

GSA Council Meeting - List of Reports Circulated
Monday, 15 July 2024
Cancelled

Attachments	Attached Numbered Pages
1. Minutes from the 24 June 2024 GSA Council Meeting	1.0 - 1.5
2. President (Haseeb Arshad, President) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. President's Report 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 (no written report at this time) 	2.0-2.2
3. Vice-President Academic (Rija Kamran, Vice-President Academic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-President Academic's Report 	3.0
4. Vice-President Student Life (Benjamin Kucher, Vice-President Student Life) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vice-President Student Life's Report ● GSA Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee (no written report at this time) 	4.0 - 4.3
5. Vice-President Student Services (Saad Iqbal, Vice-President Student Services) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-President Student Services' Report 	5.0 - 5.2
6. Vice-President External (Mariam Mughees, Vice-President External) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vice-President External's Report ii. GSA Awards Selection Committee (no written report at this time) 	6.0 - 6.1
7. Associate Vice-President Labour (Muneed Raja, Associate Vice-President Labour) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Associate Vice-President Labour's Report ● GSA Labour Relations Committee (no written report at this time) 	7.0 - 7.1
8. Senator (Ola Mabrouk, Senator) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Senator's Report (no written report at this time) 	
9. Speaker (Farhan Khalid, Speaker) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Speaker's Report (no written report at this time) 	
10. Chief Returning Officer (Sophie Shi, Chief Returning Officer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Chief Returning Officer's Report (no written report at this time) 	
11. GSA Nominating Committee (Arseniy Belosokhov, GSA Nominating Committee Chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. GSA Nominating Committee Report (no written report at this time) 	
12. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (Andrew Poholka, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Vice-Chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Report (no written report at this time) 	
13. GSA Management (Lewie Moodley, Executive Director) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Executive Director's Report 	13.0 - 13.4

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion **PASSED**.

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

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

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

Motion **PASSED**.

MOTION to APPROVE 4 June 2024 Minutes.

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

Motion **PASSED**. 1 Abstained.

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

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

GSA Council Member Announcements

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

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

Action Items:

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

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

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

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

Motion **PASSED**.

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

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

Motion **PASSED**. 1 Abstained.

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

Haseeb Arshad (President) presented the item

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

BK MOVED. HA SECONDED.

Motion **PASSED**.

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

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

Motion **PASSED**. Two abstained.

Presentation Items:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reports

11. President

i. **President's Report:**

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

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

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

ii. GSA Board

No written report at this time

iii. GSA Budget and Finance Committee

No written report at this time

iv. GSA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report

No written report at this time

v. GSA Governance Committee

No written report at this time.

12. Vice-President Academic

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

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

13. Vice-President Student Life

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

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

14. Vice-President Student Services

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

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

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

15. Vice-President External

i. Vice-President External's Report

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

16. Associate Vice-President Labour

i. Associate Vice-President Labour's Report

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

ii. GSA Labour Relations Committee

No written report at this time.

17. Senator (Ola Mabrouk)

• Senator's Report

No written report at this time.

18. Speaker (Farhan Khalid)

• Speaker's Report

No written report at this time.

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

i. Chief Returning Officer's Report

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

ii. Deputy Returning Officer's Report

No written report at this time.

20. GSA Nominating Committee

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

21. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee

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

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

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

• Executive Director's Report

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

Question Period

22. Written Questions

- No written questions were received.

23. Oral Questions

- No oral questions were received.

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

**2024-2025 President
Report to GSA Council for the 15 July 2024 Meeting**

To: Council Members
From: Muhammad Haseeb Arshad
Date: 2024/07/11

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

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between June 20 to July 11, 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

Date	Meeting
June 24	Meeting with the Provost
June 24	Meeting with NASA Representative
June 28	Moving Through Conflict Meeting with C. Smith, M. Padfield, M. Vinod, L. Glock, T. Tang & T. Raivio
June 28	CSSH Interdisc Grad Meeting
July 4	Meeting with Brad Hamdon, UofA General Counsel
July 4	GIRC Meeting
July 9	U-Pass Discussion
July 11	Governance Committee Meeting
July 11	Meeting with President Flanagan & Chief of Staff
July 11	Meeting with CRO
July 12	FPC Meeting
July 15-20	CASA PoliStrat Conference

