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Item 1: Agenda

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

**Held in-person in 2-100 Council Chambers**

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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

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

**GSA SPEAKER:**

Zain Patel in the Chair

**GSA DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Amirah Nazir

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Discussion of matters pertaining to the business interests of the GSA will occur in Closed Session

Time	Item #	Page #	Title	Presenter(s)
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6:00	-	1	Land Acknowledgement	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
1 min	1	2-3	Approval of the Agenda for April 9, 2025 GSA Council	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
1 min	2	4-24	Approval of the GSA Council Minutes of March 24, 2024 GSA Council	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
2 hrs	3		<p><b><u>ACTION ITEMS:</u></b></p> <p>A. Motion 1: That the GSA Council <b>APPROVE</b> the Operating and Capital Budget (2025-2026), the Labour Union Dues Budget (2025-2026), and the Restricted and Other Funding Budget (2025-2026).</p> <p>B. Motion 2: That the GSA Council <b>RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION</b> the Operating and Capital Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2025-2028), the Labour Union Dues Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2025-2028), and the Restricted and Other Funding Three-Year Budget/Business Plan (2025-2028).</p> <p>Attached document breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Outline of Issue 3-Year Plan and 2025-2026 Budget</li> <li>b. Cover Letter to GSA Council 2025-2026 GSA Operating Budget</li> <li>c. 2025-2026 GSA Operating Budget (Including Capital Budget) (HD Estimated)</li> <li>d. GSA 2025-2026 Operating Budget (including Capital Budget) Narrative</li> <li>e. GSA 2025-2028 Restricted and Other Funding Budget</li> <li>f. GSA 2025-2028 Restricted and Other Funding Budget Narrative</li> <li>g. GSA 2025-2028 Labour Union Restricted Fund Budget</li> </ul>	H. Arshad, GSA President
		3.0-3.1		
		3.2-3.6		
		3.7-3.22		
		3.23-3.33		
		3.34-3.37		
		3.38-3.40		
		3.41		

		3.42-3.43	h. GSA 2025-2026 Labour Union Restricted Fund Budget Narrative	
	4		Adjournment	

Item 2: GSA Council March 24 2025 Minutes

Monday, March 24, 2025

**Held in-person in 2-100 Council Chambers**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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

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**GSA SPEAKER:**

Zain Patel in the Chair

**GSA DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Amirah Nazir

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Discussion of matters pertaining to the business interests of the GSA will occur in Closed Session

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Council-Elected Officials:**

