

**GSA Council Meeting AGENDA**  
Monday, February 26, 2024, at 6:00 pm  
Held in-person in Council Chambers

*The GSA and the University of Alberta reside on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, 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**

<b>OPEN SESSION</b>	<b>Attached Numbered Pages</b>
1. Approval of the February 26, 2024, Agenda ( <i>suggested time: 1 min</i> )	
2. Approval of the Minutes from the January 22, 2024, GSA Council Meeting ( <i>suggested time: 1 min</i> ) <i>Attachment:</i> i. Minutes from the January 22, 2024, GSA Council Meeting	<b>2.0 - 2.4</b>
3. Changes in GSA Council Membership ( <i>suggested time: 1 min</i> ) i. Introduction of New GSA Council Members ( <i>If you are new to GSA Council, please let us know it is your first meeting</i> ) ii. Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members ( <i>If this is your last GSA Council meeting, or if your last GSA Council meeting is approaching, please let us know</i> )	
<b><u>GSA Council Member Announcements</u></b>	
4. GSA Council Member Announcements ( <i>suggested time: 5 min</i> )	
5. MITACS – Innovation and research ( <b><i>suggested time: 20 min</i></b> ) Hamid Hassani (Vice President External) <b>will present the item and introduce the guest (Sherifat Buhari).</b>	
6. Campus Food bank updates ( <b><i>suggested time: 20 min</i></b> ) Haseeb Arshad Vice President Student Services) <b>will present the item and introduce the guest (Erin O’Neil).</b>	
<b><u>Action Item:</u></b> None at this time	
<b><u>Elections</u></b>	

<p><b>11. GSA Council Elections</b> (<i>suggested time – to be determined</i>)  <b>Violet Sun GSA Nominating Committee Chair</b> will present the item.</p> <p><b>Farhan Khalid (GSA Speaker)</b> will present this portion of the item</p>	<p>None at this time</p> <p>None at this time</p>
<p><b>Reports</b> (<i>suggested time: 15 min</i>)</p>	
<p><b>12. President (Bishoi Aziz, President)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. President’s Report</li> <li>ii. GSA Board Report (<b>no written report at this time</b>)</li> <li>iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee Report (<b>no written report at this time</b>)</li> <li>iv. GSA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report (<b>no written report at this time</b>)</li> <li>v. GSA Governance Committee Report (<b>no written report at this time</b>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>12.0 - 12.1</b></p>
<p><b>13. Vice-President Academic (Rija Kamran, Vice-President Academic)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Vice-President Academic’s Report</li> </ul>	<p><b>13.0 - 13.1</b></p>
<p><b>14. Vice-President External (Hamid Hassani, Vice-President External)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Vice-President External’s Report</li> <li>ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee Report</li> </ul>	<p><b>14.0 - 14.1</b> <b>14.2 - 14.3</b></p>
<p><b>15. Associate Vice-President Labour (Muneeb Masood Raja, Vice-President Labour)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Associate Vice-President Labour’s Report</li> <li>ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee Report</li> </ul>	<p><b>15.0 - 15.2</b> <b>15.3</b></p>
<p><b>16. Vice-President Student Services (Haseeb Arshad, Vice-President Student Services)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Vice-President Student Services’ Report.</li> </ul>	<p><b>16.0 - 16.2</b></p>
<p><b>17. Vice-President Student Life (Tiffany Kung, Vice-President Student Life)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Vice-President Student Life’s Report</li> </ul>	<p><b>17.0 - 17.3</b></p>
<p><b>18. Senator (Ola Mabrouk)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Senator’s Report (<b>no written report at this time</b>)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>19. Speaker (Farhan Khalid, Speaker)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Speaker’s Report (<b>no written report at this time</b>)</li> </ul>	

<b>20. Chief Returning Officer (Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer)</b> i. Chief Returning Officer's Report	<b>20.0</b>
<b>21. GSA Nominating Committee (Violet Sun, GSA Nominating Committee Chair)</b> i. GSA Nominating Committee Report	<b>21.0-21.1</b>
<b>22. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Andrew Pohlka, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair)</b> i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report	<b>22.0</b>
<b>23. GSA Management (Lewie Moodley, Executive Director)</b> i. Executive Director's Report	<b>23.0-23.5</b>
<b><u>Question Period</u></b>	
Written Questions (none received at this time; questions may be submitted to the GSA Speaker before 4 PM on Thursday, February 22, 2024)	
<b>24. Oral Questions</b>	
<b><u>25. Closed Session Discussion</u></b>  ab-GPAC recent updates ( <i>suggested time: 20 min</i> ) Bishoi Aziz (President) and Hamid Hassani (Vice President External) will present the item.	
<b><u>Adjournment</u></b>	

**GSA Council Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, 22 January 2023 at 6:00 pm  
Held in-person in Council Chamber

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bishoi Aziz (President)	Arseniy Belosokhov (Councilor-at-Large)	Kiera Greenaway (Civ & Enviro Eng)	Taylor Walsh (Lab Med & Path)	Constantin Mouzaaber (Ophthalmology)
Rija Kamran (VP Academic)	Laura Manerus (Councilor-at-Large)	Cassandra Baragar (Comm Sci & Disorder)	Kylie Day (Library & Info Studies)	Janye Johnson (Pharmacology)
Hamid Hassani (VP External)	Haroun Elyasir (Councilor-at-Large)	Maksym Lishchynskiy (Comp Sci)	Pouneh Mohammadi Nejad (Math & Stat'l Sciences)	Farid Saberi (Philosophy)
Tiffany Kung (VP Student Life)	Sandeep Kumar (Councilor-at-Large)	Michelle Bey (Dentistry)	Kineshta Pillay (Mech Eng)	Evan Vienneau (Physics)
Haseeb Arshad (VP Student Services)	Goldy Thevaruparambil Raju (Councilor-at-Large)	Zhuohao Li (Primary -Drama)	Michaela Morrow (Media & Tech Studies)	Grace Essuman (Physiology)
Muneeb Masood Raja (AVP Labour)	Andrew Pohlka (Biochemistry)	Lyudmyla Honcharova (Alternate- Drama)	Connor Oborn (Medical Genetics)	Huda Al-Shamali (Alternate- Psychiatry)
Farhan Khalid (Speaker)	Samantha Tan (Biological Science)	Shaun Woudstra (Earth & Atmo Sci)	Saeed Ataei (Neuroscience)	Cheryl Pan (Psychology)
Sophie Shi (CRO)	Carly Weber (Biomedical Eng)	Yu Shuai (Ed Policy Studies)	Nancy Hammer (Nursing)	Wedny Amoako (Rehab Science)
Zain Patel (Deputy Returning Officer)	Mehri Ebrahiminejad Baloochi (Business PhD)	Zoe Wagner (Human Ecology)	Rebecca Reif (Obs & Gyn)	Nicole Lau (Renewable Resources)
Ola Mabrouk (Senator)	Amanda Nhi Tran (Chemistry)	Hannah Louis (IGSA)	Fateema Muzaffaf (Oncology)	

Guests: Logan Mardhani-Bayne (LMB); Tracy Ravio (TR): GPS Dean; Micah True (MT): Associate GPS Dean

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 22 January 2024 Consolidated Agenda**

Members had before them the 22 January 2024 Consolidated Agenda, which had been previously distributed on 19 January 2024. TK **MOVED**; HA **SECONDED**

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes****2. Minutes from the 11 December 2023 GSA Council Meeting**

Members had before them the 11 December GSA Council meeting minutes, which had been previously distributed. TK **MOVED**; HH **SECONDED**.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**Changes in GSA Council Membership****3. Changes in GSA Council Membership****i. Introduction of New Councillors**

- Max Lishchynskiy (Computing Science), Cassandra Baragar (Comm Sci and Disorder)

ii. **Farewell to Departing GSA Council Members**

- No departing members

### **GSA Council Member Announcements**

#### **4. GSA Council Member Announcements**

S Shi, CRO, announced the starting date of the nominating period for the 2024 GSA General Election.

Nominations start on Jan 30 and end on Feb 13. Nomination packages can be picked up at the GSA Office.

### **Presentations**

#### **5. People Strategy consultation**

BA introduced the guest speaker, LMB, to present the Peoples' Strategy to the council. LMB outlined the university's People Strategy, a component of the 10-year SHAPE plan, focusing on creating a supportive work environment for faculty and staff, including graduate students in TA and RA roles. This strategy, informed by an employee engagement survey and integrated with other university plans like the Research Innovation and EDI Action Plans, is being shaped through a consultation process led by a Steering Committee. Key discussion points included the strategy's impact on student finances, administrative burdens on graduate students, and the importance of fostering community and managing workload stress. The strategy aims to set actionable goals, with university leaders responsible for resource allocation, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach to improve the university's work and study environment.

