cognitive behavioral therapy, mindfulness, and health coaching. There is also high demand for 24/7 virtual mental health support and unlimited virtual healthcare consultations. The H&D plan provider must be very **comprehensive and include coverage for mental health support.**



### Coverage for Essential Services

Strong desire for a more comprehensive and **higher coverage for** all, but most specifically on **dental and prescription medication.** Also, students are looking for quicker claim processing times (24-48 hours) for ease and **having more network partners that offer direct-billing** for efficiency.



### Financial and Legal Support

73.5% of students value health providers offering financial support funds, especially for those in need and international students. 54.6% see personalized legal services as crucial in a health plan.



### Family Coverage

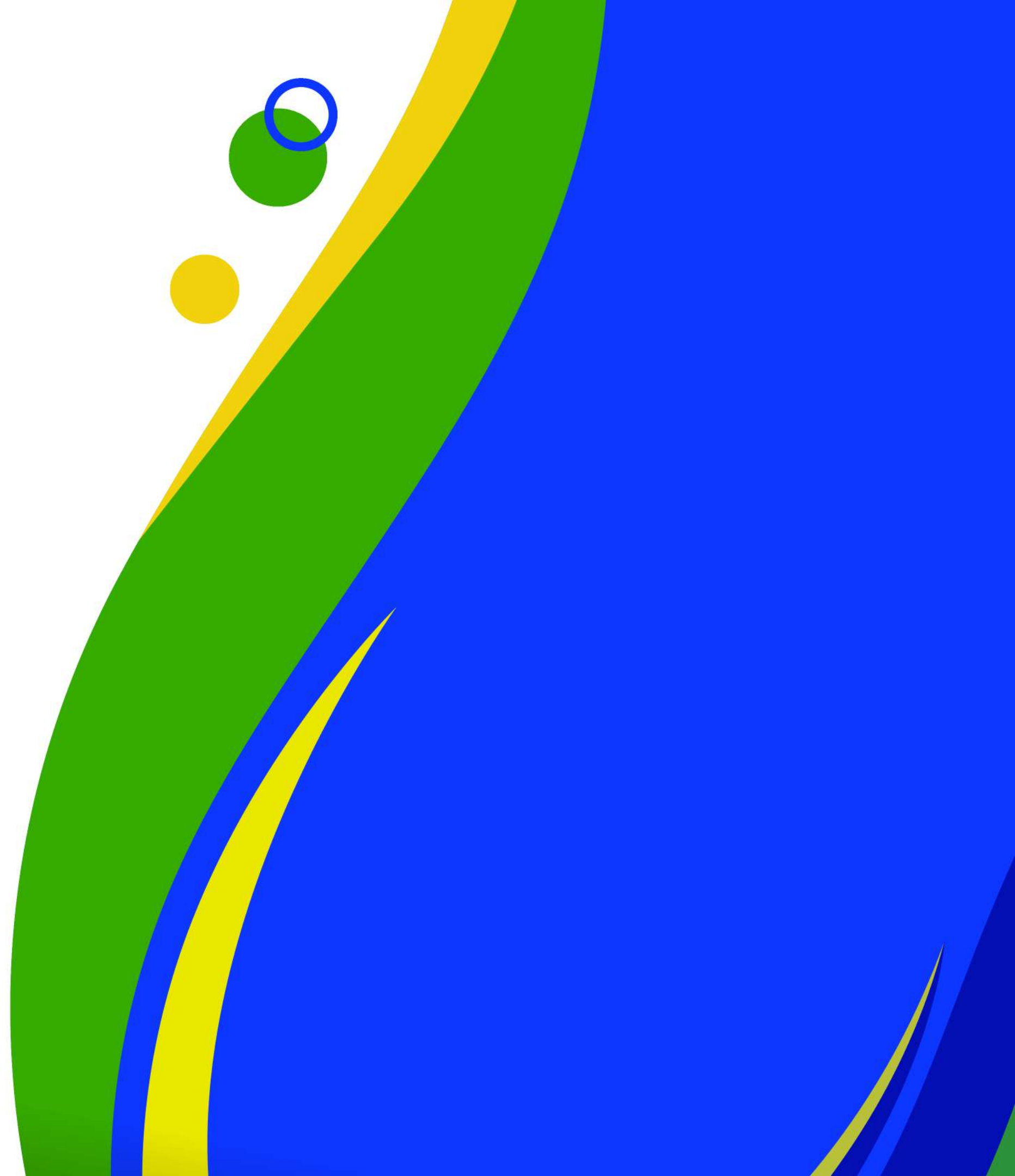
While not all students require it, there is a recognized added value in offering health and dental coverage for parents. This option **should be flexible, allowing students who wish to include their parents in their plan to do so without compromising the quality of service for those who do not.**



### Improved Communications and Awareness

Providers must lead in ensuring students are fully informed about the health and dental plan. This includes creating a **user-friendly platform, conducting regular information sessions, and actively seeking feedback** to continuously improve communication.

**Thank  
You!**





# Welcome to



Thank you for your interest in StudyWell Benefits! Operated by Ellement Consulting Group LP, StudyWell Benefits focuses on university and college health and wellness insurance. Founded as a straightforward and transparent entity, the team works to lay new foundations in this industry that has integrity and a genuine service attitude in all aspects of our business.

## Our Values

### Customer Obsession

Our focus is on what we can do to be client-centric rather than use the industry benchmark. This obsession drives our innovation and care for clients and members alike.

### Serve with Integrity

Being honest, doing what's right even if it's behind the scenes is the key to our ability to support clients with integrity.

### People Powered

We will be respectful and collaborative in the execution of our work.

### Partnership with Our Clients

We operate as a team by communicating humility, respect, and clarity regardless of title/position/hierarchy. A commonsense approach is central to our delivery. Everyone has skills, knowledge, and experience that adds value when we take care of each other.

### Strategic Foresight

Looking ahead while not forgetting what we've learned. We aim to build a tremendous service offering aimed at empowering Student Organizations, with a focus on sustainable decision-making to avoid short-sighted behavior.

### Commitment to

### Operational Excellence

We focus on innovative technology that provides appropriate solutions for our clients. Our commitment to Operational Excellence, is demonstrating by measuring the student experience and responding in a timely fashion to meet their needs.

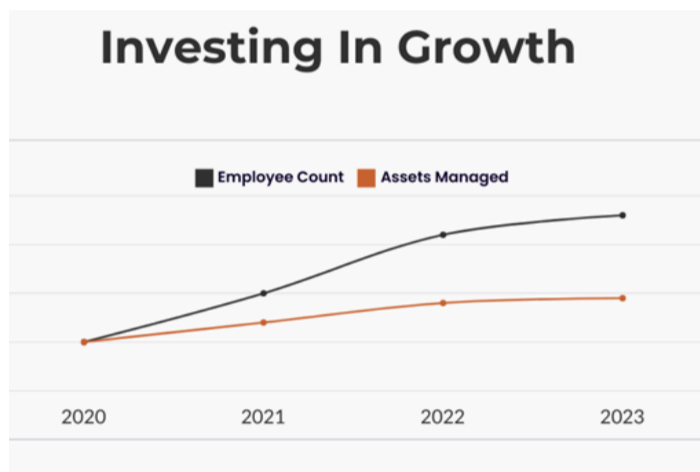
## Our Structure

We are a Canadian-owned and operated company. Our access to capital is provided through investments by Canada's most prominent labour unions, ensuring continued Canadian ownership. Our 6 Multi-Employer Unions as Equity Investors are:

- Electrical Industry Pension Plan of Alberta
- Alberta Carpenters & Allied Workers Pension Plan
- Quinte St. Lawrence Electrical Workers Pension Plan
- UA Local 71 Pension Plan
- Local 2041 Acoustic & Drywall Pension Plan of Ottawa
- Electrical Industry of Ottawa Pension Plan

## Our Operations

Ellement provides administrative, actuarial, and investment consulting services to clients in the public and private sectors, as well as unions and associations. In addition, Ellement provides benefit software solutions for internally administered organizations. Our expert team can assist our clients in establishing a lasting partnership throughout the constantly shifting lifecycle of their needs.



- Ellement has total assets under advisement of more than \$50 billion, with client assets ranging from \$1 million to more than \$5 billion
- Currently, Ellement services over 40 pension and health and welfare trusts
- Our firm consults for 28 multi-employer trust funds (labour unions), 18 of which are over 1,000 members.

Ellement is a full-service consulting and plan administration option, including all aspects of claims payment, enrollment support, customer service support, and client advising to provide more value. Over the past 5 years Ellement has grown significantly and continues to invest in the advancement of services and key supports for plan members.

## Our Services

We want your members to be happy with your student organization. StudyWell puts students first by:

- Providing a fully digital, single-source claims solution through web or app.
- Monitoring student support requests & solutions in real-time.
- Offering student-friendly support options such as callback or live chat.
- Dedicated support team for your student organization.
- Benefits consulting and Student Organization expertise to help lead decision-making in your best interest.

## Our Partnership

We will work with you to build the infrastructure necessary to support the plans, including supporting student awareness efforts and decision-making processes. We are ready to act and excited for the opportunity.

## Outline of Issue

### New GSA Health and Dental Plan Provider for 2025-2026

#### Suggested Motion for the GSA Council:

That the **GSA Council approves** the change to the new Health and Dental provider **Study Well Benefits by Ellement Consulting**. This provider will be in place from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2028 M.POL.10.2.

#### Background:

The GSA Board has finalized the search and selected one provider that meets the criteria below for the GSA Council to approve on August 19 2024 as per M.POL.9.1 . Over a series of meetings the GSA Board has deemed that Study Well benefits will be best to serve the needs of graduate students.

After a thorough and diligent review process spanning 12 months, we have decided to transition from Studentcare to Study Well beginning 2025-2026 student health and dental insurance plan. This decision was not made lightly and reflects our commitment to providing the best possible services and benefits to our student community.

#### Selection Process:

1. **Extensive Consultation and Evaluation:** Over the past year, we engaged in a comprehensive consultation process with key stakeholders. We also conducted a detailed assessment and a survey of the existing plan, identifying areas where improvements could be made to better serve the needs of our students.
2. **Vendor Comparisons and Proposals:** As part of our due diligence, we solicited quotes and proposals from 4 leading student health and dental insurance providers, including Campus Trust, Studywell, Student VIP, and our current provider, Studentcare. Each proposal was meticulously reviewed, and multiple rounds of discussions were held to understand the offerings, pricing, and benefits each vendor could provide.
3. **Analysis of Cost-Benefit and Value:** We conducted a rigorous cost-benefit analysis of each proposal, focusing on the overall cost savings delivered to students. This included considerations such as coverage levels, plan flexibility, ease of access to services, and overall satisfaction rates among other institutions using these providers.
4. **Student Feedback and Preferences:** Understanding the importance of student input, we collected and analyzed feedback from students regarding their experiences with the current plan and their preferences for future coverage. We received close to 900 responses and this feedback was crucial in shaping our final decision.

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

*"The amount of the Plan fee includes both Plan premiums and administrative overhead. The Plan fee may include an amount for the replenishment of the Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund."*

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

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

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

*"GSA Council, on the recommendation of the GSAB, approves the annual Plan fee. Any increase in the Plan fee exceeding 15% of the previous year's Plan fee must also be put to a referendum."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section M: GSA Health and Dental, GSA Policy, GSA Health and Dental Plan and GSA Health and Dental Plan Reserve Fund, Section M.POL.10.2:

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

### Outline of Issue

#### **General bylaw and policy updates : Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy**

#### **Suggested Motion:**

That **GSA Council** approve the recommendations of the GSA Board and GSA Governance Committee regarding changes to GSA Bylaws and Policy, as noted in the attached proposal, effective following two readings by GSA Council (in the case of GSA Bylaw) and one approval by GSA Council (in the case of GSA Policy). Policy changes are effective and binding from August 20 2024 and Bylaw changes are effective binding September 24 2024.

**Note:** This is the first reading of changes to GSA Bylaw. The second reading will occur on September 23, 2024. The recommended changes to GSA Policy are currently presented for information and will be presented for approval on September 23, 2024.

#### **Background:**

Over the course of the past 2 months, the GSA Summer Intern has reviewed the Integrated GSA Bylaw and Policy document with the intention to highlight any changes needed, as identified by GSA Board members and staff. These changes will provide more clarity and consistency for GSA governance and operations. The Bylaw changes will be reviewed at two (2) successive GSA Council meetings while the Policy changes will be reviewed at one (1) GSA Council meeting.

