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Item 1: Agenda

Monday, June 23, 2025

Held hybrid in 2-100 Council Chambers

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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

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

GSA SPEAKER:

Zain Patel in the Chair

GSA DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Amirah Nazir

CLOSED SESSION:

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

Time	Item #	Page #	Title	Presenter(s)
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5:00	-	1	Land Acknowledgement	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
1 min	1	2-5	Approval of the Agenda for June 23, 2025 GSA Council	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
1 min	2	TBA	Approval of the GSA Council Minutes of May 26, 2025 GSA Council	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
2 min	3		Changes in GSA Council Membership	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
2 min	4		Announcements	
10 min	5	7-11 12-14 15-17 18-22 23-26	<p><u>ELECTIONS</u></p> <p>A. GSA Appeals & Complaints Board: a. Five vacancies b. Three nominations</p> <p>B. GSA Chief Returning Officer: a. One vacancy b. One nomination</p> <p>C. GSA Speaker: a. One vacancy b. One nomination</p> <p>D. GSA Senator: a. One vacancy b. Two nominations</p> <p>E. GSA Budget & Finance Committee: a. One vacancy b. Three nominations</p>	A. Belosokhov, NoC Chair

30 min	6		<p><u>CLOSED SESSION</u> All guests and staff (barring management) will temporarily leave the room for this discussion.</p>	
30 min	7		<p><u>INFORMATION PIECES</u> Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. GSA President: Aashish Kumar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. President’s Report b. GSA Board Report c. GSA Budget & Finance Committee Report d. GSA Governance Committee Report B. Vice-President Academic: Chen Okafor C. Vice-President Student Life: Hazel Kemuma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. GSA Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Report D. Vice-President Student Services: Saad Iqbal E. Vice-President External: Niloufar Mir Fallah F. Associate Vice-President Labour: Nathan Lamarche <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. GSA Labour Relations Committee G. GSA Senator: Ola Mabrouk H. GSA Speaker: Zain Patel I. Chief and Deputy Returning Officers: Sophie Shi & Temi David J. GSA Nominating Committee Chair: Arseniy Belosokhov K. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair: Elsie Osei L. GSA Management 	<p>*NRS: No report submitted *NMS: No meeting scheduled</p>
30 min	8	TBA	<p><u>PRESENTATION ITEMS</u> A. GSA 2025-2026 Strategic Work Plan Update Presentation</p>	<p>A. Kumar, GSA President</p>

30 min	9	27-41 42-43 44-49 50-53	<p><u>ACTION ITEMS:</u></p> <p>A. Submitted Motions to Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outline of Issue - Councillor-led Motion Procedure b. Outline of Issue - Bylaw Update Procedure c. Outline of Issue - Bylaw Update Procedure d. Outline of Issue - Standing Committee Attendance, Accessibility & Advertising e. Outline of Issue - Standing Committees & Confidentiality f. Outline of Issue - Impeachment & Vote of No Confidence Procedure g. Outline of Issue - AVP Labour Voting Rights <p>B. That GSA Council APPROVE the Governance Committee-Recommended Bylaw and Policy Revisions, Section F: First Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outline of Issue: Section F b. Section F Revisions <p>C. That GSA Council APPROVE the Governance Committee-Recommended Bylaw and Policy Revisions, Section J: First Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Outline of Issue: Section J d. Section J Revisions <p>D. That GSA Council APPROVE the Governance Committee-Recommended Bylaw and Policy Revisions, Section K: First Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Outline of Issue: Section K f. Section K Revisions 	<p>N. Lamarche, AVP Labour</p> <p>A. Kumar, GSA President</p>
15 min	10		<p>Question Period</p> <p>1. Written Questions (May be submitted to the GSA Speaker before 4:00 PM on Thursday, June 19, 2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Question from N. Morley, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences Councillor: GSA Bylaw and Policy, 	

			<p>section K.BYL.1.2 states, "GSA Council will receive a recommendation on the annual operating and capital budgets, together with a recommended three (3) year budget and business plan, no later than its March regular meeting." As we found out during the latest budget proposal, the university requires a finalized budget by early May, effectively leaving Council with two regular sessions to approve the budget. Two regular sessions does not provide Council with much time to work with the Board and BFC to resolve a contentious budget, and failure to pass a budget during the regular April meeting would have a disastrous impact on the financial viability of the GSA. Are there any external reasons why the bylaws stipulate a March deadline? Or is this an internal deadline that can be amended to provide Council with more time to collaborate with the Board and BFC to resolve any budgetary issues?</p> <p>2. Oral Questions</p>	
	11		Adjournment	

Item 4a: Nominees for GSA ACB Vacancies

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA Appeals & Complaints Board Election (4 POSITIONS):
THREE (3) NOMINEES**

Information regarding the positions for four (4) GSA Members were advertised via the GSA website and newsletter on March 31st, April 4th, April 11th, and were extended again on April 29th (advertised May 2 and 9), with a nomination deadline of May 13th. Three (3) nominations were received for the vacancies. The nominees were interviewed by the GSA NoC Chair who has been trained in procedural fairness by the GSA and has a record of demonstrating impartiality through their work on the GSA NoC. A member of GSA management was also present for the interview. During the interview, the nominees were asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB receive training in procedural fairness).

There will be an electronic vote held at the May 26 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the May 26 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Administrative Coordinator (gsaca@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday May 26 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

1. **Cassandra Cowan (Rehabilitation Medicine)**
2. **Ismail Nasirudeen (Sociology)**
3. **Junqin (Mark) Wang (Medicine)**

Jurisdiction:

Section H.POL.7.1 and H.POL.7.2

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

Section H.POL.8.1

“The GSA NoC will interview all nominees to the GSA ACB and forward selected nominees to GSA Council.”

The name and biography received for the nominees are BELOW. The biography and brief resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).

1. Cassandra Cowan

Statement of Interest:
I want to get involved with the GSA election process. Also, with my experience at Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE), Students' Association Judicial Board (which dealt with non-academic student infractions), I developed skills to appropriately discuss and vote on potentially tense situations respectfully and assertively.
Bio:
<p>Current Volunteer Positions: Faculty of Rehab Medicine EDI Action Committee, RMSA, BFC, GFC, GPS, Prairie Rehab Conference Planning Committee, Green and Gold, GSA (general counsellor).</p> <p>In addition to the current committees that I serve on, at CUE, I have previously been a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Counsellor (Students' Association) - VP of finance and acting Vice President (Science Union) - Student Ambassador - General member of the Mental Health Committee (Students' Association) - Policy and Governance Committee (Students' Association) - Student Representative of Advisory Health Summit Committee (Mental Health Alberta) <p>In addition to my involvement with the CUE Students' Association—Judicial Board, I have also volunteered within hospital units, worked in retail during the COVID-19 pandemic, and worked at the Edmonton International Airport. These instances have primed me to address concerns and maintain vital policy in a variety of evolving circumstances.</p>

2. Ismail Nasirudeen

Statement of Interest:

As a current MA student and incoming first-year PhD student, I am eager to take a more active role in shaping the academic and social environment of our university. While I have not previously held student leadership positions during my graduate studies as a MA student, I view the GSA Appeals & Complaints Board as a meaningful opportunity to engage with the governance process, support fairness and accountability, and contribute to a respectful and equitable academic community. I am particularly interested in learning from experienced members of the board, strengthening my skills in critical thinking, impartial decision-making, and collaborative problem-solving. These experiences will not only support my growth as a scholar but also prepare me to be an engaged and responsible participant in academic and institutional life.

Bio:

I have been actively involved in a range of volunteer activities that reflect my commitment to community engagement, leadership development, and service. In Edmonton, I've contributed to environmental sustainability through the City's Root for Trees program, where I supervised youth participants and promoted environmental stewardship. I currently serve as a Mu'adhin at Masjid Al Omari and help foster a spiritually enriching atmosphere during Friday prayers. As a Student Liaison Officer with the Nigerian-Canadian Muslims Edmonton Association, I advocate for the needs of Nigerian Muslim students and ensure their concerns are communicated and addressed. I also play as a Right Back for the Northside Football Club where I strengthen teamwork and discipline. Among others, I have also previously interned with the Nigeria Police in Ilorin, Kwara State while gaining practical exposure to policing and law enforcement operations.