Dear Council Members,

I hope this report finds you well and that you are enjoying the summer. The last month has been quiet, with most of the University's admin stakeholders on vacation. I have been preoccupied with brainstorming ideas for revising the GSA bylaws and policies to improve transparency and accountability within our association. However, the GSA Board has already made significant progress with the Strategic Work Plan (SWP), and we will present an update to the Council members at the September council meeting. I look forward to your feedback on the GSA Board's work towards our priorities for the year during that meeting.

One of the major highlights of my month has been advocating for a review of the student conduct policy. In this regard, I have met with Dr. Verna Yiu (Provost & Vice President - Academic), Brad Hamdon (UofA General Counsel), and President Bill Flanagan to discuss the lack of policy language around the unauthorized use of university property by unofficial student groups. I believe this is a significant shortfall in our policy document. Additionally, I proposed that the university improve transparency in decision-making related to calling in the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) by creating an advisory committee on top of the Crisis Management Team (CMT). This committee would include students, faculty, staff, and BIPOC representation to help the CMT make better-informed decisions. Dr. Yiu and Brad have agreed to work on the legal logistics of this advisory board, and I will have more discussions on this demand in my follow-up meetings.

I have also been advocating for explicit financial support for Palestinian students and community members. I felt a great sense of acknowledgement from Dr. Yiu and Bill, as they both agreed to work with Melissa Padfield's office to explore creating this financial support. Additionally, I have formally invited the university's stakeholders to present the six pathways that Carrie Smith (Vice Provost EDI) is leading. The university will be launching a resource hub for the university-wide community, providing guidance on navigating challenging times and the support available from different university administrative blocks.

Furthermore, I believe the university urgently needs a new IT policy, especially regarding communication methods. During my recent interactions with Bill and Dr. Yiu, I discussed how the lack of proper communication is a major hurdle in improving services and supporting graduate students. Bill asked me to write a proposal for my vision of a UofA app, which I have forwarded to him and Dr. Yiu. Some key aspects of the app include e-Class and academic calendar integration, a pedway-based pathfinder within the university, an academic resource hub, transit updates, campus-life events, health and wellness support, and student perks for signing up for university-wide notifications. I firmly believe it is time for UofA to invest significantly in improving its IT infrastructure, given that one of the goals of UofA's Strategic Plan is to improve its global ranking. Our current MyUAlberta app is nowhere near the state-of-the-art apps available at top universities worldwide.

Another noteworthy highlight from my work last month is the productive discussions I had with Dr. Yiu and Melissa regarding increased support for our Graduate Students' Support Fund (GSSF). They both showed strong support for increasing our funding package. Dr. Yiu also acknowledged the critical importance of the GSSF and expressed willingness to explore ways to increase funding in this area. They have asked me for an early proposal, and I am excited to work with Lewie Moodley (GSA Executive Director) to prepare it. I will report on this solid advocacy win going forward.

As we head towards UPass negotiations, Cindy Rose (GSA Associate Director) and I met with Lisa Glock (SU President) and their Manager, Marc Dumouchel, to discuss what the SU plans to put forward as their demands to the city. Recognizing the financial strain that graduate students are experiencing, I conveyed to the SU team that graduate students are already earning well below the low-income cut-off standard (\$29,248) of the city, and the GSA would not support any increase in the UPass fee. Saad Arslan Iqbal (GSA VP Student Services) and Cindy will lead these negotiations for the GSA, and council members will be updated on its progress in the upcoming council meeting.

As part of our ongoing indigenization efforts, I am happy to report that I have signed up for the Federal Policy Committee (FPC) and the Governance and Internal Review Committee (GIRC) of the Canadian Alliance of Students' Association (CASA). My goal is to advocate for necessary changes in CASA's bylaws to include indigenous representatives as voting members on all committees, ensuring that indigenous voices are not only heard but also included in the decision-making process. I will bring forward an initial proposal for this at the upcoming CASA Policy & Strategy (PoliStrat) conference from July 15-20 in Ontario.