#### **6. PhD Minimum Funding Package**

BA introduced guests from the GPS office, Dr. Tracy Ravio and Dr. Micah True to discuss the PhD Minimum Funding proposal to the GSA Council. TR discussed a proposal for a PhD Minimum Funding package, aiming to guarantee \$25,000 annually for the first four years of a doctoral student's program. This initiative, crucial for recruitment and equity, addresses the financial challenges faced by graduate students, with a notable portion currently earning below this threshold. The plan proposes integrating this funding commitment into admission letters, acknowledging the varied funding methods across departments. This initiative is viewed as a starting point for future funding increases, relying on partnerships among stakeholders, including the government, university, and students. Concerns regarding the adequacy of the amount and potential reductions in existing higher funding levels by departments were discussed. The GSA Executives' involvement in the project's development and implementation was highlighted, stressing the need for university-wide support. Despite financial constraints, the university is dedicated to closing the funding gap and providing equitable support to all doctoral students.

### **Discussion Item**

#### **7. PhD Minimum Funding Endorsement**

During a University of Alberta GSA Council meeting, discussions centered on endorsing the PhD Minimum Funding proposal. A Pohlka initiated the discussion, with BA highlighting the GSA's efforts in advocating for better funding through surveys and media campaigns. BA voiced concerns about the proposal's hasty acceptance without sufficient departmental consultation, comparing UofA's situation to other universities like UofC, which is negotiating a higher minimum funding. The council faced a dilemma: rejecting the proposal could improve bargaining power but risk derailing the initiative, while acceptance would guarantee funding but potentially lag behind other institutions.

Council members' opinions varied. Some favored accepting the proposal as a foundation for future improvements, despite its imperfections. Concerns were raised about the potential negative impact on smaller departments, reduced student admissions, and budget constraints for other resources. There were worries about supervisors exploiting the minimum funding level and the need for policies to prevent departments from reducing existing higher stipends. Others viewed the proposal as a strategic compromise, acknowledging its flaws but considering it the lesser of two evils. The importance of clarity and further involvement in the proposal's development was emphasized, alongside concerns about the university's slow implementation and bureaucratic processes. Criticisms included the proposal's outdated financial justification, lack of comprehensive consultation, and potential negative impact on existing and future graduate students. The council voted to add the PhD Minimum Funding endorsement to the agenda, with the

decision on endorsing the motion remaining pending, and suggestions of either deferring the motion or using it as leverage for better consultation.

### Action Items

#### 8. **PhD Minimum Funding Endorsement of the GSA Council to GPS**

Bishoi Aziz (GSA President) presented the item. **MOVER CO. SECONDER AP.**

**Suggested Motion for the GSA Council:** That the GSA council endorses the PhD Minimum Funding proposal to the GPS council.

TK stressed the significance of the council's decision on the minimum funding guarantee proposal, highlighting that it's a crucial but not final step. They urged council members to thoroughly review the GSA report, discuss it with colleagues, and submit feedback. TK emphasized the need to influence the proposal's content, like preventing a drop in other students' funding, before it reaches the FGPS Council in February. They encouraged suggestions on any aspect, including minor wording changes. Despite the rushed consultation, TK emphasized the importance of active participation in shaping the proposal. BA reinforced the council members' role as liaisons between the council and their departmental students. He advised them to email graduate students, outlining the proposal's key points and soliciting their feedback, and to disseminate these messages broadly to ensure comprehensive input.

**MOTION for the GSA Council:** That the GSA council endorses the PhD Minimum Funding proposal to the GPS council.

Council voted. Motion has **PASSED**.

### Elections

#### 9. **GSAGSA Council Elections (suggested time – to be determined)**

**Violet Sun GSA Nominating Committee Chair) will present the item.**

a. Appeals and Complaints Board (ACB)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSA ACB (2 GSA Member vacancies)

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

d. GSA Board/GSA Nominating Committee (GSAB/GSA NoC)

*Attachment:*

- i. Nominees for the GSAB/GSA NoC (1 GSA Councillor vacancies)

Speaker noted that there were currently no nominees. He highlighted two vacancies for members on the Appeals and Complaints Board, and one vacancy for the GSA Nominating Committee. The speaker encouraged council members to ask their colleagues to consider applying for these open positions.

### Reports

#### 10. **President**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 19 January 2024. The report stood as submitted. BA highlighted his advocacy efforts for graduate students, noting successful meetings that have bolstered their stance. He suggested using media campaigns to spotlight student challenges. Additionally, BA is involved in a research project evaluating student mental health and awareness of services, currently refining a survey with campus contributions. Plans are being made to encourage survey participation for thorough data collection.

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

No written report at this time

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

No written report at this time

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

No written report at this time

**v. GSA Governance Committee**

No written report at this time.

**11. Vice-President Academic**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 19 January 2024. The report stood as submitted. RK announced the appointment of Dr. Verna Yui as the new Vice Provost, VP Academic, following a selection process concluded in December. Her term is set for five years with potential renewal. Additionally, RK discussed the university's shift to a new learning management system (LMS), transitioning from Moodle due to its high operational costs. The changeover will start with training sessions from March and April this year, aiming for most classes to use the new LMS by fall 2025. The university is finalizing contracts with the new vendor, with an announcement expected soon.

**12. Vice-President External**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 19 January 2024. The report stood as submitted. HH highlighted his insightful presentation at the GALD event, which shed light on often-ignored issues and sparked vital questions about the GSA's role and student engagement in elections. He brought up a sensitive matter concerning the challenges graduate students face in accessing emergency funds, especially for urgent travel due to family emergencies, and pointed out the decision-making process's lack of transparency. Additionally, HH discussed an initiative to waive application fees for students pursuing opportunities in Europe. This arose from a \$1,000 fee for a globalization program, leading to the pursuit of external funding. Consequently, a proposal for a half-million-dollar grant was made to cover such fees, which also facilitated support for the GSRP program that offers grants for remote applications.

**ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee**

HH highlighted the increase in nominations from the previous years and that the nomination period has ended.

**13. Vice-President Student Life**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 19 January 2024. The report stood as submitted. HA highlighted updates on the peer support program that he is heading, collaborating with DoS. Plans are underway to hire one or two interns in the summer, funded by sources like Summer Jobs for Canada and Venture for Canada. The aim is to train graduate students in areas like mental health and gender-based violence, and offer support in various languages. HA also stressed the significance of work-integrated learning and internships, especially for international students. He highlighted challenges in securing internships with study permits and suggested a graduate school program to simplify this process, offering Canadian work experience to improve job prospects post-graduation. HA plans to establish a working group with GPS and others to strategize the program's implementation, benefiting both the university and the students.

**14. Vice-President Student Services**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 19 January 2024. The report stood as submitted. TK strongly encouraged members to share their thoughts on the minimum guarantee funding proposal in whatever format suits them best, offering to personally document all feedback in detail. TK also indicated that other council members would be willing to assist in this process. She emphasized the importance of engagement on the topic and expressed gratitude for the attendance and input during the lengthy but crucial meeting.

**15. Associate Vice-President Labour**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 19 January 2024. The report stood as submitted. MR highlighted efforts to enhance union outreach across various departments, involving contact with different departmental student groups. He has conducted training sessions and urged departments to pursue specialized training, particularly regarding labor issues and rights. Additionally, MR mentioned the completion of the final draft of the bargaining survey, which features focused and pertinent questions. To ensure wide participation and represent student views effectively in bargaining negotiations, a campaign involving door knocking and tabling is planned. MR briefly touched on the People Strategy Consultation results, revealing that graduate students are experiencing financial challenges and perceive themselves as underpaid in comparison to university and national standards.

**ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee**

No written report at this time.

**16. Senator**

**i. Senator's Report**

No written report at this time.

**17. Speaker**

**i. Speaker's Report**

No written report at this time.

**18. Chief Returning Officer**

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

No written report at this time.

**19. GSA Nominating Committee**

**i. GSA Nominating Committee Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 19 January 2024. The report stood as submitted.

**20. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee**

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

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 19 January 2024. The report stood as submitted. AP added a vacant position in the Labour Relations Committee and encouraged members to join and also urge the council and their constituents to vote. Also encouraged council members to participate in the upcoming GSA General Elections.

**21. GSA Management**

**i. Executive Director's Report**

Members had before them a written report, which had been previously distributed on 19 January 2024. The report stood as submitted. LM highlighted the work on applying grants to help in updating the bylaws during the summer period. Also in the final stages of implementing the new grants software to be partially implemented hopefully by Summer and full implementation by Fall 2024.

**Question Period**

**22. Written Questions**

- No written questions were received.