My name is Ismail Nasirudeen, a current MA student in Sociology at the University of Alberta and an incoming PhD student in the same department. My academic training in criminology and sociology, coupled with a strong research focus on race, policing, and systemic inequality, equips me with the analytical skills and critical perspective necessary for fair and informed decision-making. Professionally, I have served as a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) on projects examining police use of force, BIPOC representation in the criminal justice system, and terrorism studies. These roles have honed my skills in qualitative analysis, ethical inquiry, and collaborative problem-solving.

In addition to my academic work, I bring strong leadership and community engagement experience. I currently serve as a Student Liaison Officer for the Nigerian-Canadian Muslims Edmonton Association (NCMEA), where I advocate for student welfare and act as a bridge between community members and organizational leadership. I have also volunteered in various capacities, including as a Mu'adhin at Masjid Al Omari and as a participant in the City of

Edmonton’s Root for Trees program. These roles reflect my commitment to integrity, equity, and service—values that align closely with the mandate of the GSA Appeals & Complaints Board. I am confident that my academic insight, professional experience, and commitment to fairness and accountability would make me a valuable contributor to the Board’s work in upholding the rights and responsibilities of graduate students.

Sincerely,
Ismail Nasirudeen

3. Junqin (Mark) Wang

Statement of Interest:

I am eager to serve on the GSA Appeals & Complaints Board because I firmly believe in the importance of procedural fairness and transparency in our graduate governance. This role offers the unique opportunity to review and decide on appeals and complaints regarding GSA CRO decisions and GSA officer conduct. I am drawn to the challenge of ensuring that every case is evaluated impartially and with meticulous attention to detail. I appreciate that the board provides specialized training on procedural fairness, and I am committed to upholding these high standards. By serving in this capacity, I hope to contribute to maintaining an accountable and respectful environment for all graduate students.

Bio:

My volunteer experiences have equipped me with the skills necessary for a role that demands fairness, clear communication, and impartial decision-making. For example, as Co-President of the UBC Acne Education Project, I organized over 40 educational presentations and workshops, ensuring that information was delivered in a balanced and accessible manner. I have also worked as a Free2BMe Program Volunteer and a Wayfinding Volunteer at the University of Alberta Hospital, where I supported community members in dynamic settings and maintained a neutral, service-oriented approach. Additionally, my role as a Medical Student Committee Member provided me with experience in collaborative policy discussions and decision-making processes. These diverse roles have reinforced my ability to work effectively in a team while remaining unbiased and committed to ethical standards.

I am currently pursuing a Master of Science in Medicine at the University of Alberta, where my rigorous academic background and dedication to research have honed my analytical and critical thinking skills. My studies in medicine, combined with my undergraduate background in Microbiology & Immunology, have provided me with a strong foundation in evidence-based

decision-making. Being bilingual in Mandarin and English enables me to communicate clearly and connect with a diverse range of graduate students. Beyond my academic credentials, my extensive volunteer work has instilled in me a deep commitment to fairness and ethical practice. I have consistently demonstrated the ability to manage responsibilities, collaborate with peers, and handle sensitive issues with impartiality. These experiences, coupled with my attention to detail and readiness to engage in thorough procedural training, make me well-suited to contribute positively to the GSA Appeals & Complaints Board. I am confident that my skills and experiences will help ensure that all appeals and complaints are handled with the utmost integrity and fairness.

Item 4b: Nominees for GSA Chief Returning Officer

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
CRO (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

This position was advertised on the GSA website and in the GSA newsletters of May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 with a deadline of June 6 2025. One (1) nomination was received for the position of CRO and GSA NoC-approved.

There will be an electronic vote held at the June 23 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday June 23 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Administrative Coordinator (gsaca@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday June 23 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

CRO

- 1. Wajid Ali (Civil & Environmental Engineering)**

Jurisdiction:

Section D.BYL.3.1.d

"Council-Elected Officers will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council, for a term lasting from 1 July to 30 June of the following year."

Section E.POL.3.2.a

"The GSA NoC provides GSA Council with the names of nominees for all GSA Council-Elected Officer positions. These positions will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement."

Section E.POL.3.2.b

"Prior to forwarding the names of nominees for GSA Council-Elected Officer positions, the GSA NoC will review the resumes and bios received with reference to eligibility criteria as set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy and will forward the names of nominees who meet the eligibility criteria to GSA Council."

Biographies and brief resumes of the nominee(s) for CRO are BELOW. Biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).

1. Wajid Ali (Civil & Environmental Engineering)

<p>Statement of Interest</p> <p>Currently, I am volunteering only as a member of the academic appeal committee of the GFC, and I feel I have time to serve the graduate students of the UoA by offering my services as CRO to ensure transparency, impartiality, and fairness in the election process.</p> <p>In the last couple of years, I have noticed that students had grievances about some decisions made during the elections. If selected, I would work with the ERC and other team members to develop a mechanism that can effectively address graduate students' concerns in a positive manner and prevent any procedural unfairness during GSA elections.</p>
<p>Bio</p> <p>Volunteer Experience:</p> <p>Member of the Program Committee</p> <p>GSA nominee/member for the GFC</p> <p>NASA steward for the student staff at the UoA residence</p> <p>Member Academic Appeal Committee of the GFC</p> <p>I am a fourth-year PhD student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the UoA. I hold bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering. As a graduate student at UoA, I have maintained an impressive academic track record in both my coursework and research.</p> <p>Prior to joining the University of Alberta, I served as a lecturer at the University of Engineering & Technology Peshawar, Pakistan. During my tenure there, I was the academic advisor for the student chapter of the Pakistan Institute of Chemical Engineers (PIChE) at UET Peshawar. My responsibilities included overseeing their annual events, managing the electoral system, and</p>

approving event proposals. Additionally, as the undergraduate semester coordinator, I served as the first point of contact for students regarding academic issues, scholarships, and disciplinary matters. In 2018, I supervised the general elections as a presiding officer for members of provincial and national assemblies in Pakistan. This role required long hours of focused work with a diverse team, demanding quick decision-making and adaptability.

In previous roles as a deputy program manager and project coordinator at non-profit organisations, I coordinated and oversaw various activities. These positions involved meticulous planning, mapping daily, weekly, and monthly tasks, and assisting with preparation for successful execution. I managed logistics and finances to ensure smooth operations and was actively involved from initial planning to final implementation. Through these experiences, I developed proficiency in planning and organising activities in collaboration with teams, ensuring efficient and structured task completion.

At UoA, I served for approximately three years as a Resident Assistant (RA) and then Senior Resident Assistant (SRA) for graduate residences. In these roles, I planned and executed social events in collaboration with graduate students and participated in weekly meetings to address their concerns and discuss future events. I also handled conduct cases and resolved conflicts among residents in various East Campus residences at UoA.

Considering my professional and academic experience, as well as my dedicated involvement in volunteer activities (as stated previously), I believe I am among the most qualified candidates for the position of CRO.

Item 4c: Nominees for GSA Speaker

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA SPEAKER (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): ONE (1) NOMINEE**

This position was advertised on the GSA website and in the GSA newsletters of May 2 and 9 with a deadline of May 16 2025. One (1) nomination was received for the position of Speaker and GSA NoC-approved.

There will be an electronic vote held at the June 23 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday June 23 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Administrative Coordinator (gsaca@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday June 23 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

Speaker

- 1. Zain Patel (Cell Biology)**

Jurisdiction:

Section D.BYL.3.1.d

"Council-Elected Officers will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council, for a term lasting from 1 July to 30 June of the following year."

Section E.POL.3.2.a

"The GSA NoC provides GSA Council with the names of nominees for all GSA Council-Elected Officer positions. These positions will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement."

Section E.POL.3.2.b

"Prior to forwarding the names of nominees for GSA Council-Elected Officer positions, the GSA NoC will review the resumes and bios received with reference to eligibility criteria as set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy and will forward the names of nominees who meet the eligibility criteria to GSA Council."