I would also like to encourage members to get involved with the GSA to help the executive team execute its mandate by either signing up for vacant positions or ensuring attendance at their respective assigned committees. Currently, we need to fill several vacancies in GSA Standing Committees. The major committee that I need

members to be actively involved in is the Governance Committee (GC). We aim to embark on robust conversations on revising our Bylaws & Policy document, which will guide our resources and ensure better overall execution of GSA's operations. We won't be able to attain this goal without the help and input of GC members, and thus, your involvement is of utmost necessity.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Team for their dedication at the start of the term and the investment they have put into their portfolios as we drafted our SWP and engaged with various internal and external stakeholders to build relationships for our advocacy. I would also like to thank the management team in the office for supporting the executive team. The role of the management team is crucial this year as we engage in substantial changes to our bylaws and policies, which will require extensive research, consultation, and drafting. Additionally, the gains in our advocacy efforts this year necessitate extra support and insightful advice, all provided by staff members, making their role of pivotal importance, for which I am extremely grateful.

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

To: GSA Council
From: Rija Kamran
Date: July 10, 2024

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

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between June 24 2024 to July 10 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

Grad Advisory Committee Meeting (June 24)
Meeting with a Student & VP Labour (June 24)
Meeting with a Student (June 26)
CSSH Interdisc Grad Meeting (June 28)
Meeting with a Student (July 1)
Meeting with a Student (July 3)
Meeting with a Student & VP Labour (July 8)
Meeting with T. Raivio re PD Credits (July 11)
Meeting with a Student (July 15)
Institute EDI Committee (July 15)
ISA (July 22)

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you are having a restful summer. We are spending time moving some of the initiatives forward and preparing for the upcoming academic year. I am continuing to support student cases, and have provided a summary of the advocacy work I have been engaged in since the last council meeting.

(June 24) Grad Advisory Committee Meeting

We had the first Graduate Advisory Committee Meeting for this academic year. I am happy to report that I was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair for the committee. We have started work on identifying priorities for graduate advocacy for this year. These priorities will be detailed and finalized at the policy and strategy conference.

(June 28) CSSH Interdisc Grad Meeting

GSA President, Haseeb and I met Dr. Hellen Vallianatos, Associate Dean Education for College of Social Sciences and Humanities. We discussed the possibility to collaborate on networking events for graduate students over Fall 2024 term and possibility for a research showcase event for Winter 2025.

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

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

GSA VP Student Life Report to Council

To:	GSA Council
From:	Benjamin Kucher, VP Student Life
Date:	July 10, 2024

Date Meeting
June 25 NIAC Delegate Meeting
June 26 NIAC Meeting with Chair
June 28 Meeting with Carrie Smith VP(EDI)
July 2 SEAP CoSponsors Meeting
July 3 NIAC Meeting
July 8 Meeting with Tim Ira, EDI Initiatives
July 9 Meeting with Katherine Huising
July 10 Meeting with CASA ED
July 10 NIAC Meeting
July 11 Governance Committee Meeting
July 12 Meeting with a Student
July 14-20 CASA Policy and Strategy Conference
July 22 International Students' Association Meeting
July 24 Meeting with Tracy Raivio and VP Academic
July 24 Meeting with Ashley Bhatia
July 25 Community Operations Coordination Meeting

July 26 EDI Action Plan Committee Meeting
July 26 Meeting with Carrie Smith VP(EDI)
July 31 Physical Therapy Orientation

GSA Council Report

Date: Jul 10, 2024

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

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you all are enjoying this summer weather and staying cool. As we look forward to the upcoming academic year, I want to update you on the work I'll be doing over the next month to ensure that we are fully equipped to support our graduate students effectively. During this month I'll be focusing on these key areas of focus:

1. GSA and Departmental Orientations

The orientation period is crucial for setting the tone for new and returning students. I am working closely with our team to plan and coordinate orientation sessions for both the GSA as a whole and various departments. The goal is to provide students with essential information, resources, and a welcoming environment that fosters community and engagement from the outset. Our efforts are aimed at increasing the awareness of the different resources and supports that the GSA offers.