- GSA Speaker: Zain Patel
- GSA Deputy Speaker: Amirah Nazir

**Departmental Councillors:**

- Ning Dai, Biochemistry
- Gurparkash Singh, Biomedical

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chief Returning Officer: Sophie Shi</li> <li>● Deputy Returning Officer: Temi David</li> <li>● Senator: Ola Mabrouk</li> </ul> <p><b>GSA Executives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GSA President: Haseeb Arshad</li> <li>● VP Academic: Rija Kamran</li> <li>● VP Student Services: Saad Arslan Iqbal</li> <li>● VP External: Parman Mojir Shaibani</li> <li>● AVP Labour: Muneeb Raja</li> <li>● Incoming GSA President: Aashish Kumar</li> <li>● Incoming VP Student Life: Hazel Kemuma</li> <li>● Incoming VP External: Niloufar Mir Fallah</li> </ul> <p><b>Councillors-At-Large:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Christine Hymanyk</li> <li>2. Georga Boffen Yordanov</li> <li>3. Margaret DeCoste</li> <li>4. Abdul Hadi Syed</li> <li>5. Arseniy Belosokhov</li> </ol> <p><b>Standing Committee Chairs &amp; Vice-Chairs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Elsie Osei, ERC Chair</li> <li>● Arseniy Belosokhov, NoC Chair</li> </ul> <p><b>Guests:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yiqing Wu</li> <li>● Emily Ward</li> <li>● Roxoliana Tsisar</li> <li>● Ping Lam Ip</li> <li>● Sosthenes Ekeh</li> <li>● Harika Polu</li> <li>● Jeff Akhagbosu</li> <li>● Haroun Elyasir</li> <li>● Jovi Krieger</li> <li>● Rishabh Dagur</li> </ul>	<p>Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nancy Wang, Business PhD</li> <li>● Vera Fiawornu, Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders</li> <li>● Michelle Bey, Dentistry</li> <li>● Andy Zhang, Digital Humanities</li> <li>● Nathaniel Morley, Earth &amp; Atmospheric Sciences</li> <li>● Devinder Pal Singh, Economics</li> <li>● Ajibola Adigun, Educational Policy Studies</li> <li>● Jennie Burton, Elementary Education</li> <li>● Nathan Lamarche, English &amp; Film Studies</li> <li>● Colin Hamnett, History, Classics, &amp; Religion</li> <li>● Dalia Cristerna Roman, Linguistics</li> <li>● Phong Ho, Mathematical &amp; Statistical Sciences</li> <li>● Lillian Low, Medical Genetics</li> <li>● Emma Heidebrecht, Neuroscience</li> <li>● Raj Somasundaram, Paediatrics</li> <li>● Fulin Wang, Pharmacology</li> <li>● Joshua Barden, Philosophy</li> <li>● Daniel Carleton, Physics</li> <li>● Grace Essuman, Physiology</li> <li>● Savannah Ribeiro, Political Sciences</li> <li>● Cheryl Pan, Psychology</li> <li>● Kathryn Short, Public Health</li> <li>● Matt Ball, Renewable Resources</li> <li>● Samantha Knapp, Sociology</li> <li>● Ivan Ma, Surgery</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate Departmental Councillors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sohrab Hejazi, Chemical &amp; Material Engineering</li> <li>● Reyna Alvarez, Drama</li> <li>● Tamara Maitret, Laboratory Medicine &amp; Pathology</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dante Terino, Medical Microbiology &amp; Immunology</li> <li>• Mahnoor Shoukat, Ophthalmology</li> <li>• Julie Tian, Psychiatry</li> </ul>
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Time	Item #	Title	Presenter(s)
6:01	-	Land Acknowledgement	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
	1	Approval of the Agenda for March 24, 2025 GSA Council H. Arshad moved. A. Belosokhov seconded. Motion PASSED unanimously.	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
	2	Approval of the GSA Council Minutes of February 24, 2024 GSA Council D. Carleton moved. R. Kamran seconded. Motion PASSED unanimously.	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
	3	Changes in GSA Council Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incoming: Sohrab Hejazi, Chemical and Materials Engineering Alternate Councillor</li> </ul>	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
	4	Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Z. Patel raised the definition and responsibility of student politics and governance. He addressed the importance of active engagement and professionalism within the Council. Reflecting on personal experiences and common perceptions of student politics, the Speaker acknowledged that many associate it with negativity, petty drama, and apathy. This widespread disengagement often manifests in low voter turnout, challenges maintaining quorum, and minimal participation in discussions. However, the Speaker emphasized that the Council’s work has real impact, including decisions on budgets, bylaws, and student services, such as health plans and tuition advocacy. Members were urged not to attend solely for the financial incentive but to genuinely represent their constituents and make informed</li> </ul>	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker

		<p>decisions. The Speaker also stressed the importance of maintaining respect and decorum during meetings, especially during passionate discussions, reminding everyone that they are all graduate students working toward a shared goal. Ultimately, the Speaker called on Council members to take their roles seriously, stay engaged, and contribute thoughtfully to the collective work of the GSA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● H. Arshad announced that the GSA has signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) agreement with FGPS for the next three years for an additional \$3,000 toward conferences to better connect with other administrations and advocacy opportunities. We have also signed an MOU with the Dean of Students for them to contribute \$8,000 for the next three years for engagement activities, like orientations. On Friday, March 28th, the Board of Governors will meet to approve tuition fees and the university budget - he encouraged graduate students to attend. The meeting is being held at 2-100 Council Chambers, University Hall.</li> <li>● S. Shi noted that the nomination period is open currently for the GSA VP Indigenous Relations position and will close next Wednesday, April 2nd, at 12:00PM (noon). Only Indigenous graduate students may run and vote for this position.</li> <li>● Z. Patel noted the break in the agenda for those breaking their fast at 8:00PM.</li> </ul>	
5		<p><b><u>PRESENTATION ITEMS</u></b> - None at this time</p>	
6		<p><b><u>ELECTIONS</u></b></p> <p>A. GSA Nominating Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. One vacancy</li> <li>b. Two nominations</li> <li>c. Successful candidate: Sosthenes Ekeh</li> </ol> <p>B. GSA Councillors-At-Large:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Seven vacancies</li> <li>b. Five nominations</li> <li>c. Successful candidates:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Jeff Akhagbosu</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>A. Belosokhov, NoC Chair</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Rishabh Dagur</li> <li>iii. Julianna Durham</li> <li>iv. Haroun Elyasir</li> <li>v. Ibrahim Khodabocus</li> </ul>	
7	<p><b>ACTION ITEMS:</b></p> <p>A. General Election Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Outline of Issue</li> </ul> <p>S. Iqbal moved. R. Kamran seconded.</p> <p>S. Shi congratulated the new Executive Team and clarified that the vote is to grant financial signing authority.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion PASSED.</p> <p>B. GSA Budget &amp; Finance Committee: Budget Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Outline of Issue 3-Year Plan and 2025-2026 Budget</li> <li>b. Cover Letter to GSA Council 2025-2026 GSA Operating Budget</li> <li>c. 2025-2026 GSA Operating Budget (Including Capital Budget) (HD Estimated)</li> <li>d. GSA 2025-2026 Operating Budget (including Capital Budget) Narrative</li> <li>e. GSA 2025-2028 Restricted and Other Funding Budget</li> <li>f. GSA 2025-2028 Restricted and Other Funding Budget Narrative</li> <li>g. GSA 2025-2028 Labour Union Restricted Fund Budget</li> <li>h. GSA 2025-2026 Labour Union Restricted Fund Budget Narrative</li> </ul> <p>Motion 1: H. Arshad moved. R. Kamran seconded.</p> <p>Motion 2: H. Arshad moved. R. Kamran seconded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● H. Arshad presented the context of the budget in a presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One of the primary drivers of expense increases was the application of a 2.2% Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment, as set by the university, which impacted</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Z. Patel, GSA Speaker</p> <p>H. Arshad, GSA President</p>	