Biographies and brief resumes of the nominee(s) are BELOW. Biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).

1. Zain Patel (Cell Biology)

Statement of Interest

I have served on GSA Council for over two years – 1 year as a councillor, 1 year as DRO and approximately 6 months as Speaker of the GSA Council. I would like to continue serving as the GSA Speaker. During my time as DRO, I extensively familiarized myself with bylaw and policy, namely for Elections and Referenda, but have also familiarized myself with other relevant pieces such as council structure, meeting procedures, ACB procedures among others. In the last 6 months, I have become increasingly familiarized and involved with changes to bylaw and policy as a whole through participation with the Governance Committee and GSA Board. The role of Speaker is to act as neutral and impartial arbiter of bylaw and policy during Council meetings and I believe I am suited to continue in this role - my experiences to date showcase my ability to provide neutral and impartial perspectives in various situations.

I also believe that familiarity with bylaw and procedures are essential for all council members. I've introduced a couple of initiatives to GSA Council such as GSA Council 101 as a means to provide key information on Council operations and GSA operations to council members as a supplement to any onboarding or training they receive. I hope to continue this initiative going forward. This would also support council attendance and engagement. Council attendance is also crucial to ensure the graduate student base is aware of significant updates and changes and to foster an environment of collaboration and cooperation and debate. Familiarity with bylaw and procedures in council meetings could go a long way to promote better engagement in council. With helpful discussions with a council member, I have also opted to switch Council meetings to a hybrid format to improve accessibility for both councillors and GSA members who wish to observe.

Bio

Volunteer Experience:

Within GSA

- Department Councillor (Nov 2022 to Oct 2023)

- DRO (Oct 2023 to Dec 2024)

- Speaker (Dec 2024 to present/current term ends June 2025)

Outside GSA

- Cell Biology Students Association (events coordinator; 2023-2025)

- Week of Welcome (various positions including general and senior positions between 2018 and 2024)

- NeurAlbertaTech (workshop lecturer; 2021-2023)

Currently I am in my fourth year of a PhD in Cell Biology. During my undergraduate and graduate studies, I have been extensively involved with various initiatives on campus, such as Week of Welcome, NeurAlbertaTech, Cell Biology Students' Association, and the GSA Council. All of my experiences on campus have enabled me to develop key skills in communication, conflict resolution, leadership, problem solving and critical thinking. More recently, I have served as DRO and Speaker for the GSA which has played a significant role in furthering my understanding of GSA operations.

Furthermore, I recognize that there is still much for me to learn, but I believe that the skills I've developed and the experiences I have had over the years will provide an essential framework for my success in the position of GSA Speaker. My aim is ensuring that the Council meetings continue to run smoothly and in accordance to bylaw and policy, and ensuring there is mutual trust and respect between all members of council including DEOs and council members.

Item 4d: Nominees for GSA Senator

**GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA SENATOR (ONE (1) POSITION FOR A GSA MEMBER): TWO (2) NOMINEES**

This position was advertised on the GSA website and in the GSA newsletters of May 2 and 9 with a deadline of May 16 2025. Three (3) nominations were received for the position of Speaker and two were GSA NoC-approved.

There will be an electronic vote held at the June 23 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday June 23 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Administrative Coordinator (gsaca@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday June 23 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

Senator

- 1. Ransford Kyeremeh Agyemang (Nursing)**
- 2. Hussain Alhussainy (Political Sciences)**

Jurisdiction:

Section D.BYL.1.3

*"The GSA has the following GSA Council-Elected Officers:
The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Deputy Returning Officer,
The Senator, and
The Speaker and Deputy Speaker."*

Section D.BYL.3.1.d

"Council-Elected Officers will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council, for a term lasting from 1 July to 30 June of the following year."

Section E.POL.3.2.a

“The GSA NoC provides GSA Council with the names of nominees for all GSA Council-Elected Officer positions. These positions will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement.”

Section E.POL.3.2.b

“Prior to forwarding the names of nominees for GSA Council-Elected Officer positions, the GSA NoC will review the resumes and bios received with reference to eligibility criteria as set out in GSA Bylaw and Policy and will forward the names of nominees who meet the eligibility criteria to GSA Council.”

Biographies and brief resumes of the nominee(s) are BELOW. Biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).

1. Ransford Kyeremeh Agyemang (Nursing)

<p>Statement of Interest</p>
<p>I have an admirable interest in serving in any given capacity to advance the course of students. I understand that, in so much as focusing on the academic chores is intrinsically essential, working collaboratively with like-minded students to ensure the fluidity of student life is also deserving of attention. In view of this, I take so much pride to seek such opportunities to bring my experiences on board to ensure the smooth transition of student leadership during the time available to my dispensation. I am happy to volunteer for this student service committee, to secure a spot to lead, learn and contribute my quota to the need beckoning on the GSA senate office.</p>
<p>Bio</p>
<p>In my undergraduate education, I served as the Executive Senate Secretary of the Students' Representative Council (SRC) of Valley View University, Ghana, and also was elected as the SRC President during the 2017/18 and 2018/19 academic years respectively. I also serve as the President-elect of the Nursing Graduate Students' Association for the 2024/25 academic year.</p> <p>I have developed a full-fledged student leadership, communication, collegial relation, organizational and critical thinking skills over the years. Also, I have a high level commitment and enthusiasm to development and implementation of procedures, policies, and protocols established to the merits of student citizenship and the entire university community. My background as a Senator is a strong personal motivation for me send over this application. Moreover, I am adept to understanding constitutional instruments and their utilization. I am very adaptive to the challenging demands of every commitments I resolve to engage in, and my student-faculty experiences so far as an International Student are a formidable foundation for me to press forward for opportunities available to students in the U of A. I have a hefty conviction of being a better fit for the senator position, and I am happy to serve with the GSA.</p>

2. Hussain Alhussainy (Political Sciences)

<p>Statement of Interest</p>
<p>I am eager to serve as a GSA Senator to help bridge the voices of graduate students, especially those facing systemic barriers. As someone who has advocated extensively for accessibility,</p>

student equity, and inclusive policy across university governance structures, I see the Senate as a powerful venue to further these goals. I'm especially drawn to the Senate's commitment to "inquire, connect, and promote", pillars that resonate deeply with my work on the Council for Disability Cultures and Access (formerly known as the Council on Systemic Ableism) and within the Political Science Graduate Students' Association.

This role offers a chance to champion not only the Academic, professional, and social student experience but also ensure that the Senate's strategic priorities, particularly in equity, diversity, and inclusion, are translated into meaningful engagement with underserved communities. My objective is to serve as both a listener and a representative, advancing student well-being while amplifying critical issues around accessibility, mental health, and representation within institutional policy.

Bio

My experience has prepared me to serve in this role with clarity and purpose. Currently, as Vice President Labour for the Political Science Graduate Students' Association, I advocate for fair working conditions, inclusive departmental practices, and transparent decision-making. I also serve as a Councillor and founding member of the Council for Disability Cultures and Access (formerly the Council on Systemic Ableism), working to advance institutional access and disability justice.

During my undergrad, as President of the Organization for Arts Students and Interdisciplinary Studies (OASIS), (the faculty of arts undergraduate student association), I led faculty-wide consultations on proposed policy changes, secured expanded funding for student services, and launched long-term programming around mentorship, accessibility, and marginalized student voices. I also helped organize inclusive faculty events and completed an accessibility audit to inform infrastructure improvements.

Within university governance, I served on the General Faculties Council, Arts Faculty Council, and Council on Student Affairs, where I engaged in academic policy review, contributed to strategic planning, and relayed student concerns with a focus on equity and inclusion.

These roles have deepened my capacity to represent students across diverse governance contexts and to connect institutional decisions to the realities of those most affected by them.

I am a Master's student in Political Science and a SSHRC award recipient with a strong academic and advocacy background in disability justice, governance, and policy. My research engages with structural inequality in post-secondary systems, and my volunteer leadership has consistently focused on translating these ideas into tangible improvements for students.