**23. Oral Questions**

- No oral questions were received due to time.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.



**President**  
**Report to GSA Council for the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Bishoi Aziz  
Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Dear Council Colleagues,

I wish you are enjoying the unusually nice weather on campus; something that I am not sure whether to be happy or scared with. Anyway, I am glad to share with you the work I have been doing over the past month.

**PhD guaranteed minimum funding project**

- Last month, we held a town hall for graduate students to discuss the PhD guaranteed minimum funding proposal. We offered the town hall in a hybrid model to increase accessibility to the students and we distributed the proposal beforehand so students would have come prepared with any questions. Students brought some interesting points such as how the minimum funding will be affected by part-time enrolment.
- We anticipate that the proposal will come for a vote in the FGPS Council either in March or April. Following the approval, GSA should be part of the implementation group monitoring the implementation process and looking into how to advance the project.

**GSA revenue diversification and investment discussion**

- As you all know, the GSA depends heavily on the membership fees as the single major source of revenue. This makes the association limited in the support we offer for students and leave the students exposed to the effect of inflation to increase the GSA fees. As such, it is important for the GSA to work on diversifying the revenue sources.
- Currently, the university is working on a new asset management plan in which the university is looking into downsizing the buildings they manage on campus to lower their expenses. As the university is looking into increasing the student population to 60,000 students, it is an excellent opportunity for the GSA to acquire one of these buildings, manage businesses that serve students' needs, and obtain another source of revenue to upscale the association's operations and support for graduate students.
- I started discussions with the UofA VP Facilities and Operations, Andrew Sharman, about this initiative which he found very interesting. He highlighted however that such a project is a long-term one that needs between 3 to 5 years at least to advance. In the meantime, it will be a great opportunity for the GSA to build our investment funding to be ready for the project. As a first step in that vein, the GSA BFC recommends directing at least 67% of the past year surplus in a new Financial Stabilization and Growth Funding pocket and that the future teams continue building this fund to be ready.

**Fun activities volunteer team and events**

- Over the past month, we established a new volunteer group to increase the fun and engagement activities we offer for students. This aims at helping graduate students to socialize out of their working environment and to support graduate students' mental health.
- We plan to start with simple events that don't incur cost to the association such as holding movie and board games nights.
- Additionally, we will start next month to provide extra coffee breaks in addition to the current monthly one. However, this one will be different. This extra coffee break will rotate to different buildings each month so that we go to the students where they are to increase the GSA's accessibility and visibility.

**Increase enrolment group – Education and Research**

- The university started several working groups to put an implementation plan to address one of the major targets of the university strategic plan SHAPE; increase enrolments. I represent the GSA in one of these groups which focuses on education and services. The working group should meet biweekly and is projected to finish its work in May.

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board and management meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

26 Jan	BG/GFC / Senate Summit
29 Jan	General Faculties Council
30 Jan	Joint UofA Board of Governors / BHRCC Meeting
31 Jan	Student Experience Action Plan Launch
31 Jan	Tracy Raivio, FGPS Dean
31 Jan	GFC - Academic Planning Committee
2 Feb	Solidarity Event / SAC
5 Feb	In Person: GSA Position Discussion w/ IGSA
5 Feb	PAWOC
5 Feb	Meeting with M Padfield, Provost & VP Academic
6 Feb	Grad Tuition Discussion
6 Feb	Senate II & EDI Committee Meeting
7 Feb	Health and Dental Referendum
9 Feb	AB-GPAC Meeting
12 Feb	Coffee meeting with K Peters
12 Feb	Open biweekly meeting RE: VPIR position
14 Feb	Consultation request for a new GSA position, C Smith, Vice-Provost EDI
15 Feb	GFC University Governance Budget Briefing with APC
15 Feb	PhD Minimum Funding Town Hall
15 Feb	UofA Board Strategy Session
21 Feb	FGSR Council
22 Feb	Chancellor Garritty & GSA Executive
23 Feb	CASA and UAGSA

**2023-2024 Vice-President Academic  
Report to GSA Council for 26 February 2024**

To: GSA Council  
From: Rija Kamran  
Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you had a chance to rest and recharge over the reading week. It's been a busy month for us at the GSA as a lot of changes are happening across campus. I have shared some highlights from the work I have been involved in since the last council meeting.

**24 January 2024- GFC Committee on the Learning Environment**

I attended the Committee on the Learning Environment meeting. Meeting started with an opening circle where the committee members reflected on their vulnerabilities and how they serve each of us in the roles we assume and the work we do. We had presentations and discussion on some key initiatives across campus. Dr. Danielle Peers presented an overview of the Council on Systemic Ableism which is an advisory and decision-making body located in the office of Vice-Provost EDI, Dr. Carrie Smith. Dr. Peers briefed us on the committee composition and mandates, inciting the CLE to reflect on their collective role and responsibility to further those mandates. Raymond Matthias presented updates on the experiential learning ecosystem and current priorities around that. In line with the strategic goals of Shape, efforts are underway to improve Experiential and Work-Integrated Learning (EL/WIL) opportunities at the University of Alberta, focusing on both quantity and quality. Finally, we received updates on the google storage changes coming in effect May 2024 and the plan for consultation as students struggle to find alternative storage options from the University.

**25 January 2024 - GFC Council on Student Affairs**

I attended the GFC COSA and presented the GSA report, including the key initiatives the GSA Exec has been working on. I briefed them about the proposed new DEO position for indigenous relations, the Mental Health Survey, consultations around minimum guaranteed funding amongst others. I also continue to bring the financial strains on students as the discussions on proposed tuition hike fee proceed through the governance bodies and come for a decision at the Board of Governors in March.

**15 February 2024- PhD Minimum Funding Town Hall**

GSA hosted a town hall to consult with graduate students and provide clarity on the proposal. Dr. Tracy Ravio, the Dean and Vice-Provost of FGPS attended as a resource person and helped provide some clarity for students. We will be continuing consultation on this project as we work on our set of recommendations to GPS. Look out for our communications about this important project as it moves closer to implementation.

**21 February 2024 -Tracy, VP Academic**

I met Dr. T Ravio, Dean and Vice-Provost of FGPS. We continued our discussion on the implementation plan for the Minimum Guaranteed Funding project. I continue to bring the student concerns around the eligibility criteria which includes maintaining satisfactory academic standing to continue receiving the guaranteed funding. Dr. Ravio brought up another opportunity for consultation to bring our concerns to the University governance in the form of a Consultation Round Table on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 8-9.30 am. We also talked about leveraging the college model to increase engagement amongst graduate students and increasing transparency in the adjudication of scholarships and awards.

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

Thank you.

**Rija Kamran**, Vice-President Academic 2023-24

**2023-2024 GSA VP Academic's Meetings Attended (Rija)**

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 23 January 2024 to 23 February 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

23 Jan	ISA / GSA Regular Meetings
24 Jan	GFC Nominating Committee
24 Jan	GFC Committee on the Learning Environment
25 Jan	GFC Caucus
25 Jan	GFC Council on Student Affairs
26 Jan	University Research and Innovation Advisory Committee
26 Jan	BG GFC Senate Summit
29 Jan	General Faculties Council
31 Jan	GFC - Academic Planning Committee
1 Feb	CTL Advisory Meeting
1 Feb	FoTL Steering Committee Meeting
1 Feb	DTLSESC Meeting
5 Feb	GFC Exec Governance and Procedural Oversight
5 Feb	Meeting with M Padfield, Provost & VP Academic
7 Feb	Meeting re: Google Storage Changes
8 Feb	GFC Programs Committee
12 Feb	Coffee meeting with K Peter
12 Feb	GFC Executive Committee
14 Feb	Post-Secondary Education Task Force Meeting
15 Feb	PhD Minimum Funding Town Hall
16 Feb	GPS Caucus
21 Feb	Tracy, GSA Presi, VP Academic
21 Feb	FGSR Council
22 Feb	GFC Caucus
22 Feb	Chancellor Garritty & GSA Execs
22 Feb	Chancellor's Forum on Sheltering the Truth

**2024-2025 Vice-President External  
Report to GSA Council for the 21 Feb 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Hamid Hassani  
Date: Feb 21, 2024

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.