#### **Jurisdiction:**

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

*"These Bylaws ... may be amended by two two-thirds majority votes of Council held on seven calendar days' notice of motion and no less than one week apart."*

##### GSA Bylaw and Policy, 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."*

Current Bylaws (deletions are noted as <del>strikethroughs</del> and changes/additions are noted in red font)	Rationale
<p><i>(Throughout the Integrated Bylaw and Policy document)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)</li> </ul> <p>Becomes: <b>Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Postdoctoral Studies (FGSRPS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GSA Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council Caucus.</li> </ul> <p>Becomes: GSA Faculty of Graduate <del>Studies and Research</del> <b>and Postdoctoral Studies</b> Council Caucus.</p>	<p>Rationale: update any references to FGPS</p>
<p><i>Amendments to GSA Bylaw</i></p> <p>All changes to GSA Bylaw are approved by a two-thirds <del>simple</del> majority vote in favour at two (2) meetings of GSA Council no less than <del>one (1) week</del> <b>two (2) months</b> apart.</p>	<p>Rationale: if it is a two-thirds majority vote, it is not a simple majority vote. Further, the Council does not meet every week so it has to be monthly.</p>
<p><i>A.BYL.1.2</i></p> <p>These Bylaws constitute bylaws for the purpose of Section 95(2) of the Post-Secondary Learning Act, and may be amended by two (2) two-thirds simple majority votes of GSA Council held on seven (7) calendar days' notice of Motion and no less than <del>one (1) week</del> <b>two (2) months</b> apart.</p>	<p>Rationale: if it is a two-thirds majority vote, it is not a simple majority vote. Further, the council does not meet every week, so it has to be monthly.</p>
<p><i>B.BYL.2.2</i></p> <p>Membership fees <del>will be</del> <b>may be</b> indexed annually to inflation as measured by the Alberta Consumer Price Index.</p>	<p>Rationale: to provide some flexibility as it used to read as a requirement.</p>
<p><i>B.BYL.3.1</i></p> <p>All GSA members, except associate members, are eligible to vote <b>and run</b> in all GSA elections (excluding the election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, in which voting <b>and nominations are</b> <del>is</del> restricted to academically-employed graduate students) and referenda.</p>	<p>Rationale: to provide more clarity to eligibility criteria for office.</p>

<p><i>B.BYL.3.3</i></p> <p>Subject to the provisions of contractual agreements, all GSA members (except associate members) have access to services provided by the GSA, including the GSA Health and Dental Plan, GSA Recognition Awards, Graduate Student Assistance Program, GSA grants and bursaries, and the U-Pass service. <b>Associate members, exempt from membership fees, shall have limited access to organizational resources and privileges.</b></p>	
<p><i>B.BYL.3.4</i></p> <p>All GSA members have the privilege of booking meeting rooms in accordance with GSA Board Policy <b>except during the general election campaign period.</b></p>	<p>Rationale: to ensure GSA spaces remain neutral during elections.</p>
<p><i>B.BYL.5</i></p> <p>Filling Vacancies Following the GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour</p> <p><b>Addition: In the event that a Vice President Directly Elected Officer position remains unfilled by the end of the GSA By-Election, either due to no candidates running for the position or “None of the Candidates” is elected, the position shall be considered dormant for a period of one (1) year.</b></p>	

<b>Current Policy</b> (deletions are noted as <del>strikethroughs</del> and changes/additions are noted in <b>red font</b> )	<b>Rationale</b>
<p><i>Amendments to GSA Policy</i></p> <p>As per GSA Bylaw, GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote (<b>50% + 1</b>) of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council. As per GSA Policy, the GSA Governance Committee may make any editorial changes (such as factual inaccuracies and other editorial issues) to the GSA governing documents as deemed necessary by the committee.</p>	
<p><i>C.POL.3.2</i></p> <p>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. <b>If a department has no student group, a council seat will still be provided on an interim basis until they are able to get their group registered with Student Group Services (SGS).</b></p>	
<p><i>C.POL.3.2.a.ii (Councilors duties)</i></p> <p>To attend all meetings of GSA Council or, if they are unable to attend, to ensure their alternate can attend in their place <b>(Alternate councilors are required to sign the proxy form if they wish to vote)</b> and</p>	
<p><i>C.POL.4.3.c</i></p> <p>Changes to the agenda made at meetings require a two-thirds <del>simple</del> majority vote.</p>	Rationale: if it is a two-thirds majority vote, it is not a simple majority.
<p><i>D.POL.4.12</i></p> <p>(DEOs) will report monthly to GSA Council in writing; these reports will be shared publicly. Reports will include a list of all meetings attended, as well as highlights of work done, initiatives involved with, etc. since previous reports. DEOs will also report orally to GSA Council at each meeting attended. Likewise, the AVPL will report <del>regularly</del> <b>monthly</b> to academically-employed graduate students in writing <b>through the newsletter.</b></p>	



<p><i>D.POL.4</i> General Information and Qualifications</p> <p>Addition: <b>Elected Officers and candidates for elected office must maintain official student status throughout their term of office, which spans from May to April.</b></p>	<p>Rationale: all elected officers must hold official student status and be current GSA members.</p>
<p><i>D.POL.4</i> General Information and Qualifications</p> <p>Addition: <b>Elected officers cannot concurrently serve as executives in any other student group, student club, board, student association, departmental association, or any organization that may present a real or perceived conflict of interest. This ensures that elected officers can fully dedicate their time and efforts to the GSA without divided loyalties or potential biases. By preventing conflicts of interest, the GSA aims to maintain the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and fairness in its governance, thereby safeguarding the trust and confidence of its members. Any officer found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the GSA bylaws.</b></p>	<p>Rationale: to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest.</p>
<p>President Duties</p> <p><i>D.POL.5.1.m</i></p> <p>Delete: <del>The President maintains the relationship with TD Insurance Meloche Monnex.</del></p>	<p>Note: the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex is one of the annual awards we give out</p>
<p><i>D.POL.5.2.b</i></p> <p>The President (or delegate) chairs any GSA bodies associated with provincial <b>and federal</b> lobbying.</p>	
<p><i>F.POL.3.3 Meetings</i></p> <p>Addition: <b>Any Elected Officers who miss two (2) GSA Board meetings without excuse shall be subject to discipline.</b></p>	
<p><i>F.POL.5.1.b</i></p> <p>The <del>President</del> <b>Vice-President Indigenous Relations (VPIR)</b>, as Vice-Chair.</p>	

<p><i>I.POL.15</i> Filling Vacancies Following the GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour</p> <p>Addition: In the event that a Directly Elected Officer position remains unfilled by the end of the GSA By-Election, either due to no candidates running for the position or “None of the Candidates” is elected, the position shall be considered dormant for a period of one (1) year.</p>	
<p><i>I.POL.6</i> General Principles and Rules of Conduct for Elections</p> <p>Addition: Elected Officers and candidates for elected office must maintain GSA membership and official student status throughout their term of office, which spans from May to April.</p>	
<p><i>O.POL.3.3</i> A minimum of <del>eight (8)</del> <b>seven (7)</b> and up to <del>twelve (12)</del> <b>eleven (11)</b> GSA members elected by GSA Council as voting members. The GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) Chair, in consultation with the GSA ASC Vice-Chair and the Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee, can decide to increase the number of GSA members on the GSA ASC.</p>	
<p><i>P.POL.1.2.a</i></p> <p>Applicants must be GSA members as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, <b>including students who have graduated within six months of the application submission date</b>, Sections B.BYL.1.a and B.BYL.1.1.b.</p>	
<p><b><i>P.POL.4 GSA Emergency Bursaries</i></b></p> <p><i>P.POL.4.6 Appeals</i></p> <p>Please be advised that all decisions related to GSA Emergency Bursaries are final and binding. Once a decision has been made, it cannot be appealed further.</p>	

<p>P.POL.4.6.a Any appeals of denied applications must be received by the VPSS, with a copy to the Executive Director (or delegate) within ten (10) working days from the date on which the denial of the application was issued.</p> <p>P.POL.4.6.b Appeals must state the grounds for the appeal in writing.</p> <p>P.POL.4.6.c Appeals will be heard based on the material submitted by the applicant and any associated response concerning the denial of the application.</p> <p>P.POL.4.6.d Appeals will be heard by a Directly-Elected Officer (DEO), excluding the VPSS, and two (2) GSA Councillors or GSA Council-Elected Officers selected by the President (or other DEO if there is a conflict of interest).</p> <p>P.POL.4.6.e Appeal decisions will normally be made within twenty (20) working days of the receipt of an appeal. P.POL.4.6.f All decisions concerning appeals are final and binding.</p>	
<p>H.POL.4.2</p> <p>All GSA Standing Committee, GSA ad hoc committee, and GSA subcommittee members are expected to attend all meetings. If a GSA Standing Committee, GSA ad hoc committee, or GSA subcommittee member cannot attend a meeting, they will provide an advance written reason to the Chair. <del>Lack of attendance and/or the submission of written reasons may result in the Chair declaring the position vacant.</del> <b>Should a member fail to fulfill their committee duties, miss two (2) consecutive meetings, or miss more than three (3) meetings, for any reason, the GSA representative to that committee may be replaced, or action may otherwise be taken in compliance with the terms of reference of the committee in question.</b></p>	

Outline of Issue

**Elections and Referenda Committee policy updates : Recommended Changes to GSA Election Policy**

**Suggested Motion:**

That **GSA Council** approve the recommendations of the Elections and Referenda Committee, GSA Board and GSA Governance Committee regarding changes to GSA Bylaws and Policy, as noted in the attached proposal, effective following two readings by GSA Council (in the case of GSA Bylaw) and one approval by GSA Council (in the case of GSA Policy). Policy changes are effective and binding from August 20 2024 and Bylaw changes are effective binding September 24 2024.

**Note:** The recommended changes to GSA Policy are currently presented for information and will be presented for approval on August 19 2024.

**Background:**

Per I.POL.18.4, the Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC) has been meeting since the close of the 2024 General and By-Elections to review and make recommendations on election policies. The policy edits were approved by the Governance Committee at a meeting on August 13, 2024 and by the GSA Board on August 14, 2024.

**Jurisdiction:**

GSA Bylaw and Policy, I.POL.18.4

*The GSA ERC will review GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda annually and make any recommendations to GSA Council.*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.1.2

*"These Bylaws ... may be amended by two two-thirds majority votes of Council held on seven calendar days' notice of motion and no less than one week apart."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, 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."*

Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections D and I

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p>“Asker” is defined as a GSA member or a person acting on behalf of an external organization who wishes to initiate a referendum</p> <p>“Campaign Materials” are defined as any materials designed to be disseminated to promote a candidate</p> <p>“Campaign Volunteers” are defined as individuals <del>or groups who campaign on behalf of a candidate with their awareness</del> who assist in Campaign activities or help develop Campaign materials, at any point of the election process. <u>Notwithstanding the above, the mere provision of advice or posting of social media content on an individual’s social media account does not amount to Volunteer work.</u></p> <p>“Campaigning” is defined as any form of promotion of a candidate; this includes all verbal, electronic, and visual forms of communication</p> <p>“Deemed Delivered” is defined such that an email is deemed to have been delivered twenty-four (24) hours from the time it was sent.</p> <p>“Moderated <del>Mailing List Forum</del>” is defined as an email <u>or group message (eg. WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, etc.)</u> list where the membership is compiled by a third-party and/or communications are sent to email list owners for review and/or approval prior to circulation to subscribers</p> <p>“Provisional Results” are defined as results that are subject to appeal for twenty-four (24) hours from the time the provisional results are released and which may, in addition, be affected because of earlier complaints not yet resolved</p> <p>“Working Day” is defined as a day that the GSA office is open</p>	<p><i>Volunteers definition clarified. Moderated mailing list updated.</i></p>
<p><b>Section D: GSA Officers</b></p>	
<p>D.POL.11.2 Duties of the Deputy Returning Officer <u>and Acting Deputy Returning Officer</u></p> <p>D. POL.11.2.a The Deputy <u>and Acting Deputy</u> Returning Officer (DRO) reports directly to the CRO. <u>If a candidate declares a potential bias on the part of both the CRO and DRO in their nomination form,</u></p>	<p><i>Addition of the Acting DRO in the event of conflicts of interest with both the CRO and DRO.</i></p>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<p>D.POL.11.2.b The duties of the DRO(s) are to assist the CRO as needed and to assume all of the roles and responsibilities of CRO if the CRO is absent, or unable to complete their duties for any reason, including conflict of interest.</p>	
<p><b>GSA Policy: Elections</b></p>	
<p>I.POL.6 – I.POL.6.3            I.POL.6.1 “The fundamental principle underlying GSA elections is that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.BYL.1.1).            I.POL.6.2 Candidates will abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning elections, and any other applicable policies or laws, and will ensure that Campaign Volunteers do the same. It is the responsibility of candidates to familiarize themselves with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections. <u>Candidates are limited to 10 Campaign Volunteers and must keep an up-to-date list of names shared with the CRO.</u>            I.POL.6.3 Candidates will treat the Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, GSA Officers, management, staff, and fellow candidates with respect.</p>	<p><i>Suggestion to limit Campaign Volunteers to 10 and maintenance of a list.</i></p>
<p><b>I.POL.7 Nomination Forms</b></p>	
<p>I.POL.7.1 Nomination forms will be made available to GSA members in hard copy at the GSA office. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).</p>	<p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.7.2 On the Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) nomination forms, candidates will include a minimum of <del>five (5)</del> <u>ten (10)</u> signatures from GSA members in <del>three (3)</del> <u>different departments</u>. The purpose of the signatures is to attest that the nominators, in their view, believe the candidate has the ability and/or experience for the position for which they are running.</p>	<p><i>Ensure the candidates can represent graduate students from all departments.</i></p>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
I.POL.7.3 Councillor-at-Large (CAL) candidates are not required to include signatures in their nomination forms.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.7.4 Written nominations for DEO or CAL positions will be submitted to the GSA office to be reviewed and signed by the CRO in order to verify both completeness and that the nomination form has been submitted on time. The original will be filed in the GSA office and one (1) copy provided to the candidate, <del>normally</del> electronically. If a nomination form is incomplete or late, the CRO will not accept the nomination form. Candidates cannot appeal this decision.	<i>Clarification.</i>
I.POL.7.5 Candidates can change the position they wish to run for, but must do so prior to the nomination deadline. If a candidate changes the position they are running for, the candidate will be required to fill out and submit a new nomination form for the new position prior to the nomination deadline and must meet the requirements as set out above.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.7.6 Once the CRO verifies nomination forms, the names of candidates who have submitted their nomination forms will be <del>provisionally</del> listed on the GSA website <u>alphabetically before the All-Candidates Meeting.</u> <del>and in hard copy at the GSA office.</del>	<i>Consistency.</i>
I.POL.7.7 The following will be stated on nomination forms for the GSA General Election and election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, and any subsequent by-elections: <p>“By signing nomination forms, all candidates acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, which is posted in full on the GSA website.</p> <p>By signing nomination forms, candidates also acknowledge that they have read and are aware of the terms of an appeal within the GSA of any decisions on alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy, including the fact that the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), with advice from the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), receives, manages, and rules on complaints regarding alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy and that the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) decides on any appeals. Any concerns with</p>	<i>No change.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<p>potential bias on the part of the CRO, the Deputy Returning Officer, and members of the GSA ERC in making such decisions, and members of the GSA ACB in making such decisions on appeals, will be filed with nomination forms.”</p>	
<p>I.POL.7.8 Nomination forms will list the names of the CRO, Deputy Returning Officer, <del>GSA Speaker and Deputy Speaker</del>, members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and members of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.</p>	<p><i>Addition of the GSA Speaker and Deputy Speaker.</i></p>
<p><b>I.POL.8 Timeline</b></p>	
<p>I.POL.8.1 - I.POL.8.7.c            8.6 The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the <del>day following conclusion of</del> the All-Candidates Meeting. <u>The All-Candidates Meeting will be mandatory for all candidates and Forum will be mandatory for DEO candidates to attend. Any unexcused absence will lead to disqualification.</u>  <u>I.POL.8.8 Disqualification in an election will prevent a Candidate from running in a General Election, by-election or re-election for one (1) year or until the next General Election cycle, whichever is longer.</u>  <u>I.POL.8.8.a If a candidate is disqualified in a General Election, on a case-by-case basis, ACB will make the final decision about whether the candidate may run again in any future election.</u>  <u>I.POL.8.9 If a standing DEO is removed by ACB, they will not be permitted to run again in any GSA election.</u></p>	<p><i>Campaigning can begin immediately after the conclusion of the All-Candidates Meeting. ACM and Forum to be mandatory for candidates.</i></p> <p><i>Additions of limiting candidacy after a disqualification.</i></p>
<p><b>I.POL.9 All-Candidates Meeting</b></p>	<p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.9.1 - I.POL.9.3</p>	<p><i>No changes.</i></p>
<p><b>I.POL.10 Campaigning</b></p>	<p><i>No change.</i></p>



Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
I.POL.10.1 “The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the <del>day following</del> <u>conclusion of</u> the All-Candidates Meeting” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.8.6).	<i>Campaigning can begin immediately after the conclusion of the All-Candidates Meeting.</i>
I.POL.10.2 No form of campaigning (verbal, electronic, and visual) <u>from a candidate, volunteer or supporter</u> will contain slander, discriminatory content, or <i>ad hominem</i> attacks of individuals, <u>or groups including the GSA.</u>	<i>Clarification.</i>
I.POL.10.3 Candidates will ensure all campaign plans, materials, and/or advertisements conform with all University of Alberta policies and regulations and all municipal, provincial, and federal laws.	<i>No change.</i>
I.POL.10.4 Candidates will campaign as individuals and may not serve as Campaign Volunteers for other candidates. <del>Slates are not permitted.</del>	<i>Remove “Slates are not permitted.” Voters and volunteers are allowed to support as many candidates as they like, which will be clarified at the ACM.</i>
I.POL.10.5 The GSA office and any associated resources (eg, email accounts, staff) will not be used for campaign purposes, notwithstanding that all candidates will be given the opportunity to submit information about themselves for inclusion on the GSA website. <u>GSA spaces may not be booked during the campaign period.</u>	<i>Clarification.</i>
I.POL.10.6 Campaigning will not take place at any GSA meetings <del>or events.</del> <u>GSA events will not be scheduled during this period.</u>	<i>Clarify that GSA events won’t be scheduled during the campaign period. This can be remedied by not having events.</i>
I.POL.10.7 Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) and the Senator, or their delegates (whether standing as candidates or not), will not campaign during any committee meetings or events at which they are acting as elected representatives of the GSA.	
I.POL.10.8 DEOs and the Senator, if not standing as candidates, may <del>not</del> <u>not</u> serve as Campaign Volunteers., provided that they do not do so in their capacity as elected representatives of the GSA and that they do not speak for the GSA as an organization.	<i>Moved below.</i>
I.POL.10.98 The Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, <u>DEOs, Senator, student groups or associations,</u> members of the GSA Nominating Committee, members of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, and	<i>Addition for neutrality. Renumbering.</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee will remain neutral and <u>will not show support for or campaign on behalf of</u> any candidate whatsoever.	
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> <u>Dissemination</u> and Approval of Campaign Materials	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .a Candidates will only use SUBprint to print campaign materials to be physically posted or distributed.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .a.i Campaign materials that are physically posted or distributed will require the approval of the CRO.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .a.ii Candidates will be responsible for removing all physically posted campaign materials <del>after voting has closed</del> <u>within 6 hours after provisional results have been announced.</u>	<i>Time limit of 6 hours after provisional results have been announced.</i> <i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .b Candidates will circulate campaign materials <u>in-person and through personal social media and email</u> only to their personal contacts and will not utilize moderated ( <u>see definitions</u> ) <del>mailing lists forums.</del>	<i>Clarification.</i> <i>Renumbering.</i>  <i>Change in definitions:</i> "Moderated Forum" is defined as an email <u>or group message</u> (eg, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, ect.) list where the membership is compiled by a third-party and/or communications are sent to email list owners for review and/or approval prior to circulation to subscribers
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .b.i Campaign materials circulated either to or from a University of Alberta email address to personal contacts will require the approval of the CRO	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .b.ii Campaign materials circulated via non-University of Alberta email to personal contacts will not require the approval of the CRO.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .c Candidates will post campaign materials <u>through online platforms approved by the CRO at the All-Candidates Meeting.</u>  <del>, or circulate them via messaging accounts, only through their personal social media accounts or other personal online platforms.</del>	<i>Limit number of online platforms</i> <i>Renumbering.</i>  <i>Change definition</i> "Campaign Materials" are defined as any materials designed to be disseminated to promote a candidate

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .c.i Campaign materials posted on candidates <del>personal social media accounts or other personal</del> online platforms, or circulated via messaging accounts, will <del>not</del> require the approval of the CRO.	<i>Intent to limit online platforms for better monitoring. Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .c.ii <del>Notwithstanding Section I.POL.10.10.c.i, above, the</del> The CRO will be provided access to campaign materials posted or circulated on <del>personal social media accounts or other personal</del> online platforms on which candidates intend to campaign	<i>See above. Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .d When approving campaign materials as noted in Sections I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .a.i and I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .b.i, above, the CRO will ensure they comply with Sections I.POL.10.2 and I.POL.10.3, above, and any other relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy. Additionally:	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .d.i Candidates will not use the University, <u>GSA, faculty, college, department, services logos, crests, signs or branding</u> on any physical or electronic campaign materials. <u>Social media reposts of GSA and University original content with any content modifications are considered an original post.</u>	<i>Renumbering and clarification.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .d.ii The CRO is not responsible for reviewing the editorial content of campaign materials (e.g. grammar, punctuation).	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .d.iii Campaign materials prepared in a language other than English will be accompanied by an English translation when submitted to the CRO for approval. The CRO is not responsible for the accuracy of translations.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL.10. <del>109</del> .e The turnaround for approving campaign materials will be approximately one (1) working day.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL. <del>109</del> .11 Candidates will get permission, where appropriate, to campaign in instructional spaces, such as classrooms and lecture halls. Candidates will not campaign in unsafe spaces that require proper safety equipment. The CRO will talk about safety issues, including campaigning in labs, at the All-Candidates Meeting.	<i>Renumbering.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
I.POL. <del>109</del> .12 Candidates will not accept gifts of money, gifts in kind, or equivalents.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL. <del>109</del> .13 Campaign Spending Limit	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL. <del>109</del> .13.a Candidates will be authorized to spend no more than \$150 on campaign materials over the course of the election.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL. <del>109</del> .13.b Candidates will report to the CRO all campaign-related expenses, and submit receipts (either electronically or in hard copy) no later than two (2) hours after the close of the voting period.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL. <del>109</del> .13.c Campaign costs will not be reimbursed.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL. <del>109</del> .14 Candidates are encouraged to ask the CRO before acting if they have any questions about GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections (including questions related to the development of campaign materials and the planning of campaign events), interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws, and to report any alleged breaches to the CRO, in accordance with the procedure outlined below.	<i>Renumbering.</i>
<b>I.POL.<del>110</del></b> <b>Breaches Discerned by the Chief Returning Officer, Alleged Breaches, and Complaints About Alleged Breaches</b>	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL. <del>110</del> .1 - I.POL. <del>110</del> .7 I.POL.11.1 Breaches Discerned by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), <u>DRO or Acting DRO</u> I.POL.11.1.c If the CRO, <u>DRO or Acting DRO</u> are unable to resolve the discerned breach through informal resolution, or deems informal resolution to be inappropriate, they may, as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.1.b, discipline the candidate(s) by imposing the penalties or remedial actions noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections I.POL.11.4.c to I.POL.11.7.	<i>Renumbering. Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>
I.POL.11.2 Alleged Breaches	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
I.POL.11.2.a Those with questions or concerns about alleged breaches are encouraged to contact the CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> in a timely fashion. The CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> will advise on associated processes.	
I.POL.11.2.b All alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws must be reported to the CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> as soon as possible.	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>
I.POL.11.2.c When an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of an interpretation issued by the CRO, or of other applicable policies or laws is reported to the CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> , they will work to resolve the alleged breach through informal resolution.	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>
I.POL.11.2.e If the CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> is unable to resolve the alleged breach through informal resolution, or deems informal resolution to be inappropriate, they may, as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.1.b, discipline the candidate(s) by imposing the penalties or remedial actions noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections I.POL.11.4.c to I.POL.11.7.	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>
I.POL.11.3 Complaints About Alleged Breaches I.POL.11.3.a While complaints may be brought forward at any point during campaigning, individuals have twenty-four (24) hours after the release of provisional results to lodge a complaint with the CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy. Complaints lodged after this deadline will not be considered.	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>
I.POL.11.3.b To be considered by the CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> , a complaint must include the following:  I.POL.11.3.b.i The name of the person filing the complaint and their University email address,  I.POL.11.3.b.ii The name of the candidate who allegedly committed a breach,  I.POL.11.3.b.iii The section of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, interpretation issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws that has allegedly been breached,  I.POL.11.3.b.iv A description of what constitutes the alleged breach and associated evidence, and	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
I.POL.11.3.b.v A list of the evidence submitted.	
I.POL.11.3.d The CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> can dismiss a complaint if it is unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious.	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>
I.POL.11.4 Decision I.POL.11.4.a If informal resolution is rejected or is not successful, the CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> will email the candidate concerned with the details of the complaint, and request a written response, setting a deadline of at least eight (8) hours.	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>
I.POL.11.4.b Based on the complaint and the written response (or solely on the complaint if no written response was provided by the set deadline), the CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> will normally reach a decision on the complaint within seventy-two (72) hours. If more time is required to reach a decision, the CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> will make a decision regarding extensions.	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>
I.POL.11.4.c The CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> may impose the following penalties, or remedial actions: I.POL.11.4.c.i Verbal or written reprimands, I.POL.11.4.c.ii Reduction of spending limits, I.POL.11.4.c.iii Disqualification from the current election, and I.POL.11.4.c.iv Any other penalty or remedial action.	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>
I.POL.11.4.d All decisions on complaints and decisions reached by the CRO, <u>DRO</u> or <u>Acting DRO</u> will include: I.POL.11.4.d.i A summary of the alleged or discerned breach, I.POL.11.4.d.ii A list of parties to the complaint or breach (unless anonymity was granted, see Section I.POL. 11.3.e, above), I.POL.11.4.d.iii A summary of the reasons for the decision and the process by which it was reached, I.POL.11.4.d.iv A listing of all applicable GSA Bylaw and Policy and interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws,	<i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i>

<b>Current Policy</b> ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and <b>Proposed Changes</b> ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	<b>Rationale/Background</b>
<p>I.POL.11.4.d.v The decided upon penalties, and/or remedial actions, and</p> <p>I.POL.11.4.d.vi The time limit for any appeal to be made.</p>	
<p>I.POL.11.5 Upon reaching a decision the CRO, <del>DRO</del> or <u>Acting DRO</u> will email the decision to all parties, with a copy to the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC). The decision will then be posted on the GSA website.</p>	<p><i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.11.6 Unless otherwise stated in GSA Bylaw or Policy on elections, decisions of the CRO, <del>DRO</del> and <u>Acting DRO</u> are subject to appeal to the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB).</p> <p>I.POL.11.6.a The CRO, <del>DRO</del> or <u>Acting DRO</u> will advise the parties that they have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO, <del>DRO</del> or <u>Acting DRO</u>'s email is deemed delivered for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB.</p>	<p><i>Addition of DRO and Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i></p>
<p>I.POL.11.7 Throughout this process, the CRO will consult with the Deputy Returning Officer, available member(s) of the GSA ERC, and the Executive Director (or delegate). <u>The Acting DRO will consult with all of the parties above.</u></p>	<p><i>Addition of Acting DRO to avoid conflicts of interest.</i></p>
<p><b><u>I.POL.1211</u>      <u>Voting</u></b></p>	<p><i>Renumbering.</i></p>
<p><del>I.POL.1211.1</del> "All voting in GSA General Elections and elections of the Associate Vice-President Labour (AVPL) and by-elections will be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.BYL.4.1). As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section B.BYL.3.1, voting for the position of AVPL will be restricted to academically-employed graduate students.</p>	<p><i>Renumbering.</i></p>
<p><del>I.POL.1211.2</del> Candidates will be displayed in alphabetical order by last name on a per-ballot basis <u>and in reverse alphabetical order by last name in communications. Preferred nicknames will be displayed in between first and last legal names in brackets.</u></p>	<p><i>Clarification.</i> <i>Renumbering. Ranked, randomized ballots would erase bias in terms of name order.</i></p>
<p><del>I.POL.1211.3 – I.POL.1211.6</del> <del>12.4 11.4</del> On ballots, voters will mark their <u>choices</u> of candidate(s) for each race <u>on a ranked ballot.</u></p>	<p><i>Renumbering.</i> <i>Addition of ranked ballots.</i></p>