		<p>governance, human resources, office administration, maintenance, professional training, engagement, orientation, outreach, labour, and committee support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On the revenue side, the GSA membership fee was increased by 1.5%, notably below the CPI, while the part-time student fee was increased by \$20 to maintain fiscal stability. The President emphasized that services for part-time and full-time students are equivalent, with the main distinction being part-time students' ineligibility for elected positions.</li> <li>○ A significant reduction in income from interest earnings was noted, reflecting lower Bank of Canada rates, with projected interest dropping from \$80,000 to \$50,000. External funding increased to \$14,000 from \$10,000 from the FGPS and DoS MOUs. TD Bank increased its funding by \$1,000 and Ellement will be contributing \$11,000 for staff support through the health and dental plan transition. Revenue from the commercial lease at Van Vliet Complex (Chop Leaf) decreased to \$28,000 from nearly \$40,000, reflecting actual income from the previous year.</li> <li>○ The childcare subsidy was restructured; only three students had utilized it, prompting a shift to a new provider while maintaining access to Kids &amp; Company services through the SU's agreement. Bredin Early Bird childcare services will be an alternative service student parents can utilize. The Academic Writing Services subsidy has also been cut as it is currently being supported by the MNIF, which graduate students are already paying.</li> <li>○ Key expense changes included the introduction of a new Vice President Indigenous Relations (VPIR) position with a stipend of around \$40,000, increasing governance expenses from \$240,000 to \$289,000. This increase also incorporates the CPI increase to all VP positions. A new \$27,000 GSA conference budget line was created by reallocating funds from the Campus Food Bank, which now receives dedicated student fees post-referendum. Additionally, a \$10,000 Directly Elected Officer strategic initiative fund was established to support DEO-driven</li> </ul>	
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		<p>initiatives, rather than taking funding from the engagement budget line and relying on external funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Human Resources expenses rose due to converting the part-time finance manager position to full-time, combining HR and finance responsibilities to support increased demands, including support of the IGSA referendum. A new office maintenance line was added for office revitalization projects aimed at creating a more open and welcoming environment, while office supplies costs were adjusted based on actuals. The GSA planner was discontinued to reduce costs.</li> <li>○ External funding changes reflected increases in support from FGPS (\$1,000), the Dean of Students (\$3,000), and TD Bank (\$1,000). The engagement budget rose by \$10,000 to enhance orientation and social events, including the potential use of door prizes for Social Hours to boost participation. Training funds were increased by \$2,000 to support additional sessions, and committee expenses rose by \$1,000 to provide better support for volunteer members.</li> <li>○ Labour-related adjustments included reduced interest income from restricted funds, partial salary allocations from the Associate Director (25%) and Finance Manager (10%) to labour support, a \$7,000 (16.8%) stipend reduction for the AVP labour position, and a doubling of the Outreach and Education Fund from \$5,000 to \$10,000. There is a modest fee increase to cover actual costs. The President clarified that all labour-related fund allocations comply with provincial legislation and union requirements.</li> <li>○ A detailed timeline was presented regarding the AVP labour stipend cut, addressing concerns raised by internal stakeholders and external parties such as The Gateway. The President explained the extensive consultations and discussions held from May through March, including multiple internal meetings, a BFC e-vote, and board approval. The conversation first started in May with a discussion with the University of Calgary VP External, who was the previous Associate Vice-President Labour. In July, H. Arshad discussed it with GSA management. In</li> </ul>	
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		<p>September, he discussed it with the current AVP Labour, M. Raja. The initial discussions at BFC was held on December 3; deeper discussion was held at BFC on January 9; and January 24's BFC was held to allow for further discussion as the discussion could not be finalized on January 9th's session. This was followed by the February 13th BFC meeting, after which the e-vote was held over email with the rationale from the GSA President and AVP Labour provided. The BFC consists of five voting members: the President, the VP Student Services, and three other committee members. The AVP Labour is a BFC member, but not a voting member. Three members voted in favour, one abstained and one voted against. The budget was approved by the BFC at the February 27th meeting and the vote was unanimous. The budget was then forwarded to GSA Board at the March 5th meeting, at which quorum was lost, so no vote took place, but significant discussion did. The budget was approved at the March 12th Board meeting. H. Arshad noted that he is providing this timeline to assuage concerns that this budget has not been considered and discussed in detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ H. Arshad emphasized that the goal and mandate of the BFC is to maintain the balanced fiscal standing of the GSA as a whole.</li> <li>○ The GSA will maintain a balanced budget despite a projected \$127,000 revenue decrease and 0% enrollment growth, effectively a revenue decline. Key recommendations included the \$20 increase to the part-time fee, justified by equal access to services, and adjustments to align with increased required support. The President assured that stable revenue streams are expected over the next three years, with a projected \$60,000 surplus. The budget reflects strategic realignments to support operational sustainability, and increased engagement activities and initiative support. The final steps include providing quarterly updates at the April Council meeting and transitioning budget oversight to the incoming BFC team.