

GSA Council Meeting AGENDA
Monday, June 24, 2024, at 6:00 pm
Held in-person in Council Chambers

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

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.

Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair

<u>OPEN SESSION</u>	Attached Numbered Pages
1. Approval of the June 24 2024 Agenda (suggested time: 1 min)	
2. Approval of the Minutes from the May 27, 2024 GSA Council Meeting and the Minutes from the 4 June, 2024 GSA Special Council Meeting (suggested time: 1 min) <i>Attachment:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Minutes from the May 27, 2024 GSA Council Meeting ii. Minutes from the June 4, 2024 GSA Special Council Meeting 	2.0-2.5 2.6-2.8
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership (suggested time: 1 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members (If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting) ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know) 	
<u>GSA Council Member Announcements</u>	
4. GSA Council Member Announcements (suggested time: 5 min)	
<u>Action Item:</u>	
5. New GSA Officer Portfolio Creation (Vice President – Indigenous Relations) Haseeb Arshad (President) and Benjamin Kucher (Vice-President Student Life) will present the item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Outline of the Issue ii. Recommended Bylaw updates and Portfolio responsibilities 	5.0 5.1
6. GSA 2024-2025 SWP (GEAR) Presented by Haseeb Arshad (President) will present the item (discussion time 20 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Outline of the Issue ii. GSA 2024-2025 SWP (GEAR) 	6.0 6.1-6.18
<u>Presentation Item:</u>	
7. Encampment Updates (suggested time: 20 min) Haseeb Arshad (President) will present the item and introduce the guests: Dr Ravina Sangera, Dr Carrie Smith and Dr Ali Shiri.	
8. ACB Bylaw review report (suggested time: 15 min) Lewie Moodley (GSA ED) will present the item and introduce the guest: Kenzie Gordon.	8.0-8.1
9. Robert's Rules of Order (suggested time: 20 min) Presented by the Speaker (Farhan Khalid) and CRO (Sophie Shi)	
10. GSA Proposed Clarifying Statement (Closed session item) Presented by Haseeb Arshad (President) will present the item (suggested time 20 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Outline of the Issue ii. GSA Proposed Clarifying Statement 	10.0 To Be Distributed

Prepared by L Moodley for GSA Council June 24 2024

iii. GSAB Statement recommendations	To Be Distributed
Reports (suggested time: 15 min)	
11. President (Haseeb Arshad, President) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. President's Report ii. GSA Board Report (no written report at this time) iii. GSA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report (no written report at this time) iv. GSA Governance Committee Report (no written report at this time) 	11.0-11.3
12. Vice-President Academic (Rija Kamran, Vice-President Academic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-President Academic's Report 	12.0-12.2
13. Vice-President Student Life (Benjamin Kucher, Vice-President Student Life) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-President Student Life's Report 	13.0-13.2
14. Vice-President Student Services (Saad Iqbal, Vice-President Student Services) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-President Student Services' Report 	14.0-14.6
15. Vice-President External (Mariam Mughees, Vice-President External) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-President External's Report 	15.0-15.1
16. Associate Vice-President Labour (Muneeb Masood Raja, Vice-President Labour) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Associate Vice-President Labour's Report 	16.0-16.2
17. Senator (Ola Mabrouk) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Senator's Report (no written report at this time) 	
18. Speaker (Farhan Khalid, Speaker) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Speaker's Report (no written report at this time) 	
19. Returning OfficerS (Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer & Zain Patel, Deputy Returning Officer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Chief Returning Officer's Report ii. Deputy Returning Officer's Report (no written report at this time) 	19.0
20. GSA Nominating Committee (Violet Sun, GSA Nominating Committee Chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. GSA Nominating Committee Report (no written report at this time) 	
21. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Andrew Poholka, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report 	21.0
22. GSA Management (Lewie Moodley, Executive Director) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Executive Director's Report 	22.0-22.5
Question Period:	
23. Written Questions (none received at this time; questions may be submitted to the GSA Speaker before 4 PM on Thursday, June 20 2024)	
24. Oral Questions	
Adjournment	

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 27 May 2024 at 6:00 pm
Held in-person and online [via Zoom] in Council Chamber

IN ATTENDANCE:

Haseeb Arshad (President)	Arseniy Belosokhov (Councillor-at-Large)	Vishnu Pillai (Business MBA)	Amber Smith (IGSA)	Kathryn Short (Public Health)
Rija Kamran (VP Academic)	Abdul Syed (Councillor-At-Large)	Andy Cheng (Cell Biology)	Tamara Maitret (Lab Med & Path)	Matt Ball (Renewable Resources)
Mariam Mughees (VP External)	Andres Dorado Solarte (Councillor-At-Large)	Amanda Tran (Chemistry)	Taylor Zimmerman (Library & Info Studies)	John Duru (Guest)
Benjamin Kucher (VP Student Life)	Christine Hymanyk (Councillor-At-Large)	Amirmahdi Mohamadi (Alt: Chem & Mat Eng)	Andy Zhang (Media & Tech Studies)	Nathaniel Morley (Guest)
Saad Iqbal (VP Student Services)	Ibrahim Khodabocus (Councillor-At-Large)	Kiera Greenaway (Civil & Enviro Eng)	Constantin Mouzaaber (Ophthalmology)	Sumaira Niazi (Guest)
Muneeb Masood Raja (AVP Labour)	Margaret DeCoste (Councillor-At-Large)	Cassandra Baragar (Comm Sci & Disorders)	Fateema Muzaffar (Oncology)	
Farhan Khalid (Speaker)	Destiny Otoadese (Councillor-At-Large)	Iain Smith (Comp Sci)	Alt: Christian Faig (Pharmacology)	
Sophie Shi (CRO)	Andrew Poholka (Biochemistry)	Michelle Bey (Dentistry)	Ahmed Ahmed (Pharm & Pharm Sci)	
Zain Patel (Deputy Returning Officer)	Ning Dai (Alt: Biochemistry)	Guadalupe Cornejo (Ed Policy Studies)	Emilie Desnoyers (Psychiatry)	
Ola Mabrouk (Senator)	Alt: Christopher Keen (Biomedical Eng)	Zoe Wagner (Human Ecology)	Cheryl Pan (Psychology)	

Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair.

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

Approval of Agenda**1. Approval of the 27 May 2024 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 27 May 2024 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 24 May 2024. HA **MOVED**. BK **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Minutes**2. Minutes from the 15 April 2024 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 15 April GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed. BK **MOVED. SI SECONDED.**

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership

- i. **Introduction of New Councillors:** C. Hymanyk (CAL); K. Short (Public Health); N. Dai (Biochemistry); A. Smith (IGSA); M. Ball (Renewable Resources); I. Smith (Comp Sci); I. Khodabocus (CAL); D. Otoadese (CAL); C. Faig (Alt: Pharmacology); A. Solartes (CAL); C. Keen (Alt: Biomedical Engineering)
- ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members:** None at this time

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.

Presentation 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

Discussed the initial informal consultations with Indigenous groups and IGSA to assess demand for the position. The restructuring of Fall 2023 allowed for the creation of the position and consultation began with the relevant stakeholders in Winter 2023. Another round of consultations with Indigenous groups on campus will commence with this working draft of the role and will incorporate any feedback from Council. The next draft will be brought forward in June's Council meeting. There will be careful and proactive work to ensure the position is well-supported and can maintain autonomy. Further changes include specific language and role scope, how the other VP roles will change with this new position and the creation and maintenance of transition preparation documents.

Action Items:

6. **New GSA Officer Portfolio Creation (Vice President – Indigenous Relations)**
Haseeb Arshad (President) and Benjamin Kucher (Vice-President Student Life) present the item.
 - i) Outline of the issue
 - ii) Recommended Bylaw updates and Portfolio responsibilities

Questions from the Council centered around the steps to instating the position: there will be a final consultation round in June and any feedback given throughout the year will be incorporated into the next draft, especially from Indigenous groups. Draft to be completed in December 2024 and the position to be ready to fill by May 2025. The GSA office is hiring a summer student to review and edit the bylaw to reflect the final draft.

MOTION: That GSA Council **RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION** the VPIR Portfolio Draft for Council approval. BK moved. SI seconded.

Motion **PASSED**.

Discussion Items:

7. **GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP) Consultation** (*suggested time: 10 min*)
Haseeb Arshad (President) will present the item

Council members will be asked to provide feedback on the strategic priorities that the GSA Board will be focusing on in the upcoming year and outlined in the 2024-2027 Strategic Work Plan (SWP). The Town Hall has taken place and themes have been collated. The final SWP will then be presented to the GSA Council over the summer months. The SWP was well-received and questions were asked about implementation plans across future Boards, especially in terms of graduate student housing grant opportunities. Short-term goals from the SWP included creating Discord or Slack channels to more easily connect students with Councillors and renovating GSA Coffee Breaks to improve engagement, introducing academic and community service scholarships, and improving participation in standing committees. Long-term goals include CASA-supported mental health support advocacy, working on minimum funding for Masters students, upgrading technology offered to students, establishing a Peer Connect conference to join different associations, improving the Students-Who-Parent services and advocating for affordable student housing and discounts. The long-term goal framework is to be finalized. Council feedback on short- and long-term priorities was encouraged.

Questions centered around implementation plans across Boards and HA explained that the three-year plans are recommendations to future Boards. SI explained that he is collaborating with the Dean of Students and postdoctoral and graduate students for improvement suggestions, and that he is looking into the feasibility of establishing a user-friendly app or website that includes all resources available to parents. HA discussed how Bill 18 prevents federal funding flowing into the provincial government for affordable housing and his upcoming meeting where he plans to advocate for student affordability concerns. MM explained that her affordable housing advocacy will focus on encouraging the government to siphon more housing funding and discounts toward students, as well as advocating for lower prices for vacant spaces in university housing.

8. GSA Council Elections

Arseny Belosokhov (GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair) will present the item.

GSA Council-Elected Officer Positions:

a. Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO), and Senator

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for Speaker (1 GSA Member vacancy): Farhan Khalid; and Deputy Speaker (1 GSA Member vacancy): Sumaira Niazi
- ii. Nominees for CRO (1 GSA Member vacancy): Sophie Shi; and DRO (1 GSA Member vacancy): Zain Patel
- iii. Nominees for Senator (1 GSA Member vacancy): Ola Mabrouk

GSA Standing Committees

b. Appeals and Complaints Board (ACB)

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for the GSA ACB (4 Council Member vacancies): Andres Dorado Solarte
- ii. Nominees for the GSA ACB (3 GSA Member vacancies): Wanas Radwan, Vicky Lin & Ali Yavari

c. GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for the GSA NoC (1 GSA Member vacancy): Hafiz Asher Muhammad

d. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC)

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for the ERC (1 GSA Member vacancy): Hafiz Asher Muhammad

9. Farhan Khalid (GSA Speaker) will present this portion of the item.

a. **GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (GSAB/GSA NoC)**

Attachment:

- i. Nominees for the GSAB/GSA NoC (2 GSA Councillor vacancies): Arseniy Belosokhov

Reports

10. President

i. President's Report:

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 24 May 2024. The report stood as submitted. HA advertised vacancies on standing committees and encouraged participation. HA discussed the joint letter re the quad encampment, the Presidents' Meeting and procedure that led to the EPS eviction of the protest encampment. The UAPS recommended that they could not guarantee the safety of students with external parties present at protest. President Flanagan stated that the university supports students' right to protest, so long as policies are abided by, such as asking for permission to conduct a protest and no overnight camping as a blanket rule. No reprisals for this encampment, but there will be for any future protests. A third-party investigation is being called for and will be looking into the threat of reprisals given to students before eviction. The university is adamant that there were serious safety concerns and used short video footage to back up the assertion. The GSA has put out statements on social media and our website calling to see the full, unedited footage for full context, for the protection of students' right to protest, and for the establishment of a working group to open dialogue for student demands to be heard. The university administration acknowledges the Palestinian community, but will not acquiesce to calls for a public apology. Additionally, it was discussed that the university attempted no dialogue with the encampment, but individual members of the GSA Board met the protestors and checked on the encampment.

