GSA Council Meeting AGENDA
Monday, 11 December 2023 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, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway, Saulteaux, Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. In acknowledging this traditional territory and its significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived and continue to live upon it, we recognize its longer history that reaches beyond colonization and the establishment of European colonies and recognize the GSA's ongoing collective responsibility in working with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) peoples and what that means for the work of the GSA as it aims to practice the principles of being Good Relations with FNMI peoples, Nations, communities, and lands.

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

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

Speaker Farhan Khalid in the Chair

OPEN SESSION	Attached Numbered Pages
1. Approval of the 11 December 2023 Agenda *(suggested time: 1 min)*	
2. Approval of the Minutes from the 22 November 2023 GSA Council Meeting *(suggested time: 1 min)* *Attachment*: i. Minutes from the 22 November 2023 GSA Council Meeting	**2.0 - 2.5**

3. Changes in GSA Council Membership *(suggested time: 1 min)*
    i.   Introduction of New GSA Council Members (*If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting*)
    ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members (*If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know*)	

GSA Council Member Announcements	
4. GSA Council Member Announcements *(suggested time: 5 min)*	
5. EDI Integrated Action Plan Consultation *(suggested time: 20 min)* **Tiffany Kung (Vice President Student Life) will present the item and introduce the guest (Dr Carrie Smith).** **6.** Elections and Referendum 101 *(suggested time:15 min)* **Sophie Shi (CRO) and Zain Patel (DRO)**	**1-47 Original Pagination**
Action Item	

7. 2023 Referendum and Associated Draft Question Initiated by The Gateway
 (suggested time: 20 min)
 Sophie Shi (Chief Returning Officer) and Zain Patel (Deputy Returning Officer) will present the item.
 	
 Guest: Katie Teeling - Editor in Chief (current) and Mitchell Pawluk Editor in Chief (past)
 	
 Attachments:
    i.____Outline of Issue
    ii_____The Gateway Fee Collection Proposal and Associated Draft Referendum Question
	7.0 - 7.1
	 1-18 Original Pagination

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iii____Executive Summary of Graduate Student Levy Proposal	**1-2 Original Pagination**
iii____Appendix on Opt-Out Mechanism	**1-2 Original Pagination**
8. 2023 Referendum and Associated Draft Question Initiated by the Indigenous Graduate StudentsAssociation *(suggested time: 20 min)* **Sophie Shi (Chief Returning Officer) and Zain Patel (Deputy Returning Officer) will present the item.** **Guest:** Jillian Ames - President (Indigenous Students' Association) *Attachments:* i.____Outline of Issue ii.___Indigenous Students' Association Fee Collection Proposal and Associated Draft Referendum Question	**8.0 - 8.1** **1-30 Original Pagination**
9.2023 Referendum and Associated Draft Question Initiated by the International Students Association *(suggested time: 20 min)* **Sophie Shi (Chief Returning Officer) and Zain Patel (Deputy Returning Officer) will present the item.** **Guest:** Abigail Ameley Quaye - Vice President Graduate Affairs and Saad Iqbal - Vice-President Facilities & Operations *Attachments:* i.____Outline of Issue ii.____International Students' Association Fee Collection Proposal and Associated Draft Referendum Question	**9.0 -9.1** **1-22 Original Pagination**
10.. 2023 Referendum and Associated Draft Question Initiated by the Campus Food Bank (*suggested time: 20 min*) **Sophie Shi (Chief Returning Officer) and Zain Patel (Deputy Returning Officer) will present the item.** **Guest:** Erin O'Neill - Executive Director (Campus Food Bank) *Attachments:* i. ___Outline of Issue ii.___ Campus Food Bank Fee Collection Proposal and Associated Draft Referendum Question	**10.0 - 10.1** **1-6 Original Pagination**
Elections	

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11. GSA Council Elections *(suggested time – to be determined)*
      Violet Sun GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item.
 	
    GSA Council-Elected Officer Positions
 	
    a. Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)
     Attachment:
      i.   Nominees for the GSA ASC (7 GSA Member vacancies)
	11.0-11.2

b. Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)
     Attachment:
      i.   Nominees for the GSA ERC (3 GSA Member vacancies)
	11.3-11.4

c. Appeals and Complaints Board (ACB)
     Attachment:
      i.   Nominees for the GSA ACB (2 GSA Member vacancies
	11.5-11.6

Reports *(suggested time: 15 min)*	

12. President **(Bishoi Aziz, President)**
      i.   President's Report
      ii.   GSA Board Report **(no written report at this time)**
      iii.   GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report
      iv.   GSA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report **(no written report at this time)**
      v.   GSA Governance Committee Report **(no written report at this time)**
	12.0-12.1
	12.2

13. Vice-President Academic **(Rija Kamran, Vice-President Academic)** i. Vice-President Academic's Report	**13.0-13.1**

14. Vice-President External **(Hamid Hassani, Vice-President External)**
      i.   Vice-President External's Report
      ii.   GSA Awards Selection Committee Report **(no written report at this time)**
	14.0-14.1

15. Associate Vice-President Labour **(Muneeb Masood Raja, Vice-President Labour)**
      i.   Associate Vice-President Labour's Report
      ii.   GSA Labour Relations Committee Report **(no written report at this time)**
	15.0-15.1

16. Vice-President Student Services **(Haseeb Arshad, Vice-President Student Services)**
      i.   Vice-President Student Services' Report.
 	
17. Vice-President Student Life **(Tiffany Kung, Vice-President Student Services)**
      i.   Vice-President Student Life's Report
	16.0-16.3
	
	17.0-17.3

18. Senator **(Ola Mabrouk)** i. Senator's Report **(no written report at this time)**	

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19. Speaker **(Farhan Khalid, Speaker)** i. Speaker's Report **(no written report at this time)**	
20. Chief Returning Officer **(Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer)** i. Chief Returning Officer's Report	**20.0**
21. GSA Nominating Committee **(Violet Sun, GSA Nominating Committee Chair)** i. GSA Nominating Committee Report	**21.0-21.1**
22. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee **(Andrew Poholka, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)** **i.** GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report	**22.0**
23. GSA Management **(Lewie Moodley, Executive Director)** i. Executive Director's Report	**23.0-23.4**
Question Period	
Written Questions **(none received at this time; questions may be submitted to the GSA Speaker before 4 PM on Thursday, Dec 7 2023)**	
24. Oral Questions	
Adjournment	

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GSA Council Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 20 November 2023 at 6:02 pm
Held in-person in Council Chamber

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bishoi Aziz (President)	Eric Beaudry (Councillor-at-Large)	Zia van Blankenstein (Comm Sci & Disorders)	Dalia Roman (Linguistics)	Janyne Johnson (Pharmacology)
Rija Kamran (VP Academic)	Sandeep Kumar (Councillor-at-Large)	Michelle Bey (Dentistry)	Pouneh Mohammadi Nejad (Mathematical & Statistical Sciences)	Victoria Young (Political Science)
Hamid Hassani (VP External)	Goldy T.R. (Councillor-at-Large)	Zhuohao Li (Drama)	Kineshta Pillay (Mechanical Engineering)	Evan Vienneau (Physics)
Tiffany Kung (VP Student Life)	Uthman Khan (Anthropology)	Shaun Wodstra (Earth & Athmo Sci)	Connor Oborn (Medical Genetics)	Grace Essuman (Physiology)
Haseeb Arshad (VP Student Services)	Andrew Poholka (Biochemistry)	Shuai Yu (Educational Policy Studies)	Qi Feng Lin (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)	Emilie Desnoyers (Psychiatry)
Muneeb Masood Raja (AVP Labour)	Carly Weber (Biomedical Engineering)	Scott Taylor (Educational Psychology)	Andy Zheng (Media & Tech Studies)	Cheryl Pan (Psychology)
Farhan Khalid (Speaker)	Viren Dave (Business MBA)	Franck Asse (FSJ)	Saeed Ataei (Neuroscience)	Julia Self (Psychology - Alternate)
Sophie Shi (CRO)	Andy Cheng (Cell Biology)	Zoe Wagner (Human Ecology)	Nancy Hammer (Nursing)	Nicole Lau (Renewable Resources)
Zai Patel (Deputy Returning Officer)	Meghana Jois (Chem & Mat Eng)	Hannah Louis (IGSA)	Fatima Muzaffar (Oncology)	Yan Xue (Sociology)
Ola Mabrouk (Senator)	Amanda Tran (Chemistry)	Taylor Walsh (Laboratory Medicine & Pathology)	Constantin Mouzaabar (Ophthalmology)	Raj Somasundaram
Arseniy Belosokhov (Councillor-at-Large)	Kiera Greenaway (Civil & Environmental Engineering)	Kylie Day (Library & Information Studies)	Ahmed Ahmed (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences)	

Guests: Melissa Padfield (Deputy Provost - Students and Enrollment), Norma Rodenburg (Vice Provost & University Registrar), Dr. Tracy Raivio (Vice Provost & GPS Dean), and Bill Bedard (Director Resource Planning)
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 the 20 November 2023 Consolidated Agenda**
Members had before them the 20 November 2023 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 17 November 2023. TK **MOVED**; Andrew P **SECONDED**..

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

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Approval of Minutes

2. **Minutes from the 16 October July 2023 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 16 October GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed. HH **MOVED**; RK **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED.**

Changes in GSA Council Membership

3. **Changes in GSA Council Membership**
    i. **Introduction of New Councillors:** F Muzaffar (Oncology), Z Wagner (Human Ecology), and E Vienneau (Physics)

    ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members :** None at this moment

GSA Council Member Announcements

4. **GSA Council Member Announcements**

    GSA Executive Director
    BA: Over the last months, we have performed a review of the ED after his probation period. After the discussion, the final decision of the board is to instate Lewie Moodley as the Executive Director of the GSA.

    December Council Meeting
    Speaker asked the council to vote on when the December council meeting should be held. Majority of the council members voted on doing it on December 11, 2023. The council for December will be a hybrid-meeting where some will be attending virtually, and some will be in-person.

Presentation

5. **Student Consultation - UofA Tuition Proposal**

    Bishoi Aziz (President) presented the item and introduced the guests: Melissa Padfield (Deputy Provost - Students and Enrollment), Norma Rodenburg (Vice Provost & University Registrar), Dr. Tracy Raivio (Vice Provost & GPS Dean), and Bill Bedard (Director Resource Planning)

    M Padfield detailed the university's approach to tuition, emphasizing the role of the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee, which includes GSA and University of Alberta Students' Union representatives, in the consultation process. Key aspects of the tuition proposal were discussed, including the influences of consumer price index and inflation on cost drivers like employee salaries, materials, utilities, and maintenance. Despite reduced government funding, the university aims to maintain the quality of its academic mission. A notable shift in revenue sources has been observed, with an increasing reliance on tuition fees.

    Proposed changes include a 2% increase in domestic tuition, adhering to legislative caps, with a portion allocated for student financial support. For international students, tuition rates are cohort-based, with a proposed increase for 2025-2026 and an enhanced tuition offset for additional financial support. The meeting also highlighted the transition for students enrolled before the introduction of cohort-based tuition. To facilitate transparency and community participation, a town hall organized by GSA and SU will discuss these proposals, inviting feedback and questions from the university community.

6. **Academic Integrity Policy Suite**

    Rija Kamran (VP Academic) presented the item and introduced the guest, Chris Hackett (Student Conduct & Accountability, Director of Student Services) here to consult the Academic Integrity Policy Suite.

    C Hackett discussed the university's ongoing efforts to modernize its conduct system, particularly in response to government directives regarding sexual violence. This reform, aimed at modernizing the Code of Student Behavior written in the 1990s, represents a shift from a traditional crime and punishment model to a more educational and community-centric approach. Key developments include the implementation of the Student Conduct Policy, which revised non-academic sections of the code, and an ongoing effort to update academic conduct policies. The new approach emphasizes various forms of accountability, focusing on educating students about the impact of their actions and moving away from solely punitive measures.

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The meeting also highlighted changes in the appeals process, transitioning to appeals on record for efficiency and fairness. Hackett stressed the importance of feedback from the university community in refining these policy changes, acknowledging the iterative nature of this process. During the Q&A session, discussions centered on the distinct impacts on undergraduate and graduate students, the integration of educational culture in the new framework, and the necessity for continuous policy revision. The university commits to regular reviews of these policies, with a minimum of every five years, and places emphasis on training decision-makers and supervisors in accordance with the new approach. A conduct database is being developed to track cases and ensure consistent communication with students involved in these processes, underscoring the university's dedication to evolving its conduct system to better serve its diverse student body.

Action Item

7. **2023-2024 GSA Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report**
   B Aziz (GSA President) presented the item and briefly discussed the report..

   SUGGESTED MOTION: That the GSA Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the 2023-2024 GSA Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report.

   BA discussed how the budget is on track and the GSA is observing an increase in the projected revenue in terms of interest over liquid amounts in the GSA accounts. Also mentioned savings on the HR expenditure.

   MOTION: That the GSA Council RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the 2023-2024 GSA Fall Term Budget and Expenditure Report. TK **MOVER**. HA **SECONDER**.

   Motion **PASSED** Unanimously.

Elections

8. GSA Council Elections
   Areseniy Belosokhov (GSA Nominating Committee Vice-Chair) presented the item. The candidates were not present but the detailed profiles were submitted prior to the council meeting. The council was asked to vote and submit their ballots at the front.

   GSA Council-Elected Officer Positions

   a. Appeals and Complaints Board Renewals (ACB) - 2 vacant positions.

Reports

9. **President**
   i. **President's Report:**
   Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 November 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, B Aziza highlighted several key topics concerning the university's graduate students. The financial situation of international students was a primary focus, with the GSA's data driving an initiative that successfully led to increased support in this year's proposal. Concerns were raised about the results of a university survey assessing employee satisfaction, especially among academically employed graduate students, which showed poor outcomes compared to external benchmarks. In response, a steering committee has been established to develop strategies for improving their work environment, involving consultations and roundtables with the affected students. Additionally, the meeting covered a conference held by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies, featuring discussions and initiatives from various universities. A comprehensive document summarizing these discussions and potential applications at the university level is being prepared in collaboration with the GPS. Finally, addressing a councilor's query, BA confirmed that the GSA is working on a statement regarding the harassment of students related to the Israel-Palestine issue, following a similar move by the UASU.

   ii. **GSA Board**
   No written report at this time.

   iii. **GSA Budget and Finance Committee**
   No written report at this time.

   iv. **GSA Governance Committee**

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No written report at this time.

10. **Vice-President Academic**
    i. **Vice-President Academic's Report:**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 November 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, R Kamran highlighted the continued support for the GFC and FGSR committees, focusing on the implementation of the Situational Judgement Test (SJT) in the Faculty of Rehab Medicine's Physical Therapy program. This test will serve as a weighted component in the admissions process, differing from its use in MD admissions, and aims to diversify the student body while potentially lowering GPA requirements for interviews. Concerns about bias in CASPER scores were addressed, with plans to introduce video modules to mitigate these biases. The discussion also touched on the composition of the panel regarding student conduct, clarifying that while the VP Academic is a primary contact for student issues, the role on the panel could be delegated or assigned to another GSA member, with student consent required for GSA representation in conduct investigations.

11. **Vice-President External**
    i. **Vice-President External's Report**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 November 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, H Hassani highlighted the engagement in networking with local business owners and organizations during the Forward Slash Event, focusing on potential collaborations between these entities, the university, and the GSA. Key issues such as transit safety, housing, and the affordability crisis were discussed in conversations with the mayor of Edmonton. Additionally, plans are underway for a January meeting with a representative from one of Canada's largest companies, recognized for its support of startups through funding and scholarships. This upcoming meeting is part of a broader initiative to strengthen connections between the university and the business community.

    ii. **GSA Awards Selection Committee**
No written report at this time.

12. **Vice-President Student Life**
    i. **Vice-President Student Life's Report**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 November 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, T Kung highlighted the unanimous support by the GFC for the Student Experience Action Plan, which is now headed to the Board of Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee for further review before its planned implementation in January. This plan aims to address critical issues such as safety, security, and the challenges of accommodating an increasing student population in school spaces. Despite the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) committee not meeting in-person since fall, efforts are ongoing through asynchronous work to suit varied schedules, with hopes for a synchronous meeting in winter. Additionally, the University's Strategic EDI Action Plan is scheduled to be presented to the council in December. TK emphasized the importance of council members arriving prepared with equity-related questions and concerns for Dr. Carrie Smith, Vice Provost of EDI, for the meeting scheduled on December 11.

    ii. **GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report**
No written report at this time.

13. **Vice-President Student Services**
    i. **Vice-President Student Services' Report**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 November 2023. The report stood as submitted. HA highlighted an invitation to council members for upcoming collaborative events organized by the GSA and DOA (November 24th), as well as the GSA Fall Social scheduled for November 28th. Efforts are underway between the GSA, Ravina Sanghera (DoS), and Blessie (Director, Career Centre), focusing on creating summer tutoring service opportunities for graduate students. Additionally, a persistent issue regarding missing buses, which was previously discussed, was addressed. A proposal for a dedicated bus route during peak university hours has been put forward, and further discussions are planned in an upcoming meeting to delve into this matter.

14. **Associate Vice-President Labour**
    i. **Associate Vice-President Labour's Report**
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 November 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, M Masood Raja highlighted key developments within the LRC, including nearing the completion of its bargaining team discussions and filling two new positions through an election. The committee engaged in labor outreach,

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training, and bargaining sessions, alongside conducting a survey that received about 410 responses, demonstrating strong engagement. Plans for a GRAFT survey in January aim to identify gaps and continue collecting student feedback for shaping the collective agreement. The LRC is also building a collaborative relationship with the University of Calgary and Public Services of Canada, intending to establish a permanent group focused on labor issues. Additionally, there was a discussion with the NASA president and other union members to explore collaborative opportunities across unions. The meeting also touched upon financial aspects like the allocation of tuition fees towards salaries and awards, highlighting considerations for future bargaining.

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee
No written report at this time.

15. Senator
i. Senator's Report
No written report at this time.

16. Speaker
i. Speaker's Report
No written report at this time.

17. Chief Returning Officer
i. Chief Returning Officer's Report
No written report at this time.

18. GSA Nominating Committee
i. GSA Nominating Committee Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 November 2023. The report stood as submitted. In addition, the council members were encouraged to participate and fill in positions in the different GSA Standing Committees.

19. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee
ii. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report
The Chief- Returning- Office (CRO) discussed changes to the meeting materials, particularly regarding the removal of three out of four referenda originally listed for the November meeting. The CRO outlined the formal process for referenda, explaining that groups like the Gateway or Campus Food Bank must approach the CRO, discuss their proposal, and if approved, present it to the board before it goes to the council for a vote to be included in the election ballot. The absence of these referenda from the meeting materials was attributed to the CRO's recent awareness of three out of them, with one known since August but having procedural issues, such as a lack of a finalized question or amount being requested.

A councilor raised concerns about the disconnect between the CRO and the rest of the processes, especially regarding the Gateway's proposal. CRO, clarifying the process, stated that it's the asker's responsibility to be aware of the bylaws, policies, and timelines, and to initially reach out to the CRO rather than the board directly. BA, acknowledging the inconvenience caused, mentioned the challenges due to staff turnovers and training of new staff, leading to complexities in the process. They assured that the council would be updated on the finalized processes and have a better understanding moving forward.

20. GSA Management
i. Executive Director's Report
Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 17 November 2023. The report stood as submitted.

Question Period

21. Written Questions

22. Oral Questions
- Arseniy: Since we're going to have the referendums on the December council, when is the referendum going to happen? When will the change take effect?

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- CRO: I think the timeline is really important for everyone to understand. So as far as I know, basically what happened with the board is that they approve it to come to council. In council, you're not voting about whether or not you agree with the referendum, you are voting about whether you want it to show up on the ballot, it's going to show up at the same time as all of the other elections. So this year, we're going to have the election of the presidents, VPs, as well as the Associate VP labor, as well as the referenda ballots. You're actually gonna be filling out three ballots at the same time. And then they will come into effect September 1 2024.
- BA: Usually the board and the CRO don't have a say around the referenda, according to the bylaws. We just like to be consulted. We only vote on the board if it's coming after the November deadline. In addition, for your question about when this takes effect, because this is kinda like a financial referendum, asking for money. At that point, our budget will be approved for the next year, 2024-2025. So this has to be built into our budgets. So this will probably take effect the year after.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

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Elections and Referenda 101

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December 11th, 2023
GSA Council Meeting
Sophie Shi (CRO) and Zain Patel (DRO)

Outline of presentation

- Graduate Students' Association

- Elections and Referenda

- Running in the Election

- Today's Referenda Votes

Graduate Students' Association

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Overview of GSA

- GSA is a student-led non-for-profit organization to advocate for graduate students
- Creation of provincial legislation: Post Secondary Learning Act (PSLA)
- All graduate students are automatically members
- GSA is fees-driven and managed by management/staff
- Separate from FGSR/GPS but collaborative

Board composition

- Voting members
  - President
  - 4 Vice Presidents
- Non-voting members
  - Associate Vice President Labour
  - Councillors

Council structure

Council composition

- Voting members
  - President and 4 Vice Presidents
  - 1 graduate student from each department/faculty/unit
  - 1 councillor elected by the IGSA
  - 10 Councillors-at-Large (CALs)
- Non-voting
  - Associate Vice President Labour
  - Council-Elected Officers (CRO, DRO, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Senator)
  - GSA Directors (staff)

Duties of councillors

- Act as primary liaison between GSA and constituents
- Send constituents a brief report on GSA Council meetings and soliciting feedback
- Attend all meetings of GSA Council or ensuring their alternate can attend
- Ensure Speaker and GSA office have up to date Councillor information

Councillor-At-Large

- Provide additional voices on Council from those offered by other members

Elections and Referenda

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Overview of E&R

- Every year, the GSA holds an election for the upcoming year's executive (DEOs)
  - President, Vice Presidents (4), and Councillors at Large (10)
  - All graduate students are eligible to run in the election and to vote
- Last year, we established a new position of Associate VP Labour
  - Academically employed graduate students are eligible to run and vote
  - The list is received from FGSR/GPS at the beginning of the election period
- Sometimes, there are also referenda
  - e.g., UPass, GSA Health & Dental, external groups such as CJSR

What is a referendum in this context?

- GSA Referenda take place in years when graduate students are asked to vote on key issues by "askers" who are either GSA members or external groups
- Past referenda have resulted in the implementation and/or continuation of graduate student services such as:
  - GSA Health and Dental Plan
  - Graduate Student Assistance Plan (GSAP)
  - U-Pass Program
  - GSA Dedicated Fee (which enables graduate students to support the on-campus radio station, CJSR)

People involved

- GSA Elections Coordinator and GSA Management - Associate Director
- Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)
  - Oversees the General Election, Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, by-elections, and referenda with advice from ERC
  - Monitors campaign activities and disciplines candidates
  - Approves timelines, advertises nominations, approves nomination forms, etc.
- Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC)
  - Make recommendations to the CRO on elections and referenda
  - Assist in planning election events, offer advice during elections

2024 Election and Referenda Timeline (on GSA website)

- *Nomination Open - 30 January 2024
- *Nominations Close - 13 February 2024
- *All-Candidates Meeting (ACM) - 13 February 2024
- Campaign Period Opens - 14 February 2024
- GSA General Election, Election of the VP Labour, and Referenda Forum - 26 February 2024
- Campaign Period Closes - 29 February 2024
- Voting Opens - 27 February 2024
- Voting Closes - 29 February 2024
- Official Results - 1 March 2024

*Candidates only

Running in the Election

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Positions you can run for

- GSA President (30-40 hours per week)
  - Compensation: $40 000 + reimbursement for UPass, Health & Dental, tuition
- GSA Vice Presidents, including Associate VP Labour (20-30 hours per week)
  - Compensation: $30 000 + reimbursement for UPass, Health & Dental, tuition
- GSA Councillor at Large
  - No compensation
- Referenda candidate
  - Support any referendum as a yes or no

What do I need to know as a candidate?

- Candidates must submit their nomination form on time
  - No exceptions will be made
- Candidates must attend the All-Candidates meeting
  - Exceptions will only be made with proof from the candidate
- Candidates will campaign according to the rules set out by Bylaw and Policy as well as any CRO/DRO directives
  - Section I: Elections
  - Section J: Referenda

What do I need to know as a councillor?

- Be informed about each candidate and their platforms

- Encourage your constituents to vote

- Attend election-related events such as the forum

- Report any violations to the CRO/DRO

Today's Referenda Vote

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What are you voting for?

- You are not voting on whether you agree on the referenda, you are voting on whether you want the referenda to be on the ballot for grad students to vote on
  - Do you think all graduate students should have a vote on this issue?
  - This does not need to match whether you will be voting yes or no
- The Board is able to endorse or not endorse referenda
  - Your vote is independent and does not need to match their recommendation
  - Discussion is essential to understand everyone's perspective
- You will vote on each referendum immediately following the presentation
  - Evaluate each one independently separate from the rest

Key things to look for

According to the Bylaw and Policy, the following are components of a clear question:

- Description of any dedicated on-going fee

- Amount of fee

- How long a fee will be collected

- Effective date (when a fee will start being collected)

- Procedure for changing a fee

- Whether the fee can be rescinded

- Accountability mechanism for the money collected

It MUST be yes/no. This list is non-exhaustive and are only if applicable.

GSA PRESIDENT

Time Commitment: 30-40 hours per week

Remuneration: Approximately $40,000 per year

Other Benefits: Reimbursement for the U-Pass & the GSA Health and Dental plan
Reduced thesis fee for thesis-based students

Who Leads the GSA?

The GSA is led by a team of student executives, collectively known as the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (informally, sometimes referred to as elected student leaders or student executives). The team is comprised of the President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Student Services, Vice-President Student Life, and Associate Vice-President Labour. The graduate students serving in these positions are elected each year in February in the GSA General Election to serve a one-year term. Each of the student executives has a specific portfolio for which they are responsible.

What Does the GSA President Do?

The President is a graduate student with interest in all issues relating to the graduate student experience at UAlberta: from academics, to services, to health and wellness, to academic employment and professional development. They chair the GSA Board, GSA Budget and Finance Committee, and GSA Governance Committee. In addition, they serve on the GSA Council, as Vice-Chair of the GSA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and on a number of governing bodies external to the GSA such as the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council, the General Faculties Council and several of its associated standing committees, and the Board of Governors and its associated standing committees. The President meets regularly with senior University administration including the President, Provost, Dean of FGSR, Dean of Students, as well as meeting with leaders of other UAlberta constituency groups/associations. The President is also involved in the external advocacy efforts of the GSA to the government.

The President, along with their team of Vice-Presidents, plays a crucial role in shaping the strategic and advocacy priorities of the GSA during their term, as well as engaging with the GSA's finances and serving as the spokesperson of the organization.

GSA VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

Time Commitment:	20-30 hours per week
Remuneration:	Approximately $33,000 per year
Other Benefits:	Reimbursement for the U-Pass & the GSA Health and Dental plan Reduced thesis fee for thesis-based students

Who Leads the GSA?

The GSA is led by a team of student executives, collectively known as the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (informally, sometimes referred to as elected student leaders or student executives). The team is comprised of the President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Student Services, Vice-President Student Life, and Associate Vice-President Labour. The graduate students serving in these positions are elected each year in February in the GSA General Election to serve a one-year term. Each of the student executives has a specific portfolio for which they are responsible.

What Does the GSA VP Academic Do?

The Vice-President Academic is a graduate student with interest in representing the graduate student body in academic matters, including details relating to program and degree requirements, academic standing, and professional development. In addition to the GSA Board and the GSA Council, they serve on a number of governance bodies including the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) Council and its associated standing committees, and General Faculties Council (GFC) and its associated standing committees. They also meet regularly with the Dean of FGSR. The VP Academic serves as the chair of the GSA FGSR Council Caucus and the GSA GFC Caucus, each of which are composed of graduate students elected to serve on the FGSR Council and the GFC, respectively .

The VP Academic, along with their team of colleagues, plays a crucial role in helping to shape the strategic and advocacy priorities of the GSA during their term.

GSA VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Time Commitment: 20-30 hours per week

Remuneration: Approximately $33,000 per year

Other Benefits: Reimbursement for the U-Pass & the GSA Health and Dental plan
Reduced thesis fee for thesis-based students

Who Leads the GSA?

The GSA is led by a team of student executives, collectively known as the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (informally, sometimes referred to as elected student leaders or student executives). The team is comprised of the President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Student Services, Vice-President Student Life, and Associate Vice-President Labour. The graduate students serving in these positions are elected each year in February in the GSA General Election to serve a one-year term. Each of the student executives has a specific portfolio for which they are responsible.

What Does the GSA VP External Do?

The Vice-President External is a graduate student with interest in representing graduate students to the community beyond campus. They advocate for the betterment of the graduate student experience at all levels of government. In addition to the GSA Board and the GSA Council, they serve on a number of committees including the GSA Awards Selection Committee, the Alumni Council, the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC), and the Edmonton Student Alliance.

The VP External, along with their team of colleagues, plays a crucial role in helping to shape the strategic and advocacy priorities of the GSA during their term.

GSA VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT SERVICES

Time Commitment: 20-30 hours per week

Remuneration: Approximately $33,000 per year

Other Benefits: Reimbursement for the U-Pass & the GSA Health and Dental plan
Reduced thesis fee for thesis-based students

Who Leads the GSA?

The GSA is led by a team of student executives, collectively known as the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (informally, sometimes referred to as elected student leaders or student executives). The team is comprised of the President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Student Services, Vice-President Student Life, and Associate Vice-President Labour. The graduate students serving in these positions are elected each year in February in the GSA General Election to serve a one-year term. Each of the student executives has a specific portfolio for which they are responsible.

What Does the GSA VP Student Services Do?

The Vice-President Student Services is a graduate student with interest in representing graduate students to key players that provide UAlberta graduate students with essential services. These services include the GSA Health and Dental Plan, the U-Pass, the Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP), as well as a host of University of Alberta-provided services. In addition to serving on the GSA Board and the GSA Council, they oversee GSA grants, awards, and bursaries and serve on a number of governance bodies including two U-Pass committees, the Campus Food Bank Board of Directors, committees associated with the Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre, and other student health and wellness committees. They also meet regularly with the Dean of Students.