Professionally and voluntarily, I bring over five years of experience in student representation and community-based initiatives. As a Councillor and founding member of the Council for Disability Cultures and Access (formerly the Council on Systemic Ableism), I work to advance disability inclusion not only through accessibility measures, but through cultural and institutional change. My leadership in student associations, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, has equipped me with experience in policy review, stakeholder engagement, and inclusive programming.

I bring to the Senate an ability to listen deeply, advocate clearly, and promote the needs of Graduate students.

Item 4e: Nominees for GSA Budget & Finance Committee

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NoC)

**GSA Budget and Finance Committee (ONE (1) COUNCILLOR POSITION)
THREE (3) NOMINEES**

The vacancy was advertised in the GSA Newsletter and on the GSA website on May 23 and 30. The deadline to receive nominations was June 6 2025 at 12:00 PM (Noon). The GSA received three (3) nominations by the deadline.

There will be an electronic ballot vote held at the June 23 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the Monday June 23 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Administrative Coordinator (gsaca@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday June 23 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

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

- 1. Mohammad Hamza (Mechanical Engineering)**
- 2. Jodie Harbarenko (AFNS)**
- 3. Maryam Shahrokhi Sardoo (Dentistry)**

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee, Section K.POL.5.1

"The overall mandate of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee (GSA BFC) is to advise on the financial affairs of the GSA (including the long-term planning and priorities of the GSA in light of its strategic goals) and on the provision of the long-term financial health of the organization."

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section K: Finances, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Budget and Finance Committee, Section K.POL.4.1

The GSA BFC is composed of "one (1) Councillor elected by GSA Council as a voting member."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: Nominating, GSA Policy, Nominating, Section E.POL.3.1.a

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

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

1. Mohammad Hamza (Mechanical Engineering)

<p>Statement of Interest</p> <p>I have a strong interest in financial planning and organizational strategy, and I see this role as an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the long-term financial health of the GSA. My background in engineering management has exposed me to budgeting, project planning, and cost control, which I believe can be valuable to the committee’s work.</p> <p>I’m passionate about student representation and would like to be part of a team that supports graduate students by ensuring the GSA's resources are managed effectively.</p> <p>Serving on this committee would allow me to apply my skills in a real-world setting while learning more about nonprofit financial governance.</p> <p>As an international graduate student, I bring a diverse perspective and a commitment to understanding and supporting the broader student community.</p> <p>I am eager to collaborate with other committee members to ensure transparent, well-informed decisions that reflect the GSA’s strategic goals.</p>
<p>Bio</p> <p>While working at Toyota-Indus Motor Company, I volunteered to assist in cost optimization initiatives, which involved analyzing supplier cost performance and identifying areas for savings without compromising quality. This hands-on involvement gave me exposure to budgeting principles in a high-stakes corporate environment. I supported internal improvement projects where we monitored production inefficiencies and proposed financially responsible solutions—contributing to better budget allocation and resource planning across departments.</p> <p>During my time at NED University, as the Lead Director of Industrial Liaison for the IMechE NED Chapter, I managed external sponsorships and industry partnerships. This included preparing budget proposals, estimating event expenses, and ensuring funds were used effectively—skills that directly relate to committee-level financial planning.</p> <p>I was also part of the marketing and events team for multiple student-led conferences like SENTEC and HVAC ASHRAE, where I helped track event budgets, manage vendor negotiations, and ensure we stayed within our financial limits—all while maintaining the quality of the event experience.</p> <p>These experiences taught me the importance of transparent budgeting, cost-conscious decision-making, and aligning financial planning with organizational goals—values that I am eager to bring to the GSA Budget & Finance Committee.</p> <p>I’m a graduate student currently pursuing my Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with a specialization in Engineering Management at the University of Alberta. With a professional background at Toyota-Indus Motor Company, I’ve had hands-on experience in project management, budgeting, and cost optimization on large-scale initiatives, including a \$100 million vehicle launch. Academically, I’ve taken courses in operations management, supply chain, and project planning, all of which have deepened my understanding of financial strategy and long-term planning. In addition to my professional experience, I’ve been involved in student organizations such as IMechE at NED University, where I handled sponsorships and budgeting for technical events and industry collaborations. I’m also currently engaged in volunteer roles with the U of A International Student Association and the GSA Safe-Walk program.</p>

These combined experiences have equipped me with strong analytical, organizational, and teamwork skills that I believe would make me a valuable contributor to the GSA Budget & Finance Committee.

2. Jodie Harbarenko (AFNS)

Statement of Interest
I would like to become involved with GSA and share my skill set, as well as networking opportunities and skill building. I also look forward to supporting my fellow students and learning more about the work that GSA does.
Bio
<p>Volunteer member of business committee for Nourish Nova Scotia. Volunteer board member for SPCA. Volunteer committee member for Dietitians of Canada Continuing Education in Alberta. Volunteer work with Edmonton Celiac Association, peer support and fundraising. Volunteer work with Kids Action Program.</p> <p>I am a registered dietitian, currently attending U of A to complete my Masters degree, working on the KETO-IM study. I also work part-time as a clinical dietitian in long-term care. My experience as an RD includes food service management work that encompassed aspects of business and finance. Prior to becoming a dietitian, I worked in management and business banking. I also have a diploma in business administration. I believe these skills would be well suited to work on the finance committee for the GSA. I also have prior experience with board and committee work so I am somewhat familiar with governance procedures and operation of non-profit organizations.</p>

3. Maryam Shahrokhi Sardoo (Dentistry)

Statement of Interest
As a graduate student deeply engaged in academic and leadership activities, I am passionate about supporting student-led governance and ensuring responsible financial planning within our community. Serving on the GSA Budget & Finance Committee offers a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the financial stewardship and long-term sustainability of the GSA. I'm particularly interested in helping align the GSA's budget with its strategic priorities and enhancing transparency and value for all members.
Bio
<p>Executive Volunteer, Week of Welcome 2025 – University of Alberta Proctor – University of Alberta</p> <p>Volunteer Dentist – Abolfazl Charity Dental Clinic</p> <p>Dentist – Elderly Care Community Program</p> <p>Executive Staff – First Spring Dental Research School, Shiraz University</p> <p>Executive Staff – 6th Dental Summer School, Shiraz University</p> <p>Executive Staff – 2nd Dental Summer School, Shiraz University</p>

Dentist – World Cavity-Free Future Day, Shiraz University

Executive Staff – 8th International Burn Congress, Iran

I'm a Master's student in Dentistry with a background in both clinical work and academic research. I've organized large student events, volunteered in community dental clinics, and been involved in student groups like the SRG at UAlberta. Through these experiences, I've developed strong teamwork, planning, and communication skills. I enjoy working with diverse teams and contributing to something bigger than myself—especially when it helps fellow grad students. I'd love to bring my mix of organization, leadership, and community focus to this committee and help support smart, sustainable decisions for the GSA.

Item 9a: Submitted Motions to Council - Outlines of Issue

Outline of Issue**Suggested Motion for GSA Council:**

That GSA Council **APPROVE** the below proposal for Councillor-led Motion procedure.

Background:

“The following motion shall be put to the GSA council at the March 2025 meeting. This motion directly proposes a change to the policies.

WHEREAS no current formal structure exists for the proposal of written motions,

AND WHEREAS the creation of a formal structure for the proposal of written motions would help ensure efficiency and clarity in the GSA structure,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a structure for written motions be defined in the GSA policies (and made clearly available to the public through the website) as a requirement for putting forward a motion, in the following structure: all clauses are to be presented in the form of "WHEREAS" and "BE IT RESOLVED THAT," where any number of at least one of the former and at least one of the latter, in that order, and where any additional clauses of each be presented as "AND WHEREAS" and "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT," and where any additional context that is relevant and useful to the discussion of the motion but not contained within the official scope of the motion itself or its component clauses, be added in an optional section entitled "CONTEXT," and that the written motion shall be preceded with a clear statement of which meeting the motion shall be presented at, and for the purposes of clarity shall also clearly state its function in the cases of direct changes to bylaws, direct changes to policies, and indirect proposals to change the policies or bylaws but are first charged to the governance committee to draft.”