2. Securing Further Supports for Students

Recognizing the diverse challenges faced by our graduate students, I and other DEO's are actively working on securing additional support. This includes advocating for increased mental health resources, financial aid, and academic support services. I am in discussions with university administration and other members of the university community to identify where the demands are and obtain the necessary resources that will enhance our students' well-being and academic success. In addition to these resources my goal is to turn this into more than just a continuation of existing support. I am looking into reshaping the supports to better meet the needs of our students, recognizing that a blanket approach as a one size fits all is not working.

3. Readiness to Support Graduate Students

Ensuring that we are ready to support our graduate students is a top priority. This involves streamlining our support services and making them more accessible. I am reviewing our current systems and processes to identify areas for improvement to ensure that we are well-prepared to assist students with a wide range of issues, from academic concerns to personal challenges. My aim is to create a responsive and supportive environment where students feel valued and empowered.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, as we gear up for the new academic year, our collective efforts will be crucial in enhancing the support we provide to our graduate students. By focusing on effective orientations, securing comprehensive support, and streamlining our readiness to assist, we can create an inclusive and empowering environment. I am committed to ensuring that our students feel valued, supported, and equipped for success. Together, we can make this year a transformative one for our graduate community, fostering a strong sense of belonging and well-being. Let's work collaboratively to achieve these goals and make a positive impact on the lives of our students. Please see below for a summary of key meetings and as always please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have or if you would like to have a discussion around what you would like to see. I will link my calendar booking [here](#).

June 28 Meeting with Carrie Smith:

In a recent meeting with Carrie Smith, the Vice-Provost for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), we discussed several critical topics, including the administration's response to the quad encampment. The conversation highlighted the need to repair trust with students following the involvement of the Edmonton Police Service in the removal of a protest encampment on May 11, 2024, which had a significant impact on the university community's trust, especially among those experiencing various forms of racism and discrimination. Carrie outlined ongoing efforts to rebuild this trust, focusing on enhancing transparency, accountability, and communication. Specific support measures being implemented include the launch of micro-mutual aid project grants in July 2024 to support collective practices of holding harm and grief, as well as the development of clear, transparent, and accountable guidelines around the use of surveillance and police in times of protest. Additionally, initiatives are being prioritized to foster freedom of expression, responsible investment, and improved communications during conflicts, aligning with the university's principles and commitments to equity, diversity, and inclusion. These efforts aim to create a more supportive and responsive environment for all students, addressing systemic issues and promoting mutual flourishing within the university community.

July 2 SEAP CoSponsors Meeting:

During the SEAP Cosponsors meeting, we discussed the progress of the Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) and its implementation. Key points included updates on creating safe and

accessible campuses, enhancing transparency and affordability, and enabling academic flexibility. The meeting highlighted completed actions such as accessibility enhancements, cleanliness initiatives, financial literacy support, and new tools for academic planning. It was also noted that an update on the SEAP project will be presented at the September council meeting. For more details, visit [SEAP in Action](#)

July 10 NIAC Meeting:

In our recent NIAC meeting, we set the committee's priorities for the year, focusing on enhancing support for Indigenous students, promoting Indigenous initiatives, and advancing reconciliation efforts. I am pleased to announce my election as the new co-chair of the committee. These priorities align with the GSA's ongoing advocacy work, emphasizing increased mental health resources, financial aid, and academic support services tailored to Indigenous students. We also discussed collaborative projects to foster community engagement and ensure Indigenous voices are central to university decision-making processes. This work is part of the GSA's involvement in CASA and Federal advocacy. An update on these initiatives will be presented at the next council meeting.