Current Policy ( <i>deletions noted by a strikethrough</i> ) and Proposed Changes ( <i>additions underlined</i> )	Rationale/Background
<p><del>12-5-11.5</del> In the event of a tied vote, the <del>Chief Returning Officer will draw a name from a hat in the presence of two (2) neutral witnesses, and the name drawn from a hat will be the candidate that is eliminated.</del> <u>the CRO will extend the voting period by one (1) day for the number of tied positions. The successful candidates which won by plurality of votes shall be secured. The runoff vote, for the tied candidates, shall be conducted no later than two (2) days after issuing of the results indicating a tie.</u></p> <p>I.POL.12.6 Candidates who receive fewer votes than “None of the Candidates” in the GSA General Election and election of the AVPL cannot run for the same position in any related subsequent by-elections, GSA Council elections, or elections of the AVPL (as outlined in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.15).</p>	<p><i>Change to tie-breaking rule to improve fairness. Ranked ballots will make this rule redundant in future.</i></p>
I.POL. <del>13</del> 12	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL. <del>14</del> 13	<i>Renumbering.</i>
I.POL. <del>14</del> 15	<i>Renumbering.</i>



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

Information regarding the positions for three (3) GSA members was advertised via GSA newsletters of July 19, 26 and August 7 2024 with a nomination deadline of August 9 2024. Seven (7) nominations were received for the three (3) GSA member vacancies. The nominees were then interviewed by GSA NoC members who have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. A member of GSA management was also present for the interview. During the interview, the nominee was 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 an electronic vote held at the August 19 2024 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday August 19 2024 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Administrative Coordinator ([gsaca@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsaca@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday August 19 2024 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Malik Awan (Science, Construction Engineering & Management)**
- 2. Nafisa Sadaf Hriti (Computing Science)**
- 3. Claudio La Rocca (Renewable Resources)**
- 4. Lisa van Lierop (Medicine)**
- 5. Zijia Yu (Neuroscience)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**

Section H.POL.7.1 and H.POL.7.2

*“Eight (8) GSA members elected by GSA Council as voting members [and] four (4) Departmental Councilors (including the Indigenous Graduate Students’ Association (IGSA) Councillor), alternates, or recent former Departmental Councilors, elected by GSA Council as voting members.”*

Section H.POL.8.1

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

**The name and biography received for the nominees are BELOW. The biography and brief resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).**

**Nominations for GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD  
(THREE (3) VACANCIES FOR GSA MEMBERS)  
Five (5) Nominees**

**1. Malik Awan**

<b>Statement of Interest:</b>
<p>I am Malik Noor Ul Amin Awan, and I am eager to volunteer to sit on this committee because I am passionate about contributing to initiatives that drive progress and innovation in the construction and engineering fields. My academic journey and professional experiences have equipped me with a strong foundation in civil engineering and construction management, and I am keen to apply my skills to support the committee’s mission.</p> <p>Serving on this committee will allow me to collaborate with other professionals, share my insights, and contribute to projects that can positively impact the industry and the community. I am particularly interested in promoting sustainable and efficient construction practices, and I believe that my background and dedication make me a valuable addition to the committee.</p>
<b>Bio:</b>
<p>My name is Malik Noor Ul Amin Awan. I completed my undergraduate studies in Civil Engineering at COMSATS University Islamabad, where I actively engaged in student organizations, serving as Vice President of the IEEE Society of Civil and Engineering. I am also a professional member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).</p> <p>Currently, I am pursuing a Master of Science in Construction Engineering &amp; Management at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. This academic journey has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of both the theoretical and practical aspects of civil engineering and construction management.</p> <p>My involvement in volunteering and leadership roles has helped me develop strong organizational, communication, and leadership skills. I have actively contributed to various initiatives and projects, demonstrating my ability to work effectively in team settings and manage responsibilities efficiently.</p> <p>I am confident that my academic background and volunteer involvement will be valuable assets to this committee. My ability to work collaboratively, manage projects effectively, and communicate clearly will contribute to the committee’s success. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to support the committee’s goals and make a meaningful impact.</p>

**2. Nafisa Sadaf Hriti**

<b>Statement of Interest:</b>
<p>I want to have a significant impact in my advocacy and the GSA is the next logical step for me to pursue that.</p> <p>I am eager to volunteer for the committee of the Graduate Student Association at the University of Alberta because I am passionate about advocating for graduate students' interests and enhancing their overall experience. As a graduate student myself, I understand the unique challenges and opportunities that come with this stage of academic and professional development.</p>

I am dedicated to representing the diverse needs and concerns of graduate students, ensuring their voices are heard and addressed by the university administration. I also aim to create a supportive and inclusive community where graduate students can connect, collaborate, and support one another, fostering a sense of belonging and mutual growth.

Working on initiatives that provide valuable resources, professional development opportunities, and social events that enrich the graduate student experience are important to me. It will allow me to give Back to the University, ensuring that future graduate students continue to benefit from a vibrant and supportive environment.

**Bio:**

My experience and past projects make me the perfect fit for this position. I'm a curious self-starter willing to put in the work to develop myself professionally. I have always had good interpersonal skills, as evidenced through my active participation in multiple leadership roles and extracurricular roles during my career.

During my undergraduate years, I was involved in organizing multiple day-long events in the computing science space such as hackathons and programming contests. I was a coordinator of the "IUT Career and Business Society" which supported undergraduates students with exposure for their startups and training for interviews and career planning. I had also founded my own student group, 'Litwits of IUT' which was a cultural group that organized band performances and cultural celebratory events.

Throughout my professional journey, I have developed a deep passion for working with people and communicating my ideas to enact change, so this role resonates deeply with my personality. My role as a writer in one of Bangladesh's biggest magazines has taught me to report data and meet communication standards in cross functional teams. I am comfortable working in high pressure environments such as the Alberta machine Intelligence Institute (AMII) and XSpace. I am highly interested in designing solutions that meet the needs of students like me.

As a highly motivated graduate student pursuing MSc in Computing Science program at the University of Alberta, I am eager to contribute these skills that I have developed over time. I was elected into the GSA Labour committee where I got the opportunity to represent the student employees of UAlberta during the bargaining process. It has been an absolute privilege to work alongside my fellow colleagues and friends, advocating for the rights and interests of graduate student workers. I am passionate about serving the needs of our graduate community and advocacy. I aspire to lead my fellow teammates on GSA through the challenges and opportunities ahead.

**3. Claudio La Rocca**

**Statement of Interest:**

I want to be more involved in non-academic extracurricular activities. I like finding resolution to conflicts and mediate between parties, analyzing complex problems and finding simple and effective solutions.

**Bio:**

I work full time at the University of Alberta in an environmental services lab. I have a background in environmental science and forestry. I have had many experiences in leadership (research and business), conflict resolution and problem solving.

**4. Lisa van Lierop**

**Statement of Interest:**

Joining a standing committee of the GSA gives me a chance to really pitch in and make a difference in our graduate community. I'm excited about helping to shape policies, speaking up for students, and creating a supportive atmosphere that boosts everyone's career growth and networking, both with peers and faculty.

**Bio:**

While I was living in the Netherlands, I spent several years with Toastmasters, taking on roles like Vice President of Membership and Vice President of Public Relations. At the same time, during my medical studies, I worked for six years as a healthcare aide on a psychiatric ward before becoming an in-patient physician. Throughout these years, I joined in many community events and served on panels and committees for various student organizations.

These experiences taught me how important community involvement is and showed me the value of representing everyone's different needs and interests. I saw firsthand the importance of advocating for each person in the community, making sure their voices were heard and their concerns were taken seriously.

My dedication to serving and leading others goes beyond just my work. I strongly believe in creating supportive and inclusive environments. By actively participating in graduate student association committees, I hope to use my diverse background and experiences to support initiatives that promote academic, social, and professional growth among our UofA graduate students.

**5. Zijia Yu**

**Statement of Interest:**

As a fourth year and international graduate student, I experienced a lot of struggles and I believe those experiences would help me to figure out the complains students possibly have. Moreover, I am going to graduate ideally the end of next year or winter, 2026, I feel like I should give more feedback to the university or the society from what I've learn. I will be so glad if I can make my contribution to the students.

**Bio:**

I am a PhD student working in the field of neuroscience. I work with rodents, do surgery and imaging on them to get understandings of autism spectrum disorder. I also do some codes working (easy level). During the work, there are so many issues you will come across, the ability of problem solving is of importance in the research, absolutely. It should be important to this position too. Previously, I worked for food bank (2023) and the heritage Festival (2021) as a volunteer.

SPEAKER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**JOINT POSITION ON THE GSA BOARD (GSAB)/GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR GSA COUNCILLORS): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

Information regarding this joint position for GSA Councillors was circulated via email to GSA Council in the July 19 and 30, and August 8 2024 Council mailings with a closing deadline of August 12 2024. One (1) nomination was received.

The GSAB is the senior administrative authority of the GSA. As set out in GSA Board Policy (Section F.POL.3.2), the responsibilities of the GSA Councillor positions on the GSAB are:

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

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

**There will be an online ballot vote held at the August 19 2024 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday August 19 2024 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Administrative Coordinator ([gsaca@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsaca@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday August 19 2024 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Ibrahim Khodabocus (Pediatrics)**

**Jurisdiction:**

Section F.POL.3.1.f

The composition of the GSAB includes *"up to three (3) members of GSA Council elected by GSA Council as non-voting members."*

Section E.POL.4

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

Section E.POL.5.1

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

**The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee is BELOW. The biography and resume is presented as received (i.e. not edited).**

**NOMINATIONS FOR GSA BOARD AND GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSAB/NoC)  
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR GSA COUNCILLORS)  
One (1) Nominee**

**1. Ibrahim Khodabocus**

<b>Statement of Interest:</b>
I would like to serve as a member of the GSAB/NoC, to ensure that the interests of all graduate students are accurately represented by the GSA; of particular concern are the interests of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) students at the University of Alberta. I hope to work with the body to ensure that the concerns of BIPOC persons are equitably represented and are thoroughly acknowledged within several Governance bodies within and beyond the boundaries of the GSA, and thus I believe that my work as a member of the GSAB/NoC will largely complement the other work that I currently partake in – please see below for more details.
<b>Bio:</b>
<p>During my research career, I have been consistently involved with student-impacted collectives. I am currently the President of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) and Allies Students' Association and the Vice President (VP) of Mentorship of the PedsGSA (Pediatrics Graduate Student Association) at the University of Alberta (UofA). The goal of the BIPOC and Allies Students' Association is to promote the recruitment, admission, and retention of BIPOC students at the UofA. The PedsGSA exists for the purpose of supporting the personal, scholarly, and professional development of pediatrics graduate students at the UofA. I am responsible for public outreach and event broadcasting on behalf of the BIPOC-led student organization and maintaining collaboration and communication between the BIPOC initiatives. I am responsible for facilitating mentor-mentee relationships between junior graduate students and more senior pediatric researchers at the UofA. I also serve as a Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC) Member in the Department of Pediatrics, a Graduate Students' Association Councilor at Large (GSA CAL), a General Faculties Council (GFC) Councilor at Large, as well as a Graduate Students' Association Nominating (GSA NoC) Committee Member, and a Graduate Students' Association Elections and Referenda (GSA ERC) Committee Member. I also serve on the Women and Children's Health Research Institute Trainee Advisory Committee (WCHRI TAC), where my responsibilities largely complement the work that I do for the PedsGSA, as I serve as part of the Mentorship Subcommittee as a voting member. Importantly, I am very passionate about advocating for racial equity and justice through my roles throughout the academy. I am also humbled by the fact that my extracurricular work has recently been recognized by one of only three 2024 Graduate Student Rising Star Awards for my "exceptional promise" in the first year of my PhD studies.</p> <p>As a MSc student at the UofA, I was a part of the Biology Graduate Students' Association (BGSA) throughout my program, serving as a VP and the President of the BGSA from September 2021 - April 2022 and April 2022 – December 2022, respectively. The BGSA is the student-run collective, interested in representing the academic, political, and social interests of graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. As a VP, I assisted in the arrangement of events, specifically: the Ethics and Professional Development seminar series. The goal of this event was to inform graduate students of the Ethics and Professional Development requirement set by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to ensure the timely completion of these courses prior to convocation/defense. As President, I directed and led meetings pertaining to the issues and interests of graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. I was the main point of contact between the BGSA and the Departmental Chair, facilitating collaboration between the BGSA and the department at large. Beyond my leadership responsibilities, I also served as a Graduate Student Representative in the department of Biological Sciences from April 2021 - December 2022. Here, I was a Biological Sciences Departmental Council voting member. I spoke on issues pertaining to the Biological Sciences graduate student body and provided meeting summaries to other Graduate Student Leaders (BGSA executives and R.E Peter Student organizers) on Departmental Council matters. Further, I volunteered as a Judge for the R.E. Peter Biology Conference (R.E. Peter)</p>

2022. R.E. Peter is a student-run conference designed to showcase the diverse research conducted by Biological Sciences students at the University of Alberta and institutions across the province. I judged live presentations at the graduate and undergraduate levels. I also worked as a graduate Journal Reviewer for the Eureka Journal from January 2021 - January 2023. Eureka is a student-founded and student-run journal, offering student-scientists the unique opportunity to share their discoveries with the scientific community through a double-blind peer review process.



GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)  
**GSA Budget and Finance Committee (ONE (1) COUNCILLOR POSITION)**  
**THREE (3) NOMINEES**

As advertised to GSA Council on July 19, 30 and August 8 2024, there is currently one vacancy on the GSA Budget and Finance Committee. The deadline to receive nominations was August 12 2024 at 12:00 PM (Noon). The GSA received three (3) nominations by the deadline.