The VP Student Services, along with their team of colleagues, plays a crucial role in helping to shape the strategic and advocacy priorities of the GSA during their term.

GSA VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

Time Commitment:	20-30 hours per week
Remuneration:	Approximately $33,000 per year
Other Benefits:	Reimbursement for the U-Pass & the GSA Health and Dental plan Reduced thesis fee for thesis-based students

Who Leads the GSA?

The GSA is led by a team of student executives, collectively known as the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (informally, sometimes referred to as elected student leaders or student executives). The team is comprised of the President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Student Services, Vice-President Student Life, and Associate Vice-President Labour. The graduate students serving in these positions are elected each year in February in the GSA General Election to serve a one-year term. Each of the student executives has a specific portfolio for which they are responsible.

What Does the GSA VP Student Life Do?

The Vice-President Student Life is a graduate student who has overall responsibility for matters related to graduate student life and the overall graduate student experience. These include, among others, University residence matters, GSA outreach, graduate student groups, matters related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and other issues as assigned. Their work further includes connecting with GSA Graduate Student Groups and other student groups, and supporting said groups in their engagement with the GSA, as needed. The VPSL will maintain awareness of GSA Graduate Student Groups with respect to risk management, and will work closely with the Executive Director (ED) (or delegate) in this respect.

In addition to the GSA Board and the GSA Council, they serve as Chair of the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, Vice-Chair of the GSA Governance Committee, and serve as a member of FGSR Council.

The VP Student Life, along with their team of colleagues, plays a crucial role in helping to shape the strategic and advocacy priorities of the GSA during their term.

GSA ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT LABOUR

Time Commitment: 20-30 hours per week

Remuneration: Approximately $33,000 per year

Other Benefits: Reimbursement for the U-Pass & the GSA Health and Dental plan
Reduced thesis fee for thesis-based students

Who Leads the GSA?

The GSA is led by a team of student executives, collectively known as the GSA Directly-Elected Officers (informally, sometimes referred to as elected student leaders or student executives). The team is comprised of the President, Vice-President Academic, Vice-President External, Vice-President Student Services, Vice-President Student Life, and Associate Vice-President Labour. The graduate students serving in these positions are elected each year in February in the GSA General Election to serve a one-year term. Each of the student executives has a specific portfolio for which they are responsible.

What Does the GSA AVP Labour Do?

Since the GSA is the trade union for UAlberta Academically-Employed Graduate Students (AEGSs), the Associate Vice-President Labour serves as the head of the union that represents these workers and their interests in the negotiation of the collective agreement. The work of the Associate Vice-President Labour relates directly to the Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement, and requires among others frequent one-on-one meetings with AEGSs. The AVP Labour also works with representatives of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), with whom the GSA has a service agreement. In addition to serving as a non-voting member of GSA Board and the GSA Council, they serve on a number of governance bodies related to labour, including serving as the Chair of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, as well as serving as a member of the UAlberta Joint Worksite Health and Safety Committee and as a non-voting member of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee.

The AVP Labour, along with their team of colleagues, plays a crucial role in helping to shape the strategic and advocacy priorities of the GSA during their term.

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy - Integrated

GSA Bylaw
The Graduate Students' Association
of the University of Alberta

Last updated: 2022-11-21
(YYYY-MM-DD)
Certified by: Dweej Shah, GSA Speaker
(name, GSA Speaker)
2022-11-21

GSA Policy
The Graduate Students' Association
of the University of Alberta

Last updated: 2023-06-19
(YYYY-MM-DD)
Certified by: Farhan Khalid, GSA Speaker
(name, GSA Speaker)
2023-06-19

Section I: Elections

Purpose and Scope:	This bylaw and associated policies govern the operation of GSA elections and the expected conduct of candidates therein, and govern the composition and mandate of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee
Definitions	"Campaign Materials" are defined as any materials designed to be disseminated to promote a candidate
	"Campaign Volunteers" are defined as individuals or groups who campaign on behalf of a candidate with their awareness
	"Campaigning" is defined as any form of promotion of a candidate; this includes all verbal, electronic, and visual forms of communication
	"Deemed Delivered" is defined such that an email is deemed to have been delivered twenty-four (24) hours from the time it was sent
	"Moderated Mailing List" is defined as an email list where the membership is compiled by a third-party and/or communications are sent to email list owners for review and/or approval prior to circulation to subscribers
	"Provisional Results" are defined as results that are subject to appeal for twenty-four (24) hours from the time the provisional results are released and which may, in addition, be affected because of earlier complaints not yet resolved
	"Working Day" is defined as a day that the GSA office is open
Other Specifically Related Sections of GSA Governing Documents	GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section B: Members
	GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers
	GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating
	GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board

GSA Bylaw: Elections[19]

I.BYL.1   Guiding Principle

I.BYL.1.1   The fundamental principle underlying GSA elections is that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA.

I.BYL.2   Election Timeline

I.BYL.2.1   Elections will consist of a nomination period, a campaign period, and a voting period.

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[19] Amended by GSA Council on 18 November 2013, 23 January 2017, 15 October 2018, 28 October 2019, and 21 November 2022. Editorial revisions made by the GSA Governance Committee on 28 May 2015.

I.BYL.2.2   The timeline for elections will be set out in GSA Policy.

I.BYL.3   Nominations

I.BYL.3.1   The requirements for the nomination forms will be set out in GSA Policy.

I.BYL.3.2   Candidates for Directly-Elected Officer positions will be GSA members, except associate members, in good academic standing.

I.BYL.3.3   Candidates are not allowed to run for multiple positions.

I.BYL.4   Voting

I.BYL.4.1   All voting in GSA General Elections and elections of the Associate Vice-President Labour and by-elections will be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use.

I.BYL.4.2   Each position will be elected on a per ballot basis.

I.BYL.5   Filling Vacancies Following the GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour

I.BYL.5.1   In the event that a Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) position or Councillor-at-Large (CAL) position is not filled by the end of the GSA General Election and election of the Associate Vice-President Labour (ie no candidates run for a position or "None of the Candidates" is elected), or a DEO position or CAL position is vacated any time prior to 1 December (or the next working day), the Chief Returning Officer and GSA Council will follow GSA Policy on filling vacancies following the GSA General Election (see GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.15).

GSA Policy: Elections[20]

I.POL.6   General Principles and Rules of Conduct for Elections

I.POL.6.1   "The fundamental principle underlying GSA elections is that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.BYL.1.1).

I.POL.6.2   Candidates will abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning elections, and any other applicable policies or laws, and will ensure that Campaign Volunteers do the same. It is the responsibility of candidates to familiarize themselves with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections.

I.POL.6.3   Candidates will treat the Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, GSA Officers, management, staff, and fellow candidates with respect.

I.POL.7   Nomination Forms

I.POL.7.1   Nomination forms will be made available to GSA members in hard copy at the GSA office. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).

I.POL.7.2   On the Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) nomination forms, candidates will include a minimum of five (5) signatures from GSA members. The purpose of the signatures is to attest that the nominators, in their view, believe the candidate has the ability and/or experience for the position for which they are running.

I.POL.7.3   Councillor-at-Large (CAL) candidates are not required to include signatures in their nomination forms.

I.POL.7.4   Written nominations for DEO or CAL positions will be submitted to the GSA office to be reviewed and signed by the CRO in order to verify both completeness and that the nomination form has been submitted on time. The original will be filed in the GSA office and one (1) copy provided to the candidate, normally electronically. If a nomination form is incomplete or late, the CRO will not accept the nomination form. Candidates cannot appeal this decision.

I.POL.7.5   Candidates can change the position they wish to run for, but must do so prior to the nomination deadline. If a candidate changes the position they are running for, the candidate will be required to fill out and submit a new nomination form for the new position prior to the nomination deadline and must meet the requirements as set out above.

I.POL.7.6   Once the CRO verifies nomination forms, the names of candidates who have submitted their nomination forms will be provisionally listed on the GSA website and in hard copy at the GSA office.

I.POL.7.7   The following will be stated on nomination forms for the GSA General Election and election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, and any subsequent by-elections:

"By signing nomination forms, all candidates acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, which is posted in full on the GSA website.

By signing nomination forms, candidates also acknowledge that they have read and are aware of the terms of an appeal within the GSA of any decisions on

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[20] Approved by GSA Council on 14 March 2011. Amended by GSA Council on 21 on October 2013, 8 December 2014, 25 May 2015, 20 July 2015, 23 January 2017, 15 October 2018, 28 October 2019, 24 October 2022, and 21 November 2022. Editorial revisions made by the GSA Governance Committee on 15 January 2015 (Chair and Vice-Chair under delegated authority from the GSA Governance Committee), 24 February 2015 (Chair and Vice-Chair under delegated authority from the GSA Governance Committee), 28 May 2015, 24 July 2015 (Chair and Vice-Chair under delegated authority from the GSA Governance Committee), 10 August 2015 (Chair and Vice-Chair under delegated authority from the GSA Governance Committee), and 6 October 2017.

alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy, including the fact that the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), with advice from the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), receives, manages, and rules on complaints regarding alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy and that the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) decides on any appeals. Any concerns with potential bias on the part of the CRO, the Deputy Returning Officer, and members of the GSA ERC in making such decisions, and members of the GSA ACB in making such decisions on appeals, will be filed with nomination forms."

I.POL.7.8   Nomination forms will list the names of the CRO, Deputy Returning Officer, members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and members of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.

   I.POL.7.8.a   Any changes to these names will be emailed to candidates who will have twenty-four (24) hours to file any objections with the GSA Speaker.

I.POL.8   Timeline

I.POL.8.1   Except as specified below, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) approves the timeline for elections with advice from the GSA ERC.

I.POL.8.2   "Elections will consist of a nomination period, a campaign period, and a voting period" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.BYL.2.1).

I.POL.8.3   Nominations for the GSA General Election and election of the Associate Vice-President Labour will open on or about 31 January.

I.POL.8.4   The nomination period will last at least fourteen (14) calendar days. The nomination period will end on a working day.

I.POL.8.5   Within twenty-four (24) hours after the close of the nomination period, the CRO will hold the All-Candidates Meeting as described, below.

I.POL.8.6   The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the All-Candidates Meeting.

I.POL.8.7   Voting:

   I.POL.8.7.a   Campaigning is permitted during the voting period,

   I.POL.8.7.b   The CRO will ensure that the voting period starts on a working day and lasts at least forty-eight (48) hours, and

   I.POL.8.7.c   Voting will be completed no later than 15 April, or the next working day.

I.POL.9   All-Candidates Meeting

I.POL.9.1   The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) is responsible for organizing a meeting of all candidates running in an election to provide them with an overview of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections.

I.POL.9.2   Failure by a candidate to attend the All-Candidates Meeting without adequate prior notification (defined as notice communicated electronically to the CRO at least one (1) hour in advance of the meeting) to the CRO is grounds for disqualification from the current election. If a candidate misses the All-Candidates Meeting due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances, such as a last minute emergency, any consequences may be waived at the discretion of the CRO, following consultation with the GSA Election and Referenda Committee. There is no appeal of these decisions.

I.POL.9.3   At the All-Candidates Meeting, the CRO will provide each candidate with all relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, as well as information concerning campaigning.

I.POL.10   Campaigning

I.POL.10.1   "The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the All-Candidates Meeting" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.8.6).

I.POL.10.2   No form of campaigning (verbal, electronic, and visual) will contain slander, discriminatory content, or *ad hominem* attacks of individuals.

I.POL.10.3   Candidates will ensure all campaign plans, materials, and/or advertisements conform with all University of Alberta policies and regulations and all municipal, provincial, and federal laws.

I.POL.10.4   Candidates will campaign as individuals and may not serve as Campaign Volunteers for other candidates. Slates are not permitted.

I.POL.10.5   The GSA office and any associated resources (eg, email accounts, staff) will not be used for campaign purposes, notwithstanding that all candidates will be given the opportunity to submit information about themselves for inclusion on the GSA website.

I.POL.10.6   Campaigning will not take place at any GSA meetings or events.

I.POL.10.7   Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) and the Senator, or their delegates (whether standing as candidates or not), will not campaign during any committee meetings or events at which they are acting as elected representatives of the GSA.

I.POL.10.8   DEOs and the Senator, if not standing as candidates, may serve as Campaign Volunteers, provided that they do not do so in their capacity as elected representatives of the GSA and that they do not speak for the GSA as an organization.

I.POL.10.9   The Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, members of the GSA Nominating Committee, members of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, and members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee will remain neutral and not serve as a Campaign Volunteer for any candidate whatsoever.

I.POL.10.10   Dissemination and Approval of Campaign Materials

   I.POL.10.10.a   Candidates will only use SUBprint to print campaign materials to be physically posted or distributed.

      I.POL.10.10.a.i   Campaign materials that are physically posted or distributed will require the approval of the CRO.

      I.POL.10.10.a.ii   Candidates will be responsible for removing all physically posted campaign materials after voting has closed.

   I.POL.10.10.b   Candidates will circulate campaign materials through email only to their personal contacts and will not utilize moderated mailing lists.

      I.POL.10.10.b.i   Campaign materials circulated either to or from a University of Alberta email address to personal contacts will require the approval of the CRO.

      I.POL.10.10.b.ii   Campaign materials circulated via non-University of Alberta email to personal contacts will not require the approval of the CRO.

   I.POL.10.10.c   Candidates will post campaign materials, or circulate them via messaging accounts, only through their personal social media accounts or other personal online platforms.

      I.POL.10.10.c.i   Campaign materials posted on personal social media accounts or other personal online platforms, or circulated via messaging accounts, will not require the approval of the CRO.

      I.POL.10.10.c.ii   Notwithstanding Section I.POL.10.10.c.i, above, the CRO will be provided access to campaign materials posted or circulated on personal social media accounts or other personal online platforms on which candidates intend to campaign.

I.POL.10.10.d   When approving campaign materials as noted in Sections I.POL.10.10.a.i and I.POL.10.10.b.i, above, the CRO will ensure they comply with Sections I.POL.10.2 and I.POL.10.3, above, and any other relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy. Additionally:

I.POL.10.10.d.i   Candidates will not use the University or GSA logos on any physical or electronic campaign materials.

I.POL.10.10.d.ii   The CRO is not responsible for reviewing the editorial content of campaign materials (eg, grammar, punctuation).

I.POL.10.10.d.iii   Campaign materials prepared in a language other than English will be accompanied by an English translation when submitted to the CRO for approval. The CRO is not responsible for the accuracy of translations.

I.POL.10.10.e   The turnaround for approving campaign materials will be approximately one (1) working day.

I.POL.10.11   Candidates will get permission, where appropriate, to campaign in instructional spaces, such as classrooms and lecture halls. Candidates will not campaign in unsafe spaces that require proper safety equipment. The CRO will talk about safety issues, including campaigning in labs, at the All-Candidates Meeting.

I.POL.10.12   Candidates will not accept gifts of money, gifts in kind, or equivalents.

I.POL.10.13   Campaign Spending Limit

I.POL.10.13.a   Candidates will be authorized to spend no more than $150 on campaign materials over the course of the election.

I.POL.10.13.b   Candidates will report to the CRO all campaign-related expenses, and submit receipts (either electronically or in hard copy) no later than two (2) hours after the close of the voting period.

I.POL.10.13.c   Campaign costs will not be reimbursed.

I.POL.10.14   Candidates are encouraged to ask the CRO before acting if they have any questions about GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections (including questions related to the development of campaign materials and the planning of campaign events), interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws, and to report any alleged breaches to the CRO, in accordance with the procedure outlined below.

I.POL.11   Breaches Discerned by the Chief Returning Officer, Alleged Breaches, and Complaints About Alleged Breaches

I.POL.11.1   Breaches Discerned by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

I.POL.11.1.a   When the CRO believes they have discerned a breach of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of an interpretation issued by the CRO, or of other applicable policies or laws, they will work to resolve the discerned breach through informal resolution.

I.POL.11.1.b   The goal of informal resolution is to arrive at countermeasures agreed upon by all parties.

I.POL.11.1.c   If the CRO is unable to resolve the discerned breach through informal resolution, or deems informal resolution to be inappropriate, they may, as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.1.b, discipline the candidate(s) by imposing the penalties or remedial actions noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections I.POL.11.4.c to I.POL.11.7.

I.POL.11.2   Alleged Breaches

I.POL.11.2.a   Those with questions or concerns about alleged breaches are encouraged to contact the CRO in a timely fashion. The CRO will advise on associated processes.

I.POL.11.2.b   All alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws must be reported to the CRO as soon as possible.

I.POL.11.2.c   When an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of an interpretation issued by the CRO, or of other applicable policies or laws is reported to the CRO, they will work to resolve the alleged breach through informal resolution.

I.POL.11.2.d   The goal of informal resolution is to arrive at countermeasures agreed upon by all parties.

I.POL.11.2.e   If the CRO is unable to resolve the alleged breach through informal resolution, or deems informal resolution to be inappropriate, they may, as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.1.b, discipline the candidate(s) by imposing the penalties or remedial actions noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections I.POL.11.4.c to I.POL.11.7.

I.POL.11.3   Complaints About Alleged Breaches

I.POL.11.3.a   While complaints may be brought forward at any point during campaigning, individuals have twenty-four (24) hours after the release of provisional results to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy. Complaints lodged after this deadline will not be considered.

I.POL.11.3.b   To be considered by the CRO, a complaint must include the following:

I.POL.11.3.b.i   The name of the person filing the complaint and their University email address,

I.POL.11.3.b.ii   The name of the candidate who allegedly committed a breach,

I.POL.11.3.b.iii   The section of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, interpretation issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws that has allegedly been breached,

I.POL.11.3.b.iv   A description of what constitutes the alleged breach and associated evidence, and

I.POL.11.3.b.v   A list of the evidence submitted.

I.POL.11.3.c   Incomplete complaints will not be considered and complainants filing incomplete complaints will be notified as such.

I.POL.11.3.d   The CRO can dismiss a complaint if it is unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious.

I.POL.11.3.e   If a person provides information on an anonymous basis, that information and the request for anonymity will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

I.POL.11.4   Decision

I.POL.11.4.a   If informal resolution is rejected or is not successful, the CRO will email the candidate concerned with the details of the complaint, and request a written response, setting a deadline of at least eight (8) hours.

I.POL.11.4.b   Based on the complaint and the written response (or solely on the complaint if no written response was provided by the set deadline), the CRO will normally reach a decision on the complaint within seventy-two (72) hours. If more time is required to reach a decision, the CRO will make a decision regarding extensions.

I.POL.11.4.c   The CRO may impose the following penalties, or remedial actions:

I.POL.11.4.c.i   Verbal or written reprimands,

I.POL.11.4.c.ii   Reduction of spending limits,

I.POL.11.4.c.iii   Disqualification from the current election, and

I.POL.11.4.c.iv   Any other penalty or remedial action.

I.POL.11.4.d   All decisions on complaints and decisions reached by the CRO will include:

    I.POL.11.4.d.i   A summary of the alleged or discerned breach,

    I.POL.11.4.d.ii   A list of parties to the complaint or breach (unless anonymity was granted, see Section I.POL. 11.3.e, above),

    I.POL.11.4.d.iii   A summary of the reasons for the decision and the process by which it was reached,

    I.POL.11.4.d.iv   A listing of all applicable GSA Bylaw and Policy and interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws,

    I.POL.11.4.d.v   The decided upon penalties, and/or remedial actions, and

    I.POL.11.4.d.vi   The time limit for any appeal to be made.

I.POL.11.5   Upon reaching a decision the CRO will email the decision to all parties, with a copy to the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC). The decision will then be posted on the GSA website.

I.POL.11.6   Unless otherwise stated in GSA Bylaw or Policy on elections, decisions of the CRO are subject to appeal to the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB).

    I.POL.11.6.a   The CRO will advise the parties that they have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO's email is deemed delivered for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB.

I.POL.11.7   Throughout this process, the CRO will consult with the Deputy Returning Officer, available member(s) of the GSA ERC, and the Executive Director (or delegate).

I.POL.12   Voting

I.POL.12.1   "All voting in GSA General Elections and elections of the Associate Vice-President Labour (AVPL) and by-elections will be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.BYL.4.1). As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section B.BYL.3.1, voting for the position of AVPL will be restricted to academically-employed graduate students.

I.POL.12.2   Candidates will be displayed in alphabetical order on a per-ballot basis.

I.POL.12.3   "None of the Candidates" will be displayed following the list of candidates on a per ballot basis.

I.POL.12.4   On ballots, voters will mark their choice of candidate(s) for each race. Voters may abstain by signing in to vote but then not voting in a particular race.

I.POL.12.5   Ballots will be counted electronically according to the following procedures:

    I.POL.12.5.a   The number of votes for each candidate will be counted.

    I.POL.12.5.b   The candidate(s) with the highest number(s) of votes will be successful, in accord with the number of positions available. In a case where "None of the Candidates" received more votes than some of the other candidates, only candidate(s) receiving more votes than "None of the Candidates" will be considered successful.

    I.POL.12.5.c   In the event of a tied vote, the Chief Returning Officer will draw a name from a hat in the presence of two (2) neutral witnesses, and the name drawn from a hat will be the candidate that is eliminated.

I.POL.12.6   Candidates who receive fewer votes than "None of the Candidates" in the GSA General Election and election of the AVPL cannot run for the same position in any related subsequent by-elections, GSA Council elections, or elections of the AVPL (as outlined in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.15).

I.POL.13   **Results**

I.POL.13.1   Upon completion of the ballot count, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) will announce provisional results. Results will be made official only after the deadline to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy has expired and none have been received or when the GSA's process of dealing with alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy on elections and any appeals within that process are exhausted.

I.POL.13.2   In the case where the electronic voting system fails and paper ballots were used, the paper ballots will be destroyed one (1) month following the release of the official results.

I.POL.14   **Reporting**

I.POL.14.1   The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) will draft a procedural report following each GSA General Election and election of the Associate Vice-President Labour or by-election(s). This report will outline major decisions, processes, issues, and recommendations for the following year. This report will be provided to the next CRO and Deputy Returning Officer, and the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, the GSA Board, and GSA Council.

I.POL.15   **Filling Vacancies Following the GSA General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour**

I.POL.15.1   In the event that a Directly-Elected Officer (DEO) position is not filled by the end of the GSA General Election and election of the Associate Vice-President Labour (AVPL) (ie no candidates run for a position or "None of the Candidates" is elected), or if a position is vacated at any time prior to 1 December (or the next working day) a by-election will take place as soon as possible. The procedures governing this by-election will be the same as those governing regular elections, except the dates of nominations, campaigning, and voting periods will be determined by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).

I.POL.15.2   In the event that a DEO position is vacated after 1 December (or the next working day) and before the next GSA General Election and election of the AVPL, the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC) will decide on procedures and then provide one (1) or more names to GSA Council and/or academically-employed graduate students (in the case of the election of the AVPL) for consideration. GSA Council and/or academically-employed graduate students (in the case of the election of the AVPL) will elect an individual to fill the position on an interim basis. If the matter is deemed urgent by the CRO, GSA Council can hold ~~this~~ an election for DEOs, excluding for the AVPL, electronically.

I.POL.15.3   In the event that any Councillor-at-Large (CAL) positions are not filled by the end of the GSA General Election, or a CAL position is vacated, GSA Council will be responsible for electing any remaining CALs prior to 1 December (or the next working day). When electing any remaining CALs, GSA Council will aim to elect GSA members from as broad a range of disciplines as possible. The GSA NoC will decide on procedures and then provide one (1) or more names to GSA Council for consideration, except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process specifies that all vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement. If the matter is urgent, GSA Council can hold this election electronically.

GSA Policy: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee[21]

I.POL.16 Composition

I.POL.16.1　A total of six (6) GSA members including at least one (1) Councillor elected by GSA Council, as voting members.

I.POL.16.2　The Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer as non-voting members.

I.POL.16.3　The Executive Director (or delegate) as a non-voting member.

I.POL.16.4　Two (2) members from amongst the six (6) voting members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) will be elected by the GSA ERC to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the duration of their time on the GSA ERC or until they resign their positions. The members elected will be reported to GSA Council.

I.POL.17 Eligibility

I.POL.17.1　All members of the GSA are eligible to serve on the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) unless they intend to run in or serve as a Campaign Volunteer in the upcoming GSA General Election and election of the Associate Vice-President Labour (AVPL) and/or by-election, serve as a Campaign Representative or Campaign Volunteer in an upcoming referendum, or they have run in the most recent GSA General Election and election of the AVPL and/or by-election or served as a Campaign Representative in the most recent referendum. GSA ERC members must also be neutral and impartial (ie having no immediate or vested interest in the outcome of GSA General Elections, elections of the AVPL, and referenda).

I.POL.17.2　If a GSA ERC member intends to run in or serve as a Campaign Volunteer in the upcoming GSA General Election and election of the AVPL and/or by-election, or serve as a Campaign Representative or Campaign Volunteer in an upcoming referendum they will resign from the GSA ERC.

I.POL.18 Mandate

I.POL.18.1　The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) will advise the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) on all matters pertaining to GSA General Elections and elections of the Associate Vice-President Labour (AVPL), by-elections, and referenda including but not limited to:

I.POL.18.1.a　The advertising of the nomination period for GSA General Elections and elections of the AVPL or by-elections, the registration period for any referenda, and voting periods for all GSA General Elections and elections of the AVPL, by-elections, and referenda,

I.POL.18.1.b　Preparing nomination and registration forms in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda,

I.POL.18.1.c　The planning of any GSA General Election and election of the AVPL or by-election forums for GSA members to ask candidates questions,

I.POL.18.1.d　Issuing interpretations of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda to be shared equally amongst all candidates and Campaign Representatives during the course of a GSA General Election and election of the AVPL, by-election, or referendum, and

I.POL.18.1.e　Receiving, managing, and ruling on alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy, of interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections I.POL.11 and J.POL.12.

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[21] Amended by the Annual General Meeting on 28 March 2011. Amended by GSA Council on 21 October 2013, 8 December 2014, 15 October 2018, 28 October 2019, 21 November 2022, and 19 June 2023. Editorial revisions made by the GSA Governance Committee on 3 April 2017 and 22 January 2020.

I.POL.18.2   The GSA ERC will make recommendations to the CRO on:

    I.POL.18.2.a   The approval of timelines for GSA General Elections and elections of the AVPL, by-elections, and referenda in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda,

    I.POL.18.2.b   The approval of nomination and registration forms in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda,

    I.POL.18.2.c   The approval of the electronic software or applications used to run GSA General Elections and elections of the AVPL, by-elections, and referenda in consultation with the Executive Director (or delegate) and Financial Manager, and

    I.POL.18.2.d   The approval of the format of the ballots for GSA General Elections and elections of the AVPL, by-elections, and referenda.

I.POL.18.3   At least one (1) month prior to the opening of nominations for the GSA General Election and election of the AVPL, the GSA ERC will meet to assist the CRO in the planning of election events.

I.POL.18.4   The GSA ERC will review GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda annually and make any recommendations to GSA Council.

I.POL.18.5   GSA ERC members are free to approach GSA Council with any concerns about how elections or referenda are being managed.

I.POL.18.6   The GSA ERC strongly recommends to GSA members who are considering running for office that they participate in the early call program led by the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC). It is the firm belief of the GSA ERC that training is needed in order for Directly-Elected Officers to carry out their duties effectively.

I.POL.18.7   "In the case of a resignation or other vacancy (as determined by the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee) in the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) or Deputy Returning Officer positions during any GSA General Election and election of the AVPL, by-election, referendum, or any other associated election or referenda matter, the GSA NoC may take necessary action to fill the vacancy, including direct appointments, or appointments of former CROs" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E.POL.8.5).

I.POL.19 Meetings

I.POL.19.1   Quorum is four (4) voting members including either the Chair or the Vice-Chair.

Section J: Referenda

Purpose and Scope: This bylaw and associated policy governs the operation of GSA referenda and the expected conduct of registered 'Yes' or 'No' campaigns therein	
Definitions	"Asker" is defined as a GSA member or a person acting on behalf of an external organization who wishes to initiate a referendum
	"Campaign Materials" are defined as any materials designed to be disseminated to promote a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign
	"Campaign Representative" is defined as a GSA member running either a 'Yes' campaign or a 'No' campaign
	"Campaign Volunteers" are defined as individuals or groups who campaign on behalf of a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign with the awareness of the Campaign Representative
	"Campaigning" is defined as any form of promotion of a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign; this includes all verbal, electronic, and visual forms of communication
	"Deemed Delivered" is defined such that an email is deemed to have been delivered twenty-four (24) hours from the time it was sent
	"Moderated Mailing List" is defined as an email list where the membership is compiled by a third-party and/or communications are sent to email list owners for review and/or approval prior to circulation to subscribers
	"Provisional Results" are defined as results that are subject to appeal for twenty-four (24) hours from the time the provisional results are released and which may, in addition, be affected because of earlier complaints not yet resolved
	"Referendum Question" is defined as a clearly worded 'Yes' or 'No' question regarding any dedicated, on-going fee for a service, facility, or lobbying effort
	"Working Day" is defined as a day that the GSA office is open
Other Specifically Related Sections of GSA Governing Documents	GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section B: Members
	GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D: GSA Officers
	GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Performance, Conduct, Responsibilities, and Attendance, and the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board

GSA Bylaw: Referenda[22]

J.BYL.1   Guiding Principle

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[22] Approved by GSA Council on 28 November 2013. Amended by GSA Council on 23 January 2017, 15 October 2018, 28 October 2019, and 21 November 2022.

J.BYL.1.1   The fundamental principle underlying GSA referenda is that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA.

J.BYL.2   Initiation

J.BYL.2.1   A referendum on a clearly worded 'Yes' or 'No' question regarding any dedicated, on-going fee for a service, facility, or lobbying effort can be initiated by the GSA Board (GSAB) subject to a simple majority vote at any meeting of GSA Council. Normally a referendum will be held in conjunction with the GSA General Election and election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, unless a question is determined to be of an urgent nature by the GSAB.