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

To: GSA Council
From: Saad A. Iqbal
Date: 11 July, 2024

2024-2025 GSA VP Student Services Meetings Attended

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between June 20 and July 10, 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

Date	Meeting
June 20	Blue Cross Plan Sponsor Benefits Conference
June 20	Meeting with Carrie Smith (Vice-Provost, EDI, UofA)
June 21	Faculty of Arts Graduation and Chancellor’s Installation Greetings + Dinner
June 25	WMHD Working Group Meeting
July 2	CFB Prairie Urban Farm Volunteering
July 4	Meeting with Kumarie-Achaibar Morrison (Director, ISVS, UofA)
July 4	Meeting with A. Peters re Augustana Cohort Events
July 5	Student Group Mental Health Network Planning
July 8	WMHD Working Group
July 8	Meeting with Catherine Lopez (Bredin Early Bird) for Childcare Collaboration
July 9	Meeting with K. Friese (Assistant Dean Health & Wellness)
July 9	Meeting with the Dean of Students
July 9	CFB Prairie Urban Farm Volunteering
July 11	Meeting with T. Raivio, Vice-Provost, re PD Credits

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you're all doing well, in your academic, professional, and personal pursuits. Below are the details of the meetings I have attended between June 20 and July 10, 2024:

June 20, 2024 – Alberta Blue Cross Plan Sponsor Benefits Conference

In this conference, I had a chance to represent the GSA and gather important information about how Alberta Blue Cross optimizes healthcare services by utilizing available technology, tools, information, and existing policies and frameworks to support their clients. Different presenters explained how the organization works as well as answered many important questions raised by the attendees. The information received could be very useful for the GSA in the future.

June 20, 2024 – Meeting with Carrie Smith (Vice Provost EDI)

This was a very productive meeting where the GSA's DEOs met with Dr. Carrie Smith, Vice-Provost EDI and discussed their individual priorities as well as their collective contributions to the GSA's Strategic Plan. Carrie also briefed the DEOs about the role of the Vice-Provost EDI's office and expressed great interest in assisting the GSA in any way possible.

June 25, 2024 – WMHD Committee Meeting

In this committee meeting for the World Mental Health Day, we did extensive brainstorming regarding the campaign's design. Emphasis was placed on the diverse nature of mental health and the importance of balance and support. The goal is to provide participants with various options for managing mental health and to involve faculty and staff in supporting students' and employees' mental well-being. It was also noted that staff's own mental health should also be a key concern.

July 4, 2024 – Meeting with Kumarie-Achaibar Morrison (UAI and GSA Collaboration)

In this meeting, Kumarie briefed me about the conversations and initiatives that have been discussed with Haseeb as the previous VP Student Services. We talked in detail about how we can collaboratively build upon them and initiate different support networks and initiatives to support our international graduate students. In our later meetings, Mariam (VP External) will also be joining these conversations, and we will also be talking about new ideas and initiatives. A summary is as follows:

- **Impact of Issues:** Discussion on how various issues uniquely affect international graduate students.
- **Enhancing Engagement:** Plans to improve orientation and skill-building programs. Previously, Haseeb proposed a container course for work placements and co-op programs. This could be one of the initiatives that can be worked on.
- **Orientation Challenges:** The comprehensive orientation program for international students has weakened over the past four years mainly due to COVID-19. An online orientation program is being developed by the DoS office and staff, and the GSA could contribute on the relevance and visibility of specific information for international graduate students. Kumarie suggested creating distinct domestic and international orientation paths and ongoing evaluation by GSA and UAI.
- **Cultural and Academic Support:** Issues such as communication styles, supervisor relationships, and adapting to Canadian teaching and classroom management were discussed. Previous (and some current) programs have supported these aspects, and similar initiatives could be reinstated through collaborations among the Centre for Teaching and Learning, GPS, and GSA etc.
- **Pre-Departure and Arrival Support:** Currently, pre-departure lounges and support are more streamlined for undergraduates. However, the arrival supports, campus check-ins, and information programs are also

available for graduate students. The GSA can assist in promoting these services via their newsletter and other platforms.

Note: The UAI could use graduate students as volunteers for Campus-Check Ins (grad students providing information and mentorship support to incoming grad students). If interested, councillors can contact Diana Kim at dsk1@ualberta.ca to put their names forward for volunteering.