**There will be an electronic ballot vote held at the August 19 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday August 19 2024 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Administrative Coordinator ([gsaca@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsaca@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday August 19 2024 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

1. Andres Dorado (Rehabilitative Medicine)
2. Uthman Khan (Anthropology)
3. Ibrahim Khodabocus (Pediatrics)

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

**Jurisdiction:**

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee, Section K.POL.5.1

*"The overall mandate of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) is to advise on the financial affairs of the GSA (including the long-term planning and priorities of the GSA in light of its strategic goals) and on the provision of the long-term financial health of the organization."*

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee, Section K.POL.4.1

The GSA BFC is composed of "one (1) Councillor elected by GSA Council as a voting member."

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 nominees are BELOW. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).**

**TWO PAGES**

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE GSA BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (GSA BFC)  
(ONE (1) VACANCY FOR GSA MEMBERS)  
Three (3) Nominees**

**1. Andres Dorado**

<b>Statement of Interest</b>
I would like to volunteer with the BFC because I would like to learn more about how the GSA advises on the use of its budget and finances. I would also like to be present and advocate for the interests of our graduate student body and help to ensure that the budget is used effectively. Finally, I would like to be more involved with the GSA’s financial practices and increase my awareness of the procedures in place that keep the BFC accountable.
<b>Bio</b>
I am a graduate student in the MSc Rehabilitation Sciences thesis program at the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. Over the past year, I have been involved with the GSA in a few capacities. This year, I would like to apply my previous experiences with budgeting and finances from past groups (e.g., Scout group treasurer/quartermaster, undergraduate association executive, executive assistant and treasurer for local religious group, etc.) and bring the skills I learned with those organizations forward into the context of the GSA’s BFC.

**2. Uthman Khan**

<b>Statement of Interest</b>
I am eager to volunteer for the GSA Budget & Finance Committee because I am passionate about ensuring the financial stability and strategic growth of our organization. With 24 years of experience as a business owner, I have developed a deep understanding of financial management and strategic planning. This experience has equipped me with the skills to analyze budgets critically and contribute to long-term financial planning. Being a mature student and a dedicated family person, I bring a balanced perspective and a commitment to thoughtful, nuanced decision-making. I have a strong track record of being proactive and outspoken on financial matters, which aligns with the committee's role in advising on the GSA’s financial affairs. I am motivated by the opportunity to apply my expertise to support the GSA’s goals and ensure its financial health, ultimately contributing to a thriving and effective student organization.
<b>Bio</b>
As a mature student and a business owner with 24 years of experience, I bring a unique perspective to the GSA Budget & Finance Committee. My background in managing finances, combined with my role as a family man, allows me to approach financial matters with both practical insight and a nuanced understanding. I am known for being outspoken and proactive when it comes to financial matters, and I am committed to contributing to the long-term financial health of the GSA. My diverse experience and dedication to effective financial stewardship make me a strong candidate for this role. I am also an unofficial Stock Market analyst and financial advisor.

**3. Ibrahim Khodabocus**

<b>Statement of Interest</b>
I would like to serve as a member of the GSA BFC, to ensure that the interests of all graduate students are accurately represented by the GSA; of particular concern are the interests of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) students at the University of Alberta. I hope to work with the body to ensure that the concerns of BIPOC persons are equitably represented and are thoroughly acknowledged within several

TWO PAGES

Governance bodies within and beyond the boundaries of the GSA, and thus I believe that my work as a member of the GSA BFC will largely complement the other work that I currently partake in – please see below for more details.

#### **Bio**

During my research career, I have been consistently involved with student-impacted collectives. I am currently the President of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) and Allies Students' Association and the Vice President (VP) of Mentorship of the PedsGSA (Pediatrics Graduate Student Association) at the University of Alberta (UofA). The goal of the BIPOC and Allies Students' Association is to promote the recruitment, admission, and retention of BIPOC students at the UofA. The PedsGSA exists for the purpose of supporting the personal, scholarly, and professional development of pediatrics graduate students at the UofA. I am responsible for public outreach and event broadcasting on behalf of the BIPOC-led student organization and maintaining collaboration and communication between the BIPOC initiatives. I am responsible for facilitating mentor-mentee relationships between junior graduate students and more senior pediatric researchers at the UofA. I also serve as a Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC) Member in the Department of Pediatrics, a Graduate Students' Association Councilor at Large (GSA CAL), a General Faculties Council (GFC) Councilor at Large, as well as a Graduate Students' Association Nominating (GSA NoC) Committee Member, and a Graduate Students' Association Elections and Referenda (GSA ERC) Committee Member. I also serve on the Women and Children's Health Research Institute Trainee Advisory Committee (WCHRI TAC), where my responsibilities largely complement the work that I do for the PedsGSA, as I serve as part of the Mentorship Subcommittee as a voting member. Importantly, I am very passionate about advocating for racial equity and justice through my roles throughout the academy. I am also humbled by the fact that my extracurricular work has recently been recognized by one of only three 2024 Graduate Student Rising Star Awards for my "exceptional promise" in the first year of my PhD studies.

As a MSc student at the UofA, I was a part of the Biology Graduate Students' Association (BGSA) throughout my program, serving as a VP and the President of the BGSA from September 2021 - April 2022 and April 2022 – December 2022, respectively. The BGSA is the student-run collective, interested in representing the academic, political, and social interests of graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. As a VP, I assisted in the arrangement of events, specifically: the Ethics and Professional Development seminar series. The goal of this event was to inform graduate students of the Ethics and Professional Development requirement set by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to ensure the timely completion of these courses prior to convocation/defense. As President, I directed and led meetings pertaining to the issues and interests of graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. I was the main point of contact between the BGSA and the Departmental Chair, facilitating collaboration between the BGSA and the department at large. Beyond my leadership responsibilities, I also served as a Graduate Student Representative in the department of Biological Sciences from April 2021 - December 2022. Here, I was a Biological Sciences Departmental Council voting member. I spoke on issues pertaining to the Biological Sciences graduate student body and provided meeting summaries to other Graduate Student Leaders (BGSA executives and R.E Peter Student organizers) on Departmental Council matters. Further, I volunteered as a Judge for the R.E. Peter Biology Conference (R.E. Peter) 2022. R.E. Peter is a student-run conference designed to showcase the diverse research conducted by Biological Sciences students at the University of Alberta and institutions across the province. I judged live presentations at the graduate and undergraduate levels. I also worked as a graduate Journal Reviewer for the Eureka Journal from January 2021 - January 2023. Eureka is a student-founded and student-run journal, offering student-scientists the unique opportunity to share their discoveries with the scientific community through a double-blind peer review process.

**TWO PAGES**

## GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

**GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC) (THREE (3) POSITIONS FOR GSA MEMBERS): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

Information regarding the three (3) vacancies for a GSA member was advertised in the GSA Newsletters of July 19 and 26, and August 2 and 9 2024 with a nomination deadline of August 12 2024. One (1) nomination was received.

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

**There will be an electronic vote held at the August 19 2024 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday August 19 2024 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Administrative Coordinator ([gsaca@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsaca@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday August 19 2024 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

- 1. Kaylee Craplewe (Civil & Environmental Engineering)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**

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

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

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

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

**The names and biographies received for the nominee are BELOW. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).**

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC)  
 (THREE (3) VACANCIES FOR GSA MEMBERS)  
 One (1) Nominee**

**1. Kaylee Craplewe**

<b>Statement of Interest</b>
As a graduate student I would like to volunteer to be an active part of this committee as it advocates for the rights and interests of not only me in my current status, but also others in the UAlberta graduate community. Participating as an active member will not only further my understanding of the structures that influence and affect the student body, but it will also allow me to personally be active in changes made by the committee. Specifically, participating as a part of the ERC will challenge me to understand and assist the decision-making process to hold governing bodies accountable ensuring a fair election process during election periods to guarantee proper representation of the student body.
<b>Bio</b>
I am an incoming Geotechnical Engineering MSc. student and a recent UAlberta alumna from the class of 2024 (BSc. Civil Engineering). Over the past 7 years I have become very familiar with the university, having completed two years of my undergrad in other faculties (Arts & Sciences) before switching into engineering. Throughout my years at the university, I have been a research assistant for 4 different labs, active in 2 mentorship programs (SMAC & FEM+), and have been a general executive/team lead for the UAlberta Art Club. These roles have allowed me to see the direct impact certain governance policies and decisions have on not only the university as a whole, but also on small groups within the community. These experiences—regardless of the impact or outcome, have instilled in me an appreciation for correct and fair representation of the student body in all decision-making and election processes. I believe my skills and experiences briefly described above would aid in my success if I were to be selected to serve as an ERC general member.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)  
**GSA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (GSA GC) (TWO (2) POSITIONS FOR GSA COUNCILLORS): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

Information regarding the two (2) vacancies for a GSA councillor was advertised to GSA Council on July 19 and 26, and August 2 and 9 2024 with a nomination deadline of August 12 2024. One (1) nomination was received.

The GSA GC acts to “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 F.POL.4.2.a).

**There will be an electronic vote held at the August 19 2024 GSA Council meeting.**

*If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday August 19 2024 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Administrative Coordinator ([gsaca@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsaca@ualberta.ca)) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday August 19 2024 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

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

**1. Ibrahim Khodabocus (Pediatrics)**

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

**Jurisdiction:**

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section F: GSA Caucuses, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Governance Committee, Section F.POL.4.1.c

The GSA GC is composed of “three (3) Councillors or recent former Councillors elected by GSA Council as voting members.”

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

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

**The names and biographies received for the nominees are BELOW. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).**

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE GSA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (GSA GC)  
(TWO (2) VACANCIES FOR GSA COUNCILLORS)  
One (1) Nominee**

**1. Ibrahim Khodabocus**

<p><b>Statement of Interest</b></p>
<p>I would like to serve as a member of the GSA GC, to ensure that the interests of all graduate students are accurately represented by the GSA; of particular concern are the interests of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) students at the University of Alberta. I hope to work with the body to ensure that the concerns of BIPOC persons are equitably represented and are thoroughly acknowledged within several Governance bodies within and beyond the boundaries of the GSA, and thus I believe that my work as a member of the GSA GC will largely complement the other work that I currently partake in – please see below for more details.</p>
<p><b>Bio</b></p>
<p>During my research career, I have been consistently involved with student-impacted collectives. I am currently the President of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) and Allies Students' Association and the Vice President (VP) of Mentorship of the PedsGSA (Pediatrics Graduate Student Association) at the University of Alberta (UofA). The goal of the BIPOC and Allies Students' Association is to promote the recruitment, admission, and retention of BIPOC students at the UofA. The PedsGSA exists for the purpose of supporting the personal, scholarly, and professional development of pediatrics graduate students at the UofA. I am responsible for public outreach and event broadcasting on behalf of the BIPOC-led student organization and maintaining collaboration and communication between the BIPOC initiatives. I am responsible for facilitating mentor-mentee relationships between junior graduate students and more senior pediatric researchers at the UofA. I also serve as a Graduate Studies Advisory Committee (GSAC) Member in the Department of Pediatrics, a Graduate Students' Association Councilor at Large (GSA CAL), a General Faculties Council (GFC) Councilor at Large, as well as a Graduate Students' Association Nominating (GSA NoC) Committee Member, and a Graduate Students' Association Elections and Referenda (GSA ERC) Committee Member. I also serve on the Women and Children's Health Research Institute Trainee Advisory Committee (WCHRI TAC), where my responsibilities largely complement the work that I do for the PedsGSA, as I serve as part of the Mentorship Subcommittee as a voting member. Importantly, I am very passionate about advocating for racial equity and justice through my roles throughout the academy. I am also humbled by the fact that my extracurricular work has recently been recognized by one of only three 2024 Graduate Student Rising Star Awards for my "exceptional promise" in the first year of my PhD studies.</p> <p>As a MSc student at the UofA, I was a part of the Biology Graduate Students' Association (BGSA) throughout my program, serving as a VP and the President of the BGSA from September 2021 - April 2022 and April 2022 – December 2022, respectively. The BGSA is the student-run collective, interested in representing the academic, political, and social interests of graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. As a VP, I assisted in the arrangement of events, specifically: the Ethics and Professional Development seminar series. The goal of this event was to inform graduate students of the Ethics and Professional Development requirement set by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research to ensure the timely completion of these courses prior to convocation/defense. As President, I directed and led meetings pertaining to the issues and interests of graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. I was the main point of contact between the BGSA and the Departmental Chair, facilitating collaboration between the BGSA and the department at large. Beyond my leadership responsibilities, I also served as a Graduate Student Representative in the department of Biological Sciences from April 2021 - December 2022. Here, I was a Biological Sciences Departmental Council voting member. I spoke on issues pertaining to the Biological Sciences graduate student body and provided meeting summaries to other Graduate Student Leaders (BGSA executives and R.E Peter Student organizers) on Departmental Council matters. Further, I volunteered as a Judge for the R.E. Peter Biology Conference (R.E. Peter) 2022. R.E. Peter is a student-run conference designed</p>

to showcase the diverse research conducted by Biological Sciences students at the University of Alberta and institutions across the province. I judged live presentations at the graduate and undergraduate levels. I also worked as a graduate Journal Reviewer for the Eureka Journal from January 2021 - January 2023. Eureka is a student-founded and student-run journal, offering student-scientists the unique opportunity to share their discoveries with the scientific community through a double-blind peer review process.