Jurisdiction:

C.POL.5.2 Motions (formal proposals that GSA Council take certain actions), are normally accompanied by a Notice of Motion (advance written notice that a Motion will be presented and debated at an

upcoming meeting of GSA Council). Notices of Motion must Section C: GSA Council 14 be presented in time to be circulated with the first mailing of the GSA Council material, as described above.

C.POL.5.2.a To move a Motion, voting members of GSA Council must first be recognized by the Speaker. A Motion must be seconded; a second simply indicates that the seconder agrees that the Motion should be debated and not that the seconder necessarily favours the Motion.

C.POL.5.2.b During discussion and debate, voting members of GSA Council may:

C.POL.5.2.b.i Move an amendment to a Motion. Amendments to a Motion must be germane; that is, they must be closely related to the subject of the Motion.

C.POL.5.2.b.ii Move a Motion to Defer, which enables the discussion of a substantive issue to be put off to a later, specified time.

C.POL.5.2.b.iii Move a Motion to Table, which allows GSA Council to lay aside a Motion until some future time. This Motion is not debatable, except with respect to when the Motion will return to GSA Council.

C.POL.5.2.c Following discussion and debate, a Motion goes to a vote.

C.POL.5.2.c.i Unless otherwise noted, a simple majority vote is needed for a Motion to pass; in the event of a tie a Motion is considered to have failed.

C.POL.5.2.d Voting members of GSA Council may also:

C.POL.5.2.d.i Move a Motion to Refer, which allows GSA Council to refer an issue to another body, usually a GSA Standing Committee.

C.POL.5.2.d.ii Move a Motion to Rescind, which allows GSA Council to cancel or stop an entire Motion that had already been adopted.

C.POL.5.2.d.iii Move a Motion to Reconsider, which allows GSA Council to return to a Motion that has been voted on at the meeting, in an instance where new information emerges or the situation changes, allowing GSA Council to consider and vote anew, as if GSA Council had not previously voted on the Motion.

C.POL.5.2.e GSA Council may vote to close meetings, in which case only GSA Council members and GSA staff may attend; others wishing to attend must have permission extended by GSA Council following a vote.

C.POL.5.2.e.i Open session minutes of GSA Council will be posted on the GSA website. Closed session minutes are confidential. Motions may only be considered in open session.

Outline of Issue

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council **APPROVE** the following changes to Bylaw according to the below stipulations.

Background:

The following motion shall be put to the GSA council at the March 2025 meeting. This motion directly proposes a change to the bylaws.

WHEREAS the current bylaw policy requires all motions to be put to the Speaker prior to the current GSA meeting,

AND WHEREAS any changes to the bylaws currently require two consecutive votes in two months with two-thirds majority each time to pass, creating inefficiency and slow change of process, which hurts the GSA's ability to implement new bylaws and improve the structure of the Bylaws,

AND WHEREAS the current system prohibits rapid response and actions from members on the Floor,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the governance committee be charged with drafting an amendment to the bylaws to grant the GSA council the power to present a motion at any regular GSA meeting without supplying said motion to the Speaker in advance, provided that such a motion be defined as a spoken motion (in contrast to a written motion, which shall be defined as any motion presented in writing to the Speaker in advance) and presented verbally to the floor, and that any spoken motion presented that does not create a change to the budget of one thousand dollars or more be voted upon at the same meeting, and that and that any motion dictating a change of one thousand dollars or more be presented at the same meeting, but voted upon at the following regular meeting. This motion shall act as the first of two votes to approve said bylaw, in order to not delay the process.

Jurisdiction:

F.POL.4 GSA Governance Committee

F.POL.4.1 Composition

F.POL.4.1.a The President, as Chair.

F.POL.4.1.b The Vice-President Student Life, as Vice-Chair.

F.POL.4.1.c Three (3) Councillors or recent former Councillors elected by GSA Council as voting

members.

F.POL.4.1.d The Speaker and Executive Director (or delegate) as non-voting members.

F.POL.4.2 Mandate

F.POL.4.2.a To advise GSA Council on matters of GSA Bylaw and Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governance issues, and recommend changes to GSA Council.

F.POL.4.2.b Make any editorial changes (such as factual inaccuracies and other editorial issues) to the GSA governing documents as deemed necessary by the GSA Governance Committee (GSA GC).

F.POL.4.2.c As per a Motion approved by the GSA GC on 9 August 2013, and subsequently revised by the GSA GC on 29 February 2016, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the GSA GC have delegated authority to approve “purely editorial” changes. “Purely editorial” changes are defined as punctuation, italicization of Latin terms, capitalization, spelling, font, and renumbering.

F.POL.4.3 Meetings

F.POL.4.3.a Quorum is three (3) voting members including either the Chair or Vice-Chair.

Outline of Issue

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council **APPROVE** the following changes to Bylaw according to the below stipulations.

Background:

The following motion shall be put to the GSA council at the March 2025 meeting. This motion directly proposes a change to the bylaws.

WHEREAS the current structure of the GSA bylaws forces a minimum of two months to change with two-thirds vote at each meeting, which acts to discourage motions for changes to the Bylaws,

AND WHEREAS all GSA councillors are expected to attend meetings, such that the presence of councillors is to be expected at each meeting and thus not expected to cause substantial change to the vote,

AND WHEREAS bylaw changes are required in order to improve the ability of the GSA to function and represent the student body,

AND WHEREAS a two-thirds majority is substantial enough that two of such votes need not be Required,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT henceforth, the governance committee be charged with writing an amendment to the bylaws to include that motions to amend the bylaws require only a two-thirds majority at a single council meeting, and need not be approved as well by a standing committee (though functional edits may be made by the governance committee in keeping with the motion's intention, meaning, and spirit, without breaking, changing, or violating its purpose, function, or form), only by the GSA council.

Jurisdiction:

Section Q: GSA Standing Committees, GSA Policy, GSA Labour Relations Committee, Section Q.POL.7.2.d
The GSA Labour Relations Committee will *“make recommendations to GSA Council with respect to GSA Bylaw and Policy on collective bargaining.”*

Section A: Authority, GSA Bylaw, Authority, Section A.BYL.1.2

“These Bylaws ... may be amended by two (2) two-thirds majority votes of GSA Council held on seven (7) calendar days’ notice of Motion and no less than one (1) week apart.”

Section A: Authority, GSA Bylaw, Authority, Section A.BYL.2.2

“GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council.”

Outline of Issue

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council **APPROVE** the following change to GSA Standing Committee attendance, accessibility and advertising.

Background:

The following motion shall be put to the GSA council at the March 2025 meeting. This motion directly proposes a change to the bylaws.

WHEREAS standing committees are expected to uphold the mission of the GSA,

AND WHEREAS the discussions of committees concern all GSA members,

AND WHEREAS transparency is key to the success of the GSA and the involvement of its Members,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT any GSA member may attend but not vote at the meeting of any standing committee except the ACB, without requiring invitation, and that all upcoming meetings shall be advertised on a dedicated page of the GSA website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT relevant accessibility accommodations be made for students as needed to attend such meetings, including remote meetings.

Jurisdiction:

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

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

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

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

Outline of Issue

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council **APPROVE** the following proposal to Standing Committee and confidentiality bylaw and policy.

Background:

The following motion shall be put to the GSA council at the March 2025 meeting. This motion directly proposes a change to the bylaws.

WHEREAS standing committees are expected to uphold the mission of the GSA,

AND WHEREAS secrecy and confidentiality when not needed to protect the privacy, health, and safety of individuals, contribute instead to the detriment of the GSA,

AND WHEREAS there are no bylaws or policies that mandate that standing committees be private, secret, or confidential in nature,

AND WHEREAS such secrecy discourages attendance from non-committee members,

AND WHEREAS the council and committees have a responsibility and expectation of transparency and representation to the graduate student body,

AND WHEREAS the GSA is expected to act with integrity, honesty, and in good faith,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the governance committee be charged with amending the bylaws to mandate all standing committees except the ACB to provide full meeting minutes in addition to the existing summaries, available on the GSA website to the public for all committee meetings within the last three years (to be removed from the website and available upon request after 3 years and deleted after 7), posted no later than 168 hours after the meeting's conclusion, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all recommendations made to a committee must be made public in their totality in the same format as the minutes even if presented outside the scope of a meeting, including all recommendations made to the Budget and Finance Committee by any party, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT no standing committee except the ACB be permitted to hold a closed session or prohibit material from entering the public meeting minutes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT no standing committee hold recess, remain in session, or otherwise extend a single meeting to last for over 24 hours.