</li> </ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Belosokhov clarified that the role of Council is to approve the budget and oversee the Board. He stated that the way the budget is presented is difficult to understand. He stated that he feels uncomfortable voting, as he does not fully understand the materials. H. Arshad stated that the finance team inherited this system, and responded that was why he wanted to do the presentation, to clarify for Councillors and avoid confusion. He stated that the budget is balanced. The finance team will work on making the budget documents more reader-friendly for future budget documents. H. Arshad emphasized that despite a significant decrease in income and a 0% increase in enrollment, we are managing a balanced budget.</li> <li>• D. Carleton agreed that having graphs would make understanding the documents much easier. He also asked for clarification for a change in workflow due to the full-time status change of the Finance Manager. H. Arshad commented that there is no role change, the role has just changed to full-time. Their position is going from a three-day workweek to a five-day workweek, to allow adequate time for both their Finance Manager and HR role responsibilities. D. Carleton also asked after the GSA Associate Director salary being partially redirected from the Labour fund. H. Arshad clarified that the 25% number for the AD salary is conservative for the amount of work they have arranging and managing Labour-related activities; it has to be justified for the labour funding to be used and the finance audit will require information from staff to ensure this is justified. We are required by legislation to use union dues only to support union activities. H. Arshad noted that the AD and Finance Manager have to provide the hours worked on union activities to justify the salary. R. Kamran clarified that the income cut for the AVP Labour is not connected to the GSA AD salary. H. Arshad clarified that the GSA's income sources are very limited: income either comes from interest or the membership fee. The BFC's mandate is to find the best utilization of the funds we have.</li> <li>• N. Lamarche stated that he would like to see the breakdown of labour responsibilities and hour logs that justify the percentage estimation. He stated that the Council should not trust the GSA executive team and staff just at their word. He stated that the Council cannot vote on this item as it is illegal to use the Labour Restricted funding for this purpose.</li> </ul>	
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		<p>respond to questions, which does not contribute to the speaking order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● H. Arshad responded to A. Adigun’s first inquiry: the AVP Labour stipend has been recommended to be reduced to conform with other Alberta GSA standards. The University of Lethbridge pays their Labour Relation Representative \$2,500 and the UoC pays their AVPL \$10,000 without CPI increases. Due to this information, they did not feel it was appropriate to increase CPI to the UA AVPL stipend. He also noted that the GSA VP Labour position was restructured to AVP with the redirecting of GSA-specific portfolio responsibilities to the newly created VP Student Life portfolio a few years ago, in favour of their sole responsibility being to academically employed graduate students (around 3,500 students) rather than the entire 8,200 graduate student population. H. Arshad noted that his initial recommendation was to reduce the stipend by \$15,000 to align with provincial standards, but after internal discussions was raised to a \$7,000 reduction recommendation. He noted that he personally believes that with the loss of pay granted to the AVPL for attending conferences, trainings and bargaining sessions, the new AVPL will receive the same funding as the other VPs. He emphasized that the scope and number of represented students should determine the stipend.</li> <li>● R. Kamran noted that she is offended by N. Lamarche’s statement that Council should not trust the executive team nor the staff. She stated that the executive team has been elected by the full graduate student body and there should be respect for the governance process. The Council is the highest governing body and the Board is accountable to them: they provide reports to Council monthly, can be removed, and are available at any time to any graduate student for questions. She suggested having better reasoning than distrust.</li> <li>● S. Iqbal noted that there are two new positions created within the LRC of Chief Steward and Outreach Coordinator, who receive stipends for the roles. Their stipends are CPI-based and are currently \$10,000.</li> <li>● S. Iqbal agreed with R. Kamran’s statement and added that the executives and staff have many internal meetings that don’t count toward logged hours nor are they minuted, but are necessary to continue conversations and prepare for upcoming</li> </ul>	
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		<p>meetings or activities. He stated that it is unrealistic to log every informal meeting. He agreed that executives should be held accountable, but much of their work is not minuted or reflected on their calendars. He personally does not feel it is right to question the honesty of the GSA team nor their commitment to their work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● N. Lamarche responded that, as an incoming executive himself, executives should be held accountable and agreed that logging hours is very difficult, and he does trust C. Roose to log her hours correctly. He suggested instead having a separate, dedicated labour staff member instead of altering the labour budget to match the labour work that the AD and Finance Manager are currently doing. He accused H. Arshad of lying over how loss of pay works and clarified that loss of pay only comes into effect if you can prove conferences, training or bargaining has taken the representative away from their work. This necessitates pay is lost, not extra to their usual stipend. He expressed that in a previous Board meeting, M. Raja had stated that the loss of pay would be closer to \$500 than \$7,000 for trainings over his term due to his current contract funding from the university. He also noted that he would not qualify for loss of pay if he is not an academically employed student. He posited that there is a \$48,750 surplus in the labour fund and questioned its purpose. As part of the GSA's agreement with PSAC, we have access to their strike fund. He questioned why this surplus couldn't be used for the AVPL stipend and posited that the reduction would decrease interest in the position for many candidates.