J.BYL.2.2   The required steps for a GSA member or a person acting on behalf of an external organization wishing to initiate a referendum will be outlined in GSA Policy on referenda.

J.BYL.2.3   Notwithstanding the process by which a referendum is initiated, a clearly worded referendum question will be developed in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer, the GSAB, and GSA Council. GSA Council will approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of a referendum question.

J.BYL.3   Referendum Timeline

J.BYL.3.1   Referenda questions will be submitted to GSA Council for approval no later than the first mailing for the November GSA Council meeting, unless a referendum is determined to be urgent by the GSA Board as noted above.

J.BYL.3.2   Referenda will consist of a registration period, a campaign period, and a voting period.

J.BYL.3.3   The timeline for referenda will be set out in GSA Policy.

J.BYL.4   Registration of a 'Yes' or 'No' Campaign

J.BYL.4.1   The requirements for the registration forms of a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign will be set out in GSA Policy.

J.BYL.4.2   Only GSA members, except associate members, can register a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign during a referendum.

J.BYL.4.3   Current Directly-Elected Officer(s) are not required to register a campaign in a referendum and may take positions.

J.BYL.5   Voting

J.BYL.5.1   All referenda voting will be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use.

GSA Policy: Referenda[23]

J.POL.6   General Principles and Rules of Conduct for Referenda

J.POL.6.1   "The fundamental principle underlying GSA referenda is that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA" (Section J: Referenda, GSA Bylaw, Referenda, Section J.BYL.1.1).

J.POL.6.2   Campaign Representatives will abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy concerning referenda, and any other applicable policies or laws, and will ensure that Campaign Volunteers do the same. It is the responsibility of candidates to familiarize themselves with GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda.

J.POL.6.3   Campaign Representatives will treat the Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, GSA Officers, management, staff, and fellow Campaign Representatives with respect.

J.POL.7   Initiating a Referendum

J.POL.7.1   If an Asker wishes to initiate a referendum, they will contact the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).

J.POL.7.2   The CRO will extend an invitation to present to the GSA Board (GSAB). The Asker must state how their organization or proposed referendum question relates to the GSA and/or GSA members. The Asker will provide the GSAB with relevant documents such as a constitution, mission statement, vision statement, audited financial statements, etc.

J.POL.7.2.a   A clearly worded referendum question will address the following criteria (if applicable): description of any dedicated on-going fee, amount of fee, how long a fee will be collected, effective date (when a fee will start being collected), procedure for changing a fee, whether the fee can be rescinded, and an accountability mechanism for the money collected. The criteria above provided are non-exhaustive and additional criteria may be required to draft a clearly worded referendum question.

J.POL.7.3   The CRO and Asker will work together to draft a referendum question, which will be subject to change after input from the GSAB and GSA Council.

J.POL.7.4   Following the presentation to the GSAB by the Asker, the GSAB will either decide to extend the Asker an invitation to GSA Council to make a presentation (normally fifteen (15) minutes with an extension if GSA Council so desires, followed by questions from GSA Council), or, if the GSAB does not extend an invitation to GSA Council, the Asker can find a GSA Council member to place the matter on the GSA Council agenda as per the procedures governing GSA Council.

J.POL.7.5   If the GSAB has invited the Asker to present at GSA Council, at that point the CRO and the Asker will work together to finalize the wording of the question (subject to change if GSA Council has concerns with the wording) and the Asker then presents to GSA Council.

J.POL.7.6   GSA Council will vote whether to approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question.

J.POL.7.7   If GSA Council approves the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question, a referendum is then held in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda.

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[23] Approved by GSA Council on 21 October 2013. Amended by GSA Council on 20 July 2015, 23 January 2017, 15 October 2018, 28 October 2019, 24 October 2022, and 19 June 2023. Editorial revisions made by the GSA Governance Committee on 9 January 2014, 24 July 2015, and 10 August 2015.

J.POL.7.8   The CRO will provide an electronic description or briefing of the background, purpose, and relevant details of any GSA Council approved referendum question prior to referendum voting. Normally this description will be posted on the GSA website.

J.POL.8   Campaign Registration Forms

J.POL.8.1   Campaign registration forms will be made available to GSA members in hard copy at the GSA office. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).

J.POL.8.2   In order to register a campaign, a minimum of five (5) signatures from GSA members must be provided to the CRO before the end of the registration period, as well as the name and contact information of the Campaign Representative.

J.POL.8.3   Written registration forms will be submitted to the GSA office to be reviewed and signed by the CRO in order to verify both completeness and that the registration form has been submitted on time. The original will be filed in the GSA office and one (1) copy provided to the Campaign Representative, normally electronically. If a registration form is incomplete or late, the CRO will not accept the registration form. Campaign Representatives cannot appeal this decision.

J.POL.8.4   The following will be stated on registration forms for a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign for a referendum:

"By signing registration forms, all Campaign Representatives acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda, which is posted in full on the GSA website.

By signing registration forms, Campaign Representatives also acknowledge that they have read and are aware of the terms of an appeal within the GSA of any decisions on alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy, including the fact that the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), with advice from the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), receives, manages, and rules on complaints regarding alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy and that the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) decides on any appeals. Any concerns with potential bias on the part of the CRO, Deputy Returning Officer, and members of the GSA ERC in making such decisions, and members of the GSA ACB in making decisions on appeals will be filed with registration forms."

J.POL.8.5   Registration forms will list the names of the CRO, Deputy Returning Officer, members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, and members of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.

J.POL.8.5.a   Any changes to these names will be emailed to Campaign Representative who will have twenty-four (24) hours to file any objections with the GSA Speaker.

J.POL.9   Timeline

J.POL.9.1   Except as specified below, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) approves the timeline for a referendum, with advice from the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee.

J.POL.9.2   "Referenda will consist of a registration period, a campaign period, and a voting period" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.3.2).

J.POL.9.3   The registration period will last at least fourteen (14) calendar days and only a 'Yes' or 'No' campaign can be registered. The registration period will end on a working day. In the event that no registrations are received the referendum will proceed regardless.

J.POL.9.4   Within twenty-four (24) hours after the close of the registration period, the CRO will hold the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives as described below.

J.POL.9.5   The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives.

J.POL.9.6   Voting:

    J.POL.9.6.a   Campaigning is permitted during the voting period and

    J.POL.9.6.b   The CRO will ensure that the voting period starts on a working day and lasts at least forty-eight (48) hours.

J.POL.10   Meeting of the Campaign Representatives

J.POL.10.1   The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) is responsible for organizing a meeting with all Campaign Representatives to provide an overview of GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda.

J.POL.10.2   Failure to attend the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives by a Campaign Representative (or delegate) without adequate prior notification to the CRO is grounds for disqualification of their campaign. 'Adequate prior notification' is defined as notice communicated electronically to the CRO at least one (1) hour in advance of the meeting. If a Campaign Representative (or delegate) misses this meeting due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances, such as a last-minute emergency, any consequences may be waived at the discretion of the CRO, following consultation with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee. There is no appeal of these decisions.

J.POL.10.3   At the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives the CRO will provide Campaign Representatives with all relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda and on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, as well as information concerning campaigning.

J.POL.11   Campaigning

J.POL.11.1   "The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.9.5).

J.POL.11.2   No form of campaigning (verbal, electronic, and visual) will contain slander, discriminatory content, or *ad hominem* attacks of individuals.

J.POL.11.3   Campaign Representatives will ensure all campaign plans, materials, and/or advertisements conform with all University of Alberta policies and regulations and all municipal, provincial, and federal laws.

J.POL.11.4   The Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, members of the GSA Nominating Committee, members of the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board, and members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee will remain neutral and not serve as a Campaign Representative or Campaign Volunteer for any 'Yes' or 'No' campaign whatsoever.

J.POL.11.5   Dissemination and Approval of Campaign Materials

    J.POL.11.5.a   Campaign Representatives will only use SUBprint to print campaign materials to be physically posted or distributed.

        J.POL.11.5a.i   Campaign materials that are physically posted or distributed will require the approval of the CRO.

        J.POL.11.5.a.ii   Campaign Representatives will be responsible for removing all physically posted campaign materials after voting has closed.

    J.POL.11.5.b   Campaign Representatives will circulate campaign materials through email only to their personal contacts and will not utilize moderated mailing lists.

        J.POL.11.5.b.i   Campaign materials circulated either to or from a University of Alberta email address to personal contacts will require the approval of the CRO.

        J.POL.11.5.b.ii   Campaign materials circulated via non-University of Alberta email to personal contacts will not require the approval of the CRO.

J.POL.11.5.c   Campaign Representatives will post campaign materials, or circulate them via messaging accounts, only through their personal social media accounts or other personal online platforms.

J.POL.11.5.c.i   Campaign materials posted on personal social media accounts or other personal online platforms, or circulated via messaging accounts, will not require the approval of the CRO.

J.POL.11.5.c.ii   Notwithstanding Section J.POL.11.5.c.i, above, the CRO will be provided access to campaign materials posted or circulated on personal social media accounts or other personal online platforms on which Campaign Representatives intend to campaign.

J.POL.11.5.d   When approving campaign materials as noted in Sections J.POL.11.5.a.i and J.POL.11.5.b.i, above, the CRO will ensure they comply with Sections J.POL.11.2 and J.POL.11.3, above, and any other relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy. Additionally:

J.POL.11.5.d.i   Campaign Representatives will not use the University or GSA logos on any physical or electronic campaign materials.

J.POL.11.5.d.ii   The CRO is not responsible for reviewing the editorial content of campaign materials (eg, grammar, punctuation).

J.POL.11.5.d.iii   Campaign materials prepared in a language other than English will be accompanied by an English translation when submitted to the CRO for approval. The CRO is not responsible for the accuracy of translations.

J.POL.11.5.e   The turnaround for approving campaign materials will be approximately one (1) working day.

J.POL.11.6   Campaign Representatives will get permission, where appropriate, to campaign in instructional spaces, such as classrooms and lecture halls. Campaign Representatives will not campaign in unsafe spaces that require proper safety equipment. The CRO will talk about safety issues, including campaigning in labs, at the Meeting of the Campaign Representatives.

J.POL.11.7   Campaign Representatives will not accept gifts of money, gifts in kind, or equivalents.

J.POL.11.8   Campaign Spending Limit

J.POL.11.8.a   Campaign Representatives will be authorized to spend no more than $150 on campaign materials over the course of a referendum.

J.POL.11.8.b   Campaign Representatives will report to the CRO all campaign-related expenses, and submit receipts (either electronically or in hard copy) no later than two (2) hours after the close of the voting period.

J.POL.11.8.c   Campaign costs will not be reimbursed.

J.POL.11.9   Campaign Representatives are encouraged to ask the CRO before acting if they have any questions about GSA Bylaw or Policy on referenda (including questions related to the development of campaign materials and the planning of campaign events), of interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws, and to report any alleged breaches to the CRO, in accordance with the procedure outlined below.

J.POL.12   Breaches Discerned by the Chief Returning Officer, Alleged Breaches, and Complaints About Alleged Breaches

J.POL.12.1   Breaches Discerned by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

J.POL.12.1.a   When the CRO believes they have discerned a breach of GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda, of an interpretation issued by the CRO, or of other applicable policies or laws, they will work to resolve the discerned breach through informal resolution.

J.POL.12.1.b   The goal of informal resolution is to arrive at countermeasures agreed upon by all parties.

J.POL.12.1.c   If the CRO is unable to resolve the discerned breach through informal resolution, or deems informal resolution to be inappropriate, they may, as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.1.b, discipline the Campaign Representative(s) by imposing the penalties or remedial actions noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections J.POL.12.4.c to J.POL.12.7E

J.POL.12.2   Alleged Breaches

J.POL.12.2.a   Those with questions or concerns about alleged breaches are encouraged to contact the CRO in a timely fashion. The CRO will advise on associated processes.

J.POL.12.2.b   All alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda of interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws must be reported to the CRO as soon as possible.

J.POL.12.2.c   When an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, of an interpretation issued by the CRO, or of other applicable policies or laws is reported to the CRO, they will work to resolve the alleged breach through informal resolution.

J.POL.12.2.d   The goal of informal resolution is to arrive at countermeasures agreed upon by all parties.

J.POL.12.2.e   If the CRO is unable to resolve the alleged breach through informal resolution, or deems informal resolution to be inappropriate, they may, as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section D.POL.11.1.b, discipline the Campaign Representative(s) by imposing the penalties or remedial actions noted in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections J.POL.12.4.c to J.POL.7.

J.POL.12.3   Complaints About Alleged Breaches

J.POL.12.3.a   While complaints may be brought forward at any point during campaigning, individuals have twenty-four (24) hours after the release of provisional results to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy. Complaints lodged after this deadline will not be considered.

J.POL.12.3.b   To be considered by the CRO, a complaint must include the following:

J.POL.12.3.b.i   The name of the person filing the complaint and their University email address,

J.POL.12.3.b.ii   The name of the Campaign Representative who allegedly committed a breach,

J.POL.12.3.b.iii   The section of GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda, interpretation issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws that has allegedly been breached

J.POL.12.3.b.iv   A description of what constitutes the alleged breach and associated evidence, and

J.POL.12.3.b.v   A list of the evidence submitted.

J.POL.12.3.c   Incomplete complaints will not be considered and complainants filing incomplete complaints will be notified as such.

J.POL.12.3.d   The CRO can dismiss a complaint if it is unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious.

J.POL.12.3.e   If a person provides information on an anonymous basis, that information and the request for anonymity will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

J.POL.12.4   Decision

J.POL.12.4.a   If informal resolution is rejected or is not successful, the CRO will email the Campaign Representative concerned with the details of the complaint, and request a written response, setting a deadline of at least eight (8) hours.

J.POL.12.4.b   Based on the complaint and the written response (or solely on the complaint if no written response was provided by the set deadline), the CRO will normally reach a decision on the complaint within seventy-two (72) hours. If more time is required to reach a decision, the CRO will make a decision regarding extensions.

J.POL.12.4.c   The CRO may impose the following penalties, or remedial actions:

J.POL.12.4.c.i   Verbal or written reprimands,

J.POL.12.4.c.ii   Reduction of spending limits,

J.POL.12.4.c.iii   Disqualification of the campaign from the current referendum, and

J.POL.12.4.c.iv   Any other penalty or remedial action.

J.POL.12.4.d   All decisions on complaints and decisions reached by the CRO will include:

J.POL.12.4.d.i   A summary of the alleged or discerned breach,

J.POL.12.4.d.ii   A list of parties to the complaint or breach (unless anonymity was granted, see Section J.POL.12.3.e, above),

J.POL.12.4.d.iii   A summary of the reasons for the decision and the process by which it was reached,

J.POL.12.4.d.iv   A listing of all applicable GSA Bylaw and Policy and interpretations issued by the CRO, or other applicable policies or laws,

J.POL.12.4.d.v   The decided upon penalties, and/or remedial actions, and

J.POL.12.4.d.vi   The time limit for any appeal to be made.

J.POL.12.5   Upon reaching a decision the CRO will email the decision to all parties, with a copy to the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC). The decision will then be posted on the GSA website.

J.POL.12.6   Unless otherwise stated in GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda, decisions of the CRO are subject to appeal to the GSA ACB.

J.POL.12.6.a   The CRO will advise the parties that they have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO's email is deemed delivered for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB.

J.POL.12.7   Throughout this process, the CRO will consult with the Deputy Returning Officer, available member(s) of the GSA ERC, and the Executive Director (or delegate).

J.POL.13   Voting

J.POL.13.1   "All referenda voting will be done electronically, except in the event of a failure of the electronic system in use" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.5.1).

J.POL.13.2   In the event of a tie vote, GSA Council will decide whether to re-run a referendum.

J.POL.14   Results

J.POL.14.1   Upon completion of the ballot count, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) will announce provisional results. Results will be made official only after the deadline to lodge a complaint with the CRO about an alleged breach of GSA Bylaw or Policy has expired and none have been received or when the GSA's process of dealing with alleged breaches of GSA Bylaw or Policy on referenda and any appeals within that process are exhausted.

J.POL.14.2   In the case where the electronic voting system fails and paper ballots were used, the paper ballots will be destroyed one (1) month following the release of the official results.

J.POL.15   Reporting

J.POL.15.1   The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) will draft a procedural report following each referendum. This report will outline major decisions, a summary of discussions and consultations with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), processes, issues, and recommendations for any future referendum. This report will be provided to the next CRO and Deputy Returning Officer, the GSA ERC, the GSA Board, and GSA Council.

<u>**Outline of Issue**</u>
2024 Referendum and Associated Draft Question Initiated by the The Gateway

Suggested Motion:

That GSA Council **APPROVE** the holding of a referendum on the collection of a fee from graduate students to support The Gateway, to run concurrently with the 2024 GSA General Election.

Background:

Pursuant to the provisions of GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda, an 'Asker' who wishes to initiate a referendum can contact the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), who works with them to draft a referendum question and then extends an invitation to the Asker to present to the GSA Board (GSAB). Following a review by the GSAB, should the proposed referendum be deemed relevant to the GSA and/or GSA members, the matter proceeds to GSA Council, with that body ultimately deciding whether to approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question.

Should the GSA Council approve the holding of a referendum (and the wording of the associated question), it would run concurrently with the 2024 GSA General Election. As indicated in the motion, notwithstanding GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section B.BYL.3.1, only graduate students would be eligible to vote as only they would be assessed the fee.

As per current GSA Policy, the 'asker' referred to below is the GSA itself, accordingly the attached question was drafted in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO). The CRO and DRO met and reviewed the 2024 referendum question on September 6 2023, the CRO had a brief discussion with The Gateway on November 20 and approved the question on November 23 2023.

The attached question (to be distributed) was drafted by The Gateway, in consultation with the CRO and GSAB. Additional information concerning the fee and its proposed usage provided by The Gateway can be found throughout the remainder of the proposal. The Gateway presented these materials to the GSAB at a meeting on November 1 2023. GSAB members voted to extend an invitation to The Gateway to present this matter to GSA Council urgently on November 29 2023.
Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.2.1
" A referendum on a clearly worded 'Yes' or 'No' question regarding any dedicated, on-going fee for a service, facility, or lobbying effort can be initiated by the GSA Board (GSAB) subject to a simple majority vote at any meeting of GSA Council. Normally a referendum will be held in conjunction with the GSA General Election, unless a question is determined to be of an urgent nature by the GSAB."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.2.3
"Notwithstanding the process by which a referendum is initiated, a clearly worded referendum question will be developed in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), the GSAB, and GSA Council. GSA Council will approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of a referendum question."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.3.1
"Referenda questions will be submitted to GSA Council for approval no later than the first mailing for the November GSA Council meeting, unless a referendum is determined to be urgent by the GSAB as noted above."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.1
"If an Asker wishes to initiate a referendum, they will contact the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)."

Prepared by L Moodley and C Roose for GSA Council 11 December 2023

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GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.2
"The CRO will extend an invitation to present to the GSA Board (GSAB). The Asker must state how their organization or proposed referendum question relates to the GSA and/or GSA members. The Asker will provide the GSAB with relevant documents such as a constitution, mission statement, vision statement, audited financial statements, etc."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.2.a
"A clearly worded referendum question will address the following criteria (if applicable): description of any dedicated on-going fee, amount of fee, how long a fee will be collected, effective date (when a fee will start being collected), procedure for changing a fee, whether the fee can be rescinded, and an accountability mechanism for the money collected. The criteria above provided are non-exhaustive and additional criteria may be required to draft a clearly worded referendum question."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.3
"The CRO and Asker will work together to draft a referendum question, which will be subject to change after input from the GSAB and GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.4
"Following the presentation to the GSAB by the Asker, the GSAB will either decide to extend the Asker an invitation to GSA Council to make a presentation (normally fifteen (15) minutes with an extension if GSA Council so desires, followed by questions from GSA Council), or, if the GSAB does not extend an invitation to GSA Council, the Asker can find a GSA Council member to place the matter on the GSA Council agenda as per the procedures governing GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.5
"If the GSAB has invited the Asker to present at GSA Council, at that point the CRO and the Asker will work together to finalize the wording of the question (subject to change if GSA Council has concerns with the wording) and the Asker then presents to GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.6.
"GSA Council will vote whether to approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.7
"If GSA Council approves the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question, a referendum is then held in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda."

Prepared by L Moodley and C Roose for GSA Council 11 December 2023

/Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/GSA Council/Meetings/2023 - 2024/November 2023/First Mailing/GSA Council 11 December 2023 Item 7 - 2023 The Gateway Referendum Question Outline of Issue.docx

gateway

GRADUATE STUDENT LEVY
PROPOSAL

Prepared For :

Graduate Students'
Association Council

1-49 Triffo Hall
Edmonton, AB ST 12345

OUR TEAM

WHO YOU'LL BE SEEING DURING THE CAMPAIGN

KATIE TEELING

MITCHELL PAWLUK

Katie Teeling (she/her) is the 2023-24 Editor-in-Chief of *The Gateway*. Her responsibilities include overseeing all our editorial content, business decisions, and managing a seven-person staff.

Mitchell Pawluk (he/him) is the Campaign Representative for the Yes Side of The Gateway's proposed referendum. He previously served as Editor-in-Chief of *The Gateway* and is currently an MA student in the Department of Political Science.

The Gateway is also supported by an undergraduate DFU campaign led by Emily Williams. Separate from both is a team of editorial staff responsible for day-to-day operations. For the GSA campaign, however, you'll be working primarily with us.

Our History

Independent Student Journalism since 1910

For over 110 years, *The Gateway* has been a platform for student voices. While we have existed in different formats throughout this time, we always had the same purpose: to tell and elevate the stories of our campus community.

We began as a monthly newspaper owned by the University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU). Over time, we became a bi-weekly newspaper that was at the forefront of the Canadian student journalism community. We became independent from the UASU in 2002 due to a successful student levy referendum. In the last decade, we have produced a monthly magazine, a daily online publication, podcasts, and a bi-annual newspaper. On average, we reach 40,000 readers a month online and print 4,000 print copies each semester.

Our journalism was always produced by and for students, with a team of staff overseeing editorial content, business management, and our student volunteers. Throughout our history, we have a proud tradition of training students in Canadian Press-style journalism. Our alumni include notable journalists, politicians, and Supreme Court justices.

FUNDING MODEL

HISTORICALLY

Initially, when we were owned by the UASU, our budget came from a portion of their union dues. The situation, however, led to fluctuating budget sizes year over year and placed us in a conflict of interest when covering the largest student group on campus.

In 2002, when we became autonomous from the undergraduate students' union, we began to receive an undergraduate student levy. Combined with advertising revenue, this gave us the fiscal sustainability needed to produce award-winning journalism.

Unfortunately, in 2019 and 2020, students voted to end our levy. The COVID-19 pandemic, the increasing cost of living and post-secondary education, and an editorial focus on quantity over quality led to this outcome.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

Despite losing student funding, we have been able to keep producing high-quality journalism on campus. Our editorial focus has shifted to providing in-depth coverage of the issues most important to students. Our work continues to impact campus life and receive external recognition in the student journalism community.

Sadly, our funding model is not sustainable long-term. We're operating off a mixture of reserve funds, donations, grants, and advertising revenue. However, none of these revenue sources are enough to support our work. If we do not regain student funding, *The Gateway* will cease to exist as it does now.

Gateway goes autonomous

Jhenifer Pabillano
Neil Parmar
NEWS STAFF

The University of Alberta *Gateway* has become the newest autonomous member of the Canadian student press.

Until last week, the student-run publication was the largest non-autonomous campus newspaper in Canada, being owned and published by the U of A Students' Union for nearly a century. But during this year's Students' Union general election, 71.4 per cent of student voters supported a referendum question making the *Gateway* a separate organization from the SU.

"Finally, we're free to pursue [our ideas] without having to go through miles of red tape and a mountain of bureaucracy," said Dan Lazin, former Editor-in-Chief and campaign manager for the *Gateway*

autonomy campaign.

The *Gateway* attempted to achieve autonomy last year, but failed to make the election ballot since, by the Students' Union count, it only collected 2350 signatures out of the necessary 2500 by the deadline. When the SU attempted to put a similar question on the ballot anyway, a majority of councillors voted against it, saying there wasn't time for an opposition to form. This year, a new autonomy petition gained 2700 valid student signatures, which was enough to get the referendum question on the ballot.

"It was the hardest fought battle of anything I've ever been involved in," said current *Gateway* Editor-in-Chief Dave Alexander.

"We went through the process and I feel we played fair the entire time. There seemed to be an obstacle and a roadblock at every turn."

PLEASE SEE "AUTONOMY" ON PAGE 3
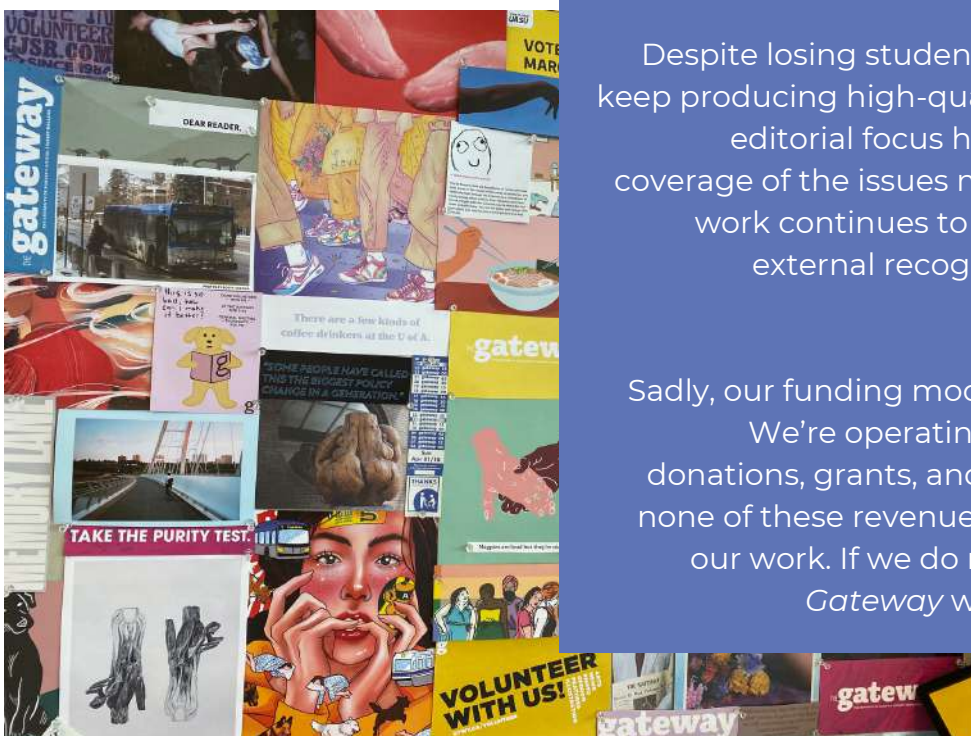
PROPOSED STUDENT LEVY

PURPOSE

A student levy would ensure financially sustainable student journalism for future generations. In a difficult media context, this levy would allow us to continue producing innovative and award-winning journalism.

Historically, graduate student issues have not been part of *The Gateway*'s mandate. With a graduate student levy, we could expand our coverage of graduate student stories, issues, and perspectives beyond the status quo.

SCOPE

Our proposed levy would apply to full-time and part-time University of Alberta graduate students. Given their distance from the North Campus, the levy would not apply to Augustana students. Students could opt out of the fee online, either on the GSA or *Gateway* website.

If successful, we will start collecting the levy in Fall 2024. The levy would be collected in perpetuity until *The Gateway* ceased operations or a successful referendum to end the fee occurred. The levy will increase at the rate of inflation.

Expanded coverage of graduate student life for less than the price of a cup of coffee

A Free and Democratic Student Press

PROPOSED AMOUNT

Fall/Winter	**$2.64/semester**
Spring/Summer	**$1.32/semester**

Students will be able to opt out of the levy online if they wish.

g

FINANCES

Number of Graduate Students

Full-Time	**6,950**
Part-Time	**1,458**
Augustana	**-50**
TOTAL	**8,358**

Projected Revenue

TOTAL	**$ 44,130.24**
Assuming 15% Opt-Out	**$37,510.70**

PROPOSED QUESTION

PURPOSE

Founded in 1910, *The Gateway* is the only independent student-run media outlet at the University of Alberta. Publishing daily online articles and special print edition newspapers, *The Gateway* covers the stories that matter to students.

The Gateway is run by a small team of student journalists who are committed to empowering student volunteers to write their own stories. *The Gateway*'s award-winning journalism has often covered topics that are overlooked by other media outlets. Those topics include student life, tuition increases, student-run protests, university and Students' Union governance, and the achievements of students and academics.

The Gateway is a not-for-profit, funded by advertising revenue and fundraising, in addition to a historically held undergraduate Dedicated Fee Unit. The creation of a student levy at the graduate level would allow *The Gateway* to expand its reporting on graduate student issues, governance, and research.

Our mission is as follows:
Shining a light on student stories, asking the right questions, and finding the truth: *The Gateway* is your independent media outlet.

Conditions:
If successful, *The Gateway* student levy will be created beginning September 1, 2024 subject to the following conditions:
1. All eligible Graduate Student Association members shall pay $2.64 per fall and winter term, and $1.32 per Spring/Summer terms in which they are enrolled; with
   a. The amount increasing annually to match CPI;
   b. The amount remaining the same for full-time and part-time students;
2. Students registered at Augustana campus are exempt.
3. Students shall have the option to opt-out subject to opt-out deadlines.
4. The Gateway Student Journalism Society Board of Directors shall be composed of at least 10 members, including a Graduate Student Association Councillor and a Graduate Student-at-Large.

Referendum Question:
Do you support the creation of a *Gateway* student levy subject to the preceding conditions?

BUDGET

The Gateway's annual budget is publicly available to view through our website.