**2024-2025 President  
Report to GSA Council for the 19 August 2024 Meeting**

To: Council Members
From: Muhammad Haseeb Arshad
Date: 2024/08/14

**2024-2025 GSA President Meetings Attended (Muhammad Haseeb Arshad)**

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 12 to Aug 14, 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
July 15-20	CASA PoliStrat Conference
July 23	Meeting with the Provost
July 25	Meeting with T. Raivio & VP Academic
July 25	Meeting with R. Sanghera
July 25	Meeting with J. Allen, AVP Asset Management & Operations, Facilities & Operations
July 26	Meeting re Course-Based Master's Scholarship Program
July 29	Student Legal Services Reform Project Meeting
July 29	Bangladeshi Students' Association Meeting
July 31	Meeting with L. Glock, SU President
Aug 1	Student/Supervisor Survey Joint Venture with FGPS
Aug 1	Google Storage & Drive Discussion
Aug 6	Meeting with A. Kent, Independent Review
Aug 6	Meeting with Ellement, Health & Dental Providers
Aug 7	Graduate/Post-Doctoral Experience Workshop
Aug 8	Fearless Innovator Award Discussion
Aug 8	FPC Meeting
Aug 12	Dean of Students Meeting
Aug 12	Meeting with UCGSA ED
Aug 12	Edmonton Student Alliance Meeting
Aug 13	Governance Committee Meeting
Aug 15	Meeting with the Provost
Aug 16	SWP Discussion with UAI Office
Aug 19	SWP Discussion with IGSA Office

Dear Council Members,

I hope you are enjoying the final days of summer as the fall semester approaches. Hopefully, you all feel relaxed and well-prepared, filled with the necessary energy for a new academic year. As we transition into this exciting period, I am pleased to share updates on our initiatives and ongoing efforts to support our community and enhance the student experience.

Back in mid-July, I attended the CASA Polistrat Conference with Ben, our Indigenous delegate and the current NIAC co-chair. This conference provided us with an excellent opportunity to advocate for our strategic plan goal of having Indigenous voting members on the CASA committees, particularly the Federal Policy, National Advocacy, and Governance and Internal Review Committee. Ben will lead this initiative, given his role as NIAC co-chair. Meanwhile, I have joined the Graduate Advocacy Committee (GAC) and am working on arranging a graduate forum, likely during the Advocacy Week. Additionally, the GAC has undertaken an initiative to request the federal government to index the Tri-Council grants to inflation, ensuring that graduate students do not need to request additional funding annually. I am also working on an AI policy paper, which the Federal Policy Committee has approved, and I will report on its progress in upcoming council meetings.

Another important update is from my meeting with Dr Verna (Provost & Vice President Academic) on July 23rd, we discussed the Graduate Student Support Fund and the necessity of increasing it due to inflation and the rising cost of living. Dr Verna agreed in principle to my verbal proposal and requested a written proposal for our next meeting. We also touched upon policy gaps in the Student Conduct Policy and the behavior of University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) officers, emphasizing the need for compassionate training. I have been advocating for a policy review and advisory board over Crisis Management Team (CMT) composed of students, BIPOC and Indigenous community members on issues related to calling in reinforcement on campus because of safety concerns for several months. To deepen my understanding, I met with James Allen (AVP - Asset Management & Operations) to discuss the authority of UAPS officers. Although they have the authority to ban individuals from campus or take pictures of students, I raised the question of ethical behavior, as opposed to merely legal behavior, since UAPS are on the university payroll and deal with student protesters. Additionally, the university's Culture of Care strategy, which defines safety in three pillars—psychological, physical, and cultural—should be considered by UAPS officers before making authoritative decisions. Furthermore, I engaged with the Student Legal Services (SLS) team to explore charter rights issues and the university's policy-making authority. Although the debate on charter rights can only be resolved in courts, I feel that SLS has strong arguments. Their team claimed that even if someone assumes their charter rights are protected in a main quad area, after the pro-life case, the university might not have the right to issue a trespassing notice in the first place. Their insights were invaluable, and I have shared these findings with Lisa Glock, the SU president.

Following these conversations, I asked Hon. Justice Adele Kent (Third-party reviewer) to schedule an interview with the GSA Board so that the Board could share what we have learned and heard during and after the encampment's removal. The interview went well, but I was shocked to learn that the interviewer was unaware of the resignation of the Arts EDI Committee and how the university's failure to acknowledge the student protesters back in December led to this encampment. This encampment did not happen out of the blue. I have also written a detailed letter to the reviewer with all the recommendations that the GSA would like included in her final report.

Another important initiative is the Hybrid Coursework-Based Master's Scholarship, which we will start promoting in mid-September. This award, valued at \$5,000, will be open for applications in early December. FGPS will manage the applications, and Rija and I will provide a draft rubric for assessing student community service contributions. This hybrid award aims to encourage graduate students to volunteer and support their peers through university committees and events. We will soon begin promoting this initiative on social media, and I am proud to launch this award. We are collaborating with FGPS to conduct a student-supervisory joint survey. I have already met with the UCGSA Executive Director to discuss the main themes of their student-supervisor survey. Together with Rija and Ben, I will be drafting this survey, which we plan to launch in early fall. Our goal is to finalize the results by the end of the term, ensuring they are ready for presentation at the start of the winter semester. Ben will take the lead in identifying themes related to student experience, working closely with Sarah Wolgemuth (Project Manager, SEAP Action Plan). Meanwhile, Rija will collaborate with Sujata (Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry) to finalize the themes of questions that both FGPS and GSA are interested in asking faculty members and students. This effort aims to enhance the dynamics of the student-supervisory relationship.

In addition, I am also focused on improving the student experience through the Graduate Peer Support program. I met with Ravina Sanghera (Dean of Students) twice to discuss this program and how it can address mental health and other issues. I have also briefed her on how the Storage Space Optimization project is failing to provide better storage allocations for research graduate students. I am happy to report that Rija and I have successfully negotiated with Sam Biodun-Oyedepo (Google Storage Space Program Manager) to look for the possibility to create separate categories for course-based and thesis-based graduate students, providing more space for the latter. I will report on this storage issue in upcoming council meetings. Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that the university has agreed to develop a new UofA app based on my proposal, with the Dean of Students' office securing \$100,000 for its creation. This is a groundbreaking initiative, and I am confident it will greatly enhance the student's experience. The new modern app will include features ranging from e-class integrations to transit times and perks for students who sign up to receive university updates. This notification mechanism can significantly improve awareness and communication among students regarding university services.

Looking ahead, I am exploring the possibility of introducing a new award, the Fearless Innovator Award, in collaboration with Karsten Mundel (Vice Provost, Learning Initiatives) to celebrate our members' innovative work that unfortunately resulted a failure regarding their research and teaching contributions. The idea is to spark innovative thinking rather than confining students to improve only what is already known. The timeline for the award is still undecided, and I am currently evaluating whether we can find funds in our operational budget to support this.

Before discussing the significant work on bylaws and policy revision, I would like to mention my upcoming meeting with Amarjeet Sohi (City Mayor) in mid-September. We will discuss transit safety, possible city collaborations with local building developers to start an affordable off-campus housing scheme for students, and the mayor's plans for BRT zoning. I encourage councilors to email me with any additional issues they would like me to address, keeping in mind the municipal scope.

Lastly, I want to highlight the work of the Governance Committee. I commend the ERC, especially our CRO, Sophie Shi, for her instrumental role in updating our election bylaw and policy. Special thanks to Isca, our summer intern,

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and the staff for their diligent work on revising our main bylaws and policy document. I also extend my gratitude to Cindy Rose (our Associate Director) and the Governance Committee members for their thorough and rational debate on the proposed changes. I believe this is the most important work the association is doing this year and will have an incredibly positive impact in the future. I am extremely happy to see that we are moving towards a more transparent and accountable student association, and this is a moment of pride for all of us.

We typically don't highlight individual staff contributions, as they are simply fulfilling their roles. However, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the exceptional dedication of Lewie Moodley (our Executive Director), and Grace Kinley (our Admin Support Specialist) for their efforts in finding the best possible health and dental provider for our members. Additionally, I would like to commend Brandy (our Strategic Initiative Officer) for his outstanding work on the Health and Dental survey report. Their contributions have been invaluable to our initiatives, and I believe they deserve special recognition for their commitment and hard work. Thank you to all of you for making us look good in front of our council members.

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**2024-2025 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for the July 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Rija Kamran
Date: August 15, 2024

**2024-2025 GSA VP Academic’s Meetings Attended (Rija)**

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 11 2024 to August 19 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

Meeting with T. Raivio re PD Credits (July 11)
Meeting with a Student (July 12)
ISA (July 22)
Student/Supervisor Relationships Meeting with T. Raivio (July 24)
Meeting re Course-Based Master’s Scholarship Program (July 26)
CASA National Advocacy Committee Meeting (July 26)
Minimum Funding Implementation Group Meeting (July 29)
Student/Supervisor Survey Joint Venture with FGPS (August 1)
Google Storage & Drive Discussion (August 1)
Meeting with A. Kent, Independent Review (Aug 6)
Graduate/Post-Doctoral Experience Workshop (August 7)
Meeting with a Student (August 12)
Dean of Students Meeting (August 12)
LMS of the Future Advisory Committee Meeting (August 13)
Meeting with a Student (August 13)
Meeting with a Student (August 14)
SWP Discussion with UAI Office (August 16)
SWP Discussion with IGSA Office (August 19)

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are well and are making the most of the last few weeks of summer. I have provided a summary of the advocacy work I have been engaged in since the last council meeting.

**(July 11) Meeting with T. Raivio re PD Credits**

Along with the VP Student Services S. Iqbal, I attended a meeting with the Dean of Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral studies, T. Ravio, and Professional Development Director, R. Polziehn to discuss the potential for assigning PD credits to training and volunteer work at the Campus Food Bank. We discuss the procedures and background work that needs to go into putting this in place. We also discussed other potential ways to support the Campus Food Bank, and ways to acknowledge the graduate students who volunteer.

**(July 24) Student/Supervisor Relationships Meeting with T. Raivio**

Along with VP Student Services, B. Kucher, I attended a meeting with the Dean of Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral studies, T. Ravio regarding a survey that GSA is running later in fall. This survey is aimed at understanding the supervisory conditions across campus. We will be looking at the survey from academic and student experience. We'll be working closely with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral studies and Dean of Students Office for this initiative. This initiative will hopefully be the first step to understand the supervisory challenges and will provide us the framework to inform future trainings and initiatives to address those challenges.

**(July 26) CASA National Advocacy Committee Meeting**

I attend the CASA National Advocacy Committee meeting. This committee works to enhance CASA's advocacy efforts by organizing campaigns across CASA's member campuses and developing lobbying tools and training to help empower members to meet with their local Members of Parliament. We discussed the pre-budget asks that CASA is presenting to the Federal government ahead of the budgets and started the sub-committee on upcoming federal elections.

**(July 29) Minimum Funding Implementation Group Meeting**

I attended the first meeting for the Implementation Group for PhD minimum funding. This group is working on formalizing the implementation of the PhD minimum funding and providing oversight to ensure that the process goes on per the operating principles. As a GSA representative on the committee, I am continuing to ensure that graduate students' interests are always a priority as the funding guarantee is fully implemented.

**(August 7) Graduate/Post-Doctoral Experience Workshop**

Along with the VP Student Services, S. Iqbal, I attended the Graduate & Postdoctoral experience workshop. This workshop was catered towards understanding graduate student experiences across their academic journey at the University of Alberta. We engaged in some engagement sessions to help put together a journey map, and services that are required at each of those phases during a student's academic journey. In the upcoming months, a final iteration of this journey map will be made available to you.

**(August 13) LMS of the Future Advisory Committee Meeting**

The LMS of future advisory committee met ahead of the launch of phase 1 this Fall 2024. The new LMS, Canvas is being adopted in 3 phases with some departments and courses transition to Canvas this Fall. For the upcoming academic year, e-class and Canvas will both be accessible for students depending on where the course is being housed. A communication for the students on navigating this change will go out later this month.

Thank you for your support and engagement. Please feel free to reach out to me at [gsavpaca@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsavpaca@ualberta.ca) if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. Thank you

Rija Kamran, Vice-President Academic (2024-25)

**2024-2025 VP Student Life  
Report to GSA Council for the 19 August 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Benjamin Kucher
Date: 2024/08/14

**2024-2025 VP Student Life Meetings Attended**

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 12 to Aug 14, 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

Meetings
July 14-20 Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Policy and Strategy Conference
July 31 Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Board of Directors Meeting
August 1 Student Supervisor Survey Joint Venture with FGPS
August 1 Meeting with IGSA and VPIPR
August 1 Meeting with Dunsie Strohschein, Assistant Dean CW and SVS
August 2 Meeting with Deb Eerkes, Lead Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Response
August 6 Meeting with Sarah Wolgemuth, Project Director, Student Experience Action Plan
August 6 Meeting with Adele Kent, 3rd Party Independent Reviewer
August 7 NIAC Meeting
August 8 Meeting with Jay Friesen, PD Instructional Designer
August 9 NIAC CoChair Weekly Check-In

August 12 Meeting with Dean of Students Office
August 13 Governance Committee Meeting
August 13 Meeting with Katherine Huising, Associate Vice President Facilities & Operations
August 14 Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Board of Directors Meeting
August 15 Meeting with Sarah Wolgemuth and GSA President
August 15 Meeting with Lula Adam
August 16 NIAC Co-Chairs Check-in
August 16 GSA Strategic Work Plan Discussion with UAI
August 19 VPIPR/GSA/IGSA Bi-Monthly Meeting
August 19 Meeting with Dunsie Strohschein, Assistant Dean CW and SVS
August 20 GSA/Campus Services Leadership Meeting
August 21 NIAC Meeting
August 22 SGBV in WIL Working Group
August 22 Community Operations Coordination Meeting
August 23 NIAC Co-Chairs Weekly Check-In
August 26 Meeting with International Students Association
August 26 Meeting with Dunsie Strohschein, Assistant Dean CW and SVS
August 26 Student Housing Stability Working Group August 28 Days Of Action Committee Meeting
August 28 Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Board of Directors Meeting



August 29 History, Classics, Religion Orientation Presentation
August 29 Tracy Raivio and GSA Executive - GSA Strategic Plan
August 30 Psychology Orientation Presentation
August 30 NIAC Co-Chairs Weekly Check-In
August 30 EDI Action Plan Steering Committee Meeting

## GSA Council Report

Date: August 14, 2024

From: Benjamin J. Kucher, Vice President (Student Life)

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you've enjoyed the summer months and are feeling refreshed for the upcoming academic year.