July 4, 2024 – Meeting with Amy Peters for GSA Coffee Break at the Augustana Campus

In this meeting, I was accompanied by Cindy Roose (GSA Associate Director) and we talked to Amy Peters (Manager, Academic Services – Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, College of Health Sciences) to arrange a coffee break at the Augustana Campus. The GSA periodically arranges these coffee breaks at the North Campus; however, this would be our first coffee break at the Augustana Campus. In the Fall 2024, nearly 50 new graduate students will be joining the Augustana Campus for graduate programs in Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology. This potential coffee break will help the GSA reach out to these graduate students and help them understand the GSA's role in facilitating graduate students as well as provide opportunities to socialize, and converse with the representatives from the GSA. Depending upon some planning-related issues, the coffee break will likely happen at the end of September or early October.

July 5, 2024, Student Group Mental Health Network

The Student Group Mental Health Network is a group of UofA student representatives from different organizations and groups, and staff working collaboratively to advance and support students' mental health. In this meeting, members were briefed about the working dynamics of the network. Members also discussed different ideas to increase engagement with students, and potential social events where members of the network can also get to know each other. More updates on the Network's initiatives will be provided in the upcoming reports.

July 8, 2024 – WMHD Working Group Meeting

In this meeting, members talked about ways the WMHD campaign can be more key message-based rather than event-based, and ideas on how different mediums and platforms can be utilized to disseminate more information and gauge more attention. The group also brainstormed on different ideas, preference was given to walk-based, and art-based activities over Q7A and panel discussions. The *#LightUpPurple* campaign from last year was also discussed and members brainstormed on what this year's campaign could look like; such as decorating spaces with purple-themed items, purple kits, stickers and posters in French and English languages etc. A member would also be sharing student reflections on tools for managing stress which will be compiled in an article and shared through YouAlberta blog post.

July 8, 2024 – GSA's Collaboration with Bredin Early Bird for Childcare Services

In this meeting, I was accompanied by Lewie Moodley (GSA Executive Director) while discussing matters with Catherine Lopez (Director, Bredin Early Bird) and providing support to graduate students who parent. Lewie and I asked a few questions to understand how the Bredin Early Bird Childcare Centre works and later explained that the GSA would like to collaborate with them in offering discounted rates to our graduate students who parent. The Centre is in the Downtown area and Catherine explained a few details around budgeting, staff capacity, overall work dynamics, and associated childcare fees. After discussing the initiative with the Bredin Early Bird's Board, Catherine shared that the Board has approved a discounted rate of 15% for GSA members who parent. This service could potentially be available starting this Fall term, and the Bredin Early Bird would also join the GSA's on-campus orientation for graduate students.

**2024-2025 Vice-President External
Report to GSA Council for the 15th July 2024 Meeting**

To: GSA Council
From: Mariam Mughees
Date: 15 July 2024

2024-2025 GSA VP External Meetings Attended (Mariam Mughees)

Please find below a list of meetings I attended between 24th June to 15th July 2024 (not inclusive of weekly GSA Board meetings). The meetings were accurate at the time of printing.

Date	Meeting
July 2	GSA Emergency Bursary Review
July 15	Student Housing Stability Working Group
July 18	Alberta Student Post-Secondary Council
July 22	Edmonton Student Alliance Meeting

Dear Council Colleagues,

GSA Emergency Bursary Review (2nd July 2024):

In the recent meeting, three key cases were discussed, focusing on issues surrounding emergency bursary rejections and the underlying reasons for these rejections. It was noted that many applications were being rejected because students did not fully understand the definition of an emergency and were applying for bursaries without meeting the criteria. Despite these rejections, students frequently exercised their right to appeal, even when their applications clearly did not fall into the emergency category. Additionally, a significant concern emerged regarding students' financial management practices, which seemed to contribute to their need for emergency funds. Addressing this issue became a priority in the discussion with board members.

Two main recommendations were made to address these challenges:

- 1. Revising the Appeal Process:** It was suggested that the appeal process be modified to better handle cases where applications are filed under the wrong category. This would involve

implementing a clearer guidance system to help students understand the eligibility criteria before submitting an appeal, thereby reducing the number of inappropriate appeals.

2. **Financial Management Resources for Students:** The board recommended providing students with comprehensive resources on financial management. This initiative would aim to educate students on effective budgeting, saving strategies, and prudent financial practices to reduce their reliance on emergency bursaries.

These recommendations, if implemented, could help streamline the emergency bursary application process and promote better financial habits among students, ultimately reducing the number of improper applications and appeals.