Because *The Gateway* plans on collecting both an undergraduate and graduate student levy, the money will be pooled together to help fund *Gateway* operations. Together this funding will be essential in expanding *Gateway* coverage to include more graduate student issues. It will also help maintain existing *Gateway* operating expenses such as administrative fees, equipment, software, rent and custodial services.

WHERE GATEWAY REVENUE WILL COME FROM

Read The Gateway Budget 2023-24

here

Gateway Revenue Projections 2024-25	
Undergrad Levy	$178,363.68
Grad Levy	$44,130.24
Advertising	$20,000
Fundraising	$5,000
Grants*	$10,000

The Gateway has historically received between $7,000 and $60,000 in grants. This conservative estimate is a reflection of the uncertainty of receiving government grants long-term.

WHAT THIS LEVY WILL PROVIDE GRADUATE STUDENTS

A dedicated reporter
A reporter committed to covering graduate student governance, research, and issues will be hired if this fee passes.

$5,000

Print product
For 113 years students have first been introduced to The Gateway by picking up a physical paper in September. If this fee passes, expect more frequent print issues.

$15,000

More grad student outreach
Workshop events, class talks, social media content, newsletters, and print recruitment materials will be expanded to recruit graduate student readers & writers.

$2,000

Supporting staff capacity
Our current staff size and salary range often lead to burnout. Investing in the staff will increase the capacity for journalists to cover graduate student life.

$6,000

Administrative Fees
Part of the levy will help pay fees associated with running a student media outlet such as the cost of our annual audit, our insurance, banking fees, and payroll costs.

$4,000

*Numbers are estimates subject to future *Gateway* budgets and circumstances.

WHAT THIS LEVY WILL PROVIDE GRADUATE STUDENTS

Investigative Fund

Student funding will allow us to dig deeper into stories that otherwise go untold by helping us pay for freedom of information requests and other investigative tools.

$1,000

Renting the *Gateway* office

Keeping our physical space on campus does more than provide a location for interview subjects and volunteers to reach us — it keeps us connected to our community.

$2,500

Innovative web design

With a student levy, we will keep our website accessible, well-designed, and add a dedicated section for graduate student stories.

$1,000

Contingency Fund

Over the past three years, we remained operational because we saved for a rainy day. Investing in a contingency fund ensures long-term sustainability.

$1,000

*Numbers are estimates subject to future *Gateway* budgets and circumstances.

FINANCES

OVERSIGHT

We take our commitment to financial transparency and accountability very seriously. As a community-driven organization we rely on our relationships — whether those be with our readers, students who become volunteer contributors, or students who become future staff members.

The Gateway's finances are overseen by our Board of Directors. The Editor-in-Chief has fiduciary responsibility and works in conjunction with the Business Unit staff at *The Gateway* to ensure the finances are in order. The Business Unit consists of the Marketing & Outreach Coordinator and the Executive Director, who manages everything directly.

Every month, financial reporting is presented to the Gateway Student Journalism Society Board of Directors Finance Committee.

Additionally, *The Gateway* abides by all Canada Revenue Agency requirements for not-for-profits and the Societies Act of Alberta.

Every year *The Gateway* undergoes an external audit to ensure our fiscal practices are sound and that funds can be accurately accounted for. Our current auditors are Yates Whitaker.

If successful, we will present our annual audit to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee.

Did you know that Gateway audits can be found on the "finances" tab of our website?

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
GATEWAY
The Official Students' Newspaper since 1910 • Volume 84 Issue 41 • Tuesday, March 14, 1995

Our Commitments

Hiring a Reporter Dedicated to Graduate Student Issues

Unlike previous years, we would dedicate part of our budget to hiring a staff reporter whose job description includes covering graduate student issues. This would include attending GSA council meetings, covering GSA elections, and dedicating approximately one story a week to graduate student life. Whereas previous coverage has been secondary, this will position graduate student journalism as a core part of our editorial focus.

Adding Graduate Student Representation to our Board of Directors

While we have a variety of positions on our Board, there is no committed role for graduate students. This will change with the creation of a student levy. We will add two positions that must be held by graduate students. The first will be a representative from the GSA Council, chosen by the council at their first annual meeting alongside other committee roles. The second is a graduate student-at-large position that will be filled by someone who is not affiliated with *The Gateway* or the GSA. Our Board will select this representative after posting an open call for applicants on our website and reviewing each application. These changes will be made at our annual general meeting in April.

Our Commitments

Committing Part of our Print Edition to Graduate Student Life

Additional student funding will allow *The Gateway* to print higher-quality newspapers with more frequency. With more print copies, readers can expect articles covering graduate student issues to be a staple in each edition. This will help circulate information about graduate students and the issues affecting our community to a larger audience.

Regular Meetings with GSA Executives and Affirming our Shared Relationship

The Gateway has historically had a weaker relationship with the GSA relative to undergraduate student groups on campus. With student funding, we want to proactively build a stronger relationship between the student press and graduate student leaders. Not only will this strengthen institutional ties between our organizations but regularly sharing information will lead to better journalism.

To support this work, our new reporter dedicated to graduate student issues will briefly meet with a member of the GSA executive team bi-weekly to update each other on their respective work. We will also create an annual report at the end of the academic year to update the GSA on our coverage of graduate student life. We will also present our annual audit to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee to ensure fiscal transparency.

The Gateway

GRADUATE STUDENT STORIES

The Coverage Our Team Will Expand

ELEVATING STUDENT RESEARCH

Expanded coverage of innovative and original research occurring within our graduate student community.

U of A graduate student's trace fossil find leads to naming of new marine animal

The ancient markings left behind by a hundred million year old wood-boring organism helped researchers identify this new species

Disha Hazra · January 21, 2021   🔖 2 minutes read

Scott Melnyk

New U of A podcast aims to shed a light on the challenges of graduate school

The podcast will release new episodes monthly, and explore topics like burnout, isolation, and imposter syndrome.

Rachel Narvey · December 22, 2020   🔖 2 minutes read

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH

ential Podcast

Rachel Narvey

"A completely regrettable situation:" 600 thrown out dissertations recovered

The dissertations were likely thrown out while making room for a student support centre, according to the dean of the faculty of education.

Lily Polenchuk X · June 26, 2023   🔖 4 minutes read

Jeffrey Pisklak

COVERING GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

Sharing stories about the graduate school experience and covering events in the community.

STUDENT LABOUR ISSUES

Beyond learning, campus is also our workplace. In the face of academic restructuring and funding cuts, coverage of labour issues facing graduate students is more important now than ever.

Sociology Graduate Student Association letter urges university to send out contracts

Contracts for employment that began on September 1, have yet to be sent out to all graduate students.

Emily Williams 🐦 · September 12, 2022   🔖 6 minutes read
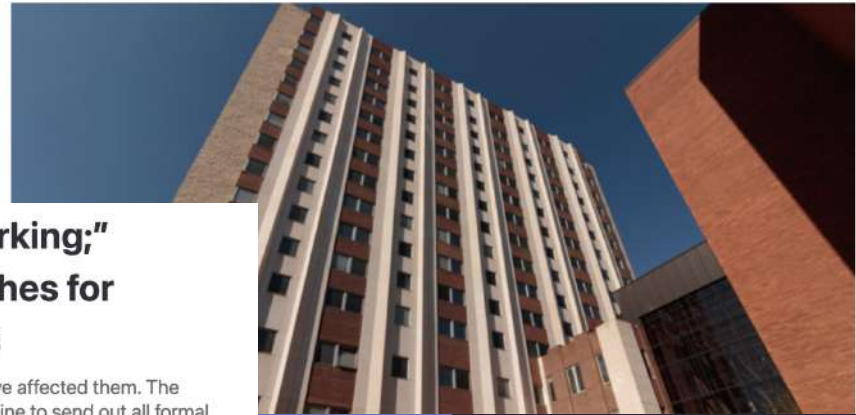
"Clearly something isn't working;" Thursday deadline approaches for delayed graduate contracts

Graduate students share how administrative delays have affected them. The university has set September 29 as the extended deadline to send out all formal letters.

Martin Bendico 🐦 · September 28, 2022   🔖 3 minutes read

U of A Killam Scholarship winner researching Canada's overdose crisis

Heather Morris's Killam Scholarship-winning research explores the role bereaving families play in the overdose crisis

Faramarz Jabbari-zadeh · November 24, 2019   🔖 3 minutes read

PROMOTING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Graduate students rely heavily on grants and scholarships to support the research we conduct. Too many of these opportunities, however, are under-advertised. We would be able to find and share these resources.

Graduate Students' Association plans protest against U of A's tuition hikes

"The university's answer of 'well, we have to balance the budget somehow' shouldn't come on the back of students," says department of political science representative.

Amanda Sparks · February 25, 2023   🔖 2 minutes read

Graduate students speak out against proposed tuition increase, call on GSA for strike vote

"We should have been on strike in September," said a graduate student, looking back at the contract delays students were facing.

Emily Williams 🐦 · January 23, 2023   🔖 5 minutes read

Graduate Students' Association introduces 2023 election candidates

At the GSA general election forum, candidates discussed graduate student work hours and pay.

Amanda Sparks · March 2, 2023   🔖 3 minutes read

Amanda Sparks

AFFORDABILITY IN GRADUATE SCHOOL

With a cost of living crisis and increasing tuition, graduate students are facing an increasingly difficult fiscal environment. Our coverage shares the stories of how this impacts students.

GRADUATE STUDENT POLITICS

Decisions taken by graduate student leaders affect us all but rarely receive substantive coverage. The levy is a chance to build our coverage of GSA Council, services, and annual elections.
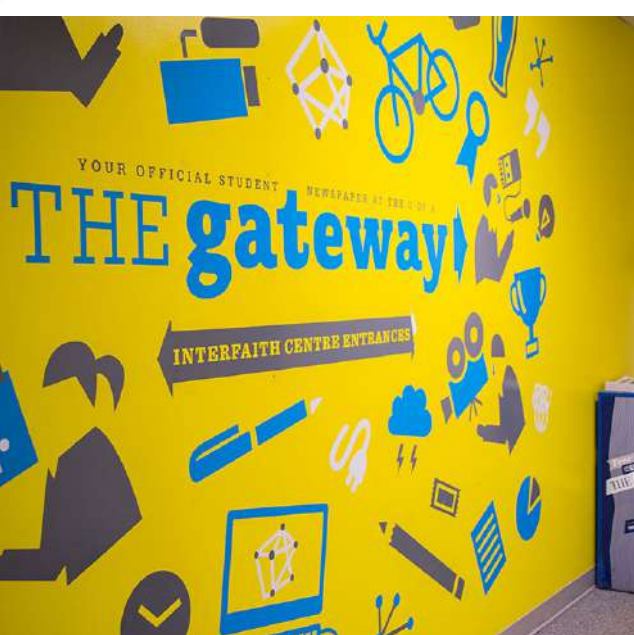
WE HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT

Like many student-led organizations, *The Gateway* is more than a place we do journalism. It's a second home for our team of student volunteers, contributors, staff members, alumni, and devoted readers and has been for 113 years.

We're incredibly fortunate that, in doing something we're passionate about, we not only get to write stories but our campus community trusts us to tell theirs. Thinking of the people we've interviewed, it's never the flashy articles that stand out — it's the stories that never would've seen the light of day, the perspectives others ignored, the voices that never would've been heard without a student press amplifying them.

We want to keep sharing these stories and we need your support to do it. Thank you for reading and please reach out to us if you have any questions.

CONTACT US

Current Operations:
Katie Teeling
eic@gateway.ualberta.ca

Campaign/Proposal:
Mitchell Pawluk
mpawluk@ualberta.ca

Executive Summary of Graduate Student Levy Proposal

About us

The University of Alberta's official student journalism outlet since 1910, *The Gateway* has shone a light on important stories for 113 years. We're completely student and volunteer-run, allowing us to cover stories in a way other outlets can't.

In addition to providing timely coverage, we also provide public workshops, job opportunities, and journalistic training for our volunteers. Our readership includes:
- **40,000 - 60,000 monthly online page views on average.**
- **4,000 copies of a semesterly print issue.**

Previously, *The Gateway* operated off a variety of funding sources including an undergraduate levy. Due to this levy, there was a focus on covering topics relevant to undergraduate students as part of our mandate. But, in the last few years, The Gateway significantly expanded its coverage on issues impacting grad students.

Here are a couple headlines that come to mind:
- Coverage of the GSA election forum and select GSA council meetings
- Graduate student-led protests against proposed tuition increases
- Tackling labour reporting with multiple articles on the contract crisis last school year.
- And we continue to build on our strong history of reporting on graduate research and initiatives.

And with a graduate student levy, we could do so much more!

What *The Gateway* can do for graduate students and the GSA:

A key goal outlined in the GSA's 2023-24 Strategic Work Plan is improving public communications. While this is a substantial challenge to meet, better communication is vital to the success of our grad student community and will:
- Increase institutional trust in the graduate student associations.
- Uncover new information that would otherwise never be available.
- Disseminate our stories to a wider audience.

As the oldest student press in Western Canada, *The Gateway* is uniquely skilled to expand coverage of graduate student life. Our reporting would ensure graduate student stories are heard, while also helping the GSA build their media relations.

Currently, the GSA and graduate student life does not deserve the coverage it

deserves. Our comparative media scan of the UASU and GSA over the past two years shows this: **while 92 articles mentioned the UASU, only [one article](#) mentioned the GSA and, in it, no GSA representative was interviewed**.

This is not due to a lack of interest in graduate student life. Other news outlets [cover UAlberta graduate students](#) but, without regular reporting and improved public relations, the public will not hear the stories of graduate students. *The Gateway* has the platforms, skills, and knowledge to tell these stories and build a renewed relationship with the GSA that leads to better, more detailed coverage of the issues most impacting graduate students.

What graduate students will get from an expanded *Gateway*:
- Expanded coverage of graduate student life and issues at UAlberta, including:
  - Student-led research projects.
  - Affordability issues.
  - Graduate student politics, including the GSA Council.
  - Student labour issues impacting GRAs/GTAs.
  - Funding and scholarship opportunities.
  - Graduate student events and initiatives.
- A **dedicated reporter to cover graduate student issues and politics**, with a section on our site dedicated to these stories, making them more accessible.
- More frequent and improved print-editions that cover grad student affairs.
- Adding graduate student representatives on our Board of Directors.
- **Increased financial oversight** through an annual presentation of our external audit to the GSA Budget and Finance Committee. This would be in addition to our current process of posting our annual audits on our [website](#) and presenting our financial reports to our board each month.
- An **investigative fund** that will go toward freedom of information requests and other tools which allow us to dig deeper into stories that are rarely told.
- An expansion of workshops, class talks, social media content, newsletters, and online and print advertising **to recruit graduate student readers and writers.**

What are we proposing?
- A $2.64 levy in fall/winter semester for graduate students.
- A $1.32 levy in spring/summer semester.
- Ability to **opt-out** on the Gateway and GSA websites.
- Applies to all students except Augustana.

If you have any questions, please reach out to our team.

Thank you,
The Gateway campaign team

(780) 399-4506 : mpawluk@ualberta.ca

Appendix on Opt-Out Mechanism

Our proposed student levy includes an opt-out mechanism. Given current levies are mandatory, we would be one of the first levies to be opt-outable if successful.

Responding to some questions raised in our consultations with councillors, we want to expand on how our proposed opt-out process would work and why we support including the mechanism in our proposed levy. Since there is no process currently in place, the GSA staff and Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) we consulted told us that our teams would finalize this process together after the election. Given this, the process outlined in this appendix is an initial model our team proposes using.

When this process is finalized, we'll ask the DEOs to update GSA council on the opt-out process and seek any feedback from councillors.

Why we support an opt-out mechanism

As outlined in our proposal, we previously received funding through a dedicated fee unit (DFU) paid by undergraduate students. This DFU was mandatory and, when developing a new proposed levy, our team decided to include an opt-out option.

Our team had two primary reasons for this decision. The first reason is to keep *The Gateway* affordable for all students. With the cost of living increasing, we want students to have a choice to opt-out if they are experiencing fiscal hardship.

The second reason is the opt-out mechanism will help keep us accountable to the students we serve. By allowing students to opt-out of our levy, students can hold us accountable for our coverage and opt-out if they feel we have not met our mandate.

While we receive feedback through other means, such as our annual readership survey, opt-out rates would provide us with valuable information about how students evaluate our work each semester. This would result in even better journalism.

Opt-out forms on the GSA and *The Gateway* website

We model our proposed process from how the University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU) allows students to opt-out of some levies.

In our proposal, graduate students could opt-out of *The Gateway* student levy by filling out a digital form available on the GSA website. We are committed to working with the GSA to make this form accessible to graduate students. Our staff would also include a link to this digital form on *The Gateway*'s website.

When students opt-out, our form would ask the reason why they're opting out (ex. affordability concerns, unsatisfied with coverage). Students would have the option to not answer this question but this would allow us to receive feedback from graduate students about how we can continue telling the stories that are important to them.

To make the opt-out form accessible, we would advertise the opt-out form on the GSA and *Gateway* newsletters in the first month of each semester. The deadline to opt-out would be the same as that adhered to by existing levies, which typically aligns with the add/drop deadline for each semester.

As mentioned earlier, if our proposed referendum is successful, we would work with the DEOs to finalize that process. To that end, if you have any feedback or questions about this process, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to us by email and we'd be happy to set up a time to talk more in-depth.

Thank you,
The Gateway campaign team

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.2

"*The CRO will extend an invitation to present to the GSA Board (GSAB). The Asker must state how their organization or proposed referendum question relates to the GSA and/or GSA members. The Asker will provide the GSAB with relevant documents such as a constitution, mission statement, vision statement, audited financial statements, etc.*"

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.2.a

"*A clearly worded referendum question will address the following criteria (if applicable): description of any dedicated on-going fee, amount of fee, how long a fee will be collected, effective date (when a fee will start being collected), procedure for changing a fee, whether the fee can be rescinded, and an accountability mechanism for the money collected. The criteria above provided are non-exhaustive and additional criteria may be required to draft a clearly worded referendum question.*"

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.3

"*The CRO and Asker will work together to draft a referendum question, which will be subject to change after input from the GSAB and GSA Council.*"

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.4

"*Following the presentation to the GSAB by the Asker, the GSAB will either decide to extend the Asker an invitation to GSA Council to make a presentation (normally fifteen (15) minutes with an extension if GSA Council so desires, followed by questions from GSA Council), or, if the GSAB does not extend an invitation to GSA Council, the Asker can find a GSA Council member to place the matter on the GSA Council agenda as per the procedures governing GSA Council.*"

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.5

"*If the GSAB has invited the Asker to present at GSA Council, at that point the CRO and the Asker will work together to finalize the wording of the question (subject to change if GSA Council has concerns with the wording) and the Asker then presents to GSA Council.*"

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.6.

"*GSA Council will vote whether to approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question.*"

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.7

"*If GSA Council approves the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question, a referendum is then held in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda.*"

Prepared by L Moodley and C Roose for GSA Council 11 December 2023

/Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/GSA Council/Meetings/2023 - 2024/December 2023/First Mailing/GSA Council 11 December 2023 Item 8 - 2023 Indigenous Graduate Students' Association Referendum Question Outline of Issue.docx

INDIGENOUS GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED FEE

PROPOSAL

Submission to the University of Alberta
Graduate Students' Association, Fall 2023

Contents

About Us

The Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) is a collective of diverse Indigenous graduate students at the University of Alberta (U of A) committed to advocating with and providing support for interdisciplinary self-identified Indigenous students in graduate programs at the University of Alberta. Since its inception in 2018, the IGSA executive has been engaged in grassroots organizing of events and activities for Indigenous graduate students, advocating for space and voice at decision-making tables, and attempting to influence reconciliation efforts here at the U of A. Through the enactment of kinship with our fellow Indigenous groups and programs, including the Indigenous Students Union, First Peoples House, and the office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Programming and Research (IPR), we have had some success in advancing the status of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students.

Building on our diverse Nations' traditions, our approach to University governance and representation is based on our relationships with the land, our human and other-than-human kin, and the desire for all students to advance truth and reconciliation in the University setting.

We welcome and encourage all Indigenous graduate students attending the U of A to build community with us and work towards common goals, including:

- Advocacy for Indigenous and racialized students
- Dissemination of communications that are relevant to Indigenous graduate students (such as job and event notices)
- Organization of cultural and networking activities for Indigenous graduate students
- Mentorship of Indigenous youth interested in university and/or graduate studies
- Indigenization and decolonization of ourselves and the academy

Letter from the President

What does it mean to be an Indigenous graduate student at the University of Alberta? We are a diverse group, with representation from many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities from across Turtle Island, or what is known today as Canada. All of us have been, and continue to be, impacted by settler colonialism in various ways. Many are intergenerational survivors of the residential school system, which tore apart families by forcibly removing children, and attempted to rob Indigenous peoples of their cultures, languages, and identities. The results have been devastating, and continue to ripple through our communities.

In recent years, these horrors are slowly coming to light, entering the collective consciousness, and resulting in Calls to Action that every individual who resides here–permanently[1] or temporarily–has a responsibility to educate themselves and reflect on their own responsibilities to this land and the peoples who have belonged to it since time immemorial.

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1   Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Last year, the University adopted *Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta's Indigenous Strategic Plan.* Among its guiding values and principles is All My Relations, or wahkohtowin, which acknowledges "the interconnectedness, interdependence, worth and mutual responsibility of all peoples, creatures and lands."[2] In a society and an institution built upon disaggregation, disconnectedness, and blind individualism, Indigenous peoples often feel as though this place was not meant for us. Indeed, it is one that has historically been complicit in the theft and erasure of Indigenous cultures, identities, and connection to land and kin. While the Indigenous Strategic Plan is an important step, it is one of many that remain on the long road to decolonization.[3]

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[2] *Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Strategic Plan*, 2022, p. 14

[3] According to Tuck & Yang's (2012) seminal work, decolonization is distinguished from mere 'settler moves to innocence' by those which bring about "the repatriation of Indigenous land and life; it is not a metaphor for other things we want to do to improve our societies and schools" (p. 1).

I continue to be grateful for my predecessors who worked tirelessly to form the IGSA, advocated for our dedicated space on the third floor in Tory, established a SAGE (Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement) Pod within the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, built our membership and formed connections across campus during the challenging and disconnecting times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, we pursue the urgent work of creating a graduate experience where Indigenous students feel held, supported, grounded, rooted. We can no longer take on this burden alone, and so today we come before representatives of the graduate student body, asking you to accept this personal call to action.

Since 2019, the Indigenous Students' Union has been collecting a dedicated fee from undergraduate students. With these funds, they are able to organize events and ongoing programming to foster a community amongst Indigenous undergraduate students. First Peoples House offers amazing services to all Indigenous students across campus. However, neither of these are specialized in serving the needs of Indigenous graduate students. While we are grateful to have been offered a seat on the GSA Council where our voice can be heard, the GSA overall does not focus on Indigenous graduate students, their unique skills, perspectives, and challenges within the institution.

It is in this context that the IGSA proposes a modest levy on graduate student tuition, as detailed in this document, that would advance Indigenous sovereignty, self-determination, decolonization, and Indigenization[4] at the University of Alberta by putting financial means into the hands of Indigenous students to do the important work necessary to see true reconciliation occur on our campus and beyond.

Sincerely,
Jillian Ames

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[4]   Guiding values and principles of *Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta's Indigenous Strategic Plan*

Our History

The IGSA became a registered graduate student group at the U of A in 2018 through the leadership and community organizing of a small group of Indigenous Graduate students, and this legacy has been handed down to subsequent Indigenous community organizers and advocates. The group has been successful in obtaining some small grant funding and obtaining a commitment from the UofA administration for a dedicated space on the UofA North Campus in Tory Building, where we have been gradually adding time and space for gathering, drop-in support, and a place to enact kinship and relationality on campus.
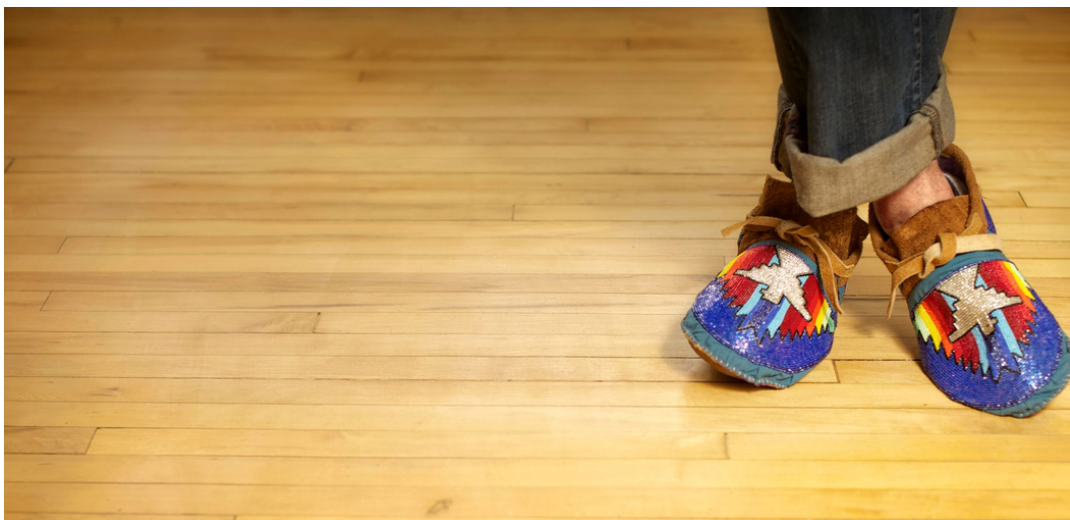
Additionally, recent accomplishments include:
- (2020-2021) installing Indigenous graduate student representatives on the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Council and the Council on Student Affairs (COSA);
- (2021) developing a consultancy relationship with FGPS in their AGES-I award administration;
- (2021) advocating for and successfully securing a Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement Pod (SAGE-Pod) at the U of A, in cooperation with Indigenous Faculty at the U of A, GSA, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research), and FGPS.
- (2021-2022) development and delivery of the IGSA Land Acknowledgement workshop to advance Truth and Reconciliation in the Academy;
- (2023) launched our protocol program, where Indigenous Graduate students can access protocol like tobacco or cloth if needed for work in the community free of charge, as this is not an expense most settler students may incur in their research.

We continue to work closely with the SAGE-Pod coordinator and our colleagues in FGPS to support Indigenous Graduate student community building and support. We have delivered several Land Acknowledgement workshops for the Circumpolar Conference, the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Conference. These workshops have provided the limited funds the IGSA uses to run its programs.

As growing numbers of Indigenous graduate students are able to engage in graduate studies, the need for increased support and efforts for inclusion continues to expand.

"The U of A's graduate student community consistently accounts for roughly one-fifth of all students on our campuses. Only 3.1% of our graduate student population is Indigenous. We are pleased to note, however, that the enrolment of Indigenous students from within Canada has reached an all-time high, and continues to increase year over year." [5]

This quote highlights the University's excitement that enrollment increases by Indigenous graduate students continues, and yet dedicated resources to create inclusive and welcoming learning environments that acknowledge and address the unique gifts, challenges and circumstances of Indigenous students in graduate programs have not emerged to match the need. The IGSA is committed to filling that gap, by providing services by and for Indigenous Graduate Students, that enact our sovereign right to an education that acknowledges our unique histories, relationships, and traditions, within the context of settler-colonialism in the Academy.

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[5] *FGPS 2022-2023 Year in Review,* p. 11

Fee Purpose

The collected fee will be used to support the IGSA's endeavours to provide workshops and programs for all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit graduate students at the U of A. Such activities include hosting a fully funded writing retreat for Indigenous graduate students, ensuring that there are no financial barriers for attendees. Such a workshop will foster a sense of community and collaboration amongst Indigenous graduate students, as well as support academic achievement and wellness.

Other allocations of this fee will go towards recruitment events (e.g., TAWOW and Clubs Fair) and other events focused on strengthening our Indigenous graduate student community, such as hosting a Winter Solstice Dance, a Métis Crossing Day Trip, and an Indigenous Graduate Honoring Ceremony.

By providing a safe space to foster connections as Indigenous students, these events work towards the goals of recruitment and retention of the U of A's Indigenous Strategic Plan.