Over the past month, I've been working diligently to ensure that graduate students have the necessary support to thrive as we enter this new academic year. My efforts have focused on enhancing the overall graduate student experience, with significant advocacy work laying the groundwork for the initiatives we plan to implement this year.

In late July, the President and I attended the Policy and Strategy Conference for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). This conference was instrumental in shaping and refining CASA's advocacy priorities and action plans for the coming year. Key activities included presenting and consulting on the Board Action Plan, advocacy priorities, and committee work plans. Delegates provided feedback during breakout sessions, which the CASA Board of Directors then incorporated into the updated plans.

For the GSA and our graduate students, participation in this conference brings several benefits:

1. **Influence on National Advocacy:** Our involvement ensures that the concerns and interests of graduate students are represented in CASA's national advocacy efforts, especially in government relations and policy development.

2. **Networking and Collaboration:** The conference provided valuable opportunities to connect with other student leaders, allowing us to exchange ideas and best practices that can enhance the GSA's impact at the University of Alberta.
3. **Strategic Insights:** Training sessions, such as media training and lobbying preparation, equipped GSA representatives with essential skills to advocate more effectively for graduate students' needs.
4. **Committee Contributions:** The work done within committees like EDI and NIAC, where I am actively involved, will significantly advance equity and Indigenous representation in student advocacy.

Overall, the conference has positioned the GSA to play a critical role in shaping policies that affect graduate students nationwide. Our influence within CASA has grown, and I am pleased to announce that I have joined CASA's Board of Directors.

Progress has also been made on implementing the Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP). Next month, SEAP Project Director Sarah Wolgemuth and I will present to the council an update on this work, along with additional strategies to ensure the plan is realized in ways that graduate students can tangibly experience.

As we approach September, the DEOs and I will attend Departmental Orientations to introduce new graduate students to the GSA and the variety of supports we offer. We're also preparing to host the GSA Social Hour and other events, providing opportunities for you to connect with fellow graduate students and build a sense of community within and beyond your department or program.

As always, please feel free to email me with any questions or to set up a meeting to discuss new ideas. I'm here to address any concerns or issues you may have. Below is a list of key meetings I attended this month, along with a brief overview of the discussions.

**August 1, 12, 19, and 26th Meetings with Dunsie Strohschein, Assistant Dean Community Wellness and Sexual Violence Supports:**

In my weekly meetings with Dunsie Strohschein, Assistant Dean of Community Wellness and Sexual Violence Supports, we have discussed various topics related to wellness initiatives, sexual violence prevention, and support systems within the university. These meetings have focused on collaborative efforts to enhance student wellness, develop more robust sexual violence prevention programs, and improve support services for affected students. Additionally, the discussions have explored ways to integrate these initiatives into broader university policies, ensuring they align with ongoing work in improving student experience, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives.

**August 8th Meeting with Jay Friesen, PD Instructional Designer:**

I met with Jay to discuss the design and implementation of an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Reading Group aimed at engaging graduate students from various disciplines in discussions about EDI principles. The group will explore complex social issues through selected academic texts, fostering a deeper understanding of these topics and promoting an inclusive academic environment. The readings cover themes like decolonization, intersectionality, implicit bias, and equity in higher education, with specific texts and dates assigned to each topic. The initiative aims to enhance participants' critical thinking, interdisciplinary collaboration, and advocacy for social justice in their future careers.

**July 31st and August 14th Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Board of Directors Meeting:**

The CASA Board of Directors meeting on July 31st, 2024, included updates provided by various committee representatives. These updates included reports from the Chair, the Graduate Advisory Committee, the Secretary/Governance and Internal Review Committee, and others. The Co-Chair of the National Indigenous Advocacy Committee also provided an update, underscoring ongoing efforts and initiatives within their purview. Key topics for discussion included the "Investing in Innovators Paper" and the "CASA Abacus Report 2024," both of which were supported by draft policy papers. Several significant decisions were made, including the approval of the Mental Health Youth Fund Submission, a six-month GIC investment, and CASA's Pre-Budget Submission.

The August 14th, 2024, CASA Board of Directors meeting included a presentation on feedback from the Policy & Strategy Conference 2024, which was likely aimed at gathering insights and improving future events. Standing items were discussed next, with updates from key committees and positions, including the Graduate Advisory Committee, Federal Policy Committee, and the National Indigenous Advocacy Committee, among others. The board also discussed potential hotel locations for the Foundations 2025 conference. Decisions were made regarding the approval of the 2024-2025 CASA Conference Dates.

**August 12th, GSA Meeting with Dean of Students Office:**

The GSA team met with the Dean of Students Office to discuss the GSA Strategic Work Plan and explore potential collaborative initiatives. Key topics included aligning efforts on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiatives, enhancing mental health and wellness support for graduate students, and improving outreach and communication. Both teams expressed a strong commitment to working together to create a more supportive and inclusive campus environment, and they agreed to form a working group to develop and implement joint programs. Action items were assigned, and a follow-up meeting was scheduled to review progress.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns at any time.

Thanks,

Benjamin Kucher  
GSA VP Student Life

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**2024-2025 VP Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for the August 2024 Meeting**

<b>To:</b> GSA Council
<b>From:</b> Saad A. Iqbal
<b>Date:</b> August 13, 2024

**2024-2025 GSA VP Student Services Meetings Attended by Saad A. Iqbal**

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between July 11 and August 13, 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
July 11	Potential for PD Credits for CFB Volunteering
July 15-18	U-Pass Negotiations (4-day sessions)
July 18	U-Pass Pre-negotiations Session
July 16	CFB Prairie Urban Farm Volunteering
July 18	Meeting with Augustana Students Association
July 19	WMHD Creative Programming Meeting
July 19	Student Group Mental Health Network Kick-off Event Meeting
July 19	CFB Fundraising Lab
July 22	Meeting with Darany Touch (EDI Advisor, Intercultural Centre, Bow Valley College)
July 23/30	CFB Prairie Urban Farm Volunteering
August 1	Meeting with Heather (Wellness Supports) – WMHD Planning
August 6	Meeting with Justice Adèle Kent (Independent third-party Reviewer)
August 7	Graduate/Postdoctoral Experience Workshop
August 12	U-Pass Strategic Meeting Session 1
August 13	CFB Prairie Urban Farm Volunteering

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you're all doing well, in your academic, professional, and personal pursuits. Below are the details of the meetings I have attended between July 11 and August 13, 2024:

**July 11, 2024 – Potential for PD Credits for CFB Volunteering**

This meeting was jointly convened by VP Academic and VP Student Services along with Tracy Raivio (Vice-Provost & Dean, FGPS) and Renee Polziehn (Professional Development Director, FGPS). We discussed the potential for adding PD credits for graduate students who volunteer on campus in different capacities, for example the Campus Food Bank. While the idea is good, there are some issues with the implementation, and therefore, this initiative needs some work. For example, different faculties/departments having different ways of counting and allowing PD credits, therefore, making the tracking a little difficult.

**July 15-18, 2024 – U-Pass Negotiations (4-day sessions)**

These were a series of 4-day negotiation sessions among the City of Edmonton, other regional transit systems and the U-Pass participating universities. The current U-Pass agreement would soon be coming to an end, which is why these negotiations are happening to discuss the future of the U-Pass program. However, these sessions did not result in a mutual agreement, and, therefore, subsequent sessions have been planned in the second half of August. As this is an ongoing issue, any additional details cannot be provided at this time.

**July 18, 2024 – Meeting with Augustana Students Association**

The meeting (also attended by Cindy Roose, GSA Associate Director) focused on improving access to services and opportunities for graduate students at North Campus, especially creating socialization events. It was noted the past challenges include reduced sense of belonging, and food security. Since ASA is essentially dealing with the undergraduate student population, more information about graduate students and how to enhance their experience could be gathered once the graduate program administrator joins. It was noted, however, that Arlo, the Executive Director of the ASA could lend support in booking spaces for the GSA to organize regular coffee breaks/social events at the Augustana Campus.

**July 19, 2024 – WMHD Creative Programming Meeting**

In this meeting, Heather Ritz (Wellness Supports), Renson Alva (UASU VP Student Life) and I discussed ideas for the World Mental Health Day (WMHD) programming. Heather emphasized that mental health experiences and needs vary due to differing intersectionalities, and balancing life aspects is crucial for mental health. Support is available, and seeking help should not be a source of shame. Kim suggested incorporating creative, art-based exercises focusing on topics like gratitude and relaxation and proposed having an external facilitator for workshops. Potential venues include SUB and TELUS. The events are scheduled for October 10: a walk from 12-1 PM and a workshop from 3:30-5:30 PM. The potential venues are still being discussed.

**July 19, 2024 – Student Group Mental Health Network Kick-off Event Meeting**

The Student Group Mental Health Network is a group of UofA student representatives from different organizations and groups, and staff working collaboratively to advance and support students' mental health. In this meeting, Heather and I discussed the details around the kick-off event to be held on August 27 in Triffo Hall. Each student group will present by introducing the group's focus on mental health and wellness and potential ideas for collaboration.

**July 19, 2024 – CFB Fundraising Lab**

The meeting focused on boosting the CFB's financial revenue and operations through various strategies. There were three discussion groups of which I attended two. Session one was based on automation for donor management using *Keela*, focusing on donor retention and engagement through newsletters, personalized messaging, and reminders, and distinguishing between major and minor donors for tailored communication. Session Two was tailored around the core identity of the CFB and messaging related to the CFBs operations disseminated to the university and the wider community.

**July 22, 2024 – Meeting with Darany Touch (EDI Advisor, Intercultural Centre, Bow Valley College)**

This meeting (also attended by Lewie Moodley, GSA Executive Director) focused on getting useful feedback from Darany related to the Second Chances Store at the BVC. The store was launched in April of last year and supports students by providing free items such as clothing and baby products through a trust-based system. It is operated by 20 volunteers with flexible shifts; the store sometimes functions without volunteers. It incurs minimal costs, mainly for labels, and is situated in a large space within the Intercultural Centre, which includes storage and a supply room. The store faces challenges with over-donations and storage, as well as ensuring the sanitization of baby products. Volunteers receive a brief 15-minute training on their responsibilities and store operations. The store does not receive grants or financial support from government bodies and collaborates occasionally with the students' association. Partnered with Women in Need Society, the store serves between 100 and 250 students per month. This was a very productive meeting as it cleared some of our concerns about potentially opening a similar store by the GSA. More updates on this initiative will be shared soon.

**August 1, 2024 – Meeting with Heather (Wellness Supports) – WMHD Planning**

This was a tour around campus in which Heather and I visited a few potential spaces for organizing the WMHD creative workshop on October 10, 2024. Two potential spaces were identified, one is the ALES atrium while the other one is in the Cameron Library. We will be finalizing one of these two spaces soon.

**August 7, 2024 – Graduate/Postdoctoral Experience Workshop**

In this workshop co-organized by the FGPS and Flip Learning, the attendees shared ideas about the overall graduate student journey including supports needed to be successful, obstacles and challenges faced, as well as motivating factors that come along the way. Attendees were divided into groups to discuss the graduate student experience among course-based master students, thesis-based master students, doctoral students, and postdoctoral students.

**August 12, 2024 – U-Pass Strategic Meeting Session 1**

This was an internal meeting among the U-Pass participating universities to discuss counteroffers for the U-Pass negotiations and presenting the ideas in the second round of the U-Pass negotiations. Student leaders and staff members discussed a few proposals and worked on establishing a common consensus across the participating universities. There is a second strategy meeting planned which will take place on August 14, 2024.

Best Regards,  
**Saad Arslan Iqbal**

**2024-2025 Associate Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for the August 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Muneeb Masood Raja
Date: 14 Aug 2024

**2024-2025 GSA Associate VP Labour Meetings Attended**

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 18 July to 19 Aug 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

Date	Meeting
18 Jul	Meeting with Faculty Relations to Discuss a Student Issue (Confidential)
19 Jul	Meeting with a Student (Confidential)
19 Jul	Weekly Meeting with PSAC Representative
24 Jul	Meeting with the University Negotiating Team
25 Jul	Meeting with the LRC Chief Steward
26 Jul	Weekly Meeting with PSAC Representative
2 Aug	Meeting with Faculty Relations to Discuss a Student Issue (Confidential)
2 Aug	Meeting with a Student (Confidential)
2 Aug	Weekly Meeting with PSAC Representative
6 Aug	Meeting with a Student (Confidential)
6 Aug	GSA Executive / Adele Kent re: Independent Review
7 Aug	Meeting with a Student (Confidential)
8 & 9 Aug	GSA Bargaining Prep Meeting
12 Aug	Union Tabling/Outreach
12 Aug	Meeting with Dean of Students
14 Aug	Meeting with a Student (Confidential)
16 Aug	SWP Discussion with UAI Office (Aug 16)



16 Aug	Weekly Meeting with PSAC Representative
19 Aug	SWP Discussion with IGSA Office (Aug 19)

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you're all doing well, and that summer is treating you wonderfully. I have attended several meetings between 18 July 2024 and 19 August 2024 which are listed in the table above. Here are the details of the meetings:

**(July 19 & 26, Aug 2) Weekly Meeting with PSAC Representative**

Our recent meetings focused on planning events for academically employed graduate students and LRC members. We have recently organized three comprehensive training sessions and a social event. Additionally, we discussed our upcoming bargaining process and the continued support from the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC).

**(Jul 24) Meeting with the University Negotiating Team**

In this meeting, we reviewed the overall bargaining process with the university and looked at the overall timelines. Following this discussion and subsequent communications, we have finalized several negotiation dates. We plan to exchange proposals in early October and schedule an additional two days of negotiations later in the same month.