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.

11. Vice-President Academic

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 24 May 2024. The report stood as submitted.

12. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 24 May 2024. The report stood as submitted.

ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee

No written report at this time.

13. Associate Vice-President Labour

i. Associate Vice-President Labour's Report

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 24 May 2024. The report stood as submitted. MR discussed the majority approval of the bargaining mandate, which will move to the negotiating team. MR will be meeting with the negotiator with the approved initial document, with the notice for bargaining scheduled for June.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No written report at this time.

14. Vice-President Student Services

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 24 May 2024. The report stood as submitted. SI encouraged councillors to get involved with Healthy Campus Alberta and its Wellness Summit on June 13th and 14th.

15. Vice-President Student Life

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 24 May 2024. The report stood as submitted. BK discussed the Presidents' Meeting and the administration's use of unjustified and inappropriate wording and descriptions of demonstrators as "agitators" and individuals known to EPS.

16. Senator (Ola Mabrouk)

● **Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

17. Speaker (Farhan Khalid)

● **Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

18. Chief & Deputy Returning Officers (Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer & Zain Patel, Deputy Returning Officer)

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

The report stood as submitted. The CRO discussed their plan to review bylaw and give recommendations going forward to set clearer expectations on the procedures that need to be followed for referenda.

ii. Deputy Returning Officer's Report

The report stood as submitted.

19. GSA Nominating Committee

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

20. 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 24 May 2024. The report stood as submitted. AP comments on the May 17th ERC meeting to continue bylaw review and recommendations, which will continue over the summer.

21. 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 24 May 2024. The report stood as submitted. LM introduced the newest member of GSA staff, Grace Kinley, as the Administrative Support Specialist and announced that at the August Council, three new health and dental providers will be brought to Council and there will be a vote on the best proposal. LM is currently meeting with them and selecting ones with the best value for Council. A survey will be put forward for feedback on the current health and dental plan.

Question Period

22. Written Questions

- No written questions were received.

23. Oral Questions

- ACB Member: discussed the difficult election cycle in 2023/2024 and the need for significant restructuring of the ACB and ERC to deal with issues that arose in the year, especially with the DEOs. The asker posited that the ACB is structured to deal with one-off issues, not recurring problems, and thus was unable to take action because the issues did not fit into the ACB current structure. The asker emphasized the need for a larger discussion re accountability in the GSA.

MOTION: That the Council **RECOMMEND** to the GSA administration to meet with the ACB and discuss whether this issue should be moved into the next Council agenda. AB moved. HA seconded.

MOTION PASSED.

MOTION: That the Council **move to closed council** for the Audit Report to be presented by the Executive Director. HA moved. SI seconded.

MOTION PASSED.

Council moved to closed session.

MOTION: That the Council **move to open session**. SI moved. BK seconded.

MOTION PASSED.

MOTION: That the Council has a **special Council session** to discuss issuing another statement. SI moved. AS seconded. AB abstains.

MOTION PASSED.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
 Tuesday, June 4 2024 at 6:00 pm
 Held in-person in Triffo Hall and online [via Google Meets]

IN ATTENDANCE:

Haseeb Arshad (President)	Sumaira Niazi (Deputy Speaker)	Uthman Khan (Anthropology)	Iain Smith (Comp Sci)	Andy Zhang (Media & Tech Studies)	Cheryl Pan (Psychology)
Rija Kamran (VP Academic)	Arseniy Belosokhov (Councillor-at-Large)	Andrew Poholka (Biochemistry)	Michelle Bey (Dentistry)	Connor Oborn (Medical Genetics)	Kathryn Short (Public Health)
Mariam Mughees (VP External)	Abdul Syed (Councillor-At-Large)	Guru Singh (Biomedical Engineering)	Shaun Woudstra (Earth & Atmos)	Saeed Ataei (Neuroscience)	Aynaz Gerami (Resource Economics & Enviro Sociology)
Benjamin Kucher (VP Student Life)	Andres Dorado Solarte (Councillor-At-Large)	Vishnu Pillai (Business MBA)	Guadalupe Cornejo (Educational Policy)	Alt: Toqa Abdelwahab (Ophthalmology)	Alexandru Munteanu (Guest)
Saad Iqbal (VP Student Services)	Christine Hymanyk (Councillor-At-Large)	Andy Cheng (Cell Biology)	Zoe Wagner (Human Ecology)	Fateema Muzaffar (Oncology)	Eleyan Sawafta (Guest)
Muneeb Masood Raja (AVP Labour)	Ibrahim Khodabocus (Councillor-At-Large)	Alt: Solomon Hussein (Cell Bio)	Amber Smith (IGSA)	Alt: Christian Faig (Pharmacology)	
Farhan Khalid (Speaker)	Margaret DeCoste (Councillor-At-Large)	Amanda Tran (Chemistry)	Tamara Maitret (Lab Med & Path)	Ahmed Ahmed (Pharm & Pharm Sci)	
Sophie Shi (CRO)	Georga Yordanov (Councillor-At-Large)	Hadi Afsaneh (Chem & Mat Eng)	Alt: Joelle Kasongo (Lab Med & Path)	Grace Essuman (Physiology)	
Zain Patel (Deputy Returning Officer)	Allyson Brinston (Councillor-At-Large)	Kiera Greenaway (Civil & Enviro Eng)	Taylor Zimmerman (Library & Info Studies)	Victoria Young (Poli Sci)	
Ola Mabrouk (Senator)	Mohamed Sabek (Councillor-At-Large)	Alt: Noor Abdo (Comm Sci & Disorders)	Pouneh Nejad (Math & Stat'l Sciences)	Emilie Desnoyers (Psychiatry)	

Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. The Speaker acknowledged the Traditional Territory of Treaty Six.

Approval of Agenda**1. Approval of the June 4 2024 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the June 4 2024 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on June 3 2024. HA **MOVED**. IK **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Discussion Items:

2. Discussion on issuing a new GSA statement re the protest encampment (Suggested time: TBD)

Haseeb Arshad (President) presented the item

Members were asked to provide their opinion on issuing a new GSA statement re the encampment and the university's forceful eviction of the protest encampment in light of the evolving demands on the university. Edits were suggested and debated.

Councillors and GSA Executives emphasized the need for inclusive decision-making, policy changes to address psychological trauma and harm, and to listen to student demands. They also expressed solidarity with Indigenous, Black, and Palestinian students affected by the crisis. The conversation included a call for university and GSAB accountability (re ACB bylaw gaps), pending third-party investigation results, as well as the sharing of personal experiences and Indigenous perspectives on advocacy and systemic issues, given by Shana Dion, Cree Nation Associate Dean of Indigenous Student Services. Student concerns for their safety and security on campus were raised. Discussion also centered around marginalized communities' trauma to the EPS eviction and their demands re divesting the university's investments.

Uthman Khan, Anthropology Councillor, expressed concern that GSA members were not consulted for the first statement put out by the GSAB. HA explained that it is the GSAB's responsibility to put out statements and the purpose of this Council session is to get feedback from graduate students and edit the statement as per a general consensus. HA and AB detailed the process of statement policy: Councillors need to bring up a motion to put out a Council statement, the GSAB drafts a statement and can then be approved by the Council. Khan stressed that there are multiple student perspectives on this matter and HA responded that as a GSA, we have to reflect the perspective of the majority. As a direct line of communication could not be achieved with the protestors, the GSA and the administration have put together a Working Group to affect policy changes re the encampment, but protestors have refused to join due to university administration presence.

Calls for a University Presidential apology were called for again, but HA assures that the university will not consider it. President Flanagan has admitted regret and acknowledgement of causing marginalized group trauma through the decision to call EPS to campus, but firmly states that they will not issue an apology.

HA discussed the conflicting policies by the university re the Student Conduct Code and the policy allowing protests on campus. Suggestions for policy changes include the addition of a Sunset Clause and BIPOC representation on crisis management committees.

HA raised the concern of the GSAB being able to represent all, conflicting graduate student voices and opinions, especially without compromising the GSA's relationship with the university administration. It was raised that the GSA statement should call for the resolution of the protests' demands, but it is ambiguous whether the protest leaders want the GSA to advocate in their stead or a third-party investigation, and it would strain the necessary financial relationship that the GSA has with the university re the building and utilities rental agreement as well as grant funding. The University of Calgary administration currently has no relationship with their respective GSA. Financial independence from the university is a long-term goal and requires significant work in finding alternate revenue sources. AB suggests that improving university relations and playing politics is a valid option to negotiating for student demands, as opposed to harming relations with the university. HA emphasized that the current GSA public statements call for student demands to be met by the university. We are meant to receive an update re the third-party investigation on June 14th.

There was confusion around the voting and turn-of-order speaking rules, leading to the encouragement of training re Robert's Rules for newly appointed Council members.

Due to a lack of consensus on the GSAB's draft statement, HA put forward a motion to **NOT** put out a GSA Council statement to gauge interest. AB seconded.

MOTION FAILED.

Kiera Greenaway, Civil and Environmental Engineering Councillor, put forward a motion to use her draft statement notes as a basis for an edited, GSAB- and Council-approved statement. Tamara Maitret seconded.

MOTION PASSED.

Kiera Greenaway and the GSA Executives to revise the draft statement using her statement notes as a working document; the revised draft will be sent out electronically to Council for review and a vote.

3. Discussion on a future long-term strategy for the GSA regarding the encampment and the mitigation of political influence

Haseeb Arshad (President) presented the item

A motion to table this item was moved by BK. Seconded by IK.

MOTION PASSED.

Adjournment: The Council agreed to extend the special council meeting and adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Outline of Issue

New GSA Officer Portfolio Creation (Vice-President Indigenous Relations) : Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy

Suggested Motion:

That GSA Council **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.

Note: This is the second reading of changes to GSA Bylaw. The second reading will occur on June 24 2024. The recommended changes to GSA Policy are currently presented for information and will be presented for approval on June 24 2024.

Background:

The GSA Board engaged in extensive discussion over the Fall, Winter, Spring of 2023 and 2024, as GSA Council has been previously informed, and decided to move forward with a proposed creation of a new GSA Officer Portfolio. The recommended changes are aimed at creating a Vice-President Indigenous Relations position.

The position would still be considered as a Directly-Elected Officer and would be elected by GSA members during the GSA General Elections. In regards to the stipend for the new position of Vice-President Indigenous Relations, it would be drawn from the GSA's operating budget.

Please note that as the recommended changes impact multiple sections of GSA Bylaw and Policy (some also under the mandates of other GSA standing committees), elements of this proposal have been previously reviewed and/or recommended to GSA Council by the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. The financial aspect of funding this position was raised at the GSA Budget and Finance committee meeting with no objections. The proposal in its entirety was then recommended to the GSA Council by the GSA Governance Committee on April 8, 2024.

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."