Budget Allocations
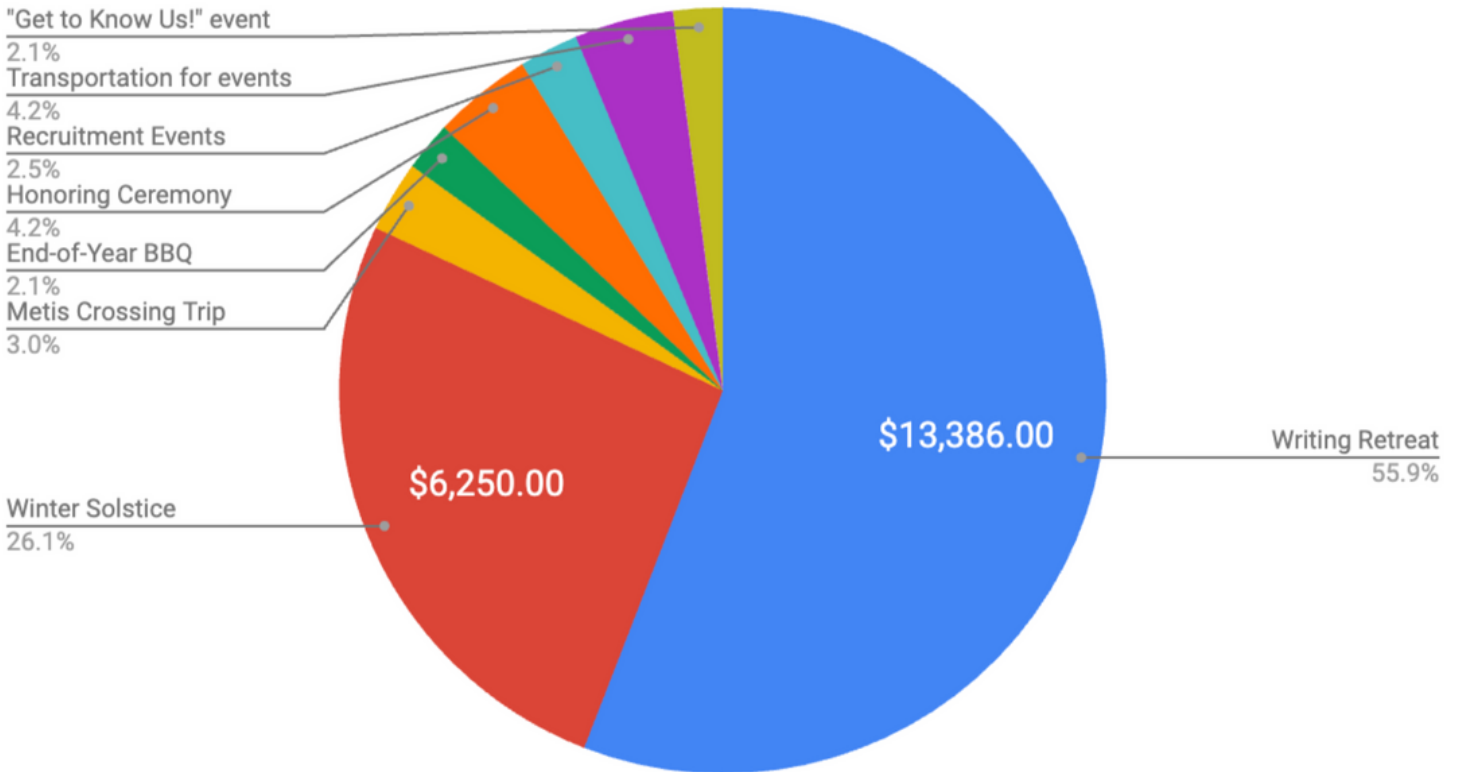
Event	Expenses
Writing Retreat	$13,386.00
Winter Solstice	$6,250.00
Metis Crossing Trip	$715.00
End-of-Year BBQ	$500.00
Honoring Ceremony	$1,000.00
Recruitment Events	$600.00
Transportation for events	$1,000.00
"Get to Know Us!" event	$500.00
Total:	$23,951.00

Scope

The IGSA fee will be collected from all graduate students who do not identify as Indigenous during the Fall, Winter and Intersession semesters.

Indigenous refers to the following but is not limited to:

1. Indigenous peoples of the world as discussed in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples The Concept of Indigenous Peoples (New York, 2004), Including:
   - Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them.
2. An Aboriginal person as identified by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, which allows for a broad definition, including:
   - Self-declaration of identity as a status or non-status Indian, Inuit, or Métis person,
   - and recognition or affirmation of that identity by the appropriate Aboriginal community.
3. any individual self-identifying as Indigenous.

The fee will be implemented as follows:

$3.75/academic year
Both Full-time and Part-time students will be assessed $1.50 during the Fall/Winter semesters and $0.75 during the Spring/Summer semesters. Campus Saint Jean and off-campus graduate students will be included in the fee assessment.

The fee will be mandatory without any opt-out mechanisms for non-Indigenous graduate students. This is in accordance with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada which calls for compensation and restitution for the harm done to Indigenous communities. The fee will increase every two years to match CPI to account for inflation

Financial Oversight

The IGSA recognizes the necessity to incorporate financial oversight into collecting fees from students. Student groups naturally have annual overturns as we move through the phases of our academic programs. Some are around longer than others, but we will eventually move on. It is for this reason that we have been searching for a permanent staff member at the University in an appropriate department (i.e., the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, First Peoples' House, the Graduate Students' Association) who can provide this oversight should the IGSA be successful in securing a dedicated fee for Indigenous graduate students.

This person would be responsible for:

- Keeping an updated budget
  - Tracking income and expenses
- Providing information to IGSA, GSA or other relevant bodies on an annual basis
- Bank account administration
  - Shared signing authority with IGSA VP Finance
  - Jointly oversee expense reimbursements with IGSA VP Finance

- Conducting financial audits as necessary
- Preparing an annual report for the GSA

The GSA has agreed to incorporate these duties into its administrative portfolio if the graduate student body decides, through a referendum, to approve the IGSA tuition levy. This will ensure an efficient use of resources and a streamlined, objective oversight process.

Consultation

Throughout the past year, the IGSA has consulted with many administrative departments and student groups regarding the pursuit of a dedicated fee, including the Indigenous Students' Union, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, the Graduate Students' Association, and the Office of the Dean of Students.

Attached are letters of support from:

1. Dean of FGPS
2. FGSP Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE) Pod
3. Indigenous Students' Union
4. Indigenous Law Students Association
5. Indigenous Medical and Dental Students' Association
6. Good Ally Program
7. Founding IGSA Executive Member and former President, Evan Wong

Question

The mandate of the Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA) is to serve as a representative body of Indigenous graduate students within the FGPS. IGSA seeks to promote the unity and well-being of Indigenous graduate students within FGPS; to further the intellectual and social activities of Indigenous graduate students within FGPS; to promote and maintain communication with other graduate students, graduate student groups, and Indigenous student groups, both graduate and undergraduate, on campus.

Proposed Funding Areas:

- Increased cultural supports and events, including First Nations, Metis, and Inuit ceremonies, events, and gatherings
- Operational costs, including upkeep of IGSA facilities, office supplies, and stipends for volunteers and contributors whose labour advance the mission of the IGSA to improve the graduate student experience for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students
- The development of an annual Indigenous graduate student writing retreat to create safe and generative spaces for Indigenous students writing theses or dissertations, academic papers, or works for publication

Do you support the creation of an Indigenous Graduate Students Association Fee (IGSAF), subject to the following conditions:

- The IGSAF will be collected from non-Indigenous full-time and part-time graduate students, including Campus St. Jean and off-campus graduate students while they are registered (where applicable) at the University of Alberta after being admitted to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies;
- There is no opt-out option for non-Indigenous students;
- The cost of the IGSAF will be $1.50 in each of the Fall and Winter semesters, and $0.75 will be collected in the Intersession (Spring/Summer) semester (total $3.75 annually), effective September 1, 2024;
- The IGSAF will be readjusted every 2 years based on the Bank of Canada's rate of inflation index;
- The IGSAF will be collected in accordance with these conditions indefinitely, unless otherwise ratified by the GSA according to its bylaws, policies, and procedures;
- Budgetary oversight will be provided by the Graduate Students' Association;
- In the unlikely event that no executives are elected to the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association, the SAGE Pod Coordinator will be the default administrator of the funds collected through the IGSAF.

THANK YOU!

2023-24 IGSA Executive

Jillian Ames

Alexis Blanchette-Arnold

Keith King

Benjamin Kucher

Hannah Louis

Meagan Miller

Amber Smith

Meagan Tipler

Dawn Wambold

APPENDIX

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

31 October 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that the Graduate Students Association Council will decide soon whether to authorize a referendum to approve a fee levy in support of the Indigenous Graduate Students Association (IGSA). I encourage you to support that request.

In my time as Interim Dean, I have appreciated the opportunity to meet regularly with IGSA's leadership and become aware of the work they do – entirely on a volunteer basis – in advocacy, creative planning, and simply gathering a community of students. As the number of Indigenous graduate students on our campuses continues to grow, as it will, IGSA's ability to more of that work will be an important part of the success of those students.

All the best in your decision.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roger Epp
Interim Vice-Provost and Dean

Cc: Jillian Ames, President, IGSA

SAGE
Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement

November 3, 2023

Graduate Students' Association
University of Alberta
1-49 Triffo Hall
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E1

To whom it may concern,

With this letter, I send my best wishes to all of you and hope you are doing well at this point in the semester.

I am writing this letter to express my support as the SAGE Coordinator for the Indigenous Graduate Student's Association as they pursue a tuition levy to fund and support the work they do for Indigenous graduate students here at the University of Alberta. This levy will allow the IGSA to fund events and activities for Indigenous students in order to improve and enhance their university experience and to further support them in their academic careers. In granting support for the referendum, the GSA will be actively engaged in the work of reconciliation, as this will allow the IGSA to enable success for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit graduate students.

It is my hope that this tuition levy will be approved, and I trust that the GSA will continue to support the good work of the Indigenous Graduate Student's Association. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Amber Smith
SAGE Coordinator

NOVEMBER 2ND, 2023

Indigenous Students' Union

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Re: To whom it may concern,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express, on behalf of the *Indigenous Student Union* of the University of Alberta, that we support the initiative of the *Indigenous Graduate Student's Association* to receive a dedicated tuition fee. It is imperative to fund and support events run by and for Indigenous graduate students for projects and activities that would serve their student's best interests and further support their academic careers.

In the light of reconciliation, the IGSA has expressed that the dedicated fee would be presented back to students, in part, for cultural events and the budget that comes along with them. The ISU deems this extremely important as we ourselves were granted a dedicated fee in the 2018/2019 semester, which has been paramount in ensuring that our students can connect to their cultures and find comfort in their communities on campus. It is important for the university to also recognize this action as a step towards truth and reconciliation with the Indigenous graduate community and the Indigenous, Metis and Inuit student body as a whole for the present and the future.

Sincerely,

Sophie Martel, Vice President of Operations

Executive Committee 2023-2024,

Indigenous Students' Union

To whom it may concern,

I hope this letter finds you in a good way.

I am writing on behalf of the Indigenous Law Students' Association (ILSA). ILSA wholeheartedly supports the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association's (IGSA's) initiative to establish a dedicated tuition fee that would fund projects and activities aimed at supporting Indigenous graduate students at the University of Alberta.

It is imperative to provide equitable resources and opportunities for Indigenous graduate students, ensuring they have the necessary support to excel in their endeavors, while remaining connected to their communities and cultures. Similar to the approved fee dedicated to the undergraduate Indigenous Students' Council, this initiative holds significant importance in addressing the unique experiences faced by Indigenous graduate students, contributing to a more inclusive and diverse environment, and reducing the barriers encountered during their pursuit of education.

The proposed initiative aligns with the University of Alberta's Indigenous Strategic Plan, and its commitment to reconciliation. By supporting this effort, we can work together to ensure the University of Alberta champions Indigenous revitalization. Dedicated funding for Indigenous students will have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of Indigenous graduate students, and on the University community.
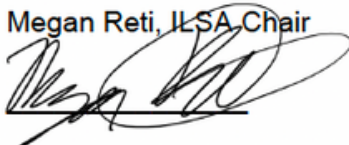
ILSA is hopeful the University will stand with the IGSA and provide them with the support they have requested. ILSA stands in solidarity with IGSA's mission to create a more inclusive and supportive academic environment for Indigenous graduate students at the University of Alberta.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Mitchell, ILSA Internal Co-Chair

Megan Reti, ILSA Chair
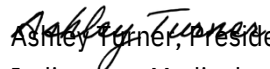
October 30th, 2023

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of The Indigenous Medical and Dental Students' Association (IMDSA), I would like to express our support to the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) in their endeavor of a dedicated tuition fee that would enable sustained funding to foster community and mitigate barriers for graduate Indigenous students to complete their respective programs. We encourage the implementation of this proposal to help address the University's commitment to reconciliation and in align with the University of Alberta's Indigenous Strategic Plan.

Hosting cultural events, workshops, and programs and providing dedicated student spaces are essential to foster a safe student environment. This funding would help their organization to support students in numerous ways throughout their academic endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ashley Turner, President
Indigenous Medical and Dental Students Association (IMDSA)
imdsa@ualberta.ca

David Zhang
External Vice President
Good Ally Program Student Association (GAPSA)
October 22, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to offer our wholehearted support for the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association's (IGSA) proposal to establish a dedicated tuition fee at the University of Alberta. According to IGSA, the proposed charge will offer much needed financing for initiatives and programs that help graduate students who are Indigenous, which is, in my opinion, both admirable and necessary for creating an academic community that is more welcoming and encouraging.

According to IGSA, the charge has a significant and all-encompassing goal. IGSA works to create an environment where financial barriers do not stand in the way of academic achievement and community development for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit graduate students. It accomplishes this by providing financial resources to host workshops, writing retreats, recruitment events, and community building activities. This method improves the general wellbeing of Indigenous graduate students in addition to creating a sense of belonging. The initiative's alignment with the University of Alberta's Indigenous Strategic Plan, which reflects the university's commitment to diversity and reconciliation, is especially notable. IGSA is actively helping the institution achieve its strategic goals for recruiting and retention by giving Indigenous graduate students a safe space to network, cooperate, and grow. It is also critical to draw attention to the IGSA's defined criteria for the charge, which include a broad definition of Indigenous peoples. This definition guarantees that the fee helps all individuals who self-identify as Indigenous and demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity. This strategy's dedication to diversity and appreciation of the historical and cultural relevance of Indigenous cultures are commendable. Furthermore, the integration of financial supervision into the fee collection procedure indicates IGSA's dedication to openness and responsibility. Establishing confidence and retaining the support of the student body requires that the money be utilized wisely, and this stager assures that they are.

In conclusion, GAPSA, fully endorses the IGSA's effort to create a special tuition rate at the University of Alberta for graduate students who are Indigenous. In keeping with the university's Indigenous Strategic Plan and the large objectives of reconciliation, this project is a significant step toward creating a more welcoming and encouraging academic community. Please feel free to reach out if you require any further information or support for this endeavor. I'm sure that the University of Alberta's commitment to reconciliation will be greatly enhanced by the implementation of this change.

Sincerely,

David Zhang
External Vice President
dyz@ualberta.ca

October 16, 2023
1185 Haro Street
#303
Vancouver BC V6E 1E3

To whom this may concern,

I am writing a letter to as a former President of the Indigenous Graduate Student Association at the University of Alberta, the inaugural research coordinator for the SAGE program, as well as a former chair for the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council all during 2020-2021. Currently I am the program director at the Health Initiative for Men in Vancouver BC, where I am continuing the implementation of Indigenization in my work in queer public health.

This letter is also serving as my intent to continue supporting the IGSA, not solely because of my status as a past-president or as an Indigenous person, but as a former student who depended on the IGSA as a supportive structure and group of Indigenous graduate students. This group was integral for my success at the University of Alberta because it provided me a shared safe space and community, especially when I faced racism from my peers in the School of Public Health.

It is of my opinion that the most sustainable course of action to do would be to levy an additional fee to graduate students at the University of Alberta to support the important functions of an IGSA, while alleviating the additional barriers and stressors that Indigenous graduate students face. Indigenous graduate students are already at higher risk of dropping out because of external factors to themselves and life circumstances. By providing the IGSA operating funds, members of the IGSA can expect to see a stronger presence on campus and more consistency between years by reducing the burn out associated with unpaid labour.

As a student group, the IGSA has had to advocate on the behalf of Indigenous graduate students using little to no resources. Revenue has historically been challenging due to the pervasive practice of not appropriately compensating Indigenous peoples for consultation, knowledge, and training of others. One revenue stream of providing Land Acknowledgement workshops was not highly utilized, not because of a lack of demand of which there was plenty, but because of the attachment of cost to the labour of the IGSA to provide such a training.

If you have any questions about my position, please feel free to contact me either via email at evan.k.matchett@gmail.com or through calling me at 587-335-8573.

In solidarity,

Evan Matchett-Wong

Outline of Issue
2024 Referendum and Associated Draft Question Initiated by the International Students' Association

Suggested Motion:

That GSA Council **APPROVE** the holding of a referendum on the collection of a fee from international graduate students only to support the International Students' Association, to run concurrently with the 2024 GSA General Election.

Background:

Pursuant to the provisions of GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda, an 'Asker' who wishes to initiate a referendum can contact the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), who works with them to draft a referendum question and then extends an invitation to the Asker to present to the GSA Board (GSAB). Following a review by the GSAB, should the proposed referendum be deemed relevant to the GSA and/or GSA members, the matter proceeds to GSA Council, with that body ultimately deciding whether to approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question. Following this process, the International Students' Association (ISA), a separate entity unaffiliated with the GSA and registered under the *Societies Act*, has initiated a referendum process to collect a fee from international graduate students.

Should the GSA Council approve the holding of a referendum (and the wording of the associated question), it would run concurrently with the 2024 GSA General Election. As indicated in the motion, notwithstanding GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section B.BYL.3.1, only international graduate students would be eligible to vote as only they would be assessed the fee and be eligible to access the described services.

As per <u>current</u> GSA Policy, the 'asker' referred to below is the GSA itself, accordingly the attached question was drafted in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO). The CRO and DRO met and reviewed the 2024 ISA referendum question on November 23 2023.

The attached question (to be distributed) was drafted by the ISA, in consultation with the CRO and GSAB. Additional information concerning the fee and its proposed usage provided by the ISA can be found throughout the remainder of the proposal. The ISA presented these materials to the GSAB at a meeting on November 29 2023, GSAB members voted to extend an invitation to the ISA to present this matter to GSA Council urgently.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.2.1
" A referendum on a clearly worded 'Yes' or 'No' question regarding any dedicated, on-going fee for a service, facility, or lobbying effort can be initiated by the GSA Board (GSAB) subject to a simple majority vote at any meeting of GSA Council. Normally a referendum will be held in conjunction with the GSA General Election, unless a question is determined to be of an urgent nature by the GSAB."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.2.3
"Notwithstanding the process by which a referendum is initiated, a clearly worded referendum question will be developed in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), the GSAB, and GSA Council. GSA Council will approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of a referendum question."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.3.1
"Referenda questions will be submitted to GSA Council for approval no later than the first mailing for the November GSA Council meeting, unless a referendum is determined to be urgent by the GSAB as noted above."

Prepared by L Moodley and C Roose for GSA Council 11 December 2023

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GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.1
"If an Asker wishes to initiate a referendum, they will contact the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.2
"The CRO will extend an invitation to present to the GSA Board (GSAB). The Asker must state how their organization or proposed referendum question relates to the GSA and/or GSA members. The Asker will provide the GSAB with relevant documents such as a constitution, mission statement, vision statement, audited financial statements, etc."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.2.a
"A clearly worded referendum question will address the following criteria (if applicable): description of any dedicated on-going fee, amount of fee, how long a fee will be collected, effective date (when a fee will start being collected), procedure for changing a fee, whether the fee can be rescinded, and an accountability mechanism for the money collected. The criteria above provided are non-exhaustive and additional criteria may be required to draft a clearly worded referendum question."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.3
"The CRO and Asker will work together to draft a referendum question, which will be subject to change after input from the GSAB and GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.4
"Following the presentation to the GSAB by the Asker, the GSAB will either decide to extend the Asker an invitation to GSA Council to make a presentation (normally fifteen (15) minutes with an extension if GSA Council so desires, followed by questions from GSA Council), or, if the GSAB does not extend an invitation to GSA Council, the Asker can find a GSA Council member to place the matter on the GSA Council agenda as per the procedures governing GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.5
"If the GSAB has invited the Asker to present at GSA Council, at that point the CRO and the Asker will work together to finalize the wording of the question (subject to change if GSA Council has concerns with the wording) and the Asker then presents to GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.6.
"GSA Council will vote whether to approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.7
"If GSA Council approves the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question, a referendum is then held in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda."

Prepared by L Moodley and C Roose for GSA Council 11 December 2023

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GRADUATE ISAF PROPOSAL

2023

The University of Alberta International Students' Association

https://isa.ualberta.ca/

ISA

Prepared For

The University of Alberta
Graduate Students' Association

Presenters

Abigail Ameley Quaye (ISA VP Graduate Affairs)
Farhan Khalid and Saad Arslan Iqbal (ISA co-VP Academic Affairs)
Aiman Saif and Amirali Bigleri (ISA co-Presidents)
Tahmid Alhafeez (ISA Chancellor)

ISA
Our Land Acknowledgment

We would like to begin with acknowledging that the lands we are currently situated on, have historically belonged to the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit nations.

We would further acknowledge that the University of Alberta, its buildings, labs, and research stations are primarily located on the traditional territories of Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, and Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe nations; lands that are now known as part of Treaties 6, 7, and 8 and the homeland of the Métis.

As international students hailing from diverse corners of the globe, it is paramount that we approach our educational journeys and interactions with the various communities that call Canada home with mindfulness and respect for the histories of the places we now collectively inhabit. Most notably, we must recognize that we are guests on Indigenous lands, and, as such, our words, intentions, and actions should reflect this understanding.

As international students, we all share the responsibility of collaboratively nurturing an environment characterized by mutual respect, one that promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion, and that honors the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems, and cultures of Indigenous Peoples.

OUR HISTORY

UAISA was initially established in 1961 and remained active until 1991. In 2013, the University of Alberta's Board of Governors made a sudden decision to increase tuition fees for international students. This prompted over 100 international students to protest at the Board of Governors meeting, seeking to prevent the fee hike.

Due to the absence of a unified body representing international students to address such concerns, the Students' Union Council took the initiative to initiate the formation of the ISA. A pivotal moment occurred when the Students' Union organized a Town Hall event at the Telus Center. During this event, several SU International Councillors, along with the SU VP SL, officially established the ISA in 2014. The foundation of the ISA was strengthened by the participation of 23 regional groups, collectively forming the first ISA Board.

In 2020, the ISA underwent a revival, implementing a new and more sustainable structure that incorporates both Councils and a Board. Notably, the ISA membership now encompasses both graduate and undergraduate international students.

TOWN HALL Students gathered earlier this month to discuss a possible international students' association.   MICHELLE MARK

SU advocates for unified int'l students

Andrea Ross
STAFF REPORTER • @_ROSSANDRA

A long-awaited international students' association is on the horizon for University of Alberta students seeking support and engagement from their peers.
Despite years of effort being

around international students' issues, such as careers, housing, tuition and integration issues, as well as domestic and international student relations.
Lau originally expected to have the organization up and running by January of this academic year, but the SU's desire for feedback and

said he expects a greater sense of involvement and unity amongst students involved in an international students' association.
Lau said the association would likely follow the same structure that of the Residence Halls Association, including a team of executive members. The SU's VP [Student Life]

WHAT IS ISA?
what we do

UAISA serves as the advocate for over 8,000 international students, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Specifically, the UASU has entrusted UAISA with representative authority for all undergraduate international students across the five UAlberta campuses. **Among the graduate student population, international graduate students comprise a substantial 36 percent, representing more than 2,600 students hailing from over 150 different countries.**

Advocacy

The ISA is a strong advocate for international students. Over the years, we have advocated for issues such as online learning, the Ride Transit Program, frozen food issues on the Augustana campus, sleep disorders among international students, admissions letter scams, rising costs of living and tuition fee.

Unity

ISA is taking proactive steps to foster unity among the entire international student community at the University. This is being achieved through the establishment of platforms like the Committee on International Students' Affairs (CoISA), which facilitates meetings and discussions among leaders of regional student groups, enabling them to address the challenges experienced by their respective communities.

Service Delivery

We put in a lot of effort to provide services that are tailor-made for international students while keeping in mind the cultural diversity and unique needs. Some of our notable initiatives include the I-card (discounted prices from vendors), and workshops and events that help students find social connections and enhance their learning.

Mishthi Batra
Co - VP Communications

Saachi Gupta
Co - VP Finance and Marketing

Farhan Khalid
Co - VP Academic Affairs

Keshav
Co - VP Finance and Marketing

Saad
Co - VP Academic Affairs

Sai Charan
Co-VP Student Life
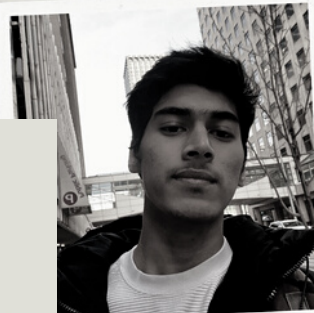
Akmal Saheer
Co - VP Internal

Raminsh Raza
Co - VP Student Life

Valencia
Co - VP Communications

Amirali Bigleri
Co - President

Abigail Ameley Quaye
Co - VP Graduate Affairs
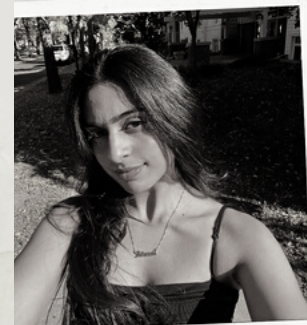
Shitisha Widge
ISA manager

Juhaina

Mobashhir Khan
Co - VP Internal

Aiman Saif
Co - President
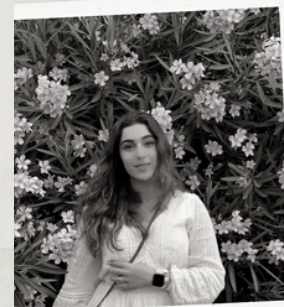
Mariam
Co - VP External

ISA
EXECUTIVES 2023-24

HOW DO WE REPRESENT INTERNATIONAL STUENTS

WHAT WE DO

As a student body that represents all international students at the University of Alberta, the ISA strives to show an utmost commitment to not only stay connected with international students but also represent them on different occasions and events.

As international students, we aim to foster good relations with other student bodies, regional groups, and offices across campuses – establishing and maintaining long-term and effective collaborations - to enhance the social and learning experiences of our international students.

Above all, we continue to learn and strengthen our understanding of the individual and collective roles and responsibilities as guests on Indigenous lands.

ISA

Today is the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

The day honours the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

We commemorate Indigenous Elders, survivors of the residential school system, and all the people who were deeply affected by the horrific past.
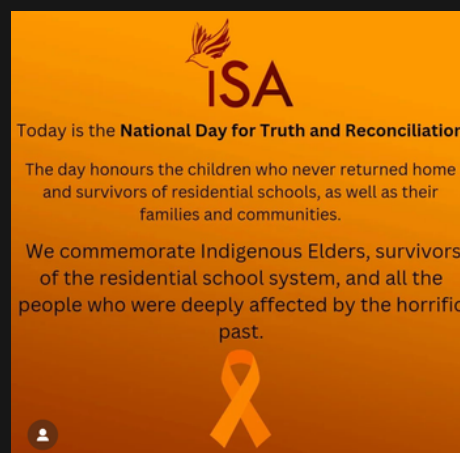
HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE
WHAT WE DO

The International Students' Association (ISA) places a strong emphasis on staying connected with international students across all campuses and engaging with the broader student community. To achieve this, ISA employs a diverse range of communication methods to effectively disseminate information and updates. ISA's diverse communication approach promptly informs students about events, advocacy, and outreach, fostering community engagement and shared involvement among international and local students.

1. **ISA Newsletter:** Features highlights, announcements, and event details distributed to keep international students informed.
2. **EZpost Communication:** Ensures prompt dissemination of important information to all international students.
3. **Emails and Faculty Listservs:** Directly connects with students, sending targeted messages and announcements via faculty listservs.
4. **Printed Material on Display Boards:** Utilizes physical display boards on campuses to share event flyers and notices in high-traffic areas.
5. **ISA Website:** Serves as a centralized platform for event details, resources, and updates.
6. **Social Media Accounts:** Maintains active profiles on multiple platforms for real-time updates and community engagement.
7. **Collaboration with other student bodies:** Occasionally, the ISA also requests important information to be shared by other student bodies through their mailing lists, and social media accounts.

JOIN THE **ISA DISCORD**
Stay updated   Connect with community
LINK IN BIO

JOIN THE **ISA WHATSAPP**
Separate groups for graduate and undergraduate students
LINK IN BIO

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE ISAF

The International Students' Association (ISA) stands as the collective voice for all international students at the University of Alberta, diligently advocating for matters that are uniquely relevant to our international student community. Our primary goal is to enrich the overall living and learning experience of our fellow international students. We wholeheartedly address critical issues such as discrimination, language barriers, mental health, and the challenges of coping with loneliness. These concerns are especially significant for us, as we find ourselves in a foreign nation, far from the social and cultural support and the familiarity of our homes.

As a student-led organization, we are proud to comprise both graduate and undergraduate students who are passionate about supporting our international peers. While we greatly value the support of our sponsors and the dedication of our volunteers, it is imperative for us to recognize that sustaining our mission and ensuring long-term viability cannot be solely reliant on sponsorship.

The implementation of the ISAF (International Students' Association Fee) serves as an essential means for ISA to maintain its operations and services in a sustainable manner. This, in turn, will significantly benefit international students by empowering them to thrive not only during their academic journeys but also as aspiring professionals.

To emphasize these matters, in Appendices A, B, and C at the end of this document, you will find letters from the ISA Presidents, the ISA Chancellor, and the ISA VP of Graduate Affairs.

The funds generated through both the undergraduate and graduate ISAF will be instrumental in strengthening the support system for all international students at the University of Alberta, contributing to their personal and academic success.

The ISA Fee will be implemented from the Fall 2024 Term for a three-year period including the Spring/Summer 2027 Term. The Fee shall be charged to every full-time and part-time graduate international student on University of Alberta campuses.

For the purpose of this document, an international student is defined as a University of Alberta student who pays the international student's tuition fee and/or is on a study permit in Canada. The fee is charged differently according to the academic status, term, and, campus, due to the availability of services to the students based on those parameters.

RECENT CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL

On November 1, 2023, the GSA Board gave a chance to the ISA representatives to discuss the ISAF proposal and subsequent recommendations to the GSA Council. The initial proposal states **$3.5** for the Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer Terms making the total amount to be paid by each graduate student **$10.5** per year.

However, based on the positive feedback and suggestions as well as the discussions that ensued, the ISA Board on November 3, 2023, reconsidered the ISAF fee being suggested to be paid by international graduate students. The new ISAF amount being suggested is now **$3.0** per student for the Fall and Winter terms only, making the total amount to be paid by each international graduate student **$6.0** per year.

AMOUNT

- Each full-time graduate international student on all university campuses will be paying **$3.00** per fall and winter semester.
- The full-time graduate international students on the Campus St. Jean campus will be paying **$3.00** per fall and winter semester.
- Part-time graduate international students will be paying **$1.50** per fall and winter semester.
- Off-campus thesis registration international graduate students will pay **$0.00** per term.