</li> <li>● S. Knapp, Sociology Councillor, asked how the stipend cut will balance the labour fund and operating budget. H. Arshad stated he would take all questions and answer them all at once.</li> <li>● S. Ribeiro, Political Sciences, asked what the stipend savings will be used for. She noted that she could not see a strike fund budget line and wondered if we are contributing to PSAC's strike fund or investing it.</li> <li>● M. Raja, AVP Labour, responded that he was the first AVP and he has been in the position for two years, and is very knowledgeable about the position. He noted that the \$500 for the term is estimated from trainings only, which are optional and so the AVPL would not receive a loss of pay for attending. He also noted that the PSAC trainings are open to all members. He reiterated that</li> </ul>	
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		<p>only academically employed students would receive loss of pay as part of our service agreement. He has been receiving around \$50/hour as a contracted GTA/GRA over the last two years, which has averaged to around \$3,000-\$3,500 per year. He stated that he has had near-perfect attendance, including bargaining sessions and five conferences where he had to travel. He does not think that N. Lamarche would receive the same opportunities. He noted that a two-day optional training he attended was scheduled over the weekend and so was not granted any loss of pay. He recommended not taking the training sessions into account when it comes to loss of pay calculations as they are not guaranteed. He noted that it was not required of him to disperse his income numbers, but he wanted to be open. \$7,000 is not guaranteed from the PSAC and doesn't think it would be possible, in his experience. He also noted that the loss of pay is dependent on an ongoing service agreement with the PSAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With regards to the AD and Finance Manager salary redirect, M. Raja stated that he has worked with the AD extensively and that 25% is a good estimate for the minimum number of hours the AD dedicates to union work. He suggested tracking hours for the next three months to research a minimum number of hours for the two positions moving forward.</li> <li>• M. Raja stated that there have been no changes to the AVPL role's responsibilities as of yet, as the Outreach Coordinator and Chief Steward positions were only created last year. He put forward the recommendation for these two positions in his first term, then they were included in the current year's budget. No responsibility changes have occurred. He also noted that when the VP Labour restructuring occurred, the VPL, VP Student Services and VP External all relinquished some responsibilities to the VP Student Life portfolio. He stated that in the November 2022 Council mailing provided the rationale for this restructuring, which can be found <a href="#">here</a>. He posited that the number of students represented shouldn't be considered the scope of the role, as fewer students does not necessarily mean less work required nor is it less important or impactful work. He stated that arguably the new VP Indigenous Relations portfolio is representing far fewer graduate students, but makes the same stipend as the rest of the VPs. He argued the scope should take into account responsibilities and the impact of the position.</li> </ul>	
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		<p>and FM salary. She noted that hiring a dedicated labour staff member is something that the LRC could look into, but it is not something that can be administered immediately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A. Adigun noted that there are other budget lines that are worthy of discussion though, as an academically employed student himself, he understands the importance of the role. He noted that Council discussions should not be taken personally. N. Lamarche clarified that he is currently a Councillor and is the incoming AVPL. He argued that if the stipend had changed before he ran for the AVPL position, he would not have run for the position, and posited that he would argue the stipend change as a Councillor anyway.</li> <li>● N. Lamarche raised a concern that the AVPL, as the sole representative of the union and not GSA duties, cannot vote in GSA matters, including budget lines that affect the union. He posited that budgets should not be confidential before they are sent to Council for discussion and approval. He stated that this wasn't disclosed before or during the election, and he didn't realize that BFC meetings are confidential when he spoke in Council last month. He also stated that there is no reason any committee other than the Appeals and Complaints Board (ACB) should have confidentiality in their meetings.</li> <li>● Returned at 8:18PM after the Break</li> <li>● N. Lamarche noted that H. Arshad brought up the previous UC GSA AVPL and stated that he has been in contact with the current UC GSA AVPL. He stated that the UCGSA has illegally dissolved as it has become nonfunctional. He posited that the UC GSA AVPL voluntarily took a reduction to their stipend due to their role only requiring between 2 to 10 hours per week as compared to the UA GSA AVPL requiring 20-30 hours per week, and that they have stated their intentions to sue the UC GSA for its illegal dissolution of the AVPL position and later the GSA itself. He stated that it is a different scale that should not be used as comparison nor an example. The University of Regina student population voted to temporarily dissolve its SU to run investigations and an audit as the executives had lost the trust of the entire student population. He encouraged voting members to vote against the budget.</li> <li>● S. Ribeiro, Political Sciences, raised a Point of Privilege to ask Councillors to not speak at the same time as another Councillor has the floor, as it makes it harder to listen.</li> </ul>	