Vice-President Indigenous Relations

- Duties
 - The Vice-President Indigenous Relations (VPIR) has overall responsibility to represent all graduate students in matters relating to Indigenous relations within the scope of the GSA's operations.
 - The VPIR position is student-facing and intended to interface with First Nations, Métis, Inuit (FNMI) graduate students and groups, University committees and institutions, governments, and represent FNMI graduate student perspectives and experiences within the GSA Council.
 - This position will support the other DEOs as they work towards the goals set out in Braiding Past, Present, and Future and the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. The burden of educating others on reconciliation, and the burden of advocating for decolonizing or Indigenizing the University or GSA remains on the DEOs as a whole.
 - The VPIR is responsible for connecting with Indigenous student groups and supporting said groups in their engagement with the GSA, as they determine needed.
 - The position of VPIR requires regular weekly contact with the President, ED (or delegate), Executive Coordinator, and the other DEOs.
 - The VPIR will have priority access to the use of the Indigenous Strategic Initiatives fund. ○ The position of VPIR will be filled by a GSA member who is an FNMI student from Canada. In the event that a suitable candidate for the Vice-President Indigenous Relations (VPIR) position is not found, the following actions will be taken, in order:
 - A re-election will be held as per I.BYL.5.
 - The GSA Council will be asked to nominate a student who meets the eligibility criteria, in close consultation with the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA). The nomination process should give due consideration to the current IGSA Councillor and IGSA President as possible nominees, among other eligible candidates
 - If no student is found after all of the above, to ensure the GSA is still fulfilling their commitment and responsibility to Truth & Reconciliation, the salary for the position will go towards funding for FNMI students.
 - The position of VPIR totals approximately twenty (20) to thirty (30) hours per week on average and may include evenings and weekends. This includes but is not limited to both time spent preparing for and attending formal meetings as well as time spent reading and responding to emails, participation in travel associated with conferences and advocacy opportunities, work done on various projects and initiatives, informal strategic and problem-solving meetings, etc.
- Committees Section D: GSA Officers 24
 - The VPIR serves as vice-chair for the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, and sits on the GSA Budget and Finance Committee and the GSA Governance Committee.
 - The VPIR is a member of the following University boards and committees:
 - GPS Council
 - General Faculties Council
 - The Council of Student Affairs
 - University and GSA committees related to Indigenization/Indigenous relations, and equity, diversity, and inclusion (where applicable)
 - Qualifications: Experience with Indigenous student groups, cultural protocol, matters relating to Indigenous relations is advantageous

Outline of Issue

2024-2025 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan

Suggested Motion:

That the GSA Board **APPROVE AND FORWARD TO GSA COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION** the 2024-2025 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan.

Background:

The 2024-2025 GSA Board Strategic Work Plan (SWP)(GEAR) was prepared by the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs), to direct efforts in the coming year/s and identify areas in which to work with others in the University community. This latest iteration builds upon past SWPs and incorporates initiatives of importance for the current team. This SWP will contain Year 1, 2 and 3 goals for the GSA.

This year's SWP development started with the DEOs participating in workshop sessions to discuss initiatives and priorities for 2024-2025. May 9 2024, the GSA held a town hall meeting with GSA members to help develop the SWP. The draft SWP was presented for discussion at the May 2024 meeting of GSA Council). Based on the feedback received, a draft of the SWP was developed and further reviewed and refined by the GSA Board on June 3 and 12 2024.

The Board SWP will be presented for information to GSA Council at its June meeting. Following GSA Council's receipt of the Board SWP for information, this outward facing document will be released to University administration, other stakeholders, advocacy partners, and the GSA membership at large. DEOs will, likewise, begin meeting with key individuals to discuss the initiatives and goals developed in the Board SWP. As always, reports on progress with these initiatives will be provided to GSA Council in October, January, and April, in addition to the oral and written reports DEOs provide monthly.

Jurisdiction:

Post-Secondary Learning Act, Section 94(3):

"The graduate students association of a university shall provide for the administration of graduate student affairs at the university, including ... the promotion of the general welfare of the graduate students consistent with the purposes of the university."

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

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

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.5.1.i:

"The President leads development of a strategic work plan for the GSA, in concert with the other DEOs [Directly-Elected Officers]."



**Graduate
Students'
Association**
University of Alberta

6.1

GEAR

Grow Engage Advocate Reimagine

GSA STRATEGIC WORK PLAN

2024-2025



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



Message from the GSA Executives

Building on our commitment to supporting graduate students, the GSA Strategic Work Plan (2024-2025) sets a bold vision for fostering **growth**, **engagement**, **advocacy**, & **innovation within our community**. Rooted in our core values of inclusivity, diversity, and excellence, we aim to create an environment where every student feels valued and empowered.

Rijakamran

Rija Kamran

VP Academic

Haseeb

Muhammad Haseeb Arshad

GSA President

Mariam Mughees

VP External

Saad Arslan Iqbal

Saad Arslan Iqbal

VP Student Services

Benjamin Kucher

Benjamin Kucher

VP Student Life

Muneeb Masood Raja

Associate VP Labour



What is the Graduate Students' Association?

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) at the University of Alberta, established under the Post-Secondary Learning Act, represents and advocates for graduate students. As an independent corporate entity, the GSA provides numerous services to **enhance the graduate student experience**. The GSA also serves as the provincially-designated labour union for Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGS), **fulfilling both advocacy and labour responsibilities**.

Who is a Graduate Student?

A graduate student is an emerging colleague pursuing an advanced degree through collaborative work in research, teaching, and creating university learning environments. Their contributions include:

- Extensive coursework and development of capstone projects, theses, or dissertations
- Academic employment and co-creation of scholarly work
- Securing academic funding and participating in presentations, conferences, and other initiatives
- Contributing economically through innovation and entrepreneurship

Graduate students' roles should be carried out in an environment of mutual respect and fairness, aimed at developing skills and knowledge with lifelong benefits. This role deserves appropriate remuneration for their contributions to enhancing the institution.

What is the GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan?

The GSA Board's Strategic Work Plan guides and prioritizes the GSA Executives' initiatives to enhance the graduate student experience.

This living document adapts to changes within the University community and beyond, including provincial and federal contexts. Developed annually through extensive consultation with graduate students and referencing previous plans, it serves as a roadmap for current and future years.



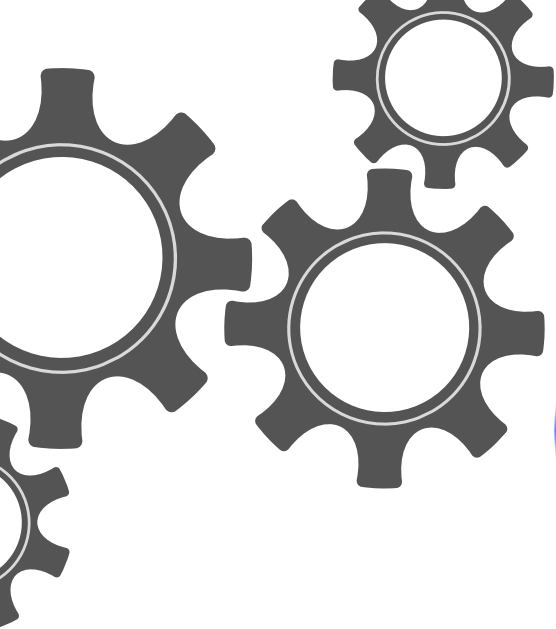
GOALS

To create a safe, supportive, respectful, accessible, and inclusive community that recognizes and fosters the diverse roles and contributions of graduate students.



MISSION

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



G E A R Framework

To effectively guide our efforts and achieve our mission, we have developed the G.E.A.R. Framework. This framework encapsulates our strategic priorities and ensures that we focus on key areas that will drive progress and support our graduate student community.

Just as gears in a machine work together to create motion and progress, our framework is designed to drive the GSA forward, fostering a dynamic and supportive environment for all graduate students.

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Building on Success and Expanding Initiatives

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Creating Vibrant Connections and Inclusive Communities

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Championing Student Rights and Enhancing Support Systems

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Innovating and Implementing New Initiatives

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Our commitment to "**Grow**" focuses on expanding and enhancing the initiatives and goals that have proven successful in the past. By building on those achievements, we aim to strengthen the foundation of the GSA, ensuring continuous improvement and sustainability. This includes enhancing existing services, increasing support systems, and fostering academic and personal growth.



Foster a More Connected and Engaged Council

As part of our continuous improvement efforts, exploring modern communication tools is key. Implementing Discord or Slack channels would provide the council with dynamic and inclusive digital spaces for collaboration, accessible from anywhere.

- GSA will be setting up and configure platforms.
- Develop guidelines for usage.
- Promote platforms to councilor.



Course-Based Masters Grants

Pilot a hybrid scholarship program in collaboration with GPS to provide financial support to Masters-Coursed based students.



Expand Childcare Services

Evaluate and enhance current childcare services the GSA offers to students-who-parent.

- Identifying the gaps and areas for improvement.
- Collaborate with external and campus child care providers.
- Identify spaces for family corners in Augustana Campus and Campus Saint-Jean.



Strengthening the Peer Support Program

Develop the sustainable framework for the Peer Support Program, ensuring it meets the needs of the graduate student community.

- Finalize the pilot framework and conduct consultations.
- Identify and secure funding for the program.
- Gather and train peer support volunteers.



Full Implementation of PhD Guaranteed Minimum Funding

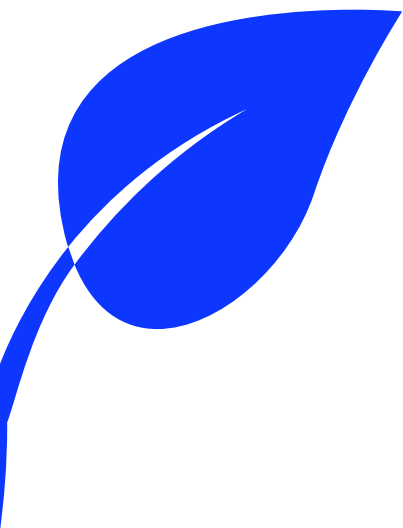
Advocate for the university-wide adoption and enforcement of minimum funding levels for PhD students to ensure financial stability and equity.



GSA President, Muhammad Haseeb Arshad



Vice President Academic, Rija Kamran



ENGAGE

Our commitment to "Engage" focuses on promoting active participation and creating vibrant, inclusive communities through effective communication and engaging events. This pillar encompasses all initiatives related to student involvement, community building, and fostering a sense of belonging. By hosting interactive events, enhancing communication channels, and celebrating diversity, we ensure every student feels connected and valued.



Host High-Quality and Interactive Events

Organize various high-quality events to promote meaningful connections and a strong sense of community.

Develop an events calendar on the GSA website. Collaborate with external groups in enriching the events that the GSA hosts. Ensure diverse and inclusive programming. Gather and analyze feedback to improve future events.

Building Community Networks

Community Networks Establish and support networks and groups that foster connections among graduate students especially for the incoming Vice-President Indigenous Relations.

- GSA President and VP Student Life to collaborate on this work.



Establishing Communication Channels

Create and promote multiple channels for students to communicate with the GSA and each other.

- Continuous improvement on social media, website, and newsletters.
- Regularly updates channels with relevant information.

A D V O C A T E

Our commitment to "Advocate" focuses on striving to champion the rights and needs of graduate students at all levels, from university policies to government regulations. This includes securing essential funding, enhancing mental health and housing support, etc.. Advocacy is about giving a voice to students and ensuring their needs and rights are prioritized.



Securing Increased Funding

Lobby for increased university funding towards the Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) and enhanced health and dental plans.

- GSA will be developing a detailed proposal for funding needs.
- Meeting with university officials and stakeholders.
- Present and advocate for increased funding.



Indigenous Representation

Spearhead indigenous representation in federal lobbying efforts in Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) committees.

- GSA will be developing a detailed proposal for funding needs.
- Meeting with university officials and stakeholders.
- Present and advocate for increased funding.