C.POL.5.2.e.i Open session minutes of GSA Council will be posted on the GSA website. Closed session minutes are confidential. Motions may only be considered in open session.

H.POL.4.3 All GSA Standing Committee, GSA *ad hoc* committee, and GSA subcommittee members may be requested to sign and abide by confidentiality agreements regarding the information provided or matters discussed at the committee's meetings.

H.POL.5.4 GSA representatives on University committees, councils, and other bodies are expected to uphold the wishes of their committees on all privileged or confidential information.

H.POL.14.8.f The GSA ACB Chair will attend GSA Council and report briefly, in closed session, on Complaints concerning GSA Officer(s) that have been heard and decided.

Outline of Issue

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council **APPROVE** the reintroduction and drafting of an impeachment and vote of no confidence procedure.

Background:

The following motion shall be put to the GSA council at the March 2025 meeting. This motion indirectly proposes a change to the bylaws to be drafted by the governance committee to present to the council at the next GSA council meeting.

CONTEXT: We need a means of holding our executives (and committee chairs) accountable. A method of removing them from office can present itself through two methods: impeachment or a Vote of No Confidence. The GSA has previously had a structure for impeachment and it was removed. This motion proposes that it be reintroduced with some changes that create an ethical system of accountability. The problem here lies in the nature of these two systems. A Vote of No Confidence that immediately removes a DEO from office is flawed because it places the power of removal in the hands of the council members, when that executive was elected by the graduate student body. However, a form of impeachment will either not remove the DEO from their position (and therefore lacks any purpose), will remove them from their position (and therefore is no different from a Vote of No Confidence), or will declare that individual unfit for office and then delegate the decision of their removal to a third party. The third party in this case would be composed of a smaller group of individuals, likely elected by the council, which further distances the process from the democratic system in a similar and more significant way than the Vote of No Confidence, and creates further risk of a lack of accountability. In order to function, this third party would need to be able to reject the removal of the DEO from their office, but this would violate the democratic will of the GSA. If this third party is assumed to agree with the GSA's Impeachment vote, then there is no purpose to their existence. Considering all of this, the following process is presented as an ethical and accountable approach that permits greater involvement from the graduate student body.

WHEREAS the GSA council and graduate student body has no means of holding executive officers accountable,

AND WHEREAS the ability to hold executive officers accountable is a required element of a functioning structure,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the governance committee be charged with drafting a bylaw that

shall be presented to the council, to introduce a process of Impeachment against any Directly Elected Officer (DEO) at any GSA council meeting, that shall pass at a 50%+1 majority, and that in the event of an Impeachment, the Impeached DEO be immediately suspended from their position until a Vote of No Confidence against the Impeached DEO is put to the GSA council, and that a Vote of No Confidence shall be declared against an Impeached DEO at the next regular GSA meeting that falls a minimum of two weeks in the future of the Impeachment, and that a Vote of No Confidence shall not be put to any DEO that has not been successfully Impeached, and that a second Impeachment vote shall not be put to the same DEO within any 60-day period (or two regular GSA meetings including cancelled regular meetings, whichever is greater), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the governance committee also be charged with creating a bylaw that shall be presented to the council, to introduce a process for a Vote of No Confidence, where such a vote may be put to the council to immediately remove any GSA Council-Elected Officer from their post, or any non-executive Chair of committee from the role of Chair, or any Impeached DEO (in accordance with the above process) from their position, and the reason for their removal (including mention of an Impeachment) to be made available in council meeting minutes and archives, and that such a motion may be put forth no more often than once every three months (or three regular GSA meetings including cancelled regular meetings, whichever is greater) for the removal of any individual officer, and that such a motion may be put forth no more than once every three months by the same presenting individual regardless of whom it may target, and that such a motion shall pass at a rate of two-thirds majority by the GSA council, and that any successful Vote of No Confidence shall trigger a by-election for the vacant position, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the governance committee, in both of these charges, create such bylaws in keeping with the spirit of this motion, which is accountability and a proper democratic process, and that any changes made to either of these charges be made to improve the process rather than to change its intention.

Jurisdiction:

H.POL.14.1 Receipt of Complaints and Setting the Hearing Date(s)

H.POL.14.1.a Complaints about a GSA Officer(s) will be directed to the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB) Chair and copied to the Executive Director (ED) (or delegate).

H.POL.14.1.b Complaints may be made by any person(s).

H.POL.14.1.c Complaints about the performance or conduct of a GSA Officer(s) or about conflict of interest or commitment relating to a GSA Officer(s) must be in writing (ie not oral), and signed. They must provide a complete description of the circumstances that have prompted the Complaint, a list of any known witnesses the Complainant intends to call, and any suggested remedy or action.

H.POL.14.1.d Upon receipt of a Complaint, the GSA ACB Chair will confer with the ED (or

delegate), who will seek legal advice if necessary.

H.POL.14.1.e Where there is a Complaint about a GSA Officer(s), the GSA ACB Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the ED (or delegate), will decide, normally within two (2) working days, if the GSA Officer(s) may be suspended with pay, as relevant, until the hearing is complete; as needed the President or Acting President, in consultation with the ED (or delegate) will decide on how Directly-Elected Officer(s)' duties will be carried out during a suspension.

H.POL.14.1.f The GSA ACB Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the ED (or delegate), can dismiss a Complaint if it is unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious. This decision must be given in writing and is final and binding.

H.POL.14.1.g If the Chair proceeds with the Complaint, a hearing date(s) will be set.

Outline of Issue

Suggested Motion for GSA Council:

That GSA Council **APPROVE** the changes to the Associate Vice-President Labour voting privileges.

Background:

The following motion shall be put to the GSA council at the March 2025 meeting. This motion directly proposes a change to the bylaws.

WHEREAS the AVP Labour currently has no opportunity to vote on matters that concern the AVP Labour, including budgetary concerns.

AND WHEREAS the AVP Labour sits as a non-voting member in committees.

AND WHEREAS the AVP Labour functionally represents all graduate students and matters that concern all graduate students, regardless of their academic employment status,

AND WHEREAS the role of the AVP Labour is hindered through an inability to vote on relevant Matters,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the governance committee be charged with amending to the bylaws to grant the AVP Labour an equal vote in all standing committees and all matters concerning the AVP Labour, and all matters that other VP roles are capable of voting on.

Jurisdiction:

B.BYL.3.1 All GSA members, except associate members, are eligible to vote and run in all GSA elections (excluding the election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, in which voting and nominations are restricted to academically-employed graduate students) and referenda.

D.BYL.2.2.g The Associate Vice-President Labour is responsible for labour-related matters concerning academically-employed graduate students (including collective bargaining), and leads the GSA's work as a union.

D.POL.4.8 Depending on the unique backgrounds and skills of Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) (and **excluding** the Associate Vice-President Labour (AVPL)), they may be called upon to assist with special projects, new initiatives, or aspects of a colleague's portfolio.