**ISDAC - Education sub-committee (Jan 31)**

On January 31, the International Strategy Advisory Committee convened in sub-groups to outline priority initiatives aimed at refining the University of Alberta's international strategy. The focus was on creating sub-groups within the advisory committee dedicated to specific initiatives under each strategic pillar, which will guide the development of a more comprehensive international strategy. Some of these efforts will be coordinated with existing university initiatives, such as the integration of the international enrollment growth strategy with the Integrated Enrolment Growth Initiative. The education pillar focuses on growing and retaining a diverse student population, led by the IEGP committee, and creating inclusive international opportunities for all students, staff, and faculty. This includes enhancing understanding of cross-cultural nuances across different continents. The research pillar aims to deepen impactful international research collaboration and empower research addressing global challenges. Meanwhile, the engagement pillar seeks to build links between the local community and international partners, strengthening the university's global connections and collaborations. Discussion also centered on consultation questions critical for establishing the strategy for each strategic pillar, including how to make international students feel included, facilitate global learning, and ensure inclusive international opportunities. The stakeholder consultation plan emphasized the need for input from various stakeholders to effectively inform the university's international strategy for each pillar. The overarching goal of these initiatives is to foster a welcoming and diverse campus environment that promotes cross-functional collaboration, thereby enhancing the university's international presence and impact.

**PSE Task Force Special Meeting (31 Jan)**

On January 31, the PSE meeting discussed temporary positions for bargaining at NAIT, featuring key participants including Gordon Swaters and representatives from various academic and staff unions. Academic Staff President at the University of Alberta, alongside AASUA VPs Krisine Smitka, Brygeda Renke, and Cherie Klassen, contributed insights. Pamela Holway from Athabasca University highlighted issues transitioning from temporary to permanent staff, focusing on contract challenges for CUPE 3911. The meeting also addressed student contract facilities and the necessity of raising public awareness about these concerns. High-level decisions and comments regarding bargaining for staff members were discussed. The meeting underscored the critical nature of these negotiations and the collective effort to address employment and academic concerns within Alberta's post-secondary institutions.

**International Strategy Development Advisory Committee (1,8 Feb)**

During the discussion on Priority Initiative #2, the focus was on creating inclusive international opportunities for University of Alberta students, staff, and faculty. The strategy aims to develop a welcoming and diverse campus environment, fostering cross-functional collaboration and reinforcing the university's commitment to global learning. This involves increasing international students' engagement in classroom and campus activities, encouraging their participation in academic, extracurricular, and social activities. Additionally, the strategy seeks to expand international learning opportunities, such as education abroad programs and global learning experiences on campus, to allow students to immerse themselves in different cultures and gain a global perspective. Support and resources will be provided to faculty and staff to engage in international experiences, including research

collaborations, teaching exchanges, and professional development opportunities abroad. Success will be measured by an increased percentage of students participating in international learning opportunities, a higher number of faculty and staff engaging in international experiences, satisfaction levels of international students, and the retention rates of these students within the university community. Efforts will include expanding outcomes based on feedback about "global learning," identifying specific stakeholders for consultations, and scheduling these consultations to further define the key elements of each strategic pillar, including education, research, and engagement.

#### **ESA Board Meeting (2 Feb)**

The meeting was preemptively cancelled, and discussions have been deferred to a later date.

#### **GSA Emergency Bursary Appeal (Scam Case) (6 Feb)**

A confidential meeting was convened to address the scam case affecting the GSA Emergency Bursary Appeal. The committee reviewed the incident in detail, focusing on the implications for affected students and the integrity of the GSA's financial aid programs. Discussions centered on identifying security lapses and enhancing the bursary appeal process to prevent future fraud. The aim was to reach a decision that prioritizes the welfare of the graduate student community and maintains trust in the GSA's support mechanisms. Recommendations for improving oversight and applicant verification were proposed, with a commitment to take immediate corrective actions.

#### **Awards Selection Committee Meeting (Feb 13)**

The Awards Selection Committee convened in a confidential meeting on February 13 to evaluate applications for the GSA awards. The committee, comprising members who individually voted on each application, meticulously reviewed all submissions from candidates vying for the awards. After thorough deliberation, final decisions were made regarding the awardees. It was resolved that the GSA Award Night, where the winners will be announced and honored, is scheduled for March 15. This meeting underscores the committee's commitment to a fair and transparent selection process, ensuring that deserving candidates are recognized for their achievements.

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 31 Jan and 23 Feb 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

31 Jan	SDAC - Education sub-committee
31 Jan	PSE Task Force Special Meeting
1 Feb	International Strategy Development Advisory Committee
2 Feb	ESA Board Meeting
6 Feb	GSA Emergency Bursary Appeal (Scam Case)
8 Feb	ISDAC - Education sub-committee
13 Feb	Awards Selection Committee Meeting
22 Feb	ISDAC - Education sub committee
23 Feb	CASA x UAGSA

**GSA Awards Selection Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 26 February 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Hamid Hassani  
Date: 22 February 2024

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

The GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) met on 13 February 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to choose award recipients for this year.

The committee referenced bylaw when deliberating as some individual nominees were ranked high across multiple award categories. Since any one person cannot win more than one award in a single year, we next looked at each person's award preferences and a revised ranking was sent out to committee members. An email vote was conducted on 15 February 2024 to ratify the results and the recipients for 2024 are listed below.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,  
Hamid Hassani, Vice-President External and Chair of the GSA ASC

### **2024 GSA Recognition Award Recipients**

#### **NON-ACADEMIC STAFF AWARD**

Mariano Rizaldy

#### **ACADEMIC STAFF AWARD**

Debra Davidson

#### **GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISOR AWARD**

NSERC – Leila Hashemian

SSHRC – Jack Stecher

CIHR – Justin Ezekowitz

#### **GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICE AWARD**

Pauline Chan

Luthfia Friskie

Julieanna Karathra

Valery Kalinin

#### **TD INSURANCE MELOCHE MONNEX AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Syeda Narmeen Zehra

#### **GRADUATE STUDENT PRINCIPAL INSTRUCTOR TEACHING AWARD**

Danielle Gardiner Milln

Ehsan Kashfi

Dominika Tabor

GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD

Travis Kronemann

Erik Halliwell

Emanuele Goes

Ashley Ponich

Artem Khegay

Maria Camila Rodriguez Gallo

Hamidreza Abediasl

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT AWARD

Fernanda Arthuso

Heba Aref

Emmanuel Marfo

Shaista Meghani

Emad Yuzbashian Sharifabad

Xeuge Wu

MARTHA PIPER AWARD FOR RESEARCH COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE

Samar Nesr

Maha Ead

Mingjian Wu

GRADUATE STUDENT RISING STAR AWARD

Camila Estefani Orsso

Md Nazmul Arefin

Ibrahim Khodabocus

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Maged Kharouba

GRADUATE STUDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

Anushika Lakmini Bandara Ampitigoda Widhanalage

Hadi Mekarizadeh

GRADUATE STUDENT GROUP AWARD

Dentistry SRG



**2023-2024 Associate Vice-President Labour  
Report to GSA Council for Feb 2024**

To: GSA Council  
From: Muneeb Masood Raja  
Date: 21 Feb 2024

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are all doing well. I have attended several meetings between 24 Jan 2024 and 23 Feb 2024 which are listed in the table at the end. Here are the details of the meetings:

**Labour Relations Committee (LRC) Meeting (25 Jan):**

On January 25th, the LRC met to assess the bargaining survey based on the feedback collected since our last meeting on December 12th. It was decided that the negotiating team would finalize the survey by early February, after which it will be distributed to all members. The survey has been circulated to all academically employed graduate students (AEGSs), who have until March 6th to complete the survey. Following this deadline, the negotiating team will formulate a mandate, subject to ratification by union members.

Additionally, I proposed the establishment of two new roles within the LRC: Chief Steward and Outreach Coordinator. With our union/faculty steward network expanding, it is important to ensure sustainability. The Chief Steward would oversee engagement and support for faculty/union stewards alongside the AVP Labour. Meanwhile, the Outreach Coordinator's primary responsibility would involve organizing outreach efforts and fostering relationships with other student bodies, including departmental GSAs among others. The AVP Labour's role in outreach will evolve to focus on enhanced collaboration with external unions and student organizations.

I truly believe that introducing these positions is an important step toward strengthening our union's structure and capabilities. They will receive an honorarium and have defined work hours. I'm pleased to report that the proposal was unanimously approved by the LRC voting members, signaling widespread support for these enhancements. I also intend to provide a long term plan for our union during the end of my term which can really help the future DEOs to keep building the union.

**BFC/GFC/Senate Summit (26 Jan):**

At the summit, the university presented the findings and initiatives of the People Strategy Committee, seeking input from attendees. During the consultation, I actively contributed by offering extensive feedback based on the concerns and experiences shared by graduate student workers, as well as providing insights from my own perspective. This feedback encompassed a range of important issues, including pay equity, prioritizing health and safety (H&S) with a focus on psychological well-being, addressing working conditions for Graduate Research Assistant Fellows (GRAFs), advocating for improved protections for students working under supervisors, enhancing employee training programs, and various other topics crucial to ensuring a supportive and inclusive work environment for all members of the university community.