Safety and Housing

Advocate for transit safety measures and pursue affordable housing grant opportunities for students.



U-Pass Negotiations

Address student concerns and push for improvements in the U-Pass program.

- Bring up list of improvements with the U-Pass Committee and negotiate with the transit authorities.
- Communicate updates and outcomes to students.

Provincial Advocacy

Lead the refresh of ab-GPAC, the Alberta advocacy lobby, particularly with VP External working with other GSAs.



Campus Food Bank Support

Advocate for storage space and increased support for the Campus Food Bank, including developing a food strategy.

- Develop the Food Strategy with the Campus Food Bank and present it to the Board of Governors.
- Collaborate with university and community partners.
- Advocate for graduate departments to potentially fund Campus Food Bank initiatives.



Vice President Student Services, Saad Arslan Iqbal



Vice President External, Mariam Mughees



Vice President Student Life, Benjamin Kucher

REIMAGINE

Our commitment to "Reimagine" driving innovation and implementing new initiatives that reflect the vision and goals of the new board. This pillar focuses on introducing fresh ideas, rethinking existing structures, and fostering an environment of continuous improvement. Whether it's new internal policies or groundbreaking programs, "Reimagine" is dedicated to evolving the GSA to meet the ever-changing needs of our graduate student community.



GSA Social Hour

Transform the traditional Coffee Breaks into a more flexible and engaging event called the GSA Social Hour. This initiative will focus on exploring various campus locations, hosting events in different buildings to meet students where they are, and fostering greater collaboration with both student and external groups.



Featuring DEO Priorities

Create new avenues to feature the work of individual DEOs through sharing reports on the website and social media through a more creative and engaging style of reporting.

- Develop a quarterly communications plan for the DEO reports.
- Create dedicated sections on the SGA website.
- Explore other formats such as videos or infographics to present the DEO priorities.



Health and Dental Plan

Make the health and dental plan more comprehensive by integrating health, dental, and mental health supports and seeking a better provider.

- Conduct a review of current plan and a survey to get feedback from students.
- Partner with potential providers and implement new plan.

LABOUR

Associate Vice-President Labour, Muneeb Masood Raja

The GSA is committed to advocating for fair wages, working conditions, and the overall well-being of Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs). The Associate Vice President (AVP) Labour's goals for the upcoming year focus on strengthening engagement, advocacy, and education within the union.



Efficiently lead and manage bargaining asks to implement positive changes in the Collective Agreement during the bargaining period.



Continuing to advocate for fair wages and improved working conditions.



Raising awareness and educating students about the Collective Agreement through events and activities to inform union members about their rights and benefits, fostering community and solidarity.



Develop an education plan with PSAC for training Labour Relations Committee (LRC) members and union members.



Strengthen the Faculty Steward Program to ensure better representation and support for union members.

Building the Foundation for Future Years

Year 1 is not only focused on making the immediate goals attainable but also on **laying the groundwork for long-term goals**. As the new board comes in, we acknowledge that their priorities may differ however, the recommendations set for Years 2 and 3 are intended **to provide a strategic direction that remains relevant and critical for continued progress**.

The foundation established in Year 1 will ensure that future boards can build upon these initiatives effectively. These recommendations for Years 2 and 3 serve as a guide to maintain momentum and ensure the sustained growth and development of the GSA and its support for graduate students.



GROW

Sustainable
Support
Framework

Develop and fully implement a sustainable framework for peer support services, ensuring they become a permanent offering by the GSA to support ongoing student well-being.

Expand
Childcare
Services

Assess, plan, and increase the availability of childcare services on and around campus to better support Students-Who-Parent services.

Continue
Engagement
Initiatives

Maintain, expand, and evaluate initiatives that promote community engagement and inclusivity, refining them to meet the evolving needs of students.



ENGAGE

Build
Community
Networks

Develop, assess, and enhance long-term community networks that support continuous student interaction and engagement, making improvements as needed.

Enhance
Participation

Implement and introduce strategies and programs to encourage ongoing student involvement in GSA activities and initiatives, based on feedback from previous years.

Sustain
Engagement
Efforts

Ensure engagement efforts are maintained and adapted to meet the evolving needs of the student community, establishing a plan for sustaining initiatives beyond the three-year period.

ADVOCATE

Elevate Financial Support

Advocate for improved minimum grant funding for graduate students, ensuring financial stability and refining financial support mechanisms established in previous years.

Transform Housing Initiatives

Transfer government grants to housing projects, providing affordable living options for students, and complete the transformation of housing projects initiated earlier.

Technology Advocacy

Establish and evaluate the impact of a Service Management Committee to lead advocacy efforts for updated technology and better service provision, planning further improvements as needed.

REIMAGINE

Sustained Scholarship Funding

Develop and evaluate long-term funding strategies for Masters and scholarship programs, ensuring continuous academic support and planning for their expansion based on feedback and outcomes.

GSA Governance

Reimagining the structure of the GSA Governance, Start conversations and research on restructuring the GSA Council and committees to enhance its effectiveness and inclusivity.



Thank You!

Contact Us

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Edmonton, AB T6G 2E1

☎ +1 780 492 2175

✉ gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca

Appeals and Complaint Board Policy Review Meeting – Report to Council

This is an update following the May 27, 2024 directive from council that the remaining/retiring members of ACB meet with the GSA staff to review a list of recommendations following the events of the most recent election and other complaints.

We met on June 10, 2024; present were members of the GSA staff as well as Christina Saed (outgoing ACB Vice-Chair) and Kenzie Gordon. We discussed some of the challenges ACB encountered in fulfilling its mandate in recent months, shortcomings in current policy, and potential directions for changes that would improve ACB's ability to uphold election and DEO integrity while keeping the processes flexible and not putting undue burden on volunteer members of the committee.

Potential changes identified included:

- Creating/publishing existing documents that clearly break down the penalties for common election violations and ensuring candidates have access to these documents, so there is greater clarity around the application of consequences;
 - Publishing on the GSA website clearer flowcharts and breakdowns of the processes of appeals to CRO decisions, ACB appeals, and complaints, so all complainants and members of ACB have clear understanding of the processes in place;
 - Creating more formalized processes for pre-ACB resolution of conflict between individuals, including processes for mediation both formal and informal; in general, providing opportunities for individuals to work issues out together and find collectively acceptable solutions;
 - Creating a webform for submission of complaints and/or other measures to standardize the format of complaints received by ACB, including new systems for storing and providing documentation to ACB members and obtaining screenshots/records from social media;
 - A formal process for redirecting complaints and/or contact sent directly to members of ACB, rather than via a central channel;
 - Reviewing and improving the opportunity for anonymous/whistleblower complaints to be submitted without fear of retaliation;
 - Creating clearer guidelines around confidentiality and how complaints about behaviour/events in confidential settings (such as in-camera meetings) are to be handled/submitted;
 - Considering policies that allow ACB to address ongoing/chronic behaviour, as current processes are oriented towards single-incident problems (both election and DEO complaints);
 - Creating a process to bring in a third-party investigator in situations where ACB does not have access to all necessary information;
 - Creating clearer and separate policies for complaints involving GSA staff who are not students (aka members of the GSA)/situations in which other unions must be involved;
-

- Potential additions to policy emphasizing that problematic behaviour is unacceptable at any time, limiting the ability of problematic behaviours to evade disciplinary action because of timelines around elections and/or the end of the term of DEOs;
- Enhancing the training of ACB members and potentially offering 'refresher' training to members who have not participated in the training for some time, to ensure they understand all processes and policies;
- Scheduling an annual meeting of ACB members well in advance of the election period so members are able to build a working relationship prior to involvement in complaints.

I am optimistic that these and potentially other measures under development by ERC will improve the ability of ACB to uphold the integrity of the GSA and to enact consequences when appropriate. I would encourage members of GSA Council to remain engaged and informed about the progress of these changes and share any concerns/suggestions with the DEOs, ACB, and the GSA leadership team.

Best Regards,

Kenzie Gordon
ACB Member
June 18, 2024

Outline of Issue

Suggested Motion:

The GSAB **RECOMMENDS** to the GSA council for **INFORMATION** purposes only the new revised statement with updates from Brownlee LLP, *Clarifying Statement from the Graduate Students' Association of the University of Alberta* submitted by Keira Greenaway in consultation with the GSAB and GSA Council.

Background:

President of the GSA (Haseeb Arshad) and Vice President Student Life (Benjamin Kucher) both presented early drafts of potential statements. Upon discussion by the GSA Council, it was agreed upon that there should be further work around this statement. The GSAB worked jointly with Keira Greenaway to issue a statement with requests to the University of Alberta in relation to the actions taken against peaceful protestors on May 11, 2024. The GSAB has attended two workshops' sessions with Keira Greenaway to create this statement. All members of the GSAB had the opportunity to voice their opinions on the statement. This statement was forwarded to the GSA's legal counsel Jenelle Butler who made revisions to the statement.

Jurisdiction:

As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections F.POL.3.2.a and Section F.POL.3.2.b, "the GSAB [GSA Board] is the senior administrative authority of the GSA as delegated to it by GSA Council" and "the GSAB is the discussion forum for the GSA Officers and Directors."

C.POL.4.3.a Agenda items normally come to GSA Council from the GSA Board (GSAB) or other GSA Standing Committees. Members of GSA Council who wish to place an item on the agenda should contact the Speaker.

C.POL.4.3.b Substantive agenda items are circulated to GSA Council members at least one (1) week prior to the date of the meeting on instruction of the Speaker. Substantive items received after this will be added to the agenda at the discretion of the Speaker. Reports for information are circulated the Friday (or Thursday, in the event of a holiday related closure of the GSA office) before a Monday meeting.

C.POL.5.2 Motions (formal proposals that GSA Council take certain actions), are normally accompanied by a Notice of Motion (advance written notice that a Motion will be presented and debated at an upcoming meeting of GSA Council). Notices of Motion must be presented in time to be circulated with the first mailing of the GSA Council material, as described above.

**2024-2025 President
Report to GSA Council for the 24 June 2024 Meeting**

To: Council Members
From: Muhammad Haseeb Arshad
Date: 2024/06/19

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

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 24 May to June 19, 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

Date	Meeting
May 24	CFB Student Leader Forum
May 24	Meeting with L. Glock, SU President, & M. Padfield, Deputy Provost
May 27	Meeting with the Board of Governors, Financial
May 27	General Faculties Council
May 28	Board of Governors Finance and Property Committee
May 28	Annual Joint UofA BFPC / UAPT PDSEC Meeting
May 28	Meeting with Hunter
May 29	Meeting with L. Glock, SU President, & M. Padfield, Deputy Provost
May 30	Meeting re Independent Review with Kate Chisholm (Chair, BoG); Quinn Benders (President, NASA); Lisa Glock (President, SU); Brygeda Renke (ED, AASUA); Kristine Smitka, (VP, AASUA)
June 3	GSA, SU, FGPS and DoS Retreat
June 4	Deputy Minister Breakfast
June 4	Accommodating Growth Group A - Education and Services
June 4	Follow-Up Presidents' Meeting
June 4	Special Council Meeting
June 5	Meeting with a Student
June 7	Presidential Review Committee Meeting
June 10	Student Leaders' Orientation

June 11	Meeting with M. Padfield
June 11	Coffee and Connecting on Priorities for 2024-25 Meeting
June 11	Meeting with T. Raivio & VP Academic
June 11	Meeting with NIAC Co-Chairs
June 12	Presidents' Meeting re Independent Review
June 12	GFC APC: Special Information Session
June 12	Meeting with L. Glock, SU President, & A. Lam re Upcoming BoG Meeting
June 12	Honorary Degree Reception: Celebrating Richard Smith, Connie Varnhagen, Charles Lee & Lorne Tyrrell
June 13	Meeting with B. Read
June 13	BoG Recognition Dinner
June 14	BoG Meeting
June 15	Meeting with Councillor U. Khan
June 17	Meeting with RK
June 17	Meeting with IPR & IGSA
June 18	Meeting with Councillor M. Sabek
June 19	Honorary Degree Reception: Celebrating Robert Foster, Catherine Bell, Donna Strickland, and Reneltta Arluk
June 20	Meeting with C. Smith, Vice-Provost EDI
June 20	Meeting with V. Yiu, Provost & Vice-President Academic

Dear Council Members,

Happy summer! I hope many of you can find time to relax and plan fun activities during this season. As we continue to navigate through challenging times on campus, I am pleased to provide my second council report as President, highlighting key developments and initiatives since my last update.