D.POL.11 Associate Vice-President Labour

D.POL.11.1 Duties

- D.POL.11.1.a The Associate Vice-President Labour (AVPL) has overall responsibility for matters relating to academically-employed graduate students and oversight of the GSA's work as a union.
- D.POL.11.1.b The AVPL is the chief negotiator of the Collective Agreement (CA) with the University covering all academically-employed graduate students.
- D.POL.11.1.c The AVPL also negotiates other matters with the University related to academically-employed graduate students, including issues regarding interpretation of the CA.
- D.POL.11.1.d The AVPL, in consultation with faculty stewards, where appropriate, advises academically-employed graduate students and answers questions from them related to compliance with and interpretation of the CA, as well as works towards informal resolution of disputes where appropriate.
- D.POL.11.1.e The AVPL seeks resolution of grievances in accordance with the process outlined in the CA, in consultation with the GSA Labour Relations Committee (GSA LRC) and the Executive Director (ED) (or delegate) as needed.
- D.POL.11.1.f The AVPL collaborates with the GSA LRC on specific labour-related projects.
- D.POL.11.1.g The position of AVPL requires close contact with the ED (or delegate) on labour-related matters as they arise and regular weekly contact with the President, ED (or delegate), Executive Coordinator, and the other Directly-Elected Officers.
- D.POL.11.1.h The position of AVPL totals approximately twenty (20) to thirty (30) hours per week on average and may include evenings and weekends. This includes but is not limited to both time spent preparing for and attending formal meetings as well as time spent reading and responding to emails, participation in travel associated with conferences and advocacy opportunities, work done on various projects and initiatives, informal strategic and problem-solving meetings, etc.

D.POL.11.2 Committees

- D.POL.11.2.a The AVPL chairs the GSA LRC and leads the GSA Negotiating Team.
- D.POL.11.2.b The AVPL is a non-voting member of the GSA Budget and Finance Committee.
- D.POL.11.2.c The AVPL is a member of any University boards and committees related to workplace health and safety issues.

D.POL.11.3 Qualifications

- D.POL.11.3.a A background in law and/or business and/or labour issues is advantageous.
- D.POL.11.3.b Previous experience on the GSA LRC or with collective bargaining is advantageous.

D.POL.11.3.c The AVPL must be an academically-employed graduate student at the time of their election, or have been academically-employed within the preceding academic year.

Item 9b: Governance Committee-Recommended Bylaw and Policy Revisions, Section F

Outline of Issue**Suggested Motion:**

That the GSA Council **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Policy:

Recommended Changes to GSA Policy, Section F**Background:**

This change formalizes current procedure for the public attending GSA Standing Committee meetings. Allowing general members to attend open sessions promotes inclusivity, enhances trust in committee deliberations, and provides an opportunity for members to observe and better understand the GSA's operations.

At the same time, the requirement for prior approval from the Chair ensures that meetings remain orderly, manageable, and focused, while still enabling access where appropriate and is consistent with the existing practice.

Jurisdiction:**GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.1.2**

"These Bylaws ... may be amended by two two-thirds majority votes of Council held on seven calendar days' notice of motion and no less than one week apart."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.2.2

"GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.BYL.1.3

"GSA Standing Committees advise GSA Council and the GSA Board (GSAB) on policy relevant to their mandates, and have full authority to take actions set out within those mandates."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.POL.4.2.a

The mandate of the GSA Governance Committee is to *"advise GSA Council on matters of GSA Bylaw and Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governance issues, and recommend changes to GSA Council."*

Current Policy (deletions are noted as strikethroughs and changes/additions are noted in red font)	Rationale
<p>F.POL.2.4.a General GSA members may attend the open sessions of any standing committee meeting as a guest following approval from the Chair of the committee.</p>	<p>Allowing general members to attend open sessions promotes inclusivity, enhances trust in committee deliberations, and provides an opportunity for members to observe and better understand the GSA's operations.</p> <p>At the same time, the requirement for prior approval from the Chair ensures that meetings remain orderly, manageable, and focused, while still enabling access where appropriate and is consistent with the existing practice.</p>

Item 9c: Governance Committee-Recommended Bylaw and Policy Revisions, Section J

Outline of Issue**Suggested Motion:**

That the GSA Council **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Policy:

Recommended Changes to GSA Policy, Section J**Background:**

Implementing changes to our Referenda bylaws and policies, procedures and definitions to streamline and align with the PSLA and best practices.

Jurisdiction:**GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.1.2**

“These Bylaws ... may be amended by two two-thirds majority votes of Council held on seven calendar days’ notice of motion and no less than one week apart.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.2.2

“GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.BYL.1.3

“GSA Standing Committees advise GSA Council and the GSA Board (GSAB) on policy relevant to their mandates, and have full authority to take actions set out within those mandates.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.POL.4.2.a

The mandate of the GSA Governance Committee is to *“advise GSA Council on matters of GSA Bylaw and Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governance issues, and recommend changes to GSA Council.”*

Current Bylaws (deletions are noted as strikethroughs and changes/additions are noted in red font)	Rationale
Referenda Asker Definitions "Asker" is defined as a GSA member(s) or a person acting on behalf of an external organization who wishes to initiate a referendum.	This change aligns with the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) of Alberta, which mandates that the GSA represents the interests of graduate students. By limiting the role of "asker" to graduate student group members, the GSA ensures that referenda reflect organized, collective student interests (PSLA, Section 95).
J.BYL.2.1 A referendum on a clearly worded 'Yes' or 'No' question regarding any dedicated, on-going fee for a service, facility, or lobbying effort can be initiated by the GSA Board (GSAB) subject to a simple 2/3 majority vote at any meeting of GSA Council. Normally a referendum will be held in conjunction with the GSA General Election and election of the Associate Vice-President Labour, unless a question is determined to be of an urgent nature by the GSAB.	Remove on-going as approved referenda will no longer be perpetual. Remove descriptors. 2/3 is consistent with other Bylaw changes and is generally the standard for any type of fee approval.
J.BYL.2.2 The required steps for a GSA member or a person acting on behalf of an external organization wishing to initiate a referendum will be outlined in GSA Policy on referenda.	Change in the bylaw based on the updated definition. Consistent with Definitions and J.BYL.4.2.

Current Policy (deletions are noted as strikethroughs and changes/additions are noted in red font)	Rationale
Referenda Policy	

<p>J.POL.7.1.a Membership in an officially recognized graduate student group stated in Section N: GSA Graduate Student Groups is required for referendum Askers. The Asker must provide evidence of their affiliation with a graduate student group when submitting a referendum request to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).</p> <p>J.POL.7.1.b When submitting a referendum request to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), the Asker must provide valid proof of their GSA membership, i.e., an enrollment certificate.</p> <p>J.POL.7.1.c The GSA Board shall have the authority to grant exemptions to the eligibility requirements stated in J.POL.7.1a, J.POL.7.1b.</p> <p>J.POL.7.1.d Requests for exemptions must be submitted in writing to the Board for consideration.</p> <p>J.POL.7.1.e The Board may consider exemptions based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The critical nature of the proposed referendum to the graduate student body b) The Asker's demonstrated understanding of the referendum process and its implications c) Extenuating circumstances that prevent the Asker from meeting the standard requirements. <p>J.POL.7.1.f The decision of the Board regarding exemptions shall be final and shall be communicated to the applicant in writing within a timeframe specified in the GSA's operational policies.</p> <p>J.POL.7.1.g The Board reserves the right to revoke an exemption if the circumstances under which it was granted change significantly.</p>	<p>This change aligns with the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) of Alberta, which mandates that the GSA represents the interests of graduate students. By limiting the role of "asker" to graduate student group members, the GSA ensures that referenda reflect organized, collective student interests (PSLA, Section 93).</p> <p>The eligibility exemption through the GSA Board opens the opportunity for all GSA members to initiate referenda, not just those affiliated with recognized graduate student groups.</p> <p>The inclusion of a board exemption clause provides necessary flexibility to address unforeseen circumstances or particularly critical issues. We need this approach to ensure the successful implementation of referenda such as the Campus Food Bank (CFB), which defy standard procedures but are crucial to the graduate student community.</p> <p>By clearly defining the Board's authority in granting exemptions and establishing criteria for such exemptions, the policy promotes transparency and accountability in GSA governance. This approach guarantees the exercise of flexibility within a structured and equitable framework.</p>
<p>J.POL.7.2.a A clearly worded referendum question will address the following criteria (if applicable): description of any dedicated on-going fee, amount of fee, how long a fee</p>	<p>Voters should have an option to opt out of non-mandatory dedicated fees.</p>