**UofA GSA Labour Check-In's:**

I have a weekly meeting with Keira Gunn from PSAC. During these meetings, we planned various events and training that could be organized in collaboration with PSAC. Besides that, we also discussed plans for bargaining and how we can engage the union.

**Workplace Accommodation Training (29 Jan):**

The workplace accommodation training was offered to all AEGSs. During the training, the participants were informed about the entitlement of graduate assistants at UofA to workplace accommodations in the event of

illness, injury, or any condition affecting their work performance. These accommodations spanned from modifications to workspace structures to similar provisions as those available to students to aid academic success.

#### **PSGSA Labour Talk and IGSA Bi-weekly meeting (2 & 8 Feb)**

These meetings were held as part of the initiative taken earlier to facilitate communication between different graduate student groups and the union. During my meeting with PSGSA, we reviewed the rights of graduate student workers and went over the problems that they might be facing. Additionally, the political science group shared their feedback for the upcoming collective bargaining and what they want in the next collective agreement. In my meeting with IGSA, their executives outlined their bargaining priorities which will be consulted with the negotiating team and hopefully included in our initial proposal.

#### **Union Breakfast and LRC brunch (30 Jan, 16 Feb)**

I organized a union breakfast and an LRC Brunch in collaboration with PSAC and all the AEGSs were invited to attend. These events were designed to offer an opportunity for AEGSs to meet with the AVP Labour and LRC members and share their employment experiences and provide us with their feedback. During the LRC brunch, the graduate students were also encouraged to fill the bargaining survey. These events were interactive sessions aimed at fostering a stronger connection between union representatives and members. Given the significant turnout at both events, we plan to organize more in the future, building on their success.

#### **Tabling and labour outreach (15 Feb)**

On February 15th, we organized a table event in SUB, where we interacted with academically employed graduate students (AEGSs) to discuss the ongoing bargaining survey and its importance. We provided detailed information about the survey and its potential impact on shaping future collective agreements. Additionally, we visited various student spaces across campus to engage with students, answer their questions, and gather valuable feedback on their priorities and concerns regarding labor rights and union representation. These activities aim to foster greater awareness and participation among graduate students and ensure that their voices are heard in the collective bargaining process.

I kindly request all council members to encourage AEGSs to participate in filling out the bargaining survey. This ensures that the resulting mandate, shaped by member feedback, accurately represents the entire membership. Your support in promoting participation among our members is greatly appreciated. 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 24 Jan and 23 Feb 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

24 Jan	GSA Labour Survey Discussion
24 Jan	Meeting with a student (Confidential)
25 Jan	Labour Relations Committee Meeting
26 Jan	Chat with Gateway EIC
26 Jan	UofA GSA Labour Check-In
26 Jan	Board/GFC/Senate Summit
29 Jan	Workplace Accommodation Training
30 Jan	Union Breakfast
31 Jan	Meeting with a student (Confidential)
2 Feb	Meeting with a student (Confidential)
2 Feb	UofA GSA Labour Check-In

2 Feb	PSGSA Labour Talk
6 Feb	Meeting with the negotiating team
8 Feb	IGSA Bi-weekly meeting
9 Feb	Labour 101 training
9 Feb	UofA GSA Labour Check-In
9 Feb	Labour 101 training
13 Feb	LRC member onboarding
15 Feb	Tabling and labour outreach
15 Feb	Meeting with a student (Confidential)
16 Feb	LRC brunch
21 Feb	BFC final budget 2024-25 meeting
22 Feb	Meeting Chancellor Garrity & GSA
23 Feb	JHSC orientation
23 Feb	UofA GSA Labour Check-In
23 Feb	UofA JHSC meeting

**GSA Labour Relations Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 26 February 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Muneeb Masood Raja  
Date: 22 February 2024

Dear GSA Council Colleagues,  
The GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) met on 25 January 2024.

At this meeting, the committee provided more suggestions for the bargaining survey. After discussion, MR indicated that he would meet with the bargaining team to finalize the survey.

Two new positions were approved during the meeting to help support the work of the AVP Labour. They are a Chief Steward and Outreach Coordinator. Both positions would enable greater engagement “on the ground” within departments and around campus. This work will improve awareness of the union to its members. The positions would be elected from the LRC on an annual basis starting from May 1, 2024. MR and CR will work on position descriptions and details around the election timeframe.

Keira Gunn talked about an Essential Service Agreement, suggesting that this is something the union should incorporate into the CA. If there was a state where the union had to file for formal mediation in the future, an Essential Service Agreement needs to be in place. Basically, it just outlines which members are deemed an essential service (eg. police, fire fighters, nurses, etc.) so it allows for formal mediation to move forward.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,  
Muneeb Masood Raja, Vice-President Labour and Chair of the GSA LRC

**2022-2023 Vice-President Student Services  
Report to GSA Council for 26 February 2024**

To: GSA Council  
From: Muhammad Haseeb Arshad  
Date: 26 February 2024

Dear Council Members,

I hope this report finds you with the best of health. For my meetings from 17<sup>th</sup> of January to 21<sup>st</sup> of February, I will use the following space to summarize some of the important ones.

- **DOA Committee Meeting (January 24th):**

In the DOA Committee Meeting on January 24th, various topics were discussed. Aria, the DOA intern, reviewed Hello Day activities, while plans for the World Day of Social Justice, including the Living Library session, were shared. Posters for this event will be distributed upon request.

International Day of Happiness arrangements, such as the Happiness Awards and calendar updates, were also discussed. The timeline for the Days of Action Committee intern applications was outlined, with specific dates for advertising and group interviews. Emphasis was placed on promoting the Living Library session for world day of social justice starting in February. As an action item, I have added our collaborative event with Unitea and ASSET on the Happiness Day calendar which will be on March 28th in Triffo Hall.

- **CFB January Board Meeting (January 29th):**

In the January 29th CFB Board Meeting, Erin, the Executive Director (ED) of CFB, provided updates on various fronts. She reported on the launch of the Rutherford pantry and highlighted that although CFB missed its donation target for the month, a new grant was secured, offsetting the shortfall. However, Erin expressed concern over the reduced utilization of CFB despite prevailing food insecurity issues.

As part of CFB's restructuring efforts, four new board subcommittees will be formed focusing on policy, finance, board development, and board relations. I have put my name on the policy subcommittee and am looking forward to what it has in store for me. Additionally, an in-camera session was held at the end of the meeting to address specific HR issues within CFB.

- **Campus Wellness Network (February 2nd):**

In the February 2nd Campus Wellness Network meeting, a range of topics were addressed. Members discussed student mobilization efforts across various departments, highlighting active community engagement. Christine Cabildo from Wellness Support mentioned the distribution of care packages containing stress-relief items to foster community connections. Additionally, funding structures for wellness initiatives were explored, with considerations for creating virtual spaces for updates using platforms like Google Space. Concerns regarding student wellness were raised, including feelings of disconnection and financial worries. Questions were posed about the adequacy of student loans in meeting increasing demands and potential changes in loan limits. Plans for upcoming wellness-related activities across different campus areas were detailed, spanning from athletic programs to cultural celebrations like Black History Month. Various resources and support services were also highlighted, including mental health standards, social justice events, career advising, and support for survivors of sexual assault.

- **Mental Health Survey Discussion (February 2nd):**

On February 2nd, a brief meeting was held between me, Lewie (GSA ED), and Brandy (Strategic Analyst) to discuss the mental health survey. We reviewed feedback received from Suman Varghese (Registered Psychologist, Student Services - Counselling & Clinical Services) and adjusted the wording of several questions. Following the revisions, we finalized the survey and agreed upon the date for its distribution to the general student population. This meeting focused on ensuring the survey accurately captures pertinent information while addressing any concerns raised during the review process.

- **GSA / DOS (February 2nd):**

On February 2nd, a meeting was convened with Ravina Sanghera (Dean of Students) and Lewie (GSA ED) to discuss the proposed vision and budget for the Graduate Peer Support Program. During the discussion, Ravina suggested involving the University Health Center (UHC) and forming a working group to implement a comprehensive program, rather than starting from scratch. Lewie emphasized the importance of incorporating a supervisory role for interns and volunteers, proposing the involvement of a qualified clinician from UHC. It was agreed that the next action item would involve creating a framework for the program in consultation with the peer support center and gathering information from other universities with similar initiatives. This meeting aimed to strategize the development of the program and ensure effective collaboration with relevant stakeholders for its successful implementation.