May 24 - CFB Student Leader Forum:

On May 24, 2024, I attended the annual Campus Food Bank (CFB) Student Leader Forum, where discussions centered on the services provided by CFB, their utilization by various university community members, and the challenges the organization faces, particularly regarding staff, funding, and storage spaces. Erin, CFB Executive Director, and I outlined plans to develop a food strategy, which is currently implemented by only a handful of Canadian Post Secondary Institutes (PSIs). Additionally, leveraging my position on the Board of Governor (BoG) and access to Vice President University Services Operations and Finance (VPUSOF), I am advocating for improved space allocation for CFB. We are also collaborating with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (FGPS) to

explore the possibility of crediting volunteering for CFB with Professional Development (PD) hours, aiming to encourage more graduate student participation in CFB activities.

May 28 - Meeting with Hunter, UCGSA VP External:

I met with Hunter Yaworski (VP External University of Calgary) on May 28 to discuss several important matters. We explored the possibility of sharing scheduling tasks between UAGSA and UCGSA for ab-GPAC following its recent dissolution and the absence of a dedicated staff member because of no financial budget for the new provincial advocacy body we aim to establish. Additionally, I proposed forming a subcommittee within ab-GPAC to focus specifically on labour issues. Under the current Post Secondary Learning Act (PSLA), where GSA acts as a union and as President of the association it is a conflicting role for me to advocate for labour related issues. I emphasized the importance of having union representatives take the lead in advocating for changes in PSLA to separate the union completely from the association's role. This approach ensures that labour issues are advocated effectively and in the best interests of all academically employed graduate students by the elected labour representatives.

May 29 - Meeting with L. Glock, SU President, & M. Padfield, Deputy Provost:

Lisa and I had a productive meeting with Melissa to address student concerns regarding the forced removal of encampments and explore ways in which GSA and Student Union (SU) can help the university to rebuild trust with the student body. Additionally, we discussed GSA's priorities for the year, including our 1-year strategic work plan and 3-year recommendations for the future board. The discussion also focused on increasing our Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF) considering the university's plans to increase enrollment for coursework-based master's students. I also raised the importance of the university providing clearer guidance on student conduct policies to ensure transparency and fairness.

June 4 - Deputy Minister Breakfast:

On June 4, 2024, I attended the Deputy Minister Breakfast where university officials discussed our recent QS and Impact ranking improvements. 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. Following the presentation, ministers had the opportunity to visit research labs showcasing groundbreaking work, particularly in converting biomass into energy.

June 4 - Accommodating Growth Group A - Education and Services:

During the Accommodating Growth Group A final meeting held on June 4, 2024, discussions were focused on creating recommendations for more inclusive class environments and upgrading class technology to enhance hybrid learning experiences. The group finalized recommendations which will now be forwarded to the steering committee of enrollment growth for the development of an action plan.

June 4 - Follow-Up Presidents' Meeting:

Joint associations and unions met with the president for the third follow-up meeting. Discussions included around the scope of third-party review, policy review for unauthorized protests by unofficial groups, and fair compensation for protestors who lost valuable items during encampment sweeps. I also raised concerns about the signage policy for the Quad camera, and VPUSOF shared details that this policy, without signage requirements, has been publicly announced since 2015. The president has committed to providing fair compensation for affected protestors and has shown commitment to policy revisions. Moving forward, I will advocate for policy revisions through an ad hoc committee composed of representatives from GSA, SU, Association of Academic Staff of University of Alberta (AASUA), and Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA).

June 10 - Student Leaders' Orientation:

On June 10, 2024, I attended the Student Leaders' Orientation hosted by Advanced Education. The session was highly informative, covering topics such as tuition fee frameworks, Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) policy, Canada Student Grants, housing benefits, rent assistance programs for students, indigenous education, and trades education. During the orientation, I raised concerns about Bill 18 and Bill 13, discussing their implications with the organizers. Following this, I sent an open letter regarding Bill 18, signed by 749 graduate students, to the Minister

of Advanced Education and other relevant ministers. Additionally, I have reached out to the Minister of Infrastructure and Minister of Finance to schedule early meetings to address how Bill 13 poses bureaucratic barriers for universities dealing with surplus lands and utilizing federal funding for affordable housing on such lands.

June 11 - Meeting with T. Raivio & VP Academic:

Rija and I met with Tracy on June 11 to discuss several initiatives that we aim to collaborate on with FGPS. These include:

- Introduction of a coursework-based master's hybrid scholarship
- Organizing a peer connect conference
- Conducting a student supervisor survey
- Developing a campus food strategy
- Implementing a graduate peer support program

The meeting was highly productive, and Tracy has already initiated the groundwork to involve relevant stakeholders for these initiatives. I am optimistic that we will be able to materialize many of these projects within our terms. Additionally, I am preparing to announce the coursework-based master's scholarship soon through our newsletter.

June 12 - Presidents' Meeting re Independent Review:

I attended a meeting with Kate Chisholm, the BoG chair, and presidents of joint associations and unions to discuss the scope of the third-party independent review. I emphasized the importance of consulting protestors to restore student trust in senior university leadership. Advocating for transparency, I highlighted that though protestors and university both are subject to this review, and both should be kept at an arm's length for this third party review, I believe that listening to these protestors would be a step in the right direction and can help remove doubt around the legitimacy of this process.

June 12 - GFC APC: Special Information Session:

On June 12, 2024, I attended the General Faculty Council (GFC) Academic Planning Committee (APC) Special Information Session, marking the last APC meeting of this academic year. President Flanagan announced the introduction of a new VP Internationalization & Enterprise role at the university. This position, to be filled by a faculty member with extensive international collaboration experience, will oversee some responsibilities of the VP External and University of Alberta International (UAI). The funding for this new VP position is derived from savings generated by restructuring the F&O position under VPUSOF, resulting in a net zero administration cost for the university. President Flanagan emphasized that the ideal candidate would play a crucial role in attracting international students to study here at UofA.

June 17 - Meeting with IPR & IGSA:

Ben and I met with Florence Glanfield and an IGSA counselor-at-large to discuss ongoing commitments to truth and reconciliation and efforts for indigenization. I debriefed her around my efforts since May 11 including advocating for establishing a working group between protestors and the university to facilitate civil dialogue regarding protestors' demands, ensuring no academic repercussions and fair compensation for lost items of students involved in the encampment, reviewing policies for unauthorized protests by unofficial groups, acknowledging psychological trauma within the Palestinian community, and a recent push for more transparency by disclosing the investment portfolio which is a requirement for all public universities under the PSLA. Additionally, I also briefed her on my initiative of advocating for indigenous representation on all CASA committees, particularly the Federal Policy and National Advocacy Committee. Ben also discussed his idea of creating a dedicated counselor position for the Black Graduate Student Association and restructuring the GSA's EDI committee.

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

To: GSA Council
From: Rija Kamran
Date: June 20, 2024

2024-2025 GSA VP Academic Meetings Attended (Rija Kamran)

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 24 2024 to June 21 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

Date	Meeting
May 24	IEGP: Areas of Focus Group on Graduate Programs
May 27	Graduate Program Support Team (GPST)
May 27	Meeting with ISA
May 27	General Faculties Council
May 30	IRCC Town Hall – International Student Program
May 31	University Research and Innovation Advisory Committee
June 3	Meeting with a Student
June 3	GSA, SU, FGPS and DoS Retreat
June 4	Special Council Meeting
June 7	Healing Circle, Dawson Park
June 11	LMS of the Future Advisory Committee Meeting
June 11	Coffee and Connecting on Priorities for 2024-25 Meeting
June 11	Meeting with T. Raivio & GSA President
June 12	Meeting with a Student & VP SL
June 12	Spring 2024 Convocation: Agricultural, Life & Enviro. Sci., Rehab. Medicine Ceremony
June 13	Spring 2024 Convocation: Science Ceremony
June 13	Meeting with a Student

June 17	Meeting with a Student
June 17	GFC Executive Committee
June 19	Honorary Degree Reception: Celebrating Robert Foster, Catherine Bell, Donna Strickland, and Reneltta Arluk
June 20	GFC Programs Committee Meeting
June 20	In-person Meeting with C. Smith, Vice-Provost EDI

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are having a restful summer; things have started to slow down at the University governance as we wrap up for the current academic year. I have provided a summary of the advocacy work I have been engaged in since the last council meeting.

(May 24) IEGP: Areas of Focus Group on Graduate Programs

IEGP Focus Group on Graduate Programs had their final meeting in May. This group met over the past several months to work out the considerations as the graduate enrollment increases, and potential areas for growth. This group, composed of diverse stakeholders has presented a set of recommendations and an initial framework that will serve as a guide for the enrollment growth in graduate programs.

(May 27) Graduate Program Support Team

We had the last GPST meeting for this academic year. We discussed some course changes and minor program changes going forward to GFC PC for approval. We discussed the addition of Canadian Indigenous History Requirement to OT and PT programs. Finally, we discussed an early implementation of an MSc/MD Dual degree program.

(May 27) General Faculties Council

We had the last GFC meeting for this academic year. Amongst other things, GFC had a detailed discussion on AASUA's motion asking for a third-party investigation. GSA put forward an amendment to the motion, to recognize Palestinian community in the preamble of the motion alongside Black and Indigenous communities.

(June 11) LMS of the Future Advisory Committee Meeting

The LMS advisory committee met on June 11th and discussed the updates on the new LMS, Canvas which is launching soon. There will be learning opportunities starting the second week of August, leading up to the launch in September. Tools are now available for instructors to explore as we approach the launch in Fall.

(June 11) Coffee and Connecting on Priorities for 2024-25 Meeting

Along with GSA President, H. Arshad, and UASU executives met the University Governance Staff to discuss our priorities for this term, potential areas for collaboration and support in terms of training for our graduate GFC caucus. This was the first of the quarterly meetings we have with the University Governance staff and is a way to maintain a continuous connection point as we go through the academic year.

(June 20) GFC Programs Committee Meeting

I attended the last programs committee meeting for the current academic year. We discussed course, minor program, and minor regulation changes in faculties of Graduate and Postdoctoral studies, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Medicine and Dentistry, Nursing and Arts. GFC PC will be meeting again in September,

with the new terms of references, whereby minor program changes will be dealt with by the VP Academic with a subdelegated authority from GFC.

(June 20) In-person Meeting with C. Smith, Vice-Provost EDI

Along with other GSA DEOs, I met Dr. C Smith, Vice-Provost EDI. We shared our initiatives for the academic year and discussed the potential for incorporating EDI in our advocacy work. We also talked about student representation on EDI leads network, which will allow GSA to bring EDI related initiatives to the broader university community. We also discussed the student conduct policy, mainly clarification on the freedom of expression and how it plays out in cases of 'unauthorized' protests.