**(Jul 25) Meeting with the LRC Chief Steward**

In our recent meeting, I outlined the roles and responsibilities to our newly appointed LRC Chief Steward and how this role can support the union effectively. A few key areas of discussion include enhancing the steward network, establishing stronger connections with student groups, improving our education, dealing with student issues, and collaborating closely with the LRC Outreach Coordinator to improve our outreach and communication. I will be providing direct support to the LRC Chief Steward in every possible capacity to ensure we achieve the objectives envisioned when creating this role.

**(8 & 9 Aug) GSA Bargaining Prep**

Our current Collective Agreement expires in August 2024, and according to the terms of the agreement, we are set to start bargaining. The bargaining mandate was approved in May by 96.4% of the membership. Recently, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) assigned us a negotiator which completes our negotiating team. On June 27th, our team sent the notice to the university to commence collective bargaining. We have also received a response from the university providing their team members and signatories of the collective agreement. The negotiating teams from both parties have discussed the bargaining process. In preparation for our initial proposal, our negotiating team spent two full days reviewing our current agreement and identifying areas for improvement, guided by the bargaining mandate and feedback from AEGSs. We will reconvene before our first negotiation session with the university to finalize the proposal. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

The GSA Negotiating Team consists of the following individuals:

- Muneeb Masood Raja, GSA AVP Labour
- Corbin Cammidge, GSA LRC Member
- Sara Jalili Shani, GSA LRC Member
- Hassan Hussein, PSAC Negotiator
- Keira Gunn, PSAC Regional Representative (available as resource support)
- Cindy Roose, GSA Associate Director (available as resource support)

Besides the above, I have been addressing several issues faced by academically employed graduate students and assisting them in resolving these issues with the university. I would really appreciate any feedback from the respected council members related to any labour related matters.

In Solidarity,

Muneeb Masood Raja, Associate Vice-President Labour 2024-2025

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## **CRO Report to GSA Council**

Dear GSA Council,

I hope that you all had a great summer and are looking forward to the upcoming academic year! Over the summer months, ERC has been meeting regularly to discuss changes for the upcoming election cycle. I want to thank all members of ERC for their dedication during these lengthy discussions. We will miss the outgoing members of ERC, and look forward to welcoming new members soon!

### **Ongoing work on Bylaw and Policy**

We have discussed revisions to the Elections and Referenda Bylaw and Policy (Sections I and J) as well as updates to our penalty system and candidate nomination forms. I am happy to report that the revision suggestions are complete, and will be presented to the Governance Committee and eventually GSA Council, in time to be implemented for the 2025 General Election.

### **By-election for vacant VP External position**

We have recently been asked to run a by-election to fill the vacant position of Vice President External. The nomination period is open from August 19 to September 3. Please help spread the word to potential candidates, and encourage your constituents to vote from Tuesday, September 10th at 10 am to Thursday, September 12th at 10 am.

The changes to Bylaw and Policy will not be updated in time for this by-election due to the short timeline, but we will be implementing a revised nomination form and penalty system. Thank you to Grace and Cindy for their extensive work on reworking these documents, and thank you to Isca Irangwe for their research on penalty systems at other institutions. Below are the key changes:

- Comprehensive and streamlined nomination form including:
  - Supervisor approval through email
  - Confidentiality agreement and video waiver
  - Increase in number of nominators (10) and list of campaign volunteers
- New penalty system (eliminating vote deduction system):
  - Demerit point system, where 10 points will result in disqualification
  - Various amount of points for different infractions
  - List of infractions and points made available to candidates

Although I was not able to attend this Council meeting, I'm open to taking any questions over email at [gsa.elections@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.elections@ualberta.ca).

Sophie Shi  
GSA Chief Returning Officer

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**2024-2025 Nominating Committee Chair  
Report to GSA Council for the August 19 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council

From: Arseniy Belosokhov

Date: August 14, 2024

This month, the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) advertised the vacancies on several GSA committees, including the call to serve on the Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (FGPS) Council and the General Faculties Council (GFC). We received a number of applications, with nominations for FGPS and GFC now closed. The NoC will begin the selection and voting process for these positions in the coming days.

Additionally, the NoC Chair and Vice-Chair, with the support of the GSA administration, conducted a series of interviews for the new GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) candidates. The selected candidates have been recommended for a vote during the August 19, 2024, GSA Council Meeting.

*E.POL.3.1.c*

*In accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy, the GSA NoC is responsible for interviewing all nominees for the GSA ACB to assess their eligibility. The names of selected nominees will be forwarded to GSA Council for consideration.*

Given that the GSA ACB's mandate (GSA Bylaw H.POL.6) includes final authority in resolving cases involving the conduct of GSA Elected Officers and appeals to CRO decisions during the GSA General Elections, the selection process focused on ensuring candidates exhibit qualities such as impartiality, neutrality, an understanding of procedural fairness, confidentiality, attention to detail, and commitment to GSA bylaws and policies. The process aimed to select candidates best equipped to enhance and facilitate the ACB's function within the GSA.

Sincerely,  
Arseniy Belosokhov, Chair of the GSA NoC

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**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee  
Report to the GSA Council for the 19 August 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Andrew Pohlka  
Date: 14 August 2024

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC) met in July and August to continue to review and suggest revisions for GSA Bylaw and Policy, sections I and J. The goal of these revisions is to update the bylaw to better reflect how campaigns are conducted in the age of social media and clarify ambiguous areas to ensure a fair process. The members of the ERC voted to recommend these suggested revisions to the GSA Governance Committee. The ERC also reviewed and voted to recommend to the CRO the nomination forms and the schedule for the upcoming Vice-President External by-election. The ERC also reviewed and voted to recommend the schedule for the 2025 GSA General Election and the 2025 GSA Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour to the CRO.

As the fall semester approaches, several members of the committee, including myself, are graduating from their programs, leaving openings on the ERC. I would urge any GSA councillors interested in assisting in the vital process of GSA elections to submit a nomination form.

Sincerely,

Andrew Pohlka, Chair of the GSA ERC

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GSA Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for August 19 2024 Meeting

To: GSA Council  
From: Lewie Moodley  
Date: August 19 2024

Dear Members of the GSA Council,

I trust this message finds you well and you are keeping cool during our hot summer. I am pleased to provide you with an update on the various initiatives and activities currently underway within the Graduate Students' Association. Our team has been diligently working to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our members and board while enhancing the overall effectiveness of our operations. Below, I outline the key points of our ongoing efforts:

### 1. New Grants Platform: Good Grants

The GSA has been actively working on transitioning to a new grants management platform, **Good Grants**. This platform will enhance our ability to process, review, and manage grant applications more efficiently. The key features of Good Grants include an intuitive application process for students, robust review capabilities for committees, and streamlined communication tools. The platform is now in the final stages of customization, and we anticipate a full rollout in the Fall. This transition is expected to significantly improve accessibility of our grant programs.

### 2. Selecting and Reviewing Proposals for a New Health and Dental Provider

Our team has been diligently reviewing proposals for a new health and dental provider for the UofA GSA. The goal is to secure a provider that offers comprehensive coverage at competitive rates, tailored to the unique needs of our graduate student body. We met several providers and evaluated them based on coverage options, cost-effectiveness, and service quality. A decision was finalized August 14 and the council will have their say on August 19 with the new provider expected to be in place for the Fall 2025 academic year.

### 3. Annual RSM Audit Completion

The annual office audit, which includes the review and update of financial policies and financial audits, and , is nearing completion. Our finance and management team have been working closely with the auditors supplying them with all the required information.

### 4. Departmental Orientations and Fall Orientation Event

As part of our ongoing commitment to welcoming new graduate students, we have been actively involved in delivering and attending departmental orientations. These sessions are crucial for helping new students navigate the resources available to them and integrating them into the UofA graduate community. In addition to departmental sessions, we are also organizing the larger **Fall Orientation Event**. This event will serve as an opportunity for new and returning students to connect, learn about the GSA's services, and get involved in the broader university community.

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## 5. Governance and Bylaw updates

The staff have been working closely with the ERC and Governance Committee on comprehensive reviews of Bylaw and policy updates. These updates are crucial to ensuring that our governance framework remains effective and aligned with current needs. The proposed changes are scheduled to be presented at the upcoming meetings on August 19 and September 23, 2024, where they will be reviewed and discussed in detail. This collaborative effort aims to refine our policies to better serve our students and maintain robust governance standards.

## 6. Website updates

The new website is nearly complete and is set to launch in September. This improved platform will offer a better user experience, with enhanced navigation, updated content, and a more modern design. The new site is designed to be more intuitive and responsive, making it easier for users to find the information they need and stay informed about our services and events. We are excited to unveil this upgraded digital presence, which will better serve our community and reflect the GSA's ongoing commitment to excellence.

We are confident that these efforts will significantly enhance our ability to serve the graduate student community and advance the mission of the GSA. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to working together to achieve our shared goals.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Warm Regards

Lewie Moodley, Executive Director.

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**Management Report to the GSA Board, July 24 2024**

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on **July 3 2024**.

**Executive Director update:**

- Grants are now open again for summer. All forms in Good Grants have been completed and we will continue training with our specialist on next steps to have it set up. We have approved over 25 travel grants this week and one emergency bursary.
- Our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report. RSM began our audit and is ongoing.
- Social Media updates:  
  
Facebook Reach: -69.2% (July 16- 23); Followers: +1 Follower (Current: 2054)  
Instagram Reach: -18.3% (July 16-23); Followers: +68 Followers (Current: 1361)  
Twitter/X: Followers: +3 Followers (1348)
- Our new website design is underway and will be ready to launch in August 2024. Our new logo is now live and being used on documents and we are making changes to all our materials and assets.
- The office is currently working on reviewing our Bylaw and Policies updates with the help of our intern. We are scheduled to meet with the Governance Committee within the next two weeks.
- The nomination call is out for most Standing Committees and nominations are slowly coming in
- We have been booking Orientations, the schedule is filling up well, just waiting on some final details to book the last few in.
- The Health and Dental Survey has now closed with over 800 responses and prizes have been given out. The report will be finalized within the next 10 days.

**Associate Director update:**

- LRC will be holding elections for 2 vacant positions. The Bargaining team will engage in training on August 8 and 9th, 2024.
- The first round of U-Pass negotiations were held last week. Although a deal was not struck, the meetings were productive and all parties agreed to meet again during the week of August 22nd to resume negotiations.

- Policy work has started moving through the Governance Committee with more to follow. ERC is close to wrapping up proposed election and referendum edits for GC's review.

### Management Report to the GSA Board, July 31 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on **July 24 2024**.

#### Executive Director update:

- Grants are now open again for summer. All forms in Good Grants have been completed and we will continue training with our specialist on next steps to have it set up. We have approved over 50 travel and childcare grants this week and two emergency bursaries.
- Our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report. RSM began our audit and is ongoing.
- Social Media updates:

**Facebook** Reach: -90.3% (July 23-30); Followers: no change (Current: 2054)

**Instagram** Reach: -98% (July 23-30); Followers: +4 followers (Current: 1365)

**Twitter/X** Followers: +2 followers (1350)

- Our new website design is underway and will be ready to launch in August 2024. Our new logo is now live and being used on documents and we are making changes to all our materials and assets.
- The office is currently working on reviewing our Bylaw and Policies updates with the help of our intern. We are scheduled to meet with the Governance Committee within the next two weeks. We have been booking Orientations; the schedule is filling up well with our first one starting this week.





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## Management Report to the GSA Board, August 7 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on **July 31 2024**.

### Executive Director update:

- Grants are now open again for summer. All forms in Good Grants have been completed and we will continue training with our specialist on next steps to have it set up.
- Our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report. RSM began our audit and is ongoing. We are working with the auditors in the final weeks of the audit.
- Social Media updates:  
  
Facebook Reach: +510% (July 30- Aug 6) Followers: no change (current: 2054)  
Instagram Reach: +3.4k% ( July 30- Aug 6 ) Followers: +3 follower (current: 1368)  
Twitter/ X Followers: no change (1350)
- Our new website design is underway and will be ready to launch in August 2024. Our new logo is now live and being used on documents and we are making changes to all our materials and assets.
- The office is currently working on reviewing our Bylaw and Policies updates with the help of our intern. We are scheduled to meet with the Governance Committee within the next two weeks. We have been booking Orientations; the schedule is filling up well with our first one starting this week.
- We currently have no nominations for the internal election for ERC of their new Chair and Vice-Chair, we will be investigating the replenishment strategies.
- The Associate Director and Elections Coordinator will be meeting with Sophie Shi (CRO) this week to discuss the byelection procedure and starting that process.
- The next ERC meeting is booked for August 12th for us to finalize the elections bylaw and policy .

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### Management Report to the GSA Board, August 14 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on **August 7 2024**.

#### Executive Director update:

- Grants are now open again for summer. All forms in Good Grants have been completed and we will continue training with our specialist on next steps to have it set up. We have 50 applications in queue right now in the grant's old system. For our new system updates we have been approved for the integration with CCID.
- Council remuneration cheques are being prepared and we are hopefully able to be distributed at the August Council.
- Our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report. RSM began our audit and is ongoing. We are working with the auditors in the final weeks of the audit and will have the final report in the coming weeks.
- Social Media updates:
  - Facebook Reach: -32.3% (Aug 6-13); Followers: no change (current: 2054)
  - Instagram Reach: +7.2% (Aug 6-13); Followers: +1 follower (current: 1369)
  - Twitter/X Followers: no change (1350)
- Our new website design is underway and will be ready to launch in August 2024. Our new logo is now live and being used on documents and we are making changes to all our materials and assets.
- A number of new bylaws and policies have been passed by the Governance committee and have been presented today to the board. This will now follow on to the August council meeting for its first vote.

GSA Council August 19 2024 - Written Questions:

1. Are we anticipating an increase in fees to the U-Pass program?
2. What are the current advocacy initiatives undertaken by the Vice-President External?
3. When is the CRO scheduling a by-election for the vacancy in the Councillor at Large position?