<p>will be collected (in accordance with J.POL.6.4), effective date (when a fee will start being collected), end date (when the fee will stop being collected), procedure for changing a fee, whether the fee can be rescinded, opt-out mechanism, and an accountability mechanism for the money collected. The criteria above provided are non-exhaustive and additional criteria may be required to draft a clearly worded referendum question.</p>	
<p>J.POL.11</p>	
<p>J.POL.15 Referendum Duration and Renewal</p> <p>J.POL.15.1 Referenda approved by the GSA membership shall have a duration of three (3) years from the date of implementation.</p> <p>J.POL.15.2 To ensure continued funding and accountability, referendum askers must initiate a renewal process by the year that the current dedicated fee expires.</p> <p>J.POL.15.3 The renewal process shall involve:</p> <p>J.POL.15.3.a Submitting a detailed report to the GSA Board outlining the achievements, challenges, and financial management of the initiative during the first two years.</p> <p>J.POL.15.3.b Conducting a new referendum vote among the graduate student population.</p> <p>J.POL.15.4 The renewal referendum will be held during the GSA general election in the year of expiration.</p>	<p>This policy addition serves several important purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A referendum should not be perpetual unless there are extenuating circumstances. 2. It ensures that initiatives funded through referendum remain accountable to the graduate student population by requiring a renewal vote based on demonstrated performance. 3. The three-year initial term with a second-year renewal vote allows for adequate planning and implementation while also providing a timely opportunity for review and adjustment. 4. By requiring a detailed report and clear communication of achievements, the policy enables graduate students to make informed decisions about continuing support for initiatives. 5. The policy allows for adjustments to be proposed during the renewal process, ensuring

<p>J.POL.15.5 The renewal referendum question must clearly state:</p> <p>J.POL.15.5.a The original purpose of the initiative.</p> <p>J.POL.15.5.b A summary of achievements and value added to graduate students' experience.</p> <p>J.POL.15.5.c The proposed continuation of the initiative for the subsequent years.</p> <p>J.POL.15.5.d Any proposed changes to funding or implementation, if applicable.</p> <p>J.POL.15.6 If the renewal referendum passes, the initiative will continue for the remainder of the original three-year term and an additional three years from that point.</p> <p>J.POL.15.7 If the renewal referendum fails, the initiative will conclude at the end of its original three-year term, with a one-year wind-down period to ensure orderly closure of operations.</p> <p>J.POL.15.8 If the renewal referendum fails, the Asker must wait a minimum of two (2) years before consideration by the CRO.</p> <p>J.POL.15.8 The GSA Board shall have the authority to establish specific procedures and timelines for the renewal process, ensuring they align with the GSA's broader governance and election policies.</p>	<p>that initiatives can evolve to meet changing needs.</p> <p>6. This structure helps in maintaining financial stability by allowing initiatives to secure funding for subsequent years while also providing a mechanism for discontinuation if they no longer meet student needs.</p> <p>7. Regular renewal referenda keep the graduate student population engaged and informed about ongoing initiatives, fostering a culture of active participation in GSA affairs.</p> <p>8. The two-year wait period gives the Asker time to adjust their request, and it alleviates voter burnout of referenda questions.</p>
<p>J.POL.1516 Reporting</p>	<p>Clerical Change</p>

<p>J.POL.1516.1 The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) will draft a procedural report following each referendum. This report will outline major decisions, a summary of discussions and consultations with the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC), processes, issues, and recommendations for any future referendum. This report will be provided to the next CRO and Deputy Returning Officer, the GSA ERC, the GSA Board, and GSA Council.</p>	
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Item 9d: Governance Committee-Recommended Bylaw and Policy Revisions, Section K

Outline of Issue

Suggested Motion:

That the GSA Council **APPROVE** the recommended changes to GSA Policy:

Recommended Changes to GSA Policy, Section K

Background:

Implementing changes to our BFC and financial bylaws, policies and procedures to formalize, streamline and align with best practices.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.1.2

“These Bylaws ... may be amended by two two-thirds majority votes of Council held on seven calendar days’ notice of motion and no less than one week apart.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section A.BYL.2.2

“GSA Policy is under the jurisdiction of GSA Council and may be amended by a simple majority vote of GSA Council at any meeting of GSA Council.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.BYL.1.3

“GSA Standing Committees advise GSA Council and the GSA Board (GSAB) on policy relevant to their mandates, and have full authority to take actions set out within those mandates.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section F.POL.4.2.a

The mandate of the GSA Governance Committee is to *“advise GSA Council on matters of GSA Bylaw and Policy not in the purview of any other GSA Standing Committee, or other governance issues, and recommend changes to GSA Council.”*

Current Bylaws (deletions are noted as strikethroughs and changes/additions are noted in red font)	Rationale
<p>K.BYL.1.2 GSA Council will receive recommendations on the annual operating and capital budgets, along with a recommended three (3) year budget forecast and business plan, no later than its March regular meeting.</p> <p>GSA Council shall approve only the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The three-year forecast and business plan shall be received as an information item. The Budget and Finance Committee shall review, recommend, and approve the draft budget and three (3) year forecast, followed by review, recommendation, and approval by the GSA Board, prior to presentation to GSA Council.</p>	<p>This clarification ensures that both the BFC and the GSA Board formally review, recommend, and approve the draft budget and the three-year forecast prior to their presentation to Council. This layered approval process aligns with best financial governance practices by ensuring due diligence, and shared accountability across GSA's decision-making bodies. It also clarifies that GSA Council's authority is to approve the upcoming fiscal year's budget, while the multi-year forecast is presented for information only</p>
<p>K.BYL.1.3 In the event that the GSA Council does not approve an annual budget before the start of the fiscal year, GSA shall continue to operate in a manner consistent with the most recent annual budget approved by the GSA Council.</p>	<p>This new bylaw sets a clear contingency plan to ensure the continuity of GSA operations in the event that the annual budget is not approved by GSA Council before the start of the fiscal year. It reflects best practices in governance by establishing a fallback mechanism that protects the organization from administrative delays while respecting the Council's budgetary authority.</p>
Current Policies (deletions are noted as strikethroughs and changes/additions are noted in red font)	Rationale
<p>K.POL.3.7.a Financial documents requiring signature, including but not limited to cheques, email disbursements, and investment instructions, require two</p>	<p>By allowing email-based authorization, the policy reduces reliance on physical cheques—saving time, administrative resources, and unnecessary costs associated with cheque processing.</p>

<p>(2) signatures: either any two (2) Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs) or any one (1) DEO and one (1) Director.</p>	
<p>K.POL.3.7.d The President and Executive Director will approve amounts below \$600 via email, with explanations provided by the Finance Manager and reported to the GSA Board in the management report. Electronic transfers should be used unless unavailable, in which case cheques may be used. Both approvers will provide electronic "signing authority" confirmation for all disbursements. Cash payments are strictly prohibited.</p>	<p>This policy enables timely and efficient approval of disbursements under \$600 by allowing the President and Executive Director to authorize such payments via email. This process streamlines routine low-value transactions while maintaining proper oversight and documentation. It also ensures that financial controls remain intact through dual electronic "signing authority" confirmation and the exclusion of cash payments, which mitigates risk and aligns with best practices in financial management.</p>
<p>K.POL.5.9.b Confidential material distributed during Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) meetings shall be shared with members through password-protected methods.</p>	<p>This policy establishes a clear and consistent protocol for handling confidential materials shared during Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) meetings. The inclusion of this policy also addresses existing ambiguity regarding the confidentiality status of BFC materials. It reinforces the importance of protecting budget drafts, financial projections, and other documents that may contain preliminary or sensitive data not intended for public circulation.</p>
<p>K.POL.5.2 Any recommended change to a budget line must first be discussed among the Finance Manager, the President, and the Executive Director (or delegate) prior to presentation to the BFC. Once consensus is reached, all members shall support the decision.</p>	<p>This policy ensures that any recommended increase to a budget line is thoroughly reviewed and agreed upon by key members of the finance team—namely, the Finance Manager, the President, and the Executive Director or their delegate—prior to being brought forward to the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC). Requiring consensus at this stage promotes alignment within the finance team, and ensures that</p>

	<p>proposals presented to the BFC are well-vetted and strategically justified. This approach minimizes the likelihood of prolonged or contentious discussions during BFC meetings, allowing the committee to focus its time on high-level oversight rather than operational deliberations.</p>
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