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

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

**2024-2025 Vice-President Student Life
Report to GSA Council for the June 24th, 2024, Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Benjamin Kucher
Date: June 19 th , 2024

2024-2025 GSA VP Student Life Meetings Attended (Benjamin Kucher)

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 28 May to 24 June 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

May 28	Meeting with students about a harm reduction tent at week of welcome
May 30	Meeting with a student to discuss events around the encampment
May 31	Meeting with a student to discuss events around the encampment
May 31	Meeting with Renson Alva (UASU VP SL)
June 3	Final Review Meeting for the SWP
June 3	DoS, FGPS, GSA, and USAU Leadership Retreat
June 4	Pre-Council Meeting
June 4	Special Council Meeting
June 5	Meeting with VP Academic
June 5	U-Pass Negotiations Update Meeting
June 6	GSA Team Optimization Workshop
June 6	Statement Review Meeting
June 6	Meeting with Diana Kim, UAI Student Engagement
June 10	GSA Conflict Resolution Workshop
June 11	Meeting with Chair and Vice-Chair of CASA's NIAC, along with GSA President
June 12	Meeting with a student, joined by VP Academic
June 12	Meeting with Katherine Husing, AVP Ancillary Services, F&O
June 13	Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Work Integrated Learning Working Group

June 13	Meeting with UofC's GSA VPSL
June 17	Meeting with IGSA and Florence Glanfield
June 18	Spring 2024 Convocation AM
June 19	BGSA
June 19	Honorary Degree Recipient Reception
June 20	Meeting with Lula Adam, EDI Strategic Officer in the Dean of Students Office
June 20	Meeting with NIAC Chair
June 20	Meeting with Carrie Smith, Vice-Provost EDI
June 21	Spring 2024 Convocation AM
June 21	Spring 2024 Convocation PM
June 24	Student Housing Stability Working Group
June 24	Meeting with Tracy Raivio and IGSA

Dear Council Colleagues,

As Vice President Student Life I am deeply committed to actively listening to the concerns and feedback of the GSA council. I firmly believe that the insights and perspectives of our council members are invaluable in shaping policies and initiatives that truly reflect the needs and aspirations of our diverse graduate student body. By maintaining open lines of communication and fostering a collaborative environment, I seek to ensure that every voice is heard and considered in the decision-making process.

Incorporating the feedback from the GSA council into my work is not only a priority but a fundamental aspect of my role. I am dedicated to translating council input into actionable plans that address the various challenges and opportunities we face. This collaborative approach allows us to create more inclusive, supportive, and effective solutions, enhancing the overall graduate student experience. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant and equitable community where all graduate students feel represented and empowered.

Since our last council meeting, I have attended several key meetings to further these objectives and gather additional input. These meetings have included discussions with university administrators on residence matters, safety and security related issues, participation in equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives, and collaborative sessions with graduate students. As we head into our summer hiatus for the month of July, below you will find brief overviews of the key meetings I've attended, highlighting the main outcomes and next steps.

June 6: Meeting with UAI Student Engagement Team:

At my meeting with the University of Alberta International Student Engagement team, we worked on ways to enhance collaboration on events and increase advocacy efforts to support international students. Key outcomes included planning joint cultural and educational events, developing resources for better integration, and providing a platform for international student voices in university decision-making. Next steps involve finalizing event calendars, creating targeted support initiatives, and organizing a follow-up meeting to ensure continuous communication and alignment on advocacy strategies. This collaboration aims to improve the overall experience and support for international students at the university from the GSA.

June 13: SGBV WIL Working Group:

During the recent Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Working Group meeting, we continued our development of resources to increase awareness of SGBV, response documents outlining the roles and responsibilities of students, faculty, WIL partners, and the university in addressing and responding to SGBV. The next steps involve sending these resources out to the university community for feedback. I want to invite any members of the council interested in reviewing these resources before finalization to participate in this critical process, ensuring comprehensive and effective measures. Please send me an email if you would like to get involved.

June 19: Meeting with the Black Graduate Student's Association:

During my recent meeting with the Black Graduate Students' Association (BGSA), we agreed on the necessity of creating a designated council seat for the BGSA on the GSA Council. The main outcomes included outlining the proposed seat's responsibilities, ensuring representation in decision-making processes, and enhancing the GSA's EDI commitments. Next steps involve drafting the rationale for the council seat, preparing potential bylaw revisions, and scheduling a follow-up meeting to finalize details and gather further input from BGSA members. This initiative underscores our commitment to fostering inclusivity and diversity within the graduate student community.

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

To: GSA Council
From: Saad A. Iqbal
Date: June 20, 2024

2024-2025 GSA VP Student Services Meetings Attended

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between May 1 to May 14 (previously missed) and May 15 to June 21, 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

Date	Meeting
May 7, 2024	Students who Parent Working Group Meeting
May 8, 2024	SGBV WIL Meeting
May 9, 2024	Meeting with Kevin Friese (Assistant Dean, Health and Wellness, University of Alberta)
May 9, 2024	GSA SWP Town Hall
May 9, 2024	SGBV WIL Working Group Meeting
May 9, 2024	LRC Tabling at SUB
May 13, 2024	Student Housing Stability Working Group Meeting
May 13, 2024	Meeting with Franck Asse from the CSJ Campus
May 13, 2024	Integrated Enrolment Growth Plan (IEGP) - IT & Infrastructure Group Meeting
May 15, 2024	FGPS Council
May 16, 2024	U-Pass Administrative Meeting
May 16, 2024	U-Pass Meeting
May 22, 2024	Days of Action Committee Meeting
May 24, 2024	Campus Food Bank Student Leader Forum
May 27, 2024	GSA Pre-Council and GSA Council

May 30, 2024	Integrated Enrolment Growth Plan (IEGP) - IT & Infrastructure Group Meeting
May 31, 2024	Meeting with UASU VP SL (Renson Alva)
June 3, 2024	GSA, SU, FGPS & DoS Retreat
June 6, 2024	Meeting with a Student (confidential)
June 7, 2024	Meeting with UASU VP External (Abdul Abbasi)
June 10, 2024	CFB Board Orientation with Erin
June 11, 2024	Meeting with Kevin Friese (Assistant Dean, Health and Wellness, University of Alberta)
June 13, 2024	Spring Convocation Science Ceremony (Platform Party)
June 13-14, 2024	Healthy Campus Alberta (HCA) Wellness Summit at the UofA
June 17, 2024	Campus Food Bank (CFB) Board Meeting
June 17, 2024	National Standards Advisory Committee Meeting
June 17-18, 2024	International Students Graduation Celebration hosted by the University of Alberta International
June 19, 2024	Spring Convocation Education Ceremony (platform party)
June 19, 2024	Honorary Degree Reception: Celebrating Robert Foster, Catherine Bell, Donna Strickland, and Renelitta Arluk
June 20, 2024	Meeting with Carrie Smith (Vice Provost EDI, University of Alberta)

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you're all doing well, and that summer is treating you wonderfully. I have attended several meetings between 15 May 2024 and 19 June 2024 which are listed in the table at the end. Some additional meetings were missed in the last council report, so I am also adding those here. Following are the details of the meetings:

May 7, 2024 - Students Who Parent Working Group

Clint Galloway explained that a survey to identify necessary policies for student parents is nearly complete and will be finalized soon. Potential locations for related services were discussed, including Triffo Hall, SUB, CAB, and Van Vliet. Photos of the Parents' Lounge at the GSA were shared, with plans to add a lactation station. End-of-year updates were provided, and information about the working group's support for student parents was discussed,

highlighting the importance of a toolkit for parents. Ideas for collaboration included a babysitter network and partnerships for providing services. A follow-up idea involved socialization opportunities for student parents. The next meeting time will be decided via a doodle poll.

May 8, 2024 – SGBV WIL Meeting

In this meeting, it was shared that various tools and resources for work-integrated learning (WIL) environments have been developed and will be reviewed by consultants to ensure applicability, regardless of whether opportunities are paid. These resources include the Promising Prevention Practices for WIL Partners, SGBV in WIL Toolbox, and Draft WIL Key Definitions. The WIL Toolbox is recognized as valuable for centralizing resources, with plans for ongoing updates and potential website creation. Collaboration details are documented in a shared spreadsheet.

May 9, 2024 – Kevin Friese and Saad (2:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.)

During the meeting, an update on the National Standard on Students' Health was provided, noting its imminent completion. Plans were discussed to collaborate with stakeholders, including SU, GSA, IGSA, ISA, instructors, faculty, and support staff, to host co-creation sessions over the summer and fall. The goal is to develop solutions and finalize a student mental health action plan by December. The group sought student input on mental health opportunities and barriers, with co-creation workshops starting in the summer and addressing representation in the fall.

A proposal was made to organize a panel discussion featuring clinicians, counsellors, and students on mental health. A resource, Healthy Campus Alberta, was suggested for supporting student mental health, along with promoting the UofA's Wellness Summit on June 13-14. Participation in future Healthy Campus Alberta meetings was discussed, especially regarding peer support initiatives.

Updates included funding secured for a summer intern to promote the food pantry and interviews for the Assistant Dean for the Sexual Assault Centre. Increased drop-in support services are now available five days a week. The meeting concluded with inquiries about the GSA retreat and a discussion on upcoming events and collaboration opportunities.

May 13, 2024 – Student Housing Stability Working Group

In this meeting, we discussed housing stability supports, including raising awareness about housing insurance for international students and potential discounts from renter insurance providers. The differences between on- and off-campus housing were highlighted, noting the benefits of living on campus and the need for tenant rights information off-campus. Support for students transitioning from on-campus to off-campus housing was also considered. The idea of involving renter insurance companies during the week of welcome was suggested. The res-life team manages various projects to assist on-campus students. For temporary spring/summer housing, students can apply based on capacity through the university's residence website.

May 13, 2024 – CSJ Coffee Break (1-1:45 p.m.)

Franck is an international student at the CSJ and highlighted the low number of graduate students at CSJ and proposed a coffee break to foster community, suggesting it be held at CSJ first. He works as a GSA delegate, and Maryem supports new graduate students at CSJ. We talked about language barriers between the French-dominant CSJ and the North Campus. Potential venues for coffee breaks include the Student Cafeteria and the GSA

Conference Hall. Franck and Maryem requested a 101 session on GSA roles and expectations. Training sessions for new representatives will be arranged in June/July. Franck suggested introducing the GSA to new students at CSJ during the September welcome week.

May 13, 2024 – IEGP – IT & Infrastructure Group Meeting (2:30 – 3:30 p.m.)

In this meeting, we were presented with data comparing transportation modes used by students, faculty/staff, and the total population, including driving alone, carpooling, public transit, and non-motorized options. Average commute distances and weekly trip frequencies were detailed for both North and South Campus users. Reasons for mode changes discussed included increased off-campus commitments, alterations in transit schedules, U-Pass cancellation, cost considerations favoring driving, and COVID-19 safety concerns.

The group discussed recommendations for optimizing classroom and teaching spaces. Anna suggested a potential overlap with the space optimization working group's efforts.