- **PAWSOC (February 5th):**

During the PAWSOC meeting on February 5th, Katherine Zwicker (Manager of Student Affairs, Student Services - Dean of Students Administration) provided feedback on the PAW Tour, suggesting longer tour meetings beginning at the start of the new year. Krystle Johner (Team Lead Fitness, Leisure & Wellness, VP Finance & Operations CCR Programming) presented updates on the usage of the High Performance Fitness, Leisure Center (HFLC) & Climbing Centre, noting record high ONEcard swipes for the third week of January. She noted a greater spread of usage throughout the day and reported 2-3 times higher swipe rates in changerooms, attributed to serving the whole facility. Interestingly, fall semester usage remained consistent without significant mid-semester drops, possibly due to enrollment growth and post-Covid factors. Discussions revolved around how to plan for the 5-year plan considering enrollment growth and potential changes in communications.

Krystle also highlighted new CCR Virtual Programming, Bright Breaks, offering 7-to-45-minute breaks with live or on-demand classes in various wellness categories. The program aims to suggest break times through Google calendars, accessible to all students via a single CCID sign-on. The soft launch occurred at the end of January, with messaging scheduled for mid-February to promote to the campus community. Prize challenges will be offered both by Bright Breaks and CCR for the UofA community. In other business, a brief discussion ensued regarding a flood in VVC over the weekend, impacting some spaces.

- **Student Group Mental Health Network (February 5th):**

The Student Group Mental Health Network meeting on February 5th commenced with Jay Batta from the University of Alberta's Eating Disorder Awareness Student Group providing insights into eating disorders, emphasizing the group's focus on education and awareness, particularly regarding the lack of information and proper vocabulary surrounding the topic.

Group engaged in discussions about underserved demographics at the U of A in terms of mental health support, including men's mental health, certain faculties lacking mental health discussions, international students, and off-campus students. Strategies were proposed to engage these demographics, such as hosting events with mental health resources and fostering a shared sense of community.

Several student groups provided updates on their activities, ranging from mental health awareness-raising activities to organizing events.

- **Students Who Parent Working Group Conversation (February 6th):**

The Students Who Parent Working Group convened on February 6th, primarily focusing on unit updates and discussions regarding ongoing initiatives. Among the updates provided, the Students' Union (SU) reported positive feedback on the Family Corner initiative, prompting discussions about the potential implementation of similar spaces within Campus Saint-Jean (CSJ) in the long term. Meanwhile, the University Health Center (UHC) noted the enrollment of a new group of students for the term and highlighted efforts to provide them with appropriate resources. I mentioned that there are two rooms for students who are parents in Triffo Hall, with plans underway to disseminate this information through the student digest via Michelle. Moreover, the discussion touched upon the significant increase in usage experienced by the CFB, particularly noting a rise in the number of children benefiting from their services with booking appointments now being made 3-6 weeks in advance due to high demand.

The RO office provided insights into financial matters, indicating that the GSA emergency bursary has depleted its funding, and the Access Fund/ISSF (Indigenous Students' Support Fund) is running low. This

fiscal year has seen a surge in the number of students seeking support, resulting in a projected deficit, which will be mitigated to some extent by roll-over funding. Additionally, I noted to the group that GSA's EB will be open soon but with limited funds and it will be on a first come first basis.

- **GSA / ASSET / UNITEA Collab (February 8th):**

During the GSA / ASSET / UNITEA collaboration meeting, myself, Brandy, Vanessa (Grant Coordinator), met with Tiffany Sampson (Unitea Director) and Courtney Wagner (Program Lead, Volunteers, VER Development and Alumni Relations) to plan a collaborative event scheduled for our March coffee break. The meeting focused on logistical aspects such as event location and communication strategies. It was decided that the event would be divided into two parts: the first part featuring casual activities provided by ASSET, and the second part consisting of group discussions hosted by UNITEA's volunteers. Graduate students will have the option to pre-register for the discussion portion through UNITEA or register in person. Door prizes will be offered from UNITEA, ASSET, whereas Brandy will work with Lewie to see what we can contribute in terms of door prizes. I will meet with Tiffany and Courtney to finalize the event name and programming details.

- **PhD Minimum Funding Town Hall (February 15th):**

During the PhD Minimum Funding Town Hall on February 15th, Tracy Raivio (Vice Provost and the Dean of FGPS) addressed student queries regarding the guaranteed minimum funding package for PhD students. Tracy outlined the eligibility criteria, including maintaining full-time status, good academic standing, and satisfactory supervisory progress reports. I raised concerns regarding students with disabilities who may transition from full-time to part-time status to manage reduced course loads. Tracy reassured attendees that FGPS has established protocols to address such situations effectively.

Furthermore, I emphasized that the eligibility criteria, particularly those related to academic standing and supervisory progress reports, grant excessive power to supervisors and a proper training is essential to uphold principles of respect in student-supervisor relationships.

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 [gsvpse@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsvpse@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 2023-2024

*Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 24 January to 22 February 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.*

24 Jan	DOA Committee Meeting
24 Jan	BFC 2024-2025 Budget Meeting
29 Jan	CFB January Board Meeting
2 Feb	Campus Wellness Network
2 Feb	Mental Health Survey Discussion
2 Feb	GSA / DOS
3 Feb	CFB Board Retreat
5 Feb	PAWSOC
5 Feb	Student Group Mental Health Network
6 Feb	Students Who Parent Working Group Conversation
8 Feb	GSA / ASSET / UNITEA Collab
15 Feb	PhD Minimum Funding Town Hall
21 Feb	BFC Final Budget 2024 - 2025 Meeting
22 Feb	Chancellor Garritty & GSA Executive

**2023-2024 Vice-President Student Life  
Report to GSA Council for the 26 February 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Tiffany Kung  
Date: February 22 2024

Dear Council Colleagues,

Happy New Year, and I hope everyone had a lovely February! My meetings are listed below.

**GSA Winter Warm Up (Jan 16)**

I attended the GSA's winter welcome orientation and had the chance to meet many graduate students! It was wonderful to see some familiar and some new faces at the event.

**Council of Residence Associations (CORA) Meeting (Jan 16)**

The group met to discuss the Residence Improvement Fund (RIF), which for this year was limited to undergraduate groups due to the lack of a graduate students residence association. East Campus Commons can still expect some improvements from the RIF fund due to that student group.

**Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Working Group (Jan 17)**

The group met and discussed changes to the language on the working document. The group has advanced to step 3 of the Possibility Seeds workbook, which includes who the protocol will apply to and its limitations.

**GSA Reading Group: Confessions of an EDI Killjoy (Jan 17)**

The first reading and discussion group on inclusive research sessions was held, facilitated by Dr. Tommy Mayberry. It was an enlightening and thought-provoking conversation on how graduate students can work inclusive language into their pedagogy, with a thoughtful question and answer period at the end!

**General Faculties Council (GFC) Student Conduct and Policy Committee (SCPC) (Jan 18)**

I attended the SCPC meeting, which discussed the creation of a campus citizenship officer which will look at how the university can build resources that will help faculty engage students where there is a deficit.

**Truth Before Reconciliation Webinar (Jan 18)**

I attended the ISU and IGSA webinar hosted by Dr. Sean Carleton discussing truth before reconciliation and how to identify and counter residential school denialism. The webinar was thought-provoking, and it was wonderful to see so many students, undergraduate and graduate, in attendance.

**Biweekly meeting with Benjamin Kucher (IGSA President) RE: VPIR position (Jan 22, Feb 12, Feb 24)**

Benjamin and I have and will continue to meet biweekly to discuss work on the Vice President Indigenous Relations position. Our conversations revolve around planning and attending consultations, as well as looking at policy and language in terms of the new position.

**Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) Support Team Meeting (Jan 22)**

The group met to discuss the upcoming plan launch and discussions to be had moving forward. I (Tiffany Kung) will replace Monisha Vinod (Previous GSA Vice President Student Services) as a co-sponsor on the project for the next leg of the implementation process.

**Meeting with Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) Dean and Indigenous Graduate Students Association (IGSA) (Jan 23)**



I met with Tracy, Dean of GPS and the IGSA to discuss ongoing initiatives in GPS. Many initiatives have been delayed due to lack of administrative power in GPS. Discussions around the I-GRA (which will be a scholarship rather than an RA-ship), the upcoming pair of employees within FPH and GPS, and the IGSA's writing retreat continue to happen.

#### **Student Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Network (Jan 23)**

The group met to discuss updates, including difficulties and successes we were each experiencing within our positions.

#### **International Students' Association (ISA)/GSA Regular Meetings (Jan 23)**

The group met to discuss the ISA's upcoming tuition levy as well as events that are being hosted in collaboration with the IGSA and the DoS office. Conversations around collaborations with the GSA are in the process of being followed up in more detail, including how we can help the ISA with providing space for their events.