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

To: GSA Council
From: Muneeb Masood Raja
Date: 10 July 2024

2024-2025 GSA Associate VP Labour Meetings Attended

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

Date	Meeting
24 Jun	Meeting with a Student (Confidential)
25 Jun	Meeting with an LRC Member
28 Jun	Weekly Meeting with PSAC Representative
3 Jul	Meeting with PSAC Representative to Discuss a Student Case
4 Jul	Meeting with the LRC Outreach Coordinator
5 Jul	Weekly Meeting with PSAC Representative
8 Jul	Meeting with a Student (Confidential)
11 Jul	Meeting with a Student (Confidential)
12 Jul	Weekly Meeting with PSAC Representative
15 Jul	Bargaining: How it Works and What We Can Achieve
15 Jul	Grievance Handling
16 Jul	Taking Union Basics
16 Jul	Break the Heat

Dear Council Colleagues,

I hope you're all doing well, and that summer is treating you wonderfully. I have attended several meetings between 24 June 2024 and 16 July 2024 which are listed in the table above. Here are the details of the meetings:

(Jun 28, Jul 5, 12) Weekly Meeting with PSAC Representative

Our recent meetings focused on planning education sessions for academically employed graduate students and LRC members. We have organized three comprehensive training sessions and a social event scheduled for next week. These sessions aim to provide valuable knowledge about their rights as graduate student workers and enhance the professional development of our members. Additionally, we discussed our upcoming bargaining process and the continued support from the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC).

(Jul 4) Meeting with the LRC Outreach Coordinator

In our recent meeting, I outlined the roles and responsibilities to our newly appointed Outreach Coordinator and how this role can support the union effectively. A few key areas of discussion include enhancing the union's presence, establishing stronger connections with student groups, increasing involvement from GSA councillors, and collaborating closely with the LRC Chief Steward to strengthen our steward network. I will be providing direct support to the Outreach Coordinator in every possible capacity to ensure we achieve the objectives envisioned when creating this role.

Bargaining Update

Our current Collective Agreement expires in August 2024, and according to the terms of the agreement, we are set to start bargaining. The bargaining mandate was approved in May by 96.4% of the membership. Recently, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) assigned us a negotiator which completes our negotiating team. On June 27th, our team sent the notice to the university to commence collective bargaining. We have also received a response from the university providing their team members and signatories of the collective agreement. The negotiating teams from both parties will meet later this month to discuss the bargaining process. In the meantime, we are working on the initial draft, based on the bargaining mandate and the feedback received from AEGSS, which will then be presented to the university.

The GSA Negotiating Team consists of the following individuals:

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

Upcoming Education

We have scheduled three educational sessions for next week: Talking Union Basics, Bargaining, and Grievance Handling. The first two sessions will be open to all union members, while Grievance Handling, being a more specialized training, will be available exclusively to LRC members. These sessions are part of our ongoing commitment to empower our members by ensuring they are well-informed about their rights as graduate workers. We will continue to provide such opportunities to foster knowledge and advocacy within our community.

I would really appreciate any feedback from the respected council members related to any labour related matters.

In Solidarity,

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

GSA Executive Director
Report to GSA Council for July 15 2024 Meeting

To: GSA Council
From: Lewie Moodley
Date: July 15 2024

Dear Members of the GSA Council,

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

1. New Website Design Underway

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

2. Preparing for Annual Audit

RSM Canada is reviewing our financial records, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, and implementing best practices in financial management. This audit is essential for maintaining transparency and accountability in our financial operations. We will have a report from RSM for our September BFC and a subsequent board meeting before being available for the council to review.

3. Updating Bylaw and Policies

Our team alongside our summer intern is in the process of updating the GSA bylaws and policies to reflect current best practices and address any gaps or inconsistencies. These updates are aimed at improving governance, enhancing clarity, and ensuring that our policies remain relevant and effective. Furthermore we are in consultation with the relevant committees such as ERC, Governance, ACB and so on for feedback.