May 16, 2024 – U-Pass Administrative Meeting (9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)

During the meeting, several concerns and suggestions were discussed regarding Arc cards and U-Pass utilization:

- **Arc Card Issues:** Concerns were raised about the inconsistent functionality of Arc cards, noting that some cards do not tap (turn green). This inconsistency causes inconvenience as some drivers refuse students rides while others permit them.
- **Inclusion of Faculty/Staff:** A suggestion was raised for extending U-Pass benefits to faculty and staff. A member mentioned a past program in 2018/19 that provided this benefit but clarified it no longer exists. The member also expressed interest in reinstating such a program in the future.
- **Medical Students' Arc Cards:** A member highlighted issues with medical students' Arc cards not working after April. It was assured that while this shouldn't happen, they can investigate specific cases if provided with student IDs.
- **U-Pass for Summer Term:** A member explained that departments starting in June allow students to pay only for the U-Pass if they don't need their Arc card until the end of the winter term. Saad inquired about a prorated fee, to which it was clarified that the full \$180 must be paid without proration.

May 16, 2024 – U-Pass Meeting (2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

During the meeting, members discussed several points regarding the U-Pass and Arc card programs:

- **U-Pass Pricing and Utilization:** Members debated the value of the U-Pass based on proximity to campus and suggested potential adjustments to pricing based on program participation.
- **Program Security and Cost Efficiency:** Concerns were raised about securing the U-Pass effectively and exploring cost-reduction models, considering the impact of fewer participants on individual costs.
- **Arc Card Functionality and Transition:** Members discussed the effectiveness of the Arc card system, its potential transition to virtual cards, and improvements in system efficiency.
- **Ride Transit Comparison:** Questions were posed about integrating U-Pass benefits with other transit programs, with clarification that university students are not part of the Ride Transit initiative.
- **Family Benefits:** Considerations were made for extending U-Pass benefits to family members and discussions on potential discounts compared to other card options.
- **System Integration Challenges and Future Developments:** Concerns were raised about ETS card functionality issues, with optimism for system-wide improvements in subsequent semesters. Discussions

included potential future upgrades such as virtual Arc cards and U-Pass integration into digital wallets, albeit acknowledging the complexity and time required for such transitions.

May 22, 2024 – Days of Action (DOA) Committee Meeting (1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

The meeting began with general introductions where participants shared their roles, pronouns, and perspectives on mental health. Heather highlighted the importance of diverse viewpoints from students, faculty, and staff in mental health initiatives.

Heather presented the Days of Action Project Charter and mentioned plans for a new survey later this year to gather updated data. Various upcoming days of action, such as Mental Health Day and Social Justice Day, were discussed, with emphasis on defining norms for the working groups involved. (**Saad** has joined the Mental Health Day – Oct. 10, and **Benjamin** has joined the Social Justice Day – Feb 20).

Members will soon receive links to confirm their availability for planning these events, focusing on maximizing student engagement. The project charter, which outlines the scope and objectives of the initiative, was briefly reviewed, and feedback was requested for further discussion scheduled for August.

May 24, 2024 – Campus Food Bank (CFB) Student Leader Forum Meeting (12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

The meeting addressed several critical points regarding the University's Campus Food Bank (CFB):

- **Strategic Planning:** Erin outlined plans to develop a strategic plan for the next five years, focusing on understanding community needs and enhancing CFB services.
- **Current Programs and Challenges:** Various programs like grocery buses and snack stations were discussed, with funding challenges highlighted. The community pantry at Rutherford Library continues operating on a cost-sharing model.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Discussion included strategies to secure advance funding for the community pantry and the involvement of external funders to cover specific periods.
- **Space and Resource Needs:** Space planning emerged as a significant issue, encompassing operational and storage requirements.
- **Client Demographics and Usage Trends:** Changes in client demographics were noted, with tuition increases, rent hikes, and financial insufficiency identified as primary reasons for CFB usage. A substantial percentage of clients are international students.
- **Funding and Support:** Erin detailed the CFB's funding sources, emphasizing grant funding and limited university financial support, with ongoing discussions regarding potential assistance from departments like the Dean of Students (DoS).
- **Operational Insights:** Insights were shared regarding usage patterns among staff and faculty, seasonal variations in CFB usage, and operational adaptations at different campuses like CSJ and Augustana.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Discussion touched on volunteer requirements and incentives, with emphasis on enhancing partnerships and reducing stigma associated with CFB usage.
- **Future Goals and Collaboration:** There was mention of the potential for developing a university-wide food strategy and leveraging CFB initiatives to contribute towards broader campus goals.

The meeting concluded with discussions on potential initiatives to improve volunteer engagement and student participation in CFB services, reflecting ongoing efforts to support food security within the university community.

May 31, 2024 – Meeting with UASU VP SL (3:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.)

Renson and Saad discussed combining roles, focusing on collaboration and common goals. Funding for a project came from the DoS, with ongoing student support issues. An MoU between the DoS and UASU is being developed. Initially started by UASU, the Hub Mall Daycare needs additional funding and space, potentially requiring external funding and government lobbying. Renson suggested a small-scale family corner at CSJ, inspired by Rutherford's success. They plan to promote Horowitz Hall and consider student discounts. They also discussed U-Pass usage data and transit safety. Committees within UASU were mentioned for service-related discussions. Benjamin will organize recurring meetings.

June 7, 2024 – Meeting Abdul-Saad (10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

This was an informal discussion with Abdul to ask about potential areas where the GSA can get involved at the Augustana Campus. There is a new graduate program due to start in Augustana in the fall – Faculty of Rehab Medicine from North Campus will be giving some support as well. Abdul suggested a few names of the people who can help with initiatives for graduate students and offered to help if needed, to reach out to them. One of the issues is having a regular transport service to Augustana, and Renson (VP SL UASU) is working with Flix Bus to start a new service. This could also be potentially helpful for the graduate students who would be travelling to and from Augustana. Abdul also suggested meeting with the Augustana Students Association (ASA).

June 11, 2024 – CFB Board Orientation

In this meeting, Erin shared important details about the CFB Board with Renson and Saad and discussed what the Board does and some of our responsibilities. Also talked about different standing committees we can be a part of (Renson and Saad will be choosing the committees they find appropriate to contribute to).

June 11, 2024 – Meeting Kevin-Saad (10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)

In this meeting, we talked about potential areas where the DoS and the GSA can work collaboratively, particularly the initiatives for students who parent. Kevin also briefed about some potential collaboration efforts that the DoS is trying to negotiate with a childminding service provider (details cannot be shared at this time).

June 13-14, 2024 – HCA Wellness Summit

This was a two-day event featuring keynote addresses and collaboration sessions, generating many ideas for enhancing post-secondary student health and wellness. I had a chance to gain valuable information and ideas around these topics from students, faculty, staff, and community members from across Alberta. There are a lot of potential areas where the GSA can coordinate with Kevin/Clint/DoS to plan potential events and activities. There is a particular initiative that I want to work on for providing additional support to students who parent on campus. The details will be provided after I have substantial discussions with other stakeholders.

June 17, 2024 – CFB Board (5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

In this board meeting, GSA VP SSE (Saad) and UASU VP SL (Renson) were officially appointed as members. The CFB staff gave brief introductions and shared their experiences from working with the CFB. The committee chairs also briefed about various updates. Erin asked if anyone would like to volunteer for the Urban Prairie Farms. This farm will be providing 1/3rd of their produce to the CFB. I have asked to join as a volunteer.

June 17, 2024 – National Standards Advisory Committee Meeting (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

In this meeting, we discussed the action planning items incorporated from the "What We Heard Report," which summarizes engagement sessions. These items are designed to align with the National Standard of Canada for Mental Health & Well-being for Post-Secondary Students. The draft action planning items, now up for review and consultation, were informed by the high-priority issues previously approved by the Working Group. Relying on various objectives, indicators, potential collaborators, partners, and other useful data, these priorities aim to improve mental health and well-being for post-secondary students based on collected feedback and identified needs. Areas of focus include supportive, safe, and inclusive environments, early intervention, mental health literacy, mental health supports, accessibility, and crisis management.

June 17-18, 2024 – UAI International Students Graduation Celebration

I had a chance to represent the GSA upon invitation from Diana from the UAI where I had a chance to congratulate and chat with international graduating students. I also delivered a brief speech to congratulate and encourage the graduates. Also had a brief chat with Kumarie Achaibar-Morrison and discussed some potential changes to the rules and regulations that will impact international students (details cannot be shared at this time).

**2024-2025 VP External
Report to GSA Council for the June 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Mariam Mughees
Date: 19 June 2024

2024-2025 GSA VP External Meetings Attended

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 May to 21 June 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

Date	Meeting
May 29	Alumni Council Year End BBQ
June 3	GSA, SU, FGPS and DoS Retreat
June 4	Special Council Meeting
June 10	Meeting with Advanced Education Minister (Student Leader Orientation)
June 12	Faculty Excellence Awards Adjudication
June 12	Affordable Housing Meeting with City Council Intern
June 14	Meeting with USAU - VP External
June 20	Meeting with C. Smith, Vice-Provost EDI
June 20	Alberta Student Post-Secondary Council

Dear Council Colleagues,

As the Vice President External of the GSA, I am pleased to reach out with a report filled with positive updates and exciting developments from our recent endeavors.

Meeting with Advanced Education Minister (Student Leader Orientation) 10 June 2024:

The meeting focused on several key topics related to the Tuition Fee Framework. Discussions included student housing arrangements and the availability of Canada Student Grants and loans, as well as Alberta student loans being converted to grants. The committee also reviewed policies on credit transfers between institutions to facilitate student mobility. Additionally, resources for addressing gender-based violence were highlighted,

emphasizing the need for comprehensive support services. The meeting concluded with action items to enhance student awareness of financial aid options and to improve support systems for affected students.

Housing Meeting with City Council Intern (12 June 2024)

This report examines affordable housing options for university students in Edmonton, focusing on the availability of transit maps for all universities and recommended routes for off-campus renters. It highlights tenant support services, including orientation programs, legal aid, and harassment protection. The report notes the lack of specific data on international students' housing needs and proposes using a Google form to gather this information during orientation. Tenant insurance options and HomeEd resources are discussed, with a need to confirm HomeEd's availability for all students. Information on rent increase limits and relevant contacts, such as Abdul Abbasi's email, is also included. This resource will be shared on our website to help students navigate housing options and tenant support services.

Faculty excellence meeting for short listing and decision (12 June 2024)

The Faculty Excellence Meeting focused on the shortlisting and decision-making process for faculty awards. Key discussions included the definition of rubrics for these awards, with consideration given to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives and reconciliation projects. The committee emphasized the need for increased faculty representation from larger faculties and the incorporation of student feedback in the selection process for the professor award. Additionally, the meeting addressed alignment with the Indigenous Strategic Plan to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach. The next steps involve finalizing the rubrics and gathering additional data to support the decision-making process.

Meeting with USAU -VP External (13 June 2024)

The meeting focused on the city's planned increase of the U-Pass fee, which currently averages between \$180 and \$375 across universities, necessitating an in-depth analysis. The University of Alberta Students' Union has allocated \$3.5 million for the U-Pass program. Ongoing district planning and the availability of need-based provincial grants, such as the \$3,000 Canada Student Grant, were discussed. It was noted that many students may hold two jobs or require a work permit for co-op programs. Additionally, there is a pressing need for advocacy for significant mental health funding, estimated at half a billion dollars, especially given the current election year.