REFERENDUM QUESTION

Do you support the proposal by International Students Association (ISA) that all International Graduate Students in the University of Alberta to contribute fees for International graduate students oriented services and events/programs, subject to the following conditions:

- The cost of the fee proposal is a maximum of $6.00 per full-time graduate student on all university campuses per year, with collection in equal installments of up to a maximum of $3.00 in each of the Fall and Winter terms, effective as of 1 September 2024;
- The cost of the fee proposal is a maximum of $3.00 per part-time graduate student per year, with collection in equal installments of up to a maximum of $1.50 in each of the Fall and Winter terms, effective as of 1 September 2024;
- The full-time graduate international students on the Campus St. Jean campus will be paying $3.00 per fall and winter semester.
- Off-campus thesis registration international graduate students will pay $0.00 per term
- To receive fee reimbursement from ISA, a student must fill out the opt-out form on the ISA website (isa.ualberta.ca/opt-out) within the first thirty (30) days of the start of the semester.
- The fee proposal is for a three year duration with a start date in Fall 2024 to an end date in Winter 2027.
- In accordance with ISA Bylaw 100 and Definition/Policy concerning ISA membership (Section 1.a), the ISAF fee will be collected from all international graduate students International Students holding a valid study permit at the University of Alberta after being admitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.
- All International Graduate Students of the ISA, including both full-time and part-time students, will be eligible to access all ISA programs and services at no additional cost beyond the stipulated fee per graduate student per year, above.

POPULATION OF INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UOA (2022)

These ratios offer insights into the potential capacity of individual Faculties to be supported by graduate students for both undergraduate teaching and research activities. In the case of most Faculties, the rates have remained relatively consistent over time.

There are, however, key exceptions. These include Native Studies, where the proportion of graduate students continues to grow following the introduction of the PhD in Indigenous Studies, and Nursing, where the proportion has increased from 8% to 13% since Fall 2016 (see Table 4).

1.4. Graduate Students by Citizenship

International graduate students (i.e. students on a student visa, work permit, or study permit) make up 41.7% of our total enrolments, which is the largest ever percentage, and shows marked growth and recovery after a slight COVID dip in the Fall of 2020. The number would have been higher except for about 300 immigration-related deferrals in Fall 2022.

As Table 5 shows, international students are distributed unevenly across Faculties, the table does, however, reveal that Faculty-specific international student participation continues to move upward in 2022-2023. This year saw increases in every faculty except for Public Health and Rehabilitation Medicine, with the sharpest increase in the Faculty of Law, which nearly doubled its percentage of international students. The number of international graduate students studying in the School of Business also continues to increase, partially due to programs delivered in Mandarin in Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Table 5. Percentage of international students by Faculty

Program Faculty	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
ALES	49.1	51.7	51.2	52.8	50.0	50.1	50.8	51.9	53.5
Arts	32.9	32.4	33.8	33.8	36.9	37.8	36.2	38.3	40.6
Business	31.6	33.0	25.9	28.5	37.4	45.2	38.9	47.4	55.2
Campus Saint-Jean	3.5	3.2	3.7	3.5	5.3	11.5	3.1	5.3	6.5
Education	8.9	9.0	7.1	6.6	7.5	7.9	6.9	8.4	11.1
Engineering	63.0	63.7	61.3	62.2	66.1	71.2	67.3	70.1	72.9
Extension	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.7	9.8	8.8	13.0	12.5	33.3
KSR	20.2	21.7	19.8	18.4	21.3	19.4	15.8	15.0	17.1
Law	18.2	25.0	28.6	9.1	20.0	23.1	11.8	11.8	22.2
Medicine & Dentistry	35.0	33.9	32.9	31.2	30.9	33.5	30.7	31.4	33.0
Native Studies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nursing	15.0	16.0	20.2	18.3	18.6	19.9	18.7	12.4	16.1
Pharmacy	53.1	58.0	64.7	68.2	63.0	69.1	59.0	54.7	56.3
Public Health	12.5	11.1	10.8	10.2	11.4	15.0	21.3	23.4	23.2
Rehabilitation Medicine	3.6	3.5	2.7	3.9	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2
Science	51.5	50.9	53.4	53.3	54.3	56.3	54.4	56.8	59.2
TOTAL	35.1	34.5	33.7	34.8	37.0	39.8	36.9	39.3	41.7

ENROLMENT– This section presents enrolment numbers based on the standard December 1, 2022 headcounts, as reported to Statistics Canada and the Government of Alberta. Enrolment is a point-in-time snapshot and the December headcounts reflect Fall term registrations only. As a result, enrolment reported here does not include the total number of graduate students who have been on campus throughout the entire calendar year (Graduate year book 2022-2023)
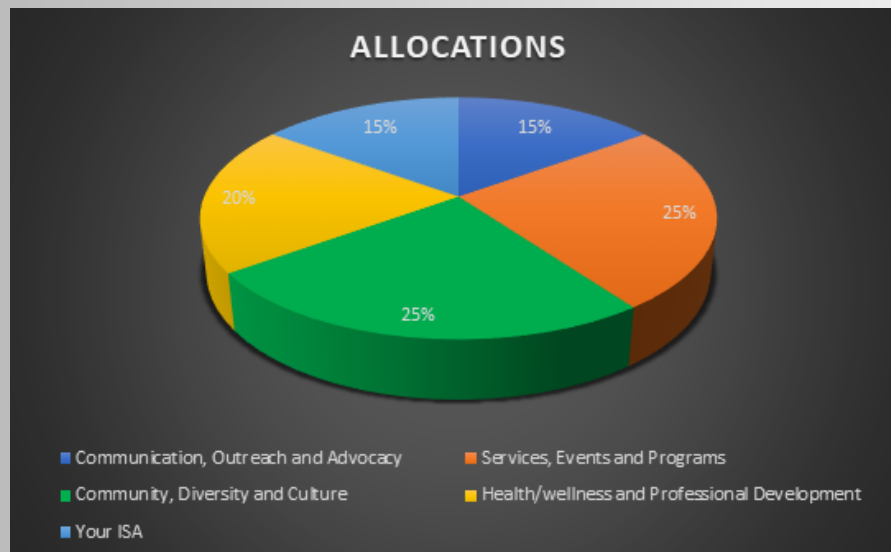
FEE TIMELINE

The ISA Fee will be implemented for a three-year period from the Fall 2024 Term including the Spring/Summer 2027 Term.

OPT-OUT MECHANISM

- To receive fee reimbursement from ISA, a student must fill out the opt-out form on the ISA website (isa.ualberta.ca/opt-out) within the first thirty (30) days of the start of the semester.
- A student is only eligible if they have paid the fee as part of their tuition fees, as collected by the Registrar's Office and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA). The fee is a voluntary fee and filling out this form is the only way to opt out of payment.
- International Graduate students shall be able to fully opt out of the fee as specified above without any complications.
- The ISA shall reimburse the student within thirty (30) days of receiving the opt-out form. This time frame shall only change due to unforeseen or other reasonable circumstances.

ALLOCATIONS AND EXPECTED REVENUE

ALLOCATIONS

- 15% Communication, Outreach and Advocacy
- 25% Services, Events and Programs
- 25% Community, Diversity and Culture
- 20% Health/wellness and Professional Development
- 15% Your ISA

Methodology.
- The budget for the ISA fiscal year Fall 2024 to April 30th, 2025 is only an estimate on the projected expenditure and revenue of the organisation.
- ISAF allocation calculation is based on enrollment numbers from last year and proposed ISAF of $3.00
- Cost projections are based on the amount spent on previous years by undergrad ISA as well as adjustments for requested funding from graduate portfolios within the ISA.
- ISAF allocation are restricted to their intended purpose. Please check the proposal for details.
- Portfolio contingency represents miscellaneous purchases within the department that do not fall under any listed initiative/project/entity.
- Initiative/project/entity and their respective allocation may be subject to change.

ALLOCATIONS AND EXPECTED REVENUE

The estimated total received from the fee proposal will be disbursed based on these allocations.

Allocation	Value	Description	Amount
Communication, Outreach and Advocacy	Creating meaning connections	Advocacy and Awareness	15%
Services, Events and Programs	Cultural sensitivity in focus	General events as per the interests of graduate students, International Students Benefit Card (ICard) programs to save money for students	25%
Community, Diversity and Culture	Graduate student experience centered	Provide UoA Students groups ability to apply for funding to host cultural and community engagement focused events. Empower students to initiate their own events on campus. Host welcome service for international graduate students to give a solid start to their programs. Creating research networking events	25%
Health/wellness and Professional Development	Understanding diversity and propagating a professionally ready graduate student	For ISA to cover the costs of health/wellness and professional development services and programs	20%
Your ISA	Creating memories and sharing common lived experience	For the ISA to cover its operational costs and provide International Students with a hub on campus	15%

THE ISA GRADUATE COUNCIL SHALL MAKE CHANGES UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 5% TO ANY ALLOCATION TO PROVIDE A LEVEL OF FLEXIBILITY THAT ENABLES ISA TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION AS PER STUDENT NEEDS. THE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND FEEDBACK INFORMATION WILL DICTATE THESE CHANGES.

ALLOCATIONS ANDEXPECTED REVENUE

FALL 2024/WINTER 2025		
Initiative	Allocation (%)	Allocation ($)
Communication, Outreach and Advocacy	15.00%	$2,179.20
Services, Events and Programs	25.00%	$3,632.00
Community, Diversity and Culture	25.00%	$3,632.00
Health/wellness and Professional Development	20.00%	$2,905.60
Your ISA	15.00%	$2,179.20
Totals	100.00%	**$14,528.00**

Expected ISAF Revenue (based on Graduate international students)			
Trimester	Student Enrollment	ISAF	Net Revenue
Fall	2,600.00	$3.00	$7,800.00
Winter	2,600.00	$3.00	$7,800.00
Spring/Summer	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Potential Gross Total Revenue			$15,600.00
Safety Margin		@7%	$1,072.00
Total Revenue			**$14,528.00**

PLEASE NOTE:
- FOR THE OPT OUTS AND CHANGES, A SAFETY MARGIN OF 7% IS APPLIED.
- THE ENROLMENT NUMBERS OF 2,600 INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE BASED ON THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023.

ISAF FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

- Moreover, ISA remains open to any additional financial oversight measures suggested by the University of Alberta Graduate Students Association Council. We are committed to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility and welcome additional mechanisms that enhance financial accountability, subject to the UAGSA's discretion on the fee.

Your support for this fee ensures that international graduate students' financial contributions are managed with an unwavering dedication to transparency and accountability, ultimately benefiting the student community and their well-being.

ALLOCATION – 1
COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY

International students from 100+ countries call the University of Alberta their academic home. ISA's top priority is to create a welcoming environment for every one of them. This allocation will fund essential resources, including an annual Welcome guide tailored to ease the initial transition challenges faced by international graduate students, embracing their diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Additionally, we will allocate funds to empower dedicated international graduate student-focused news articles in the Gateway. Our team of international graduate writers will cover vital GSA and FGSR policy updates, enhancing the graduate student community's awareness and writing skills.

This initiative ensures that international graduate students are well-informed and engaged in our advocacy efforts. ISA is committed to fostering a strong connection with international students, offering support in navigating financial, social, and cultural challenges through events like Financial Literacy Week and the Awareness and Advocacy Fund.

ISA is committed to fostering a strong connection with international students, offering support in navigating financial, social, and cultural challenges through events like Financial Literacy Week and the Awareness and Advocacy Fund.

For effective communication, we will allocate resources for maintaining vital tools like the ISA website and Canva account. As international graduate students are dispersed across UofA campuses and faculties, a robust communication and outreach budget is essential to stay in close contact with our diverse student body. Your support ensures international students feel at home and well-informed during their time at UofA.

ALLOCATION – 2
SERVICES, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

ISA's comprehensive plan to enhance the international student experience includes:

1. **Quality Events:** Fostering inclusivity and combatting homesickness through engaging events.
2. **Tours:** Organizing trips to explore Alberta and address transportation challenges.
3. **International Student Benefit Card (ICard):** Introducing a discount program to save money and connect with partners.
4. **Lower Living Expenses:** Customizing the ICard program and partnering with residential companies to reduce costs.
5. **Advocacy and Policies:** Promoting rights-based advocacy and substantial academic improvements for international students.
6. **Soft Skill Seminars (S3):** Developing academic soft skills through expert-led seminars and collaborations with university departments (individual and group-based).

ALLOCATION – 3
COMMUNITY, DIVERSITY, AND CULTURE

Without intending to duplicate the service provided by the GSA to Graduate Student Groups through its *Graduate Student Groups Grant* or other initiatives, this allocation is aimed at helping international graduate student groups get additional funding from our "Community Support Fund".

1. Purpose: Aid graduate groups in accessing funds for diverse and community-building events.
2. Background: Address funding gaps faced by graduate groups for cultural events.
3. Funding Allocation: The Community Support Fund facilitates funding for graduate student events.
4. Accountability: Real-time expense tracking and report submission ensure responsible fund use.
5. Limitations: Funds are not for member payments or giveaways, limited to $500 per group per year.
6. Student-Initiated Programs: Empower students to propose and host culturally focused events.
7. Logistics: Support 1-2 events annually, focusing on diverse regions.

This proposal closes the funding gap, fostering cultural diversity and community engagement for international graduate student groups.

Diversity
Community
Culture

Value:
Better engagement for international students with the diverse communities at the UofA.

ALLOCATION – 3
COMMUNITY, DIVERSITY, AND CULTURE

EXAMPLE: A NEW INITIATIVE: EXCHANGE OF CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE FOR RESEARCHERS AND VISITORS TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

Aimed to help graduate students (both domestic and international), this initiative will provide support for students embarking on field research activities or data collection in other countries. The initiative is divided into a two-step process. First, graduate students will be invited to submit the names of the countries and communities where they will be conducting field research for their dissertations or projects.

After compiling the list of countries and specific communities, a second call will be opened for international students from those regions to apply as cultural knowledge representatives. This structured approach allows international students to gain invaluable insights into overcoming challenges while conducting research in unfamiliar cultures and communities. We recognize the difficulties that arise when conducting research in places where you are viewed as an "outsider." Ethical approaches to conducting research in unfamiliar sites will be augmented by this initiative.

Diversity
Community
Culture

Value:
Better engagement for international students with the diverse communities at the UofA.

ALLOCATION – 4
HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Health and Wellness

The Health and Wellness Program, initiated by ISA, is aimed at promoting the well-being of international graduate students. It seeks to create a strong and supportive community through shared recreational activities and adventure programs.

Prioritizing health and well-being for international students supports their adjustment, academic success, social integration, and overall quality of life while studying in a foreign country.

Recognizing the challenges and stress faced by international students, the program aims to alleviate loneliness, particularly during exam seasons. It also encourages students to prioritize mental health and provides a platform for discussing and addressing mental health issues.
ISA also funds recreational resources, like board games, for students to engage in at our office.

We host sessions on mental health care, burnout handling, and speed friending in our HUB space, ensuring personalized support.
In addition, the ISA also offers one-on-one appointments with volunteers to assist students in accessing Peer Support Center or Campus Counselling services, aiming to overcome language barriers and reduce stigma.

Professional Development

Health

Wellness

Value:
Enhancing individual mental, physical and professional growth while building a strong community and life-long connections.

ALLOCATION – 4
HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development

ISA acknowledges the drive and determination of our international student community to establish themselves in Canada and beyond. We are dedicated to offering students the chance to learn from mentors who have walked a similar path and achieved their career aspirations.

ISA's Professional Development program centers on the career and academic growth of international graduate students. The following are some of the initiatives being put forward:

1. **Periodic Student–Alumni Networking Events:** These events will connect international graduate students with successful UofA alumni who offer valuable advice for optimizing their university experience and achieving holistic development. Our alumni from diverse fields will share their work experiences, catering to the needs of our diverse membership across faculties with monthly sessions.

2. **Road to Success Workshops:** These workshops, led by experts will guide students in balancing their academic and professional responsibilities. They will empower students to excel academically while pursuing their career goals.

3. **Career Fair/ Workshops:** This initiative will offer students the chance to interact with companies and attend workshops for professional development. ISA fosters professional and academic excellence by connecting international students with experienced mentors. This initiative provides industry insights, Q&A opportunities, and valuable interactions.

Professional Development

Health

Wellness

Value:
Enhancing individual mental, physical and professional growth while building a strong community and life–long connections.

ALLOCATION – 5
YOUR ISA

This allocation is essential for maintaining ISA's extensive operations across all campuses. It primarily covers operational and administrative expenses related to the ISA Office, which acts as a central hub for student activities.

It supports over 40 governance positions, as well as more than 130 dedicated directors, coordinators, and internal members, through Volunteer Appreciation Programs.

Additionally, it funds crucial election expenses, fosters inclusivity, and contributes to the establishment of an "International Students Hub" on campus. This allocation also ensures event participants' safety through mandated general insurance, upholding compliance with institutional standards.

In essence, this allocation is the backbone of ISA, sustaining its operations, governance, and community-building efforts, while prioritizing safety and student success. It forms the bedrock of the vibrant international student community at the University of Alberta.

your ISA

Value:
A stronger ISA is essential to safeguard international students' interests and more strongly advocate for them.

CONCLUSIONS

The flexibility of our operating model is a testament to our commitment to meeting the evolving needs and preferences of international students. Our primary focus is to continually enhance their university experience by providing services and programs that resonate with them and have a positive impact.

We value student feedback and engagement as vital sources of insight. It's essential for us to stay responsive to the dynamic nature of our international student community. As we receive input and gauge student involvement, we remain open to adjusting the programs under each allocation unit. Students are equal contributors in helping the ISA decide what kinds of events and activities should be planned for our international student community.

By embracing adaptability, valuing student input, and making the most of our financial resources, we ensure that international students' needs are not only met but also anticipated and addressed, contributing to a fulfilling and enriching university experience for all.

In conclusion, financial contribution to the ISA will not only benefit international students but also enrich the overall academic and social environment at the University of Alberta. The events and activities planned through the ISAF would strengthen the sense of community, foster inclusivity, and enhance the university's reputation as a welcoming and supportive institution for international students. By financially supporting the ISA, international graduate students will be actively contributing to a more vibrant and diverse campus and play a role in creating a positive and supportive environment for all.

<u>**Outline of Issue**</u>
2023 Referendum and Associated Draft Question Initiated by the Campus Food Bank

Suggested Motion:

That GSA Council **APPROVE** the holding of a referendum on the collection of a fee from graduate students to support the Campus Food Bank, to run concurrently with the 2024 GSA General Election.

Background:

Pursuant to the provisions of GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda, an 'Asker' who wishes to initiate a referendum can contact the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), who works with them to draft a referendum question and then extends an invitation to the Asker to present to the GSA Board (GSAB). Following a review by the GSAB, should the proposed referendum be deemed relevant to the GSA and/or GSA members, the matter proceeds to GSA Council, with that body ultimately deciding whether to approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question. Following this process, the Campus Food Bank (CFB), a separate entity unaffiliated with the GSA and a registered charity, has initiated a referendum process to collect a fee from graduate students as they will access described services.

Should the GSA Council approve the holding of a referendum (and the wording of the associated question), it would run concurrently with the 2024 GSA General Election. As indicated in the motion, notwithstanding GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section B.BYL.3.1, only graduate students would be eligible to vote as only they would be assessed for the fee.

As per <u>current</u> GSA Policy, the 'asker' referred to below is the GSA itself, accordingly the attached question was drafted in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO). The CRO and DRO met and reviewed the 2024 CFB referendum question on November 23 2023.

The attached question (to be distributed) was drafted by the CFB, in consultation with the CRO and GSAB. Additional information concerning the fee and its proposed usage provided by the CFB can be found throughout the remainder of the proposal. The CFB presented these materials to the GSAB at a meeting on November 29 2023, GSAB members voted to extend an invitation to the CFB to present this matter to the GSA Council urgently.

Jurisdiction:

<u>GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.2.1</u>
" A referendum on a clearly worded 'Yes' or 'No' question regarding any dedicated, on-going fee for a service, facility, or lobbying effort can be initiated by the GSA Board (GSAB) subject to a simple majority vote at any meeting of GSA Council. Normally a referendum will be held in conjunction with the GSA General Election, unless a question is determined to be of an urgent nature by the GSAB."

<u>GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.2.3</u>
"Notwithstanding the process by which a referendum is initiated, a clearly worded referendum question will be developed in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), the GSAB, and GSA Council. GSA Council will approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of a referendum question."

<u>GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.BYL.3.1</u>
"Referenda questions will be submitted to GSA Council for approval no later than the first mailing for the November GSA Council meeting, unless a referendum is determined to be urgent by the GSAB as noted above."

Prepared by L Moodley and C Roose for GSA Council 11 December 2023

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GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.1
"If an Asker wishes to initiate a referendum, they will contact the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.2
"The CRO will extend an invitation to present to the GSA Board (GSAB). The Asker must state how their organization or proposed referendum question relates to the GSA and/or GSA members. The Asker will provide the GSAB with relevant documents such as a constitution, mission statement, vision statement, audited financial statements, etc."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.2.a
"A clearly worded referendum question will address the following criteria (if applicable): description of any dedicated on-going fee, amount of fee, how long a fee will be collected, effective date (when a fee will start being collected), procedure for changing a fee, whether the fee can be rescinded, and an accountability mechanism for the money collected. The criteria above provided are non-exhaustive and additional criteria may be required to draft a clearly worded referendum question."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.3
"The CRO and Asker will work together to draft a referendum question, which will be subject to change after input from the GSAB and GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.4
"Following the presentation to the GSAB by the Asker, the GSAB will either decide to extend the Asker an invitation to GSA Council to make a presentation (normally fifteen (15) minutes with an extension if GSA Council so desires, followed by questions from GSA Council), or, if the GSAB does not extend an invitation to GSA Council, the Asker can find a GSA Council member to place the matter on the GSA Council agenda as per the procedures governing GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.5
"If the GSAB has invited the Asker to present at GSA Council, at that point the CRO and the Asker will work together to finalize the wording of the question (subject to change if GSA Council has concerns with the wording) and the Asker then presents to GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.6.
"GSA Council will vote whether to approve the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section J.POL.7.7
"If GSA Council approves the holding of a referendum and the wording of the question, a referendum is then held in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy on referenda."

Prepared by L Moodley and C Roose for GSA Council 11 December 2023

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Campus Food Bank
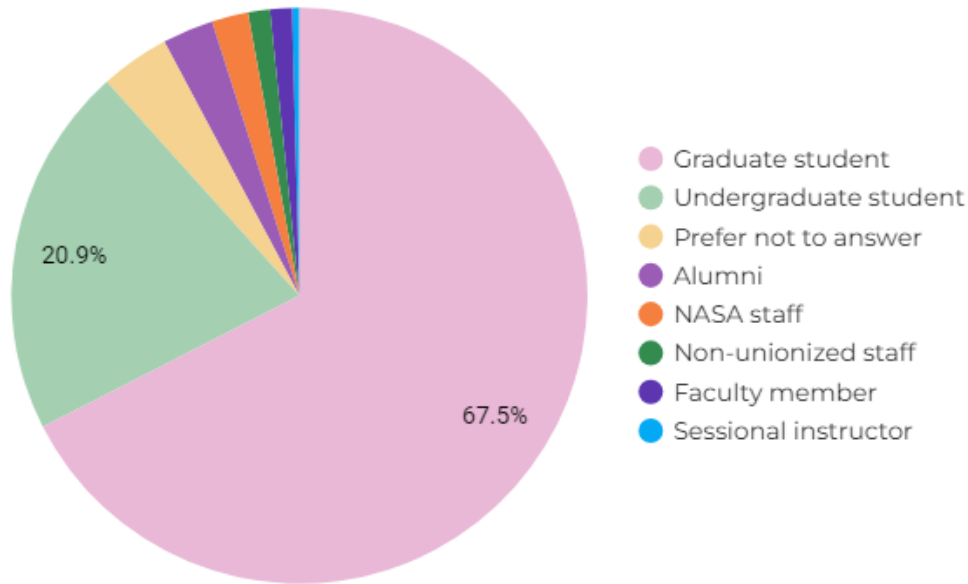## GSA Fee Referendum Proposal
Fall 2023

Background: GSA & CFB

The Graduate Students' Association founded the Campus Food Bank in 1991 with a small food drive to support struggling graduate students during a recession. In the 30+ years since, graduate students have always been a significant contingent of the clients we support.
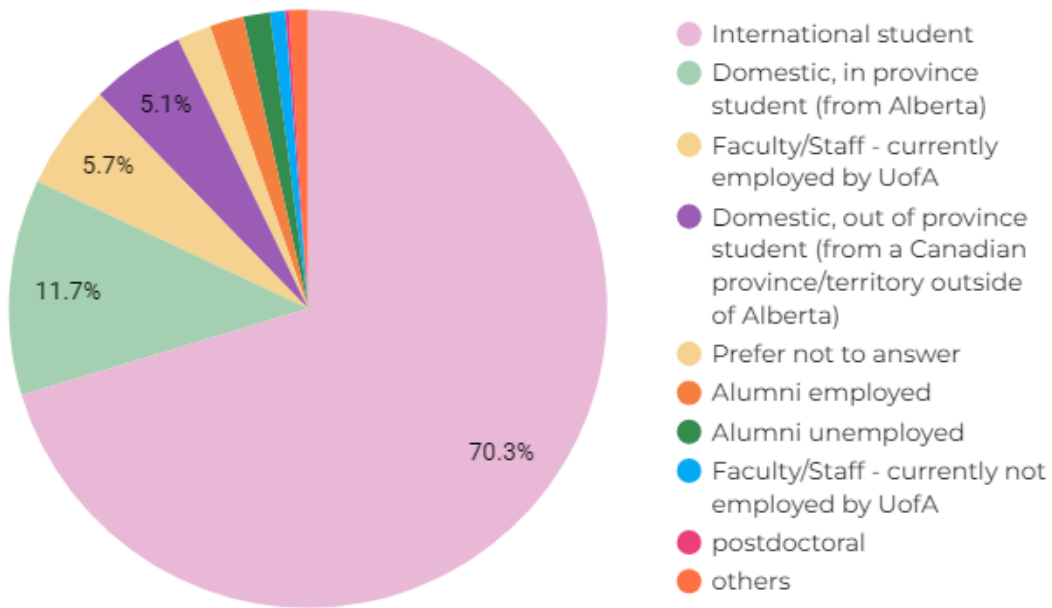
As a nod to our shared history, we always have a representative from the GSA executive on our board, typically the VP of Student Services. The CFB has also been working with the GSA to provide more food support outside of the Student Union Building. This work has led to the planned opening of a food pantry in Rutherford Library this January, and we are also exploring options for a free breakfast program on the east side of campus. Graduate students can also now access CFB Snack Stations at two locations in HUB and one in the Telus International Centre.

Grad student usage of Campus Food Bank

Consistently, graduate students make up about 70 percent of the people Campus Food Bank serves.

Legend:
- Graduate student
- Undergraduate student
- Prefer not to answer
- Alumni
- NASA staff
- Non-unionized staff
- Faculty member
- Sessional instructor

20.9%
67.5%

A separate but overlapping 70 percent of our clients are international students. As a result, we support many families including over 200 children currently.

Legend:
- International student
- Domestic, in province student (from Alberta)
- Faculty/Staff - currently employed by UofA
- Domestic, out of province student (from a Canadian province/territory outside of Alberta)
- Prefer not to answer
- Alumni employed
- Alumni unemployed
- Faculty/Staff - currently not employed by UofA
- postdoctoral
- others

5.1%
5.7%
11.7%
70.3%

Why a referendum now?

Since 2020, our demand has skyrocketed, which has forced us to look at new avenues for consistent, dependable monetary support. Just three years ago, we were

mostly able to meet demand through food drives, and didn't have to purchase much food for the Campus Food Bank to be able to serve everyone who needed support. In the last 12 months, the CFB spent more than $120,000 on food to meet demand. This is a new and startling expense made worse by grocery inflation in the last few years, and has led to a significant increase in our operating budget.

CFB Budget Increases

2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
$271,759	**$292,250**	**$385,625**	**$762,442**
Food product $98K	Food product $95K	Food product $120K	Food product $269K
Surplus $16,427	Surplus $84,240	Surplus $35,503	Surplus $37,500

2023-24

Our current budget is now **$644,500** (not including food product). In FY23 we had to do a significant reforecast at six months, mostly due to food costs, so this could increase.

For many years, graduate students have supported the CFB through an annual grant via the GSA operating budget to the CFB. However, GSA grant support has increased 80% since 2020 while our budget has increased 181%. Also, undergraduate students support the CFB with a nominal fee when they pay their tuition each semester, and it makes sense that graduate students, who make up 70% of CFB clients, should do the same. We love the symbolism of every UofA student paying a small amount toward the food bank at the beginning of their semester, so that it is not just the CFB supporting students but also students supporting each other.

If our referendum is approved, the current CFB grant support via the GSA operating budget would end. This fee would replace and augment historical GSA support.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Haseeb Arshad, Bishoi Aziz, Lewie Moodley, Sophie Shi, and the entire GSA board and staff for all of their encouragement, passion, and commitment to keeping the Campus Food Bank not just operational but also vibrant and inclusive.

Proposed referendum question

Do you support an $8 fee per student per year to fund Campus Food Bank (CFB)?
- Fee would go into effect in Fall 2024. This will be a non-opt-out fee.
- The CFB provides supplementary groceries and five other food access and food education programs at UofA. Consistently, 70% of CFB clients are graduate students. The CFB has experienced a full doubling in demand in just two years. They need consistent core support to ensure continuity of services.
- All graduate students will be assessed $3 during each of the Fall/Winter semesters and $1 during each of the Spring/Summer semesters.
- Campus Saint Jean and off-campus graduate students will be included in the fee assessment. Augustana will not be included.
- The fee will be adjusted annually, indexed to CPI (Bank of Canada), and will be taken to the graduate student body for reapproval every three years.
- The current fee will conclude April 30, 2027.

How will the money be spent?

If the referendum question passes, the GSA will collect fees of approximately $70,000 (~ 9,000 graduate students at $8 each). Currently we are spending about twice this amount on food purchasing per year, so GSA fees collected would go directly to our food purchasing budget. We are trying to prioritize the purchase of fresh meat (especially halal meat) and fresh produce (especially a cultural variety of locally grown fruit and vegetables) but these items are the most expensive to buy and are rare in free food bank supply chains. Consistent and dependable annual support from graduate students can help us to plan for bulk purchasing and other savings opportunities related to purchasing meat, produce, and culturally varied groceries.