4. Health and Dental Plan

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

5. Good Grants Platform

We are in the process of implementing our new grants management software called Good Grants. This advanced platform is designed to streamline our grants application and administration processes, making it more efficient and user-friendly for both applicants and administrators. We are excited to announce that the software will be fully operational and ready for use in September. This upgrade is a significant step forward in enhancing our capabilities and supporting graduate students more effectively.

6. Orientations and Events

The office is in the midst of preparations for the upcoming Fall orientation. We are diligently booking departmental orientations and scheduling a variety of social events to ensure a warm and engaging welcome for our new and returning students. These efforts are aimed at fostering a sense of community and providing valuable information to help students navigate their academic journey successfully. We are excited about the activities we have planned and look forward to a vibrant and productive start to the new academic year.

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

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

Sincerely,

Warm Regards

Lewie Moodley, Executive Director.

Management Report to the GSA Board, June 26 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on June 19 2024.

Executive Director update:

- Grants are closed, however, we have approved 4 outside of the regular quarter. We processed 4 applications that we were waiting for documents from, totalling \$6500. I am working with the VP External to set up an Emergency Bursary committee to review a rejected application. All forms in Good Grants will be completed by the end of the week and we will continue training with our specialist on next steps to have it set up.
- We are preparing for our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report. RSM will begin our audit on the week of June 24.
- Social Media updates:
 - Facebook Reach: -90.6.1% (June 11-June 25); Followers: no change (current: 2049)
 - Instagram Reach: -94.51% (June 11-June 25); Followers: no change (current: 1297)
 - Twitter/X Followers: -2 Followers (1351)
- Our new website design is underway and will be ready to launch in August 2024. Our new logo is now live and being used on documents and we are making changes to all our materials and assets.
- The office is currently working on reviewing our Bylaw and Policies updates with the help of our intern.
- Elections for the PGSA, ACB and NoC are in full swing, with many more planned for next month - Standing Committee and Department vacancies. Many new Councillors have just started that are getting organized with paperwork and Council information.
- Orientation event meetings starting next week.

Management Report to the GSA Board, July 3 2024

Management has been engaged with the following issues since the last GSA Board meeting on June 26 2024.


Executive Director update:

- Grants are closed, however, we have approved 4 outside of the regular quarter. I worked with the VP External to set up an Emergency Bursary committee to review confidential rejected applications. All forms in Good Grants have been completed and we will continue training with our specialist on next steps to have it set up.
- Our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report. RSM began our audit this week.
- Social Media updates:
 - Facebook Reach: +1.4k% (June 25-July 2); Followers: no change (current: 2049)
 - Instagram Reach: +1.9k% (June 25-July 2); Followers: +1 follower (current: 1298)
 - Twitter/X Followers: +1 follower (1352)
- Our new website design is underway and will be ready to launch in August 2024. Our new logo is now live and being used on documents and we are making changes to all our materials and assets.
- The office is currently working on reviewing our Bylaw and Policies updates with the help of our intern.
- We met with the PBAS group and heard their pitch for our health and dental plan. I have also been meeting with Studentcare around their proposal.

Management Report to the GSA Board, July 10 2024

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

Executive Director update:

- 
- Grants are now open again for summer. All forms in Good Grants have been completed and we will continue training with our specialist on next steps to have it set up.
 - Our annual audit with RSM Canada; this is an annual financial report. RSM began our audit and is ongoing.
 - Social Media updates:
 - Facebook Reach: -69.9% (July 2-July 9) Followers: + 1 follower (current: 2050)
 - Instagram Reach: -71% (July 2-July 9) Followers: -1 follower (current: 1297)
 - Twitter/ X Followers: -2 followers (1350)
 - Our new website design is underway and will be ready to launch in August 2024. Our new logo is now live and being used on documents and we are making changes to all our materials and assets.
 - The office is currently working on reviewing our Bylaw and Policies updates with the help of our intern.

Associate Director update:

- There are a few labour training workshops next week including: Bargaining, Talking Union Basics, and Handling Grievances (LRC members only) and LRC will be hosting a lunch as well. The negotiating team has met with the lead negotiator assigned to the GSA and the team will participate in some training in early August.
- The Notice to Bargain has been sent and a response has been received by the U of A bargaining team. A timeline for negotiations will be set in August.