#### **EDI Plan Steering Committee Monthly Meeting (Jan 25)**

The EDI plan steering committee met to discuss the upcoming consultation with the broad student body. As the survey will be hosted on UASUPERks, the UASU will take the initiative in forming the survey, and send a copy to the GSA for review before hosting it on their platform.

#### **Meeting with Tim Ira, Strategic Initiatives Officer—College of Social Sciences and Humanities (Jan 26)**

I met with Tim to discuss updates from the beginning of the year until now, and various initiatives happening in our separate offices. I invited Tim to facilitate a session for the GSA's reading group next year, should the GSA continue to host the reading group!

#### **SEAP Launch (Jan 31)**

I attended the SEAP launch. It was wonderful to see all the students in attendance for the exciting event. I look forward to continuing to work on implementation and seeing the university meet the ambitious goals set out in the plan!

#### **Meeting with Carrie Smith, Vice-Provost EDI (Feb 2)**

Carrie and I met to discuss the follow-up from the Truth Before Reconciliation event. Carrie will meet with Natalie Loveless from the Faculty of Arts to discuss how we can build and open pathways to ensure better support for our students in times of crisis going forward.

#### **Consultation with Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost Indigenous Programming and Research RE: GSA Vice-President Indigenous Relations position (Feb 5)**

Bishoi (GSA President), Benjamin (IGSA President), and I met with Florence to discuss the upcoming VPIR position. Florence expressed support and excitement at the upcoming position, and provided insight into some institutional and national committees and conferences the position could attend.

#### **GSA Reading Group: Race in the Marketplace (Feb 5)**

I attended the second reading group session on race in the marketplace by Luna Yang. The presentation was an insightful commentary on neoliberal multiculturalism and the ensuing conversation was incredibly fascinating to hear! Thank you to all the graduate students who attended and were able to earn PD credits for the session!

#### **Alumni Career Services Committee (Feb 7)**

I attended this meeting in place of Hamid (GSA VP External). The group discussed grant adjudication, the mentorship program that is being run out of alumni services, and feedback regarding how the group was run.

**Consultation with Faculty of Arts Indigenous Council RE: GSA Vice-President Indigenous Relations position (Feb 8)**

Benjamin and I met with the FoA Indigenous Council to discuss the upcoming VPIR position. The group provided great insight into concerns around the student's physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing while serving in the position, and highlighted the importance of having strong support set up for anyone who serves in that position. Despite these concerns, the creation of the position was met with unanimous excitement.

**Residence Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting (Feb 12)**

The group discussed the Residence Improvement Fund (RIF), as well as the use of shared TVs and facilitating connection to them in common areas, and the Residence Saint Jean (RSJ) upcoming information night.

**CORA Meeting (Feb 12)**

The CORA meeting focussed on the RIF, which was exclusive to undergrad student residence associations this year. Thus, it was agreed that GSA representation at the meeting was not needed.

**Consultation with Carrie Smith, VP EDI RE: GSA Vice-President Indigenous Relations position (Feb 14)**

Benjamin (IGSA President), Bishoi (GSA President), and I met with Carrie to discuss the upcoming VPIR position. The position's introduction was met with excitement, and the group discussed how the upcoming position may collaborate and work together with the VP Student Life position, which is intended to be rebranded the "VP EDI and Engagement" when the VPIR position is announced.

**Consultation with Indigenous Students' Union RE: GSA Vice-President Indigenous Relations position (Feb 16)**

Benjamin and I met with the Indigenous Students Union to discuss the upcoming VPIR position. They echoed previous concerns around the student's safety, as well as some new concerns regarding promotion of the position so it is filled year-to-year. The ISU also provided some insight on what the role's focus may be, the relationship between this position and the ISU, and various other considerations for the position.

**UASSC (Feb 20)**

The UASSC met to discuss security updates, of which trends were noted to be as normal. The group did discuss a specific area of campus that has been flagged for speeding vehicles and food delivery drivers parking inappropriately (in emergency areas). James Allen will take these concerns forward to the Dean of Students (DoS) to discuss how signage may be put up to ensure drivers know not to park there, as well as messaging around where students are able to have delivery drivers park for food drop-off.

**GPS Council (Feb 21)**

GPS Council met to discuss academic matters, including new guidelines for the use of generative AI in graduate studies and research, recommendations for working with sensitive data, and to survey instructors on the 'learning environment of the future'. Further, the Council discussed the new 2024 graduate enrollment report, which will be uploaded here (<https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/about/facts-and-figures.html>). For more information on any of the discussed items or the new enrollment numbers before they are uploaded to the GPS website, please feel free to email me ([gsavpsi@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsavpsi@ualberta.ca)).

**SGBV in WIL Working Group (Feb 22)**

The group had our regular meeting and discussed the tools we wanted in our finished toolkit, many of which centered around awareness, prevention, and response, in terms of WIL administrators, learners, and facilitators/providers. For learners, awareness includes what the policy is, education on SGBV in the workplace (including what SGBV is, how do you prevent it, how do you understand what's happening, what the obligations of the university are, etc.), and what the survivor-driven approach is. Prevention included promising practises and circles of support, while response included the protocol for disclosure and how to enter the options navigation network.

**2023-2024 GSA VP Student Life's Meetings Attended (Tiffany)**

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 16 January to 24 February 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

Jan 16	Winter Warm Up (GSA Booth)
Jan 16	Council of Residence Associations (CORA) Meeting
Jan 17	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Working
Jan 17	GSA Reading Group: Confessions of an EDI Killjoy
Jan 18	General Faculties Council (GFC) Student Conduct and Policy Committee (SCPC)
Jan 18	Truth Before Reconciliation Webinar
Jan 19	Second tuition town hall
Jan 22	Biweekly meeting with Benjamin Kucher (IGSA President) RE: VPIR position
Jan 22	Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) Support team meeting
Jan 23	Meeting with Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) Dean and Indigenous Graduate Students Association (IGSA)
Jan 23	Student Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Network
Jan 23	International Students' Association (ISA)/GSA Regular Meetings
Jan 25	EDI Plan Steering Committee Monthly Meeting
Jan 26	Meeting with Tim Ira, Strategic Initiatives Officer—College of Social Sciences and Humanities
Jan 26	Coffee Break
Jan 31	SEAP Launch
Feb 2	Meeting with Carrie Smith, Vice-Provost EDI
Feb 5	Consultation with Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost Indigenous Programming and Research RE: GSA Vice-President Indigenous Relations position
Feb 5	GSA Reading Group: Race in the Marketplace
Feb 7	Alumni Career Services Committee
Feb 8	Consultation with Faculty of Arts Indigenous Council RE: GSA Vice-President Indigenous Relations position
Feb 12	Biweekly meeting with Benjamin Kucher (IGSA President) RE: VPIR position
Feb 12	Residence Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting
Feb 12	CORA meeting
Feb 14	Consultation with Carrie Smith, VP EDI RE: GSA Vice-President Indigenous Relations position
Feb 15	Minimum Guaranteed Funding Town Hall
Feb 16	Consultation with Indigenous Students' Union RE: GSA Vice-President Indigenous Relations position
Feb 20	University of Alberta Safety & Security Committee (UASSC)
Feb 21	GPS Council
Feb 22	SGBV in WIL Working group
Feb 23	Meeting with Carrie Smith, VP EDI
Feb 23	EDI Plan Steering Committee Monthly Meeting
Feb 24	Biweekly meeting with Benjamin Kucher (IGSA President) RE: VPIR position

**GSA Chief Returning Officer  
Report to GSA Council for the 26 February 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Sophie Shi  
Date: 23 February 2024

Hello everyone,

Voting in the GSA General Election, the GSA Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, and four Referenda will begin tomorrow, Tuesday, 27 February at 10:00 AM and will close on Thursday, 29 February at 10:00 AM. The link to the ballots for the General Election and Referenda will be circulated directly to all graduate students, please note that only international students will be able to vote in the ISA Referendum. The link to the ballot for the Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour will be circulated directly to all academically-employed graduate students.

Alongside the Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, my main message to you is:

**I urge you to encourage all graduate students to vote in the 2024 GSA General Election, the 2024 GSA Election of Associate Vice-President Labour, and the Referenda! You can learn more by visiting [HERE](#)**

If you have questions in regard to anything related to the voting process, please don't hesitate to contact me via email at [gsacroff@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsacroff@ualberta.ca), and I will be glad to help.

Best,

Sophie Shi, GSA Chief Returning Officer

**GSA Nominating Committee  
Report to GSA Council for the 26 February 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Violet Sun  
Date: 23 February 2024

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](mailto:qiuyu@ualberta.ca) or GSA Elections Coordinator Monica Brzak at [gsanomco@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsanomco@ualberta.ca).