A note on oversight and reporting
The Campus Food Bank has operated as a registered Canadian charity since 1994. Our books are audited annually by external auditors (2023 audited statements) and we submit annual oversight reporting to the Canada Revenue Agency.

Similar to our fee reporting structure with the Students' Union, the CFB would attend GSA Council annually to report on our work and our spending, update Council on our latest numbers and trends, and take questions from councilors. This includes submitting an annual report with audited financial statements (2023 Annual Report).

Additionally, the GSA's VP Student Services sits on the Campus Food Bank board and has access to our strategic documents, budgeting, and other aspects of operations that can indicate organizational health.

More about the Campus Food Bank

The Campus Food Bank (CFB) is the oldest food bank on a university campus in Canada. We served our first student clients in 1991 and became a registered Canadian charity with an independent board of directors in 1994. For more than 30 years now, we have provided supplementary food access and education to the U of A community.

Vision

Hunger for knowledge, not food.

Mission

Work and advocate for a UofA where everyone has access to food and food education.

Values

Accessibility
Compassion | Dignity
Equity | Integrity
Involvement

Staff

Executive Director - Erin O'Neil
Outreach Manager - Caitlin Chyczij
Programs Manager - Madi Corry
Client Engagement Coordinator (part-time) - Priya Patel
Digital Engagement Coordinator (part-time) - Rhea Aery
Administrative Coordinator (part-time) - Jaysin Masse

Volunteers

The Campus Food Bank is supported by more than 120 volunteers each year. Volunteers run many of our programs and sit on volunteer committees to contribute to the strategic work of the CFB. Volunteers are primarily students but we also have seniors and retired alumni, university staff, and community members.

Governance

The food bank is governed by a volunteer board of directors. Our bylaws require that the board includes seven to 15 individuals, including: one SU representative (VP SL), one GSA representative (VP SS), and one volunteer representative.

How is the CFB funded?

The food bank became a Designated Fee Unit of the University of Alberta Students' Union in 2017. Undergraduate students pay $1 per semester, indexed to inflation. The Graduate Students' Association provides a lump sum grant every year and supplemented that with additional funding in 2022-23 out of their budget surplus.

The CFB has received recent grants from: Food Banks Canada, Peavey Industries, Edmonton Community Foundation, City of Edmonton, Community Service Learning Small Grant Fund and CSL Pathways Program, Canada Summer Jobs, Realtors Community Foundation, Venture for Canada, Heroes for Health, the SU's Green Fund, and several private foundations supporting food security work.

As a registered charity, the Campus Food Bank also receives donations and issues tax receipts. While individual fundraising has fluctuated significantly in the CFB's history, this year has brought record-breaking support from the community.

Programs

- Our supplementary grocery program can be accessed every two weeks by students, staff, and new grads. Our store includes a range of perishable and non-perishable foods and the amount of food clients can take scales by family size. We also offer toiletries, diapers, formula, and period products.
- We offer Campus Kitchen cooking workshops during the school year led by student volunteers. In 2023-24, these take place in the AgFor teaching kitchen.
- Every Wednesday morning at 8:30am, we serve free breakfast in SUB across from SUBmart and at Campus Saint-Jean in the Grand Salon.
- The grocery bus service we offer takes students to low-cost and specialty grocery stores farther afield from North campus every weekend, including Superstore, Wal-Mart, T&T Superstore, Goodwill, and many more stores in the area. We expanded this service to Campus Saint-Jean this fall.
- We operate a network of CFB Snack Stations across campus to provide free healthy snacks in high student traffic areas like lecture halls and study spaces. Current locations include: University Health Centre, Chaplains Centre, APIRG, and several faculty-level student service centres.
- The CFB is also a WECAN Food Basket Society depot. WECAN is a separate non-profit in the city that offers low-cost food baskets.

Questions or concerns?

Please don't hesitate to contact the CFB with any questions!

General info or client support: info@campusfoodbank.com.

For specific questions regarding the GSA referendum, contact Erin O'Neil, executive director, ed@campusfoodbank.com.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE (GSA ASC) (SEVEN (7) POSITIONS FOR GSA MEMBERS): THREE (3) NOMINEES

Information regarding the seven (7) vacancies for GSA members was advertised via GSA newsletter of 24 November and 1 December with a nomination deadline of 6 December 2023. Three (3) nominations were received.

The GSA ASC is "responsible for selecting the recipients of the GSA Council approved GSA Recognition Awards" (Section O.POL.5.1).

There will be an electronic vote held at the 11 December 2023 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 11 December 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator (gsanomco@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 11 December 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

1. **Andres Dorado (Rehabilitation Medicine)**
2. **Yeon Soo Ha (Educational)**
3. **Shreeya Kisi (Agricultural, Life & Environmental Studies)**

Current GSA ASC membership can be found here.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O.POL.3.3
The GSA ASC is composed of *"a minimum of eight (8) and up to twelve (12) GSA members elected by GSA Council as voting members. The GSA ASC Chair, in consultation with the GSA ASC Vice-Chair and the Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee, can decide to increase the number of GSA members on the GSA ASC."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E.POL.3.1.a
"The GSA NoC provides GSA Council with the names of nominees to fill vacancies on GSA Standing Committees, ad hoc committees, and subcommittees, unless otherwise noted. All vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement."

The names and biographies received for the three (3) nominees are <u>BELOW on pages 10.1 – 10.2.</u> The biographies and resumes are presented as <u>received</u> (i.e. not edited).

NOMINATIONS FOR GSA AWARDS AND SELECTION COMMITTEE (GSA ASC)
(SEVEN (7) VACANCIES FOR GSA MEMBERS)
Three (3) Nominees

Andres Dorado

Statement of Interest: I would like to volunteer to serve on this committee because I think it would be of great personal benefit to understand how awards are adjudicated and the process behind award selection committees, as I apply for awards throughout my own studies. Additionally, I may offer a unique perspective as a South American immigrant and member of the Albertan francophone community. Awards are a major part of graduate studies and can be very important for the students receiving them. I hope to be of value as part of the award selection committee.
Bio: My name is Andres, I'm a Colombian immigrant and Canadian citizen. I am in my first year of graduate school, starting my master's program with a focus on young children's language and literacy development. Although language acquisition has been an integral focus of my research and academic studies, most of my professional experience is in aquatics. I taught swimming lessons, lifeguarded, coached lifesaving sport, trained national lifeguards and certified folks in first aid for over a decade. However, I am also passionate about creating and consuming art: I love painting, playing guitar, watching movies and listening to music. My eclectic experiences and interests would be an asset to this position as I can be pragmatic in my appreciation for people's unique backgrounds. Additionally, my role as instructor and examiner in all my aquatics courses has given me the tools to critically assess people's skills and adhere to selection criteria.

Yeon Soo Ha

Statement of Interest: As a recipient of the Graduate Student Service Award, I would like to reciprocate the work of the GSA Recognition Award by serving on the Awards and Selection Committee. I admire and respect the different types of recognition the GSA Awards provides students, and believe in the importance of recognizing and supporting graduate students and their efforts.
Bio: I am a student services professional and a student in Educational Policy Studies. Throughout my career, I have worked extensively in admissions and have processed hundreds of admissions and scholarship applications, which includes reviewing admissions essays and awards and bursary applications. I am extremely competent at reviewing applications and equitably adjudicating them based on specific matrixes or metrics. I am particularly familiar with academic records and teaching activities from working in admissions and student affairs overall. As a professional, I take fairness and privacy extremely seriously when it comes to reviewing applications and adjudicating awards. Furthermore, I am an active community volunteer whose work has centered around award selection and adjudication. As a board member for various non-profits, I have served on several hiring committees for various positions in the non-profit sector. From this work, I have a keen understanding of assessing and evaluating applications and quantifying experiences into assessable qualifications. I have also served as the chair of the funding committee in a local non-profit which provided grants and awards to individuals, organizations, and initiatives making a positive impact in Edmonton and Alberta. I am very qualified, both as a professional and a volunteer, to serve on the GSA Selection Committee. Furthermore, I am very

passionate about recognizing and rewarding deserving individuals through an efficient yet fair process. I hope that I can apply my skills and passions as a part of the 2024 GSA Awards selection committee.

Shreeya Kisi

Statement of Interest:
I would like to be a part of GSA and contribute to recognizing the achievements of fellow graduate students.
Bio:
I come from a veterinary and management background, and currently, I am studying M.Sc. Food Science (Food Safety and Quality). I have been a part of various organizations, including one health and Leo club, where I got the chance to give back to the community. I have also developed my skills in critical thinking and attention to detail, while working as a production lead and technical head at a Poultry Breeding Facility. My experience in critical evaluation, attention to detail and fairness, coupled with my involvement in various volunteer activities will enable me to effectively contribute to the Awards Selection Committee.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC) (THREE (3) POSITIONS FOR GSA MEMBERS): TWO (2) NOMINEES

Information regarding the three (3) vacancies for GSA members was advertised via GSA newsletters on 24 November and 1 December with a nomination deadline of 6 December 2023. Two (2) nominations were received.

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

There will be an electronic vote held at the 11 December 2023 GSA Council meeting.   *If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 11 December 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator (gsanomco@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 11 December 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.*

Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name. 'None of the Candidates' will also be considered a nominee.   1. **Jerry Gan (Education)**   2. **Cassidy Maplethorpe (Biochemistry)**

Current GSA ERC membership can be found here.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section I.POL.16.1
The GSA ERC is composed of *"a total of six (6) GSA members including at least one (1) Councillor elected by GSA Council, as voting members."*

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E.POL.3.1.a
"The GSA NoC provides GSA Council with the names of nominees to fill vacancies on GSA Standing Committees, ad hoc committees, and subcommittees, unless otherwise noted. All vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement."

The names and biographies received for the two (2) nominees are BELOW on page 10.4. The biographies and resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).

NOMINATIONS FOR GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC)
(THREE (3) VACANCIES FOR GSA MEMBERS)
Two (2) Nominees

Jerry Gan

Statement of Interest:
As a former UASU/ESA Deputy Returning Officer, I am passionate about fostering a thriving academic community and believe that active participation in the electoral process is integral to achieving this goal.
Bio:
I have been at the University of Alberta for seven years, undertaking both my BSc and BEd programs here before embarking on my current academic journey pursuing a Master's degree in Special Education. Throughout my undergraduate years, I actively participated in student governance, including CRO for East Campus Students' Association and HUB Community Association, DRO for the Education Students' Association and UASU, secretary for the P.S.Warren Geological Society and Graduation Commissioner for the Education Students' Association. I also volunteer as a crisis responder at the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Cassidy Maplethorpe

Statement of Interest:
I'd like to stay involved in the department and continue to represent my peers. Having done my undergrad at Brock University, I believe I would bring new ideas and a different perspective. I would appreciate the opportunity to strengthen my leadership and interpersonal skills, in addition to developing professional and personal connections. I have enjoyed serving on the FoMD committee the last two years and would like to expand my responsibilities with serving on the ERC.
Bio:
I am a student athlete, currently completing a Master of Science in Biochemistry while playing on the University of Alberta Women's hockey team. I completed a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Biochemistry at Brock University. While at Brock, I did an undergraduate research project, which allowed me to develop effective problem solving skills, both independently and collaboratively. These are skills that I am continuing to develop as I conduct my graduate research project here at the U of A. While completing my undergraduate degree, I was an integral member of the Women's Hockey Team at Brock University, taking a leadership role, and leading the team to a division championship. I was awarded Female Athlete of the Year for the 2021-22 Brock sports season, highlighting my strong work ethic in both academics and athletics. This year, I complete my final year of USPORT eligibility, and hope to lead the U of A Pandas to another championship. Varsity athletics has allowed me to further develop my leadership and interpersonal skills, further demonstrated through my role as an assistant coach and mentor to youth hockey teams in the St. Catharine's Female Minor Hockey Association. I am continuing to develop my leadership skills through mentorship in youth female hockey here in Edmonton as well, and hope to continue serving on a committee that allows me to develop these skills in a professional setting.

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (GSA ACB)
(THREE (3) POSITIONS FOR GSA MEMBERS): ONE (1) NOMINEE

Information regarding the positions for one (1) GSA member was advertised via GSA newsletters of 24 November and 1 December with a nomination deadline of 5 December 2023. One (1) nomination was received for the one (1) GSA member vacancy. The nominee was then interviewed by GSA NoC members who have been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and have a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. A member of GSA management was also present for the interview. During the interview, the nominee was asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB receive training in procedural fairness).

There will be an electronic vote held at the 11 December 2023 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday 11 December 2023 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Elections Coordinator (gsanomco@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 11 December 2023 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

1.   **Maged Kharouba (Pharmacy)**

Current GSA ACB membership can be found here.

Jurisdiction:

Section H.POL.7.1 and H.POL.7.2
"Eight (8) GSA members elected by GSA Council as voting members [and] four (4) Departmental Councilors (including the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) Councillor), alternates, or recent former Departmental Councilors, elected by GSA Council as voting members."

Section H.POL.8.1
"The GSA NoC will interview all nominees to the GSA ACB and forward selected nominees to GSA Council."

The name and biography received for the one (1) nominee is <u>BELOW on page 10.6.</u> The biography and brief resume is presented as <u>received</u> (ie not edited).

Nominations for GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD
(THREE (3) VACANCIES FOR GSA MEMBERS)
One (1) Nominee

Maged Kharouba

Statement of Interest:
I am eager to volunteer for the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board as I believe in the importance of maintaining fairness and transparency within our academic community. My extensive background in leadership roles, including my current position as President of the ESA and current/former roles in the PGSA, has equipped me with strong problem-solving and communication skills. I am committed to upholding the integrity of the decision-making processes and ensuring that appeals and complaints are addressed impartially. By serving on this board, I aim to contribute to a positive and accountable student governance system, fostering a supportive environment for all graduate students.
Bio:
Serving as the Vice President of Academics and subsequently the Vice President of Finance at PGSA has honed my ability to navigate complex academic scenarios, fostering exceptional problem-solving skills. My tenure as the President of the ESA and previous role as the Coordinator of Academics in ISA have allowed me to further refine my communication and leadership abilities. These experiences have not only enhanced my capacity to address and resolve concerns effectively but have also instilled in me a deep understanding of the intricacies involved in academic administration. I am confident that my multifaceted background and commitment to student welfare make me well-suited to contribute significantly to the appeals and complaints process, ensuring a fair and supportive environment for all graduate students.

President
Report to GSA Council for the 11th December 2023 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Bishoi Aziz
Date: 7th December

Dear Council Colleagues,

It is hard to imagine that the fall semester is coming to an end and that I am heading to the last semester in my term. I hope you are all enjoying the nice weather out there. I am happy to report on my work over the past month.

Tuition Proposal Town Hall
- As promised, we would have held a town hall to consult with the university community on the new tuition proposal to better improve the transparency and consultation on tuition negotiations. We made sure to promote this opportunity to all the students and to the academic and non-academic staff as well to obtain as much feedback as possible. Given the closeness of the town hall to the exams period, we are holding an additional town hall early in January to give a chance to more students to participate in the discussions.
- As we try to ask for a better tuition framework, we requested to improve PhD tuition either by removing the international differential or by lowering tuition following passing the candidacy exam. Unfortunately, both requests were rejected. However, we were promised that the university will start a working group in collaboration with GSA to reach out solutions to improve the tuition framework for PhD students.

GSA Health and Dental Plan
- We are all aware of the unfortunate reality of the hiking in the GSA health and dental plan fee given the high usage and the opting out of many of our students lowering our total funding pool. In order to address that and given that our agreement with StudentCare is ending in August 2025, we started to look into other options trying to provide affordable service to our members. The GSA management team and I had the chance recently to meet with another local insurance broker called Ellement starting the early discussions and negotiations. This is just the first meeting of many others to shop around for a better deal for students.
- Meanwhile, our management team will start working on clarifying our policies and procedures to hold a request for proposal (RFP) to be able to obtain the best deal possible.

PhD Guaranteed Minimum Funding project
- As per our discussions with the FGPS Dean, the negotiations with the departments around the project are coming to an end as the implementation working group is discussing the implementation details. The Dean hopes to have the project voted on in February; however, this date is not concrete.
- As of now, the minimum that the group is discussing is 25,000 CAD annually for four years. We try our best in the GSA to push for a higher funding package in our discussions with both the faculty and the Provost's office.

As we are heading fast towards the holidays season, I wish you all Happy Holidays and to get a well-deserved time off your studies and commitments. Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 21st November 2023 to 8th December 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board and management meetings).

The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

21 Nov	UofA Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee
21 Nov	Meeting with a student
21 Nov	Meeting with Ellement
22 Nov	Survey Planning Meeting
22 Nov	Graduate Student Online Orientation Chat
23 Nov	Meeting with R Epp
23 Nov	Health and Dental CRO Meeting
23 Nov	MNIF Joint Oversight Committee Meeting #4
24 Nov	NASA/GSA/SU
24 Nov	UofA Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee
27 Nov	Meeting with J Smith, Chief of Staff, University of Alberta
27 Nov	Meeting with Bill Flanagan, UofA President
28 Nov	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC) Meeting #3
28 Nov	UofA Board Finance and Property Committee
29 Nov	Meeting with T Raivio, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGPS
30 Nov	Graduate Student Funding Meeting
4 Dec	Meeting with T Raivio, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGPS
4 Dec	PAWSOC Paw Tour
4 Dec	2023 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
5 Dec	Meeting with G Puligandla
5 Dec	Meeting re: Academic Flexibility with DoS
5 Dec	BFC - Preliminary meeting - 2024-2025 Budget
6 Dec	Meeting with J Smith, Chief of Staff, University of Alberta
7 Dec	SEAP Accountability Meeting
7 Dec	GSA and People Strategy Committee Consultation
7 Dec	Meeting with T Tang, Associate Vice-President, Student Experience
8 Dec	Board of Governors Meeting
8 Dec	Board Lunch at Lister Centre with the BoG
8 Dec	Meeting with M Padlfield, Provost & Vice-President Academic
8 Dec	UofA Tuition Proposal Town Hall

GSA Budget and Finance Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 11 December 2023 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Bishoi Aziz
Date: 8 December 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

GSA Investment Portfolio
The GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) met on 5 December 2023. Jeremy King from Treasury Branch presented a risk vs. return investment profile for the GSA. He noted that risk cannot be destroyed, only transformed. When you are too conservative, you are at risk of not reaching long term sustainability goals. He was asked if things are starting to level off since the pandemic. Markets are a lot jumpier but they are seeing a return to normal. Bond and equity markets are always a bit volatile. We expect that to continue in the future. What is different right now is that fixed income is seeing a decline in value. GDP decline will result in equities declining, central banks will cut rates. Over the next 4-5 years, individual volatility will continue but in the diversified portfolio, it may be smoothed out over the next cycle.

GSA 2024-25 Operating Budget Overview
The committee started initial discussion for next year's operating budget. Enrollment figures should be clearer in January but there was caution that we should project any increases to enrollment as it has been static over the last couple of years. Admission might be up but that doesn't always translate into enrollments. Many international students have deferred enrollment due to many issues. As the draft budget needs to be ready by January 15, 2024, it is best to be conservative and err on the side of caution and project 0% growth in enrollment.

The primary expenditure is salaries but due to some restructuring, will see some savings going into next year. We are still doing some revisions to positions. With staff leaving, the new staff start at a lower salary structure.

The Associate VP Labour would like to have a strike fund in place. No money is going into the strike fund so it doesn't accumulate over time. Worst case scenario, we may not always be able to rely on PSAC for strike support.

The VP Student Services wants to look at a Peer Support Program for graduate students. Can we build this into our budget so that it is sustainable over time? This is something that requires further research and investigation. Perhaps we can explore external grants for this as well.

The Grants Coordinator has been investigating software that is more secure for student data and processing times are cut significantly. The cyber security risk is high right now. A new software would cut that risk. The cost would be between $10-12K per year and it is possible that applicants can use their ualberta ccid's. The HR line for grants support has decreased so the cost of the software is covered by the salary savings. Of course, there will be CPI increases over time.

There is a modest increase in events and social engagement. Costs are ever increasing and students are asking for more events as a way to connect.

I look forward to answering any questions,
Bishoi Aziz, President and Chair of the GSA BFC

2023-2024 Vice-President Academic
Report to GSA Council for 11 December 2023

To: GSA Council
From: Rija Kamran
Date: 5 December 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well. I can't believe it is December already. I have shared some highlights from the work I have been involved in since the last council meeting.

17 November 2023-Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC): Special Meeting on International Tuition
As you might be aware that the proposal for tuition increase for both domestic and international students was presented with the GSA Council previously. While the proceedings from TBAC are confidential, I would like to urge you to attend the Tuition Town Hall on December 8th to hear from university representatives and voice your concerns.

20 November 2023- Graduate Program Support Team (GPST) Meeting
I attended the FGSR GPST meeting. We discussed some items going forward to GFC for Approval, this included some course changes in Arts and FoMD and minor program changes in Arts, Engineering and FoMD. Dr. A Underhill presented an ongoing project in FoMD around graduate program harmonization in terms of admission and program requirement. FoMD has prepared a comprehensive document of how each of the programs within FoMD have adapted to the changes as the faculty works towards harmonizing graduate programs. Dr. T Ravio presented the graduate certificate admissions process and the efforts to promote inclusion within these programs while maintaining academic integrity.

20 November 2023- General Faculties Council (GFC)
I attended the GFC Meeting for November 2023. GSA VP Student Life, T. Kung co-presented the student experience action plan. This plan has now been endorsed by the GFC and on the GSA front we are working with the accountabilities that were assigned to us. N. Rodenburg and T. Ravio presented the student financial support, which provided a detailed breakdown on how the funding was utilized and distributed over the previous academic year. This item on PhD guaranteed minimum funding was presented to GFC as well. Currently the implementation working group is working on the rollout plan, but we have requested T. Ravio to present this item to council ahead of the vote in FGSR Council. This was followed by GSA President B. Aziz's presentation on student financial realities and we continue to place all discussions around funding, tuition, and support in the context of current realities faced by graduate students.

24, 30 November 2023 Provost/VP Academic Search and Selection (Advisory Committee)
As sent out in the Quad Post, the search and selection process for the next Provost and VP Academic is underway. I have the privilege of representing graduate students and GSA on the committee. While the proceedings are strictly confidential, the work is progressing well, and I will keep you informed as this work progresses.

27 November 2023- GFC Exec GPO
The GFC Executive subcommittee on governance and procedural oversight reviews and updates the terms of references for the various GFC committees. The most important part of being involved in this process is to ensure that graduate student representation and interests are emphasized within the terms of references whenever possible. We now have a template to work off from and are currently reviewing the terms of references for GFC APC.

December 4, 2023-Meeting w/ T Ravio, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR (GPS)
B. Aziz and I met T. Ravio. We discussed the University's response to the ongoing geopolitical crisis in the Middle East and urged them to provide clarity in statements and support available to students. We also briefly discussed the PhD guaranteed minimum funding proposal. We emphasised the importance of extensive consultation with the graduate students before the items go for approval to the FGSR council. The governance pathway for the approval of this item has not been detailed yet, but I will keep you informed as soon as I have more information.

I hope you have a restful holiday break. 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 2023-24

2023-2024 GSA VP Academic's Meetings Attended (Rija)
Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 17 November 2023 to 5 December 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

17 Nov	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC): Special Meeting on International Tuition
20 Nov	Graduate Program Support Team (GPST) Meeting
20 Nov	General Faculties Council (GFC)
22 Nov	Survey Planning Meeting
22 Nov	Convocation Platform
22 Nov	Celebrating Our UAlberta Honorary Degree Recipients
24 Nov	Provost/VP Academic Search and Selection (Advisory Committee)
24 Nov	In-Person Meeting – University Research and Innovation Advisory Committee (URAIC)
27 Nov	GFC Exec GPO
27 Nov	ISA/GSA Regular Meeting
28 Nov	Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC) Meeting #3
28 Nov	Holiday Photos
28 Nov	GSA Fall Social
29 Nov	GFC CLE-Committee on the Learning Environment
30 Nov	Provost/VP Academic Search and Selection (Advisory Committee)
4 Dec	DTLSESC Meeting
4 Dec	Meeting w/ T Ravio, Vice-Provost and Dean, FGSR
4 Dec	GFC Executive Committee
5 Dec	Academic Flexibility

2023-2024 Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 11 December 2023 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Hamid Hassani
Date: Dec 4, 2023

Dear Council Members,

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. As we approach the festive season, I extend my warmest wishes for a joyful Christmas holiday to you and your loved ones.

Survey Planning Meeting (22 Nov)
Receiving input from graduate students is crucial for our organization. We are committed to actively listening to their voices to better understand their unique needs and aspirations. By aligning our advocacy efforts with their feedback, we can more effectively champion their causes, address their specific challenges, and foster an educational atmosphere that nurtures their academic and professional development. Their perspectives are essential in guiding our policies and programs to make a meaningful impact on their educational journey and future success. In the recent meeting, each DEO discussed strategies to enrich their respective portfolios, focusing on developing a survey tailored for graduate students. In my area of advocacy, we explored effective ways to gather feedback from graduates, especially in realms intersecting with municipal, provincial, or federal government. Given my role in engaging with policymakers and government officials, it was essential to consider all these areas while prioritizing the needs of both domestic and international students. This approach ensures our advocacy is comprehensive and reflects the diverse perspectives within our student community.

Convocation Platform (22 Nov)
The event was well-coordinated, striking a balance between formality and celebration. It was attended by a diverse group of graduates, faculty, and administrative staff, creating an excellent opportunity for networking and sharing experiences. My interactions with various attendees provided valuable insights into their academic journeys and aspirations. In conclusion, the Convocation Platform party was a highly informative and enjoyable experience. It offered a unique perspective on the accomplishments and ambitions of the academic community. For future events, incorporating more interactive sessions and encouraging alumni participation could further enrich the experience.

Graduate Student Funding Meeting (Nov 30)
During the recent meeting involving myself, Bishoi, Lewie (our Executive Director), and Mandy Quon, Assistant Dean of Advancement Faculty of Native Studies & Dean of Students, we explored various opportunities for funding graduate students and enhancing our grant applications. Our focus is on developing co-op and internship opportunities for graduate students, particularly in collaboration with AIESEC. To support this initiative, we discussed potential organizations that could provide funding, aiming to expand our resources for the benefit of the graduate students. This meeting was a crucial step in identifying and securing the necessary financial support for these valuable educational and professional opportunities.

Alberta Post-Secondary Network (APSN) Event (Nov 30)
The Alberta Post-Secondary Network (APSN) meeting stood out as the most significant gathering this month, a highlight also featured in the GSA newsletter. APSN, comprising the presidents of Alberta's 26 post-secondary institutions, offered an invaluable opportunity for me to represent the interests of graduate students. A primary objective was to champion a specialized immigration strategy designed specifically to address the needs of international graduate students. A pivotal moment of the meeting was my interaction with the Honorable Muhammad Yaseen, Alberta's Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism. Our discussion centered on the

development of initiatives aimed at encouraging international students to remain in the province post-graduation. Furthermore, in a vital dialogue with several university presidents, we addressed the pressing need to construct affordable housing for newcomers, recognizing this as an urgent and critical issue that demands prompt action. This meeting underscored our commitment to enhancing the educational and living experiences of international students in Alberta.

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 November and 4 December 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

22 Nov	Survey Planning Meeting
22 Nov	Convocation Platform
30 Nov	Graduate Student Funding Meeting
30 Nov	Alberta Post-Secondary Network (APSN) Event

2023-2024 Associate Vice-President Labour
Report to GSA Council for Dec 2023

To: GSA Council
From: Muneeb Masood Raja
Date: 05 Dec 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I understand that this is a very busy time for everyone, so I will try to keep my report short. I have attended several meetings between 20 Nov and 15 Dec 2023 which are listed in the table below. The details of these meetings are stated below.

UofA Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee (21 Nov):
I had the opportunity to present to the Board of Governors and addressed the labour issues faced by the academically employed graduate students. The main points covered includes huge pay disparity, low wages, huge supervisor-student power imbalance and lack of clear policy around supervisor-student conflict, collective agreement compliance issues, cap on hours GTA & GRA hours which in many cases is used to fulfil the funding requirement thus limiting students to earn a livable wage, no working conditions for GRAF holders, and lack of university policies to protect students in the event of a conflict.

Labour Relations Committee (LRC) Meeting (23 Nov):
The LRC met on 23rd Nov to finalize the negotiating team for the next collective bargaining team. Two academically employed graduate students were selected according to the GSA Bylaws and Policy in which on the recommendation of the GSA Associate VP Labour, the LRC selected the negotiating team. The other two members would be the AVPL and the negotiator from the Public Service Alliance of Canada. We also reviewed the university faculty and staff engagement survey and the people strategy steering committee that was formed as a result of the survey. Finally, the bargaining survey was also discussed and will be finalized in our next LRC meeting on 12th December.

People Strategy roundtable consultation for graduate student employees (23 Nov):
The statistics in the faculty and staff engagement survey conducted by the university administration portrays a bad image of the university as a good workplace especially when those numbers are compared to different benchmarks. The university is conducting consultations with different stakeholders including the academically employed graduate students (AEGSs) to look for avenues of improvements. I attended the roundtable consultation organized for AEGSs and provided my thoughts and feedback on the issues faced by graduate students at U of A.

Solidarity Meeting (23 Nov & 30 Nov):
The solidarity meeting, organized by PSAC, brought together union leaders and representatives from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge. The discussion involved finalizing the name of the group along with the vision, mission, and values of the group. This group will work on lobbying for labour related issues faced by graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the province.

Labour Outreach (30 Nov):
The GSA Labor Relations Committee (LRC) organized a labour outreach aimed at raising awareness among graduate students. During this event, we actively sought feedback from students regarding their employment situations, which fall under the collective agreement.