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		<p>performing the duty they are being paid for. The Outreach Coordinator is to ensure outreach is done properly. The Chief Steward is to ensure the Steward network is performing well. We have budgeted the AD and FM salaries - if they underperform, the association will suffer, the results will be apparent and steps will be taken for accountability. It is the GSA Executive Director’s responsibility to ensure the staff are performing their contracted duties and ensure our association is compliant with all legislation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● H. Arshad responded to a question from A. Adigun: if N. Lamarche is discussing the AVPL stipend issue from the perspective of being the incoming AVPL and personal benefit, it would be a potential conflict of interest. If he is discussing it from a Councillor’s perspective, there is no issue. A. Adigun clarified that his question was not intended from a conflict of interest perspective, but to allow Councillors to have all perspectives in the discussion.</li> <li>● H. Arshad clarified that in last month’s Council, A. Dorado, Councillor-At-Large and BFC member, invited N. Lamarche to attend the next BFC session. H. Arshad clarified that A. Dorado was under the impression that N. Lamarche would be attending as part of the incoming AVP shadowing executive transition period, but as the materials had already been distributed and were password-protected, he felt it was inappropriate due to the confidential nature of the discussion and instead invited N. Lamarche to the next BFC meeting. He noted that Council has the purview to vote in favour or against the budget.</li> <li>● A Councillor raised a Point of Order to check for quorum as many Councillors were seen leaving the meeting. Quorum was maintained.</li> <li>● Z. Patel and A. Nazir, GSA Speakers, called for the vote due to time constraints.</li> <li>● A. Belosokhov raised a Point of Privilege that the Council did not have the opportunity to discuss the budget in its entirety due to the length of the conversation on one budget line. He stated that he does not want to vote on something he does not understand in its entirety. He motioned to defer the action item to a special meeting dedicated to the budget proposal. He asked if the GSA finance team could rework the budget documents to make them more reader-friendly. S. Louangxay, GSA Accountant, stated they would not have enough time to rework the documents before the</li> </ul>	
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		<p>items for Council to approve or not. The Standing Committees work off the mandate that Council has approved for them. He encouraged N. Lamarche to discuss and research further the issues by meeting with the LRC and ask their opinions to be able to discuss all angles with the Council, particularly as that way, he would have consolidated perspectives to bring forward to Council for discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A Councillor raised a motion to postpone the following action items to the next Council meeting. Z. Patel stated that the motion cannot be voted on due to the lack of quorum. Council discussed the arrangements for a Special Council session to fully discuss the budget: the requirement is for at least five days’ notice and either the requests of 10 Councillors or a motion from the Board and Speaker approval.</li> <li>● Councillors were encouraged to email the Speaker at <a href="mailto:gsa.speaker@ualberta.ca">gsa.speaker@ualberta.ca</a> and CC <a href="mailto:gsaca@ualberta.ca">gsaca@ualberta.ca</a> to formally request a special session as per C.POL.4.4 and C.POL.4.4.b.iii.</li> <li>● The Speaker received seven requests, so the GSA Board moved a motion at the March 26th Board meeting to request a Special Session as per C.POL.4.4.b.ii.</li> </ul> <p>C. Submitted Motions to Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Outline of Issue - Councillor-led Motion Procedure</li> <li>b. Outline of Issue - Bylaw Update Procedure</li> <li>c. Outline of Issue - Bylaw Update Procedure</li> <li>d. Outline of Issue - Standing Committee Attendance, Accessibility &amp; Advertising</li> <li>e. Outline of Issue - Standing Committees &amp; Confidentiality</li> <li>f. Outline of Issue - Impeachment &amp; Vote of No Confidence Procedure</li> <li>g. Outline of Issue - AVP Labour Voting Rights</li> </ol>	<p>N. Lamarche, EFS Councillor &amp; Incoming AVP Labour</p>
7:59		<b><u>10 MINUTE BREAK</u></b>	
15 min	8	<p><b><u>INFORMATION PIECES: As Submitted</u></b>  <b>Reports:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. GSA President: Haseeb Arshad             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. President’s Report</li> <li>b. GSA Board Report</li> <li>c. GSA Budget &amp; Finance Committee Report</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. GSA Governance Committee Report: no meeting scheduled</li> <li>e. GSA Equality, Diversity &amp; Inclusion Committee Report</li> <li>B. Vice-President Academic: Rija Kamran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No report submitted</li> </ul> </li> <li>C. Vice-President Student Life: None at this time</li> <li>D. Vice-President Student Services: Saad Iqbal</li> <li>E. Vice-President External: Parman Mojir Shaibani</li> <li>F. Associate Vice-President Labour: Muneeb Raja <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. GSA Labour Relations Committee: no meeting scheduled</li> </ul> </li> <li>G. GSA Senator: Ola Mabrouk</li> <li>H. GSA Speaker: Zain Patel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No report submitted</li> </ul> </li> <li>I. Chief and Deputy Returning Officers: Sophie Shi &amp; Temi David</li> <li>J. GSA Nominating Committee Chair: Arseniy Belosokhov</li> <li>K. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair: Elsie Osei</li> <li>L. GSA Management</li> </ul>	
15 min	9	<p>Question Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Written Questions (May be submitted to the GSA Deputy Speaker before 4:00 PM on Thursday, March 20, 2024)</li> <li>2. Oral Questions</li> </ul>	
	10	Adjournment 9:02 PM	