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

To: GSA Council
From: Muneeb Masood Raja
Date: 19 June 2024

2024-2025 GSA Associate VP Labour Meetings Attended

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 15 May to 19 June 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

Date	Meeting
15 May	Meeting with a Student (Confidential)
16 May	Disciplinary Meeting - Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
17 May	U of A JHSC Meeting
17 May	GSA Union Breakfast
23 May	Meeting with a Student
24 May	CFB Student Leader Forum
26-31 May	PSAC National Triennial Convention 2024
30 May	Meeting with a Student
3 June	SWP Final Review
3 June	GSA, SU, FGPS and DoS Retreat
6 June	Team Optimization Workshop
10 June	Meeting with CUPE2278 President
10 June	GSA Conflict Resolution Workshop
11 June	Meeting with a Student (Confidential)
11 June	Meeting with AMURE President
13 June	Meeting with LRC Member

13 June	Meeting with Faculty Relations
17 June	Meeting with PSAC Representative
19 June	Meeting with the Bargaining Team

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you're all doing well, and that summer is treating you wonderfully. I have attended several meetings between 15 May 2024 and 19 June 2024 which are listed in the table at the end. Here are the details of the meetings:

(May 17) GSA Union Breakfast

A union breakfast was organized for academically employed graduate students (AEGSs) in collaboration with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). The event received an overwhelming response from the AEGS community, providing them with a valuable opportunity to interact with their peers in a relaxed and informal setting. Attendees were able to share their experiences, discuss common challenges, and offer feedback on various employment-related issues. The breakfast served as an excellent platform for networking and socializing, fostering a sense of community among graduate student workers.

(May 24) CFB Student Leader Forum

During this forum, attendees were informed about the efforts undertaken by the campus food bank (CFB). Given the high cost of living, many people on campus are turning to the food bank to alleviate some of their financial hardships. Furthermore, with the rapid increase in the number of people relying on the food bank, it is becoming increasingly difficult for CFB to accommodate everyone.

(May 26-31) PSAC National Triennial Convention 2024

At the PSAC National Triennial Convention, major decisions, including the budget, constitutional changes, and several resolutions, were approved. During the convention, the national leadership of PSAC was also elected. Sharon DeSousa was elected as PSAC's first racialized National President, and Alex Silas was elected as the National Executive Vice-President. Key resolutions passed include an increase in strike pay, opposition to the privatization of healthcare, lobbying for affordable rent and housing, and more.

(June 6) Team Optimization Workshop

This workshop was attended by all Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) and staff members of the GSA. It was designed as a team-building workshop focused on developing effective teamwork strategies. Participants engaged in a variety of interactive activities and collaborative exercises aimed at enhancing communication, fostering trust, and building a cohesive team dynamic.

(June 10) Meeting with CUPE2278 President

In this meeting, we discussed the UBC Teaching Assistants' and Instructors Union's efforts to categorize the research conducted by their graduate students as employment. Over 55% of those members signed union cards, which would have enabled these workers to join the union and participate in collective bargaining. However, the university raised objections, and the case is now pending with the labour board. A hearing with the labour board is scheduled for later this year.

(June 10) Conflict Resolution Workshop

The conflict resolution workshop was attended by some of the DEOs and staff members of the GSA. This workshop focused on developing effective conflict management strategies to enhance team dynamics. The workshop included practical sessions on identifying the sources of conflict, employing communication techniques to

de-escalate situations, and exploring methods for achieving mutually agreeable solutions. Attendees practiced these strategies through role-playing and group discussions, gaining hands-on experience in conflict resolution. Finally, we discussed incorporating conflict resolution in the GSA bylaws.

(June 13) Meeting with Faculty Relations

I met with the chief spokesperson of the university bargaining team to discuss some of the timelines. I informed them that we would be giving notice of our intent to bargain later this month, which falls within the deadline specified in our collective agreement. We are planning to meet next week to finalize the specifics of the bargaining process.

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

CRO Report

Dear GSA Council,

Thank you all for re-electing me to serve as the CRO for the upcoming year. I look forward to working with the DRO, ERC, and GSA staff to improve our election procedures and increase voter engagement and turnout for the 2025 General Election.

I met with ERC this month to continue our work on suggested revisions to Sections I and J of the GSA Bylaw and Policy. We have made significant progress on several of the problem areas identified during the previous election and will continue our discussion in subsequent meetings over the summer. Once this is complete, we will present our recommendations to the Governance Committee for review. I would like to thank all ERC members for their input and continued work on these revisions.

I also met with GSA staff to discuss the timeline for the 2025 General Election, which will be drafted and approved by ERC at the next meeting. We also discussed methods and strategies to minimize candidate conflicts and increase graduate student participation. In the coming months, we will be ramping up work on preparing for the elections.

In preparation for any potential referenda asks, we will work on developing a guide once the Bylaw and Policy review is complete, to give askers and the Board a detailed timeline as well as requirements for the proposal and question.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any suggestions or questions!

Sophie Shi
GSA Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee
Report to the GSA Council for the 24 June 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Andrew Pohlka
Date: 19 June 2024

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

Since the last GSA council meeting, the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC) has continued its work to review and revise GSA Bylaw and Policy, sections I and J. The goal of this process is to make recommendations to update the bylaw to better reflect the ways that campaigns are conducted in the age of social media, as well as to clarify areas where ambiguity was an issue in previous elections.

I would also like to congratulate and welcome those who were elected or re-elected to the ERC and thank all the current members for their time and effort put into this process.

Sincerely,

Andrew Pohlka, Chair of the GSA ERC

**GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for June 24 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Lewie Moodley
Date: June 24 2024

Dear Members of the GSA Council,

I trust this message finds you well and you are enjoying the nice weather. 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 Website Design Underway

We are excited to announce that a new website design is currently in progress. This redesign aims to improve user experience, enhance accessibility, and provide a more modern and intuitive interface for our members. The new website will also feature streamlined navigation and updated resources to better serve the graduate student community. We hope to have this live by the end of August 2024. Our new logo is live and you will see these appearing on documents and other items going forward.

2. Supporting the Board with Special Meetings

Our team has been actively supporting the GSA Board by organizing and assisting with special meetings. These meetings are crucial for addressing urgent matters, making informed decisions, and ensuring that the Board has all the support they need to manage pressing issues.

3. Working on Encampment Statements

We are currently supporting the board on developing and refining encampment statements to address pressing issues and advocate for the rights and well-being of our members. These statements will reflect the GSA's commitment to inclusion, and social justice within the UofA graduate student community.

4. Preparing for Annual Audit

In preparation for our upcoming annual audit, we are meticulously reviewing our financial records, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, and implementing best practices in financial management. This audit is essential for maintaining transparency and accountability in our financial operations.

5. Updating Bylaw and Policies

Our team alongside our summer intern are in the process of updating the GSA bylaws and policies to reflect current best practices and address any gaps or inconsistencies. These updates are aimed at improving

governance, enhancing clarity, and ensuring that our policies remain relevant and effective. Furthermore we are in consultation with the relevant committees such as ERC, Governance, ACB and so on for feedback.

6. Participating in Team Trainings

We have been actively participating in various team training sessions to build capacity, enhance skills, and foster a collaborative work environment. These trainings are designed to equip our staff and board with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively support our members and achieve our organizational goals.

7. Onboarding New Staff

The onboarding process for a new staff member is underway. We are committed to ensuring that new hires are seamlessly integrated into our team, understand our mission and values, and are fully equipped to contribute to our ongoing initiatives.

8. Health and Dental Plan

I have been actively meeting with various health and dental providers to discuss our plan renewal. These providers are presenting their quotes and detailed information to the Board. The council will receive comprehensive proposals during the August council meeting and will vote on selecting a new provider to start in the Fall of 2025.

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.

Management Report to the GSA Board, May 29 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on **May 22 2024**.

Executive Director update:

- We have further processed over 60 new grants in the last week. The new grants software is currently being implemented. The software will be hosted on the Good Grants platform.
- We are preparing for our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report.
- Our application for the Canada Summer Students grant was approved. Interviews have commenced and we have shortlisted a candidate.
- The office has been extremely busy with all matters related to the violence on campus against the peaceful protestors. This is an evolving situation and takes precedence over regular operations.
- I had a meeting with Alberta Blue Cross regarding our Health and Dental plan and they will present figures to the Board on May 29 2024.
- Social media:
 - Facebook: Reach: +58.3% (vs. May 6); Followers: -4 Followers (Current: 2047)
 - Instagram: Reach: -26.3% (vs. May 6) Followers: +32 Followers (Current: 1296)
 - Twitter/X: Followers: +10 Followers (Current: 1354)
- The soft launch of our new GSA logo has commenced with us applying our logo to Council materials and our new business cards.

Management Report to the GSA Board, June 5 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on **May 29 2024**.

Executive Director update:

- We have further processed over 40 new grants in the last week. The new grants software is currently being implemented. This project is on time with no delays anticipated. The software will be hosted on the Good Grants platform. Grants have closed for the Spring quarter, they will open again in 5 weeks for the Summer quarter. We are processing another 125 grants over the next 10 days.
- We are preparing for our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report. RSM will begin our audit on June 24.
- The office has been extremely busy with all matters related to the violence on campus against the peaceful protestors. This is an evolving situation and takes precedence over regular operations. We have been scheduling and attending meetings as well as assisting with the Special Council meeting.
- Social media Updates:
 - Facebook** Reach: -24.6% (May 14-June 4); Followers: -2 Followers (Current: 2047)
 - Instagram** Reach: -12.1% (May 14-June 4); Followers: +12 Followers (Current: 1298)
 - Twitter/X** Followers: -2 Followers (Current: 1352)
- The soft launch of our new GSA logo has commenced with us applying our logo to Council materials and our new business cards. Our new website design is under way and will be ready to launch in August 2024.
- Our new Summer intern has started, working for 8 weeks at the GSA under a paid internship sponsored by the Federal Government. Isca Irangwe is our new summer intern; Isca is a student at the UofA Augustana Campus and is a member of the UASU council.

Management Report to the GSA Board, June 12 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on **June 5 2024**.

Executive Director update:

- Since the start of the new financial year we have processed 188 ATG's \$90,521.52, 98 CCG's \$185,000.00 and 10 GSSG \$10,940.00. The new grants software is currently being implemented. This project is on time with no delays anticipated. The software will be hosted on the Good Grants platform. Grants have closed for the Spring quarter, they will open again in 5 weeks for the Summer quarter.
- We are preparing for our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report. RSM will begin our audit on June 24.
- The office has been extremely busy with all matters related to the violence on campus against the peaceful protestors. This is an evolving situation and takes precedence over regular operations. We have been scheduling and attending meetings as well as assisting with the Special Council meeting.
- Social media Updates:
Facebook: Reach: +7.7% (June 4 - June 10); Followers: +2 Followers (Current: 2049)
Instagram Reach: -8.3.1%; Followers: -1 Follower (Current: 1297)
Twitter/X Followers: +1 Follower (1353)
- The soft launch of our new GSA logo has commenced with us applying our logo to Council materials and our new business cards. Our new website design is under way and will be ready to launch in August 2024.
- Labour Update: We are meeting next week with the Bargaining team and the new negotiator so bargaining work will start to intensify. An Outreach Coordinator was recently elected, they will begin training soon. We are running an election for Chief Steward in the near future.

Management Report to the GSA Board, June 19 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on **June 12 2024**.

Executive Director update:

- Since the start of the new financial year we have processed 188 ATG's \$90,521.52, 98 CCG's \$185,000.00 and 10 GSSG \$10,940.00. The new grants software is currently being implemented. This project is on time with no delays anticipated. The software will be hosted on the Good Grants platform. Grants have now closed for the Spring quarter, they will open again in 5 weeks for the Summer quarter.
- We are preparing for our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report. RSM will begin our audit on June 24.
- Social media Updates: Facebook: Reach: +7.7% (June 4 - June 10); Followers: +2 Followers (Current: 2049) Instagram Reach: -8.3.1%; Followers: -1 Follower (Current: 1297) Twitter/X Followers: +1 Follower (1353)
- Our new website design is under way 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 with reviewing our Bylaw updates and policies with the help of our intern.