Labour Annual General Meeting (AGM) (5 Dec):
I updated the union members with the work done by the LRC around bargaining. The union members were introduced with the bargaining team selected by the LRC and provided with the process on how the selection was

made. The AGM also covered the timelines that will be followed for bargaining, updates on the faculty steward network, and the training and outreach sessions offered to the members during the Fall 2023 term.

I have not yet attended many of the meetings listed below, which is why I haven't included them in my report. However, I plan to cover the key highlights and main aspects of these meetings during our December council meeting. Finally, I would really appreciate any feedback from the respected council members related to any labour related matters.

Thank you,
Muneeb Masood Raja, Associate Vice-President Labour 2023-2024

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 20 Nov and 15 Dec 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

21 Nov	UofA Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee
21 Nov	Convocation
22 Nov	Survey Planning Meeting
22 Nov	Faculty Steward Training
23 Nov	LRC Meeting
23 Nov	People Strategy roundtable consultation for graduate student employees
23 Nov	Solidarity Meeting
23 Nov	Meeting with NASA President
24 Nov	NASA/GSA/SU Meeting
24 Nov	UofA GSA Labour Check-in w/ K Gunn
24 Nov	GSA Coffee Break
28 Nov	GSA Fall Social
30 Nov	Labour Outreach
30 Nov	Solidarity Meeting
1-3 Dec	PSAC Prairies Regional H&S Conference
5 Dec	BFC - Preliminary Meeting - 2024-2025 Budget
5 Dec	Labour AGM
6 Dec	Meeting with a Student
6 Dec	DEO & Staff Holiday Dinner
7 Dec	SEAP Accountability
7 Dec	GSA and People Strategy Committee Consultation
7 Dec	Meeting with Tim Tang, Associate Vice-President, Student Experience, DoS
8 Dec	UofA GSA Labour Check-in w/ K Gunn
12 Dec	LRC Meeting
14 Dec	Solidarity Meeting
15 Dec	UofA GSA Labour Check-in w/ K Gunn
15 Dec	GSA Coffee Break

**2022-2023 Vice-President Student Services
Report to GSA Council for 11 December 2023**

To: GSA Council
From: Muhammad Haseeb Arshad
Date: 05 December 2023

Dear Council Members,

I hope this report finds you with the best of health. For my meetings from 08th of November to 05th of December, I will use the following space to summarize some of the important ones.

- **GSA/ASSET Fall Social Collaboration (November 8th):**
  The GSA/ASSET Fall Social Collaboration meeting on November 8th was marked by a discussion between me and Courtney Wagner (Program Lead, Volunteers), regarding the potential involvement of ASSET volunteers in the GSA fall social event. Despite the short notice, Courtney graciously accepted our invitation, actively distributed a call for volunteers, and committed to their participation. The focus of our collaboration entails ASSET volunteers engaging with graduate students, initiating conversations, and assisting with administrative tasks, including check-ins at the venue. The positive response from Courtney, proactive dissemination of the volunteer call, and the allocation of specific responsibilities underscores a commitment to the success of this collaborative effort.
- **Coffee Hour Programming Meeting (November 9th):**
  During the Coffee Hour Programming meeting on November 9th, we focused on finalizing the planning of the collaborative event scheduled for November 24th, titled "GSA Coffee Break x Campus Social Hour." The primary objective of this meeting was to allocate responsibilities for different volunteers involved, and to decide on the location of different programming elements.
  Several key details of the event were discussed during the meeting. These included the volunteers name for bartending on the mocktail table, helping with the coloring contest, and hosting the cornhole throwing game outside Triffo Hall, contingent on weather conditions.
- **U-Pass Administrative Committee Meeting (November 16th):**
  The U-Pass Administrative Committee convened on November 16th to address pertinent issues, foremost among them being the abrupt termination of free Arc cards distributed to students at the commencement of the semester. Notably, the IST department lacked comprehensive details on the deactivation process, prompting the committee's decision to raise this concern in the forthcoming quarterly meeting with the city.
  A key point of discussion revolved around concerns raised by Infolinks regarding the potential repercussions of reissuing free cards to affected students. Given the city's introduction of a purchase fee for every card and the possibility of serial numbers from previously issued free cards being blocked, there is fear about students encountering similar issues. The committee deliberated on potential strategies to navigate this challenge effectively.
  Moreover, the meeting delved into transit safety matters, with the committee expressing a shared concern about the current state of university transit safety. Recognizing the importance of staying informed, a decision was made to formally inquire with the city about any updates or initiatives pertaining to transit safety at the university.
- **Quarterly U-Pass Meeting - November (November 21st):**
  The Quarterly U-Pass Meeting held on November 21st covered a range of significant topics, addressing concerns and proposing potential solutions. Key points discussed include the sudden deactivation of free Arc cards, transit safety, transit route updates, and the proposal for a special bus transit route for Whyte Avenue.
  Kayle Wert informed the committee about ongoing efforts to gather more information on the termination of free Arc cards. While hinting that the deactivation might be linked to the period when such cards were

issued without charge, she committed to providing further details in the upcoming meetings. Additionally, plans to increase peace officers at university transit stations were disclosed, with specific details expected in the next meeting.

The issue of transit safety was paramount, and Wert assured the committee of forthcoming details on initiatives to bolster safety measures within the university transit system.

Regarding the proposal for a special bus transit route for Whyte Avenue, it was clarified that due to logistical constraints, executing a U-turn on the road is currently impractical. Wert highlighted the existence of a special Bus 726 catering to students on Whyte Avenue during peak times. Furthermore, my suggestion to coordinate routes 4, 8, and 726 with staggered timings was acknowledged, with Wert indicating that such considerations are already in progress, emphasizing the city's commitment to dispatching buses with optimal time intervals.

In summary, the Quarterly U-Pass Meeting addressed the termination of free Arc cards, transit safety concerns, and proposals for transit route improvements. The commitment to providing more information on these matters in subsequent meetings reflects a proactive approach to resolving issues and enhancing the overall university transit experience.

- **Survey Planning Meeting (November 22nd):**
  The Survey Planning Meeting on November 22nd brought together DEOs to strategize and prioritize surveys for the upcoming year. The primary goal of the meeting was to enhance the research aspect of advocacy efforts, focusing on how surveys could provide statistical and factual information to better address the unique needs of graduate students. DEOs collectively identified key areas for survey focus, aligning objectives with the overarching aim of advocating for the diverse needs of graduate students.

  The meeting underscored the importance of utilizing survey data to empower DEOs in discussions and decision-making processes during significant meetings. The emphasis on evidence-based advocacy highlighted a commitment to strengthening the foundation of their arguments with concrete statistical information derived from well-designed surveys. The DEOs discussed the strategic planning of surveys, ensuring they remain comprehensive and adaptable to the evolving landscape of graduate student concerns within the academic environment.

- **Kevin / Haseeb (November 24th):**
  On November 24th, I met with Kevin Friese (Assistant Dean Health & Wellness) to discuss critical issues impacting students, particularly those arising from the Middle East conflict. The discussion aimed to explore ways in which the DOS and the GSA could provide effective support and address the growing concerns among students. This highlighted the need for a compassionate and proactive response to the challenges faced by students in light of geopolitical events.

  Additionally, our conversation delved into the topic of mental health support for students. Recognizing the significance of a coordinated effort between DOS and GSA, we discussed strategies to enhance mental health services and create a supportive environment for students experiencing challenges related to the Middle East conflict.

  I also brought attention to the issue of minimum course load accommodation for disabled students, highlighting a clear lack of policy statements on course registration for this demographic. We engaged in a dialogue to identify potential measures that could be taken to address this gap and ensure equitable access to education for disabled students.

  Furthermore, Kevin expressed appreciation for GSA's initiative to establish a peer support program for graduate students. Our discussion extended to exploring how DOS could contribute to this program by supporting one or two interns. I will be working on a detailed proposal outlining the specifics of DOS's involvement, which will be presented in my upcoming meeting with him.

- **Campus Social Hour/GSA Coffee Break (November 24th):**
  On November 24th, the DOA and GSA marked our inaugural collaborative event, drawing an impressive attendance of over 90 graduate students. The event featured engaging activities and highlights that contributed to a vibrant atmosphere. Notable elements included the popular mocktails, creating a lively social setting, and the spirited cornhole game that added an interactive and competitive dimension to the gathering.

A particular aspect of the event was the inclusion of door prizes with the announcement of winners made on December 1st.

The success of this collaborative event has inspired plans for future initiatives catering specifically to the needs and preferences of graduate students. The positive response and turnout serve as a testament to the potential for fostering a sense of community and social connection within the graduate student body.

Moving forward, I am eager to explore additional opportunities for similar events, seeking to create a diverse range of experiences that resonate with the graduate student community.

- **GSA Fall Social (November 28th):**
  The GSA Fall Social on November 28th is one of the largest events of the year, drawing an impressive turnout of over 150 graduate students. Held at Tasty House, located near the Tims center, the off-campus setting contributed to a vibrant and welcoming social atmosphere. Attendees expressed enthusiasm for the event, and the positive reception of the numerous door prizes added an extra layer of enjoyment to the gathering.

  The decision to host the event outside the campus environment proved to be a key factor in creating a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere for graduate students. The feedback received from attendees highlighted the success of the Fall Social in fostering a strong sense of community among graduate students.

  A noteworthy element of the event was the valuable contribution of ASSET volunteers, who not only enhanced the overall experience by offering support in navigating post-school life but also assisted with small logistical tasks. Their involvement added a significant and appreciated dimension to the social gathering.

  Credit is due to the dedicated efforts of the staff, particularly Brandy and Vanessa, whose meticulous planning and execution ensured the success of the GSA Fall Social.

- **National Standard Advisory Committee (November 29th):**
  The National Standard Advisory Committee convened on November 29th to review the preliminary draft report presented by the pipikwan research team. The team had organized listening circles targeting diverse demographics of students on campus, eliciting valuable insights. Key findings highlighted during the listening circles included concerns about the inadequacy of communication regarding mental health support resources, challenges faced by international students in understanding available support, and the harsh realities of student life during demanding academic terms.

  Chelsea Buttler (National Standard for Mental Health Project Coordinator), leading the committee, shared the initial report and encouraged committee members to provide feedback. The discussion centered on how the research team could further refine their approach, with committee members offering insights into additional questions and aspects to explore in future research efforts.

  In response to the discussion, I conveyed my thoughts on the report to Chelsea via email. Specifically, I suggested the inclusion of a question in future research endeavors that addresses students' perspectives on practical and creative methods for disseminating information about mental health support. This addition aims to enhance the depth of the research and extract valuable insights that may contribute to more effective communication strategies.

- **Haseeb x Cindy (December 1st):**
  On December 1st, I had a productive meeting with Cindy (Associate Director GSA) to provide her with an update on my activities as the Vice President of Student Services. The discussion primarily centered on fostering a more collaborative and open environment within our board and council meetings. We explored ways to shift the tone from formality to deliberate discussions, aiming to address the pressing issues facing graduate students more effectively.

  Additionally, Cindy and I delved into the prospect of organizing more socializing events for students, recognizing the importance of creating opportunities for networking and community building. We also considered the revision of certain bylaws and policies to enhance clarity and understanding among stakeholders, aligning them more closely with the evolving needs of the graduate student community.

  A key aspect of our conversation revolved around Cindy's insightful ideas for updating the transition package that DEOs prepare at the conclusion of their terms. These updates are anticipated to provide

valuable guidance for incoming DEOs, shaping their advocacy efforts more effectively. I expressed confidence in Cindy's ideas and welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with her in implementing these changes.

These were the highlights of the meetings that I have attended up until the submission of this report. I look forward to working with all the members of the GSA Council. Please feel free to reach out to me at vpsse@ualberta.ca if you have any concerns or would like to discuss any matters with me.

Thank you,

Muhammad Haseeb Arshad,
Vice-President Student Services 2022-2023

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 08 November to 05 December 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

08 Nov	*GSA/ASSET Fall Social Collaboration*
09 Nov	*Coffee Hour Programming Meeting*
16 Nov	*U-Pass Administrative Committee Meeting*
11 Nov	*Quarterly U-Pass Meeting - November*
22 Nov	*Survey Planning Meeting*
24 Nov	*Kevin / Haseeb*
24 Nov	*Campus Social Hour/GSA Coffee Break*
28 Nov	*GSA Fall Social*
29 Nov	*National Standard Advisory Committee*
01 Dec	*Haseeb x Cindy*

2023-2024 Vice-President Student Life
Report to GSA Council for the 11 December 2023 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Tiffany Kung
Date: December 11 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful November! Please see the meetings I attended this month attached.

Graduate Student Support Group Connect (Nov 6)
We discussed the wellness group for graduate students over the summer and a potential support group going forward. It was decided that there may not be space for collaboration on this initiative at this point, but other potential groups to reach out to were suggested.

Meeting with Heather Ritz (Nov 6)
I met with Heather Ritz to discuss work on the World Social Justice Day (WSJD) working group, where I decided to join the event planning, admin & venue organization team.

Meeting with Amber Smith (SAGEpod coordinator) (Nov 7)
Amber Smith and I introduced ourselves and discussed collaborations for the future. We both expressed excitement in working together over the next 6 months, and I extended her an invitation to all other meetings I attend related to supporting and advocating for Indigenous graduate students.

Meeting RE: Graduate Students in Residence Association (GSRA) (Nov 7)
I met with two students who expressed interest in forming a GSRA. The two are now in the process of working with Monica Brzak (GSA Elections Coordinator) on the creation of the group and its constitution.

Student Mental Health Network (Nov 7)
I met with other student groups focusing on student mental health in place of Haseeb, VP Student Services, who had another commitment. The group discussed mutual updates and upcoming events.

Meeting with Deb Eerkes (Sexual Violence Response Coordinator) (Nov 9)
We discussed the automation of the disclosure process for the Options Navigation Network, and the steps being taken to guarantee student confidentiality, and potentially adding the Options Navigation Network details to the GSA planner in coming years.

Meeting with Florence Glanfield (Vice Provost Indigenous Programming and Research) and the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA) (Nov 20)
The group discussed the IGSA's upcoming tuition levy, the new smudging guidelines, the Indigenous graduate research assistantship pilot the IGSA and GSA are working on with FGSR/GPS, the Indigenous writing retreat, collaborations with SAGEpod and First Peoples House, upcoming events like the Indigenous Graduate Student Research Conference, trips to Métis crossing, and more.

EDI Plan Steering Committee (Nov 21)
The group discussed upcoming student consultations, including planned meetings with the IGSA, Black Graduate Students Association, and the graduate student population at large via survey in collaboration with the undergraduate UASU team. Further conversations were had around how we can engage staff safely, translation and consultation with Campus Saint Jean, and the plan for the EDI action plan to be revisited/refreshed on a 3 year cycle.

Meeting with Lula Adam (Dean of Students office) (Nov 21)
We discussed how to improve the graduate students' reach, and Lula Adam expressed that she will continue to route graduate students who approach the Dean of Students to the GSA.

Days of Action Committee (Nov 22)
The group discussed that the Days of Action Committee (DOAC) is hiring people for next year, as well as hello day programming that is occuring, including the GSA's coffee break. The group also discussed WSJD recruitment for living books, as well as upcoming work for happiness day.

Meeting with Carrie Smith (Nov 24)
I met with Carrie Smith to discuss student concerns around accommodations and accessibility, which will be continued in upcoming conversations. I will be collating feedback from students who have experienced difficulties or frustrations with accommodation services to report to the Council on Systemic Ableism. If anyone has any complains about accommodations they would like to be voiced, please reach out to me at gsavpsi@ualberta.ca

Campus & Community Partner Roundtable Discussion (Nov 27)
The group heard the presentation on post-secondary student homelessness, a research project on homelessness at the University of Alberta, among other institutions. The findings have been reported in a previous report. The group was collaborative and discussed what stood out to them from the presentation, suggestions for solutions to post-secondary student homelessness at the University of Alberta, as well as first/next steps in addressing homelessness on the UAlberta campus.

GSA Fall Social (Nov 28)
I attended and emceed the GSA Fall social at Tasty House restaurant. The event was well attended, and the GSA gave away multiple door prizes to graduate students, multiple $50 visa gift cards, gift boxes, tickets to the Edmonton symphony orchestra, and Oilers tickets. All attendees also got to partake in the free buffet as well as one free bubble tea drink per attendee. It was wonderful to see all the students attending and socializing, and I hope all students who were able to come had a great night!

Meeting with Renee Polziehn and Bobbi Scheistel (Nov 30)
I met with Renee and Bobbi from FGSR/GPS to discuss what GPS could do to aid student groups in connecting with their constituents. We discussed listservs that could be shared with students, and other methods for student groups to increase their outreach and visibility.

Meeting with Tracy Raivio (Nov 30)
I met briefly with Tracy, new Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). We discussed all the upcoming initiatives, including work that has been conducted under the guidance of the IGSA such as the Indigenous graduate research assistantship, the IGSA's writing retreat, the pair of positions to be housed within First Peoples House and GPS. To aid in transition, I have sent over meeting minutes from all the meetings I have had with previous Dean Roger Epp and the IGSA. We also discussed increasing funding for Black graduate students and potential monthly meetings to discuss this topic with the BGSA. Lastly, we preliminarily discussed a possible workshop with students and supervisors to discuss best mentorship practices. I have looped in Rija Kamran, VP Academic, to provide expertise on future discussions.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) Working group (Dec 1)
The working group discussed the makeup of the working group as well as consultants, and whether any expertise was missing. It was decided that Tier 1 consultants would be more thoroughly consulted on certain topics in which they had expertise, while Tier 2 consultants would be a long, comprehensive list comprising all staff and faculty who may play important roles in implementation. The group also reviewed the terms of reference and guidelines of best practice that could be drafted and provided to employer partners.

Planning Meeting for WSJD (Dec 4)
The group met to discuss the distribution of roles for the administration & venue planning team for World Social Justice Day, as well as any changes that need to be made from the previous year. We will be meeting again in January to discuss further details.

EDI Action Plan Consultation with the IGSA (Dec 4)
The IGSA generously lent Dr. Carrie Smith (Vice Provost Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) and I our time to discuss the EDI action plan. The discussion generally covered 6 buckets of feedback: using the EDI action plan to ensure continued momentum behind EDI & II initiatives, Increasing transparency (e.g., around awards), transforming EDI into "what we do" rather than "in addition to", taking care to prevent and proactively respond to unintended harm, retrofitting of physical spaces, and consideration for students who parent.

2023-2024 GSA VP Student Life's Meetings Attended (Tiffany)
Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 6 November to 11 December 2023 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

6 Nov	Graduate Student Support Group Connect
6 Nov	Meeting with Heather Ritz (Wellness Services) RE: World Social Justice Day
6 Nov	Meeting with GSAB to discuss SEAP Accountability Framework
7 Nov	Meeting with Amber Smith (SAGEpod Coordinator)
7 Nov	Meeting RE: Graduate Students in Residence Association
7 Nov	Student Mental Health Network
8 Nov	Meeting with a Student RE: EDIC
8 Nov	FGSR Council
9 Nov	Meeting with a Student RE: EDIC
9 Nov	Meeting with a Student RE: EDIC
9 Nov	Meeting with the Sexual Violence Response Coordinator
20 Nov	Monthly meeting with the Office of Indigenous Programming and Research and the IGSA
20 Nov	SEAP Presentation at General Faculties Council
21 Nov	EDI Plan Steering Committee
21 Nov	Meeting with a student RE: EDIC
21 Nov	Meeting with Lula Adam
22 Nov	GSAB Survey Planning meeting
22 Nov	Days of Action Committee
22 Nov	Meeting with a student RE: EDIC
24 Nov	Meeting with Carrie Smith
27 Nov	Campus & Community Partner Roundtable Discussion
28 Nov	GSA Fall Social
30 Nov	Meeting with Renee Polziehn and Bobbi Scheistel
30 Nov	Meeting with Tracy Raivio
30 Nov	Residences Visit
1 Dec	SGBV in WIL working group
4 Dec	Meeting with a student RE: Accommodations
4 Dec	Planning Meeting for WSJD
4 Dec	EDI Plan Consultation with IGSA
4 Dec	Meeting with a student RE: EDIC
7 Dec	GFC Programs Committee Meeting
7 Dec	GSAB discussion about SEAP Accountability Framework
7 Dec	GSAB Meeting with Tim Tang
8 Dec	Tuition Discussion Town Hall

| 11 Dec | Meeting with Katherine Huising |
| 11 Dec | World Social Justice Day Working Group |

GSA Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
Report to GSA Council for the 11 December 2023 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Sophie Shi
Date: 8 December 2023

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

I met with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) on 4 December 2023. As reported by Andrew in the GSA ERC report, the committee is discussing an array of matters related to the 2024 General Election, Election of Associate Vice-President Labour, and any possible Referenda. The nomination forms and communication timeline for the 2024 General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour are to be approved by me on the recommendation of the GSA ERC following this meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me: gsacroff@ualberta.ca.

Sincerely,
Sophie Shi, GSA Chief Returning Officer

GSA Nominating Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 11 December 2023 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Violet Sun
Date: 8 December 2023

Dear Council Colleagues,

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

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

Sincerely,
Violet Sun, Chair of the GSA NoC

Memorandum to GSA Councillors

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

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

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

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

GSA Standing Committees

1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB (Two (2) Councillor Positions)
Information regarding the positions for two (2) GSA Councillors was circulated via email on 24 November and 1 December 2023 with a nomination deadline of 5 December 2023. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

2) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB (Three (3) Member Positions)
Information regarding the positions for three (3) positions was circulated in the GSA newsletter of 24 November and 1 December 2023 with a nomination deadline of 5 December 2023. **Two (2) nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 10c - Nominee for the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board)**

3) GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) (Seven (7) GSA Member Positions)
Information regarding the seven (7) vacancies for GSA members was circulated in the GSA newsletter of 24 November and 1 December 2023 with a nomination deadline of 6 December 2023. **Three (3) nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 10 - Nominees for the GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC)**

4) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (Three (3) Member Positions)
Information regarding the three (3) vacancies for GSA members was circulated in the GSA newsletter of 24 November and 1 December 2023 with a nomination deadline of 6 December 2023. **Two (2) nominations were received; there will be an electronic vote (see Item 10b - Nominees for the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee)**

5) GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (GSAB/NoC) (One (1) Joint GSA Councillor Positions)
Information regarding the position for one (1) GSA Councillors has been circulated via email to GSA Council many times. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

Addendums

Election of GSA ERC Chair
As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, ""Two (2) members from amongst the six (6) voting members of the GSA ERC will be elected by the GSA ERC to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the duration of their time on the GSA ERC or until they resign their positions" (Section I.POL.16.4). On 14 November 2023, GSA ERC members were informed of the vacancy in the position of Chair and were invited to submit nominations for this position. Two (2) nominations were received in advance of the deadline. As of 29 November 2023, GSA ERC members have elected **Andrew Pohplka** to serve as GSA ERC Chair.

Election of GSA ERC Vice-Chair
As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, ""Two (2) members from amongst the six (6) voting members of the GSA ERC will be elected by the GSA ERC to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the duration of their time on the GSA ERC or until they resign their positions" (Section I.POL.16.4). On 15 November 2023, GSA ERC members were informed of the vacancy in the position of Vice-Chair and were invited to submit nominations for this position. One (1) nomination was received in advance of the deadline. As of 29 November 2023, GSA ERC members have elected **Yusuf Ahmed** to serve as GSA ERC Vice-Chair.

GSA Elections and Referenda Committee
Report to GSA Council for the 11 December 2023 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Andrew Poholka
Date: 8 December 2023

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) met on 4 December 2023 to continue planning the 2024 GSA General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour.

At this meeting, members reviewed and will vote to recommended to the Chief Returning Officer the 2024 GSA General Election Directly-Elected Officer Nomination Forms, Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour Nomination Forms, Councillor-at-Large Nomination Forms, and possible Referendum Candidate Forms. Members discussed social media strategies to remind graduate students of the GSA General Election and Election of Associate Vice-President Labour, and a series of communications which will ultimately be circulated by the CRO. Members also discussed the GSA Bylaw and Policy regarding Referenda, including how to interpret Section J and how to ensure a fair process is in place for the prospective Referenda.

The GSA ERC will next meet in January 2024 to continue the process of planning the 2024 GSA General Election, Election of Associate Vice-President Labour, and possible referenda.

Sincerely,
Andrew Poholka, Chair of the GSA ERC

GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for the 11 December 2023 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Lewie Moodley
Date: 11 December 2023

Dear Members of the GSA Council,

As we approach the conclusion of the term and the close of 2023, the GSA office reflects back on a dynamic year marked by numerous successful events and the integration of a new board and staff members. Throughout the past eight months, our team has adeptly navigated challenges and embraced change, showcasing commendable dedication to the association.

I take pride in the accomplishments achieved by the board over the course of this year. The collaborative efforts of both staff and board members have been instrumental in supporting initiatives aligned with the best interests of graduate students. As we usher in the new year, our focus shifts towards budget and finance planning, elections and the organization of various winter social events.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere wishes for a joyous festive season. May it be a time of safety and enjoyment during this holiday break. I eagerly anticipate reconnecting with each of you in the new year. On behalf of the GSA staff, I express our gratitude for the unwavering dedication each of you have demonstrated to the GSA council throughout this year.

My weekly reports to the GSA Board are attached, and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

Lewie Moodley, GSA Executive Director

Management Report to the GSA Board, 15 November 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 8 November 2023:

Strategic

- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement, outreach and strategic planning with PSAC).

Executive Director update

- The Fall financial statement will be presented to the Council on November 20 2023. The first meeting for 2024-2025 budget discussions has been scheduled for December 5 2023.

- Facebook = 2023 followers (up 0 since 7 November); Facebook posts reached "257" users since 31 October. X (formerly Twitter) = 1,346 followers (down 2 since 7 November); our posts earned "123"impressions over the past week. Instagram = 1165 followers (down 1 since 7 November); Instagram posts reached "203" users over the last week.

- The Grants department is currently investigating a software program that can provide better cybersecurity and improved grant review times. The 3rd quarter will close Dec 31, 2023 within the fiscal year budget for all grant spending.

- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Awards and Selection Committee (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via Newsletter), Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (advertised via Newsletter), and Chemical and Materials Engineering Graduate Students' Association (CMEGSA) (advertised via email to CMEGSA students).

- For the Fall Social, Brandy Ellamil is currently working tirelessly to organize this with help from Vanessa Miller. We have selected a venue and date, and invites will be sent out at the end of this week.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 22 November 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 15 November 2023:

Strategic

- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement, outreach and strategic planning with PSAC).

Executive Director update

- The Fall financial statement will be presented to the Council on November 20 2023. The first meeting for 2024-2025 budget discussions has been scheduled for December 5 2023. Council has passed the Fall Quarterly statements.

- Facebook = 2025 followers (up 2 since 14 November); Facebook posts reached "717" users since 14 November. X (formerly Twitter) = 1,344 followers (down 2 since 14 November); our posts earned "55"impressions over the past week. Instagram = 1175 followers (up 10 since 14 November); Instagram posts reached "479" users over the last week.

- The Grants department is currently investigating a software program that can provide better cybersecurity and improved grant review times. We have some good options and will have demos from these companies in the coming weeks.The 3rd quarter will close Dec 31, 2023 within the fiscal year budget for all grant spending.

- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Awards and Selection Committee (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via Newsletter), Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (advertised via Newsletter), and Chemical and Materials Engineering Graduate Students' Association (CMEGSA) (advertised via email to CMEGSA students).

Associate Director update

- Attended the AMICCUS-C Regional Conference in Red Deer. There was some good conversation and idea-sharing around training and transitioning for elected representatives, I hope we can incorporate more of that for GSA leaders.

- The GSA Recognition Awards will open for nomination on December 1st so I am currently working on updating the nomination forms. There will be advertising for this over the next 2 weeks. There is a Labour Relations Committee meeting this Thursday and a Labour AGM either on November 30th or early in December.

Management Report to the GSA Board, 29 November 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 22 November 2023:

<u>Strategic</u>

- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement, outreach and strategic planning with PSAC).

<u>Executive Director update</u>

- Facebook Followers- 2026 (1 new follower since Nov 22,2023). Posts Reach- 1,000 or +20.2% (from last 90 days) vs 90 days prior Engagement - 39 or +143.8% (from last 90 days) vs 90 days prior. Twitter/X Followers- 1,344 followers (no change) Instagram Followers- Total followers: 1170 (17 new followers; 11 unfollows) Post reach- 609 reach (525 (+33.1%) from followers and 84 (+66.3%) from non-followers).

- The Grants department is currently investigating a software program that can provide better cybersecurity and improved grant review times. We have some good options and will have demos from these companies in the coming weeks.The 3rd quarter will close Dec 31, 2023 within the fiscal year budget for all grant spending.

- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council), GSA Awards and Selection Committee (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via Newsletter), Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (advertised via Newsletter), and Chemical and Materials Engineering Graduate Students' Association (CMEGSA) (advertised via email to CMEGSA students).

Management Report to the GSA Board, 6 December 2023

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on 29 November 2023:

Strategic

- Work associated with the Collective Agreement (soliciting expressions of interest for the steward network, advising individual graduate student workers, and supporting the work of the GSA Labour Relations Committee, distribution of new agreement, outreach and strategic planning with PSAC).

Executive Director update

- Facebook: Reach: +54.7% vs (Nov 20-26); Followers: 2026 (no change); Visits: +40%. Instagram: Reach: -17.8% vs (Nov 20-26); Followers: 1179 (+ 9 new followers); Visits: +57.5% Twitter: Followers: 1342 (-2 followers).

- The Grants department is currently investigating a software program that can provide better cybersecurity and improved grant review times. We have some good options and will have demos from these companies in the coming weeks.The 3rd quarter will close Dec 31, 2023 within the fiscal year budget for all grant spending.

- The GSA Elections and Referenda Committee and the GSA Nominating Committee has vacancies on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (advertised directly to Council and via Newsletter), GSA Awards and Selection Committee (advertised via Newsletter and FGSR DIgest), GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (advertised directly to GSA Council), and GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (advertised via Newsletter and FGSR DIgest).