### GSA Standing Committees

**1) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB (Three (3) Councillor Positions)**

Information regarding the positions for three (3) GSA Councillors was circulated via email on 23 January, and 1 and 8 February 2024 with a nomination deadline of 13 February 2024. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

**2) GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB (One (1) Member Position)**

Information regarding the positions for one (1) position was circulated in the GSA newsletter of 23 January, and 1 and 8 February 2024 with a nomination deadline of 13 February 2024. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

**3) GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) (One (1) Member Position)**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy for GSA members was circulated in the GSA newsletter of 23 January, and 1 and 8 February 2024 with a nomination deadline of 14 February 2024. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**4) GSA Nominations Committee (GSA NoC) (One (1) Member Position)**

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy for GSA members was circulated in the GSA newsletter of 23 January, and 1 and 8 February 2024 with a nomination deadline of 14 February 2024. **No nominations were received; this vacancy will be advertised again.**

**5) GSA Board and GSA Nominating Committee (GSAB/NoC) (Two (2) Joint GSA Councillor Positions)**

Information regarding the position for two (2) GSA Councillors has been circulated via email to GSA Council many times. **No nominations were received; these vacancies will be advertised again.**

**GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC)  
Report to GSA Council for the 26 February 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Andrew Poholka  
Date: 23 February 2024

Dear Council Colleagues,

The campaign period for the General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour started on 14 February 2024 and is ongoing; voting in the GSA General Election, the GSA Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, and four Referenda will begin tomorrow, Tuesday, 27 February at 10:00 AM and will close on Thursday, 29 February at 10:00 AM. Throughout the campaigning and voting periods, and as per GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.18.1, “the GSA ERC will advise the CRO on all matters pertaining to elections, referenda, and by-elections.”

My main message as GSA ERC chair, along with that from the CRO is:

**I urge you to encourage all graduate students to vote in the 2024 GSA General Election, the 2024 GSA Election of Associate Vice-President Labour, and the Referenda! You can learn more by visiting [HERE](#)**

Sincerely,  
Andrew Poholka, Chair of the GSA ERC

**GSA Executive Director  
Report to GSA Council for the 26 February 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council  
From: Lewie Moodley  
Date: 23 February 2024

Dear Members of the GSA Council,

This office has had a busy start to 2024, we are straight into the election season with voting this week. We have processed a sizable amount of student grant applications and reviewed a few emergency appeals. The office has held coffee breaks and a town hall meeting over the past month.

The staff have been involved in supporting the board with developing a new survey around evaluating the mental health of graduate students at the university. This survey is now closed and we received a record number of respondents, over 827 students completed the survey. I have been working with Studentcare to help negotiate a lower premium for our Health and Dental care plan as well as meeting with other providers such as Alberta Bluecross.

Our dedicated staff are currently working hard to prepare for the Awards Night scheduled for March 2024. The committee overseeing this event convenes regularly, with staff actively participating in the administrative aspects. Additionally, our team has been diligently working on formulating the 2024-2025 budget and a comprehensive three-year financial plan for the GSA. This budget was passed by the Budget and Finance committee on February 21. These crucial documents are set for presentation to the council in March, following a thorough review by the board on February 28.

The office is enthusiastic with all the activity, and we are in close collaboration with the board to achieve our targets. The staff and board's continued support is invaluable as we navigate through this busy period.

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, 24 January 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on **17 January 2024**.

### 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

- Working on sourcing quotes for the Health and Dental plan by meeting with potential alternative providers. I will be meeting with the Alberta blue cross in the coming weeks.
- Grants are on budget and we have 20 to process this week before eform deadline of Jan 19. We are in the final stages of picking the new grant processing software. We have screened two potential companies so far and one more to go.
- Facebook Reach: -58% (vs Jan 17) Followers: + 3 new followers (current: 2038) Instagram Reach: - 16.4% Followers: -1 new followers (current: 1189) Twitter/ X Followers:+1 1346).

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

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

#### 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

- I met with Alberta Blue Cross and discussed our needs, they are working on a quote for us. They plan to present to the board in the coming weeks once they have a quote.
- Grants are on budget and we have 20 to process this week before eform deadline of Jan 19. We are in the final stages of picking the new grant processing software. We have screened two potential companies so far and one more to go.
- Beyond the General Election, Election of the Associate VP Labour, and the Referenda, NoC is running openings for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board - 3 Councillor positions (advertised via email to Council), GSA Appeals and Complaints Board - 1 GSA Member position (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee - 1 GSA Member position (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Nominating Committee - 1 member position (advertised via Newsletter), and one GSA Board/Nominating Committee joint position - 1 Councillor position (advertised via email to Council).
- Facebook Reach: -32.7%(vs Jan 24) Followers: + 5 new followers (current: 2040) Instagram Reach: - +57.2% Followers: +7 new followers (current: 1197) Twitter/ X Followers: -1 1343).

**Management Report to the GSA Board, 7 February 2024**

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

**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**

- Grants are now closed until the new Fiscal year, we have paid out close to \$960,000 across all our grants.
- The General Election, Election of the Associate VP Labour, and the Referenda, NoC is running openings for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board - 3 Councillor positions (advertised via email to Council), GSA Appeals and Complaints Board - 1 GSA Member position (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee - 1 GSA Member position (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Nominating Committee - 1 member position (advertised via Newsletter), and one GSA Board/Nominating Committee joint position - 1 Councillor position (advertised via email to Council).
- Facebook Reach: -77.6% (vs Jan 31) Followers: + 1 new follower (current: 2041) Instagram Reach: -50.1% (vs Jan 31) Followers: + 1 new followers (current: 1198) Twitter/ X Followers: -2 followers (1344)

**Associate Director update**

- Labour Update - Helping the Associate VP Labour to draft job descriptions for the Outreach Coordinator and Chief Steward positions. They will be chosen from the current LRC membership. Elections were held to fill a vacant position on LRC recently and we continue to get applications for Faculty Stewards.
- A bargaining survey will soon be shared with academically employed graduate students to get their feedback on issues of importance for them in relation to their assistantship positions.

**Management Report to the GSA Board, 14 February 2024**

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

**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**

- Grants spending is under review, and we plan to reopen for Emergency Bursaries this week for a short period to help students who have experienced emergencies in the recent weeks.
- The General Election, Election of the Associate VP Labour, and the Referenda are in full swing, nominations close tomorrow. NoC is running openings for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board - 3 Councillor positions (advertised via email to Council), GSA Appeals and Complaints Board - 1 GSA Member position (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee - 1 GSA Member position (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Nominating Committee - 1 member position (advertised via Newsletter), and one GSA Board/Nominating Committee joint position - 1 Councillor position (advertised via email to Council).
- Facebook Reach: +34.2% (vs Feb 7) Followers: + 1 new follower (current: 2042) Instagram Reach: +46.3% (vs Feb 7) Followers: + 2 new followers (current: 1200) Twitter/ X Followers: +2 followers (1346)
- The Mental health survey has reached over 500 students and has a week to go before we close it.

**Associate Director update**

- The Award Selection Committee will meet on Tuesday evening to declare award recipients for 2024. All recipients will be notified within the coming week.
- Labour news, the Bargaining survey should go out this week.

## Management Report to the GSA Board, 21 February 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on **14 February 2024**.

### 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

- Grants spending is under review, and we plan to reopen for Emergency Bursaries this week for a short period to help students who have experienced emergencies in the recent weeks. We will process 32 grants in this period.
- The General Election, Election of the Associate VP Labour, and the Referenda are in full swing, campaigning has begun. NoC is running openings for GSA Appeals and Complaints Board - 3 Councillor positions (advertised via email to Council), GSA Appeals and Complaints Board - 1 GSA Member position (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Elections and Referenda Committee - 1 GSA Member position (advertised via Newsletter), GSA Nominating Committee - 1 member position (advertised via Newsletter), and one GSA Board/Nominating Committee joint position - 1 Councillor position (advertised via email to Council)
- Facebook Reach: +34.2% (vs Feb 7) Followers: + 1 new follower (current: 2042) Instagram Reach: +46.3% (vs Feb 7) Followers: + 2 new followers (current: 1200) Twitter/ X Followers: +2 followers (1346)
- The Mental health survey has reached over 500 students and has a week to go before we close it.

### Associate Director updates

- Award recipients will be notified this week and planning is underway for the Awards Night on March 15th. The Bargaining Survey went out late last week and so far we have 194 responses. Members of the Labour Committee will be door knocking and tabling over the next couple of weeks to create awareness.
- I am currently doing some research on a couple of fronts: developing role descriptions for the new Labour Outreach Coordinator and Chief Steward and I am looking at the U of C's system for Departmental Graduate Associations and Graduate Student Groups in hopes that we can refine our systems here to allow for more continuity in GSA Council.