

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[Item 1: Agenda](#)

[*Report Legend](#)

[Item 2: GSA Council October 20 2025 Minutes](#)

[Item 5a: GSA Speaker Nominations](#)

[Item 5b: GSA Awards Selection Committee Nominations](#)

[Item 5c: GSA Elections & Referenda Committee Nominations](#)

[Item 5d: GSA Nominating Committee Nominations](#)

[Item 5e: GSA Appeals & Complaints Board Nominees - General Members](#)

[Item 5f: GSA Appeals & Complaints Board Nominees - GSA Councillors](#)

[Item 5g: GSA Councillor-At-Large Nominees](#)

[Item 8a: GSA GC-Recommended Bylaw Additions, Section A](#)

[Item 8b: GSA ERC- and GC-Recommended Policy Addition, Section I](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Item 1: Agenda

Monday, November 24, 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 ACTING SPEAKER:

Laith Khatib

CLOSED SESSION:

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

Time	Item #	Page #	Title	Presenter(s)
5:00	-	1	Land Acknowledgement	L. AlKhatib, GSA Acting Speaker
1 min	1		Approval of the Agenda for November 24, 2025 GSA Council	L. AlKhatib,

				GSA Acting Speaker
1 min	2		Approval of the GSA Council Minutes of October 20, 2025 GSA Council	L. AlKhatib, GSA Acting Speaker
2 min	3		Changes in GSA Council Membership	L. AlKhatib, GSA Acting Speaker
2 min	4		Announcements A. Apply for Councillor Vacancies Here: a. Governance Committee (2 vacancies) b. GSA Board (3 vacancies) c. GSA Nominating Committee/Board (sits on both, 1 vacancy) d. Appeals & Complaints Board (2 vacancies)	
30 min	5		<u>ELECTIONS</u> A. GSA Speaker - 1 vacancy a. Two candidates B. GSA Awards Selection Committee - 6 vacancies a. Four candidates C. GSA Elections & Referenda Committee - 1 vacancy a. One candidate D. GSA Nominating Committee - 1 vacancy a. One candidate E. GSA Appeals & Complaints Board: General Members - 3 vacancies a. Seven candidates F. GSA Appeals & Complaints Board: GSA Councillor - 2 vacancies	A. Belosokhov, NoC Chair

			a. One candidate G. GSA Councillor-At-Large - 1 vacancy a. One candidate	
30 min	6		<u>PRESENTATION ITEMS</u> A. UA Organizational Values Presentation a. Presenters: Logan Mardhani-Bayne (Lead, Strategic Planning and Initiatives, Office of the Provost) and Shannon Leblanc (Strategic Initiatives Officer for Human Resources, Health, Safety and Environment) B. Tuition Presentation a. Presenters: Melissa Padfield (Deputy Provost Students and Enrolment, Provost & Vice-President Academic) and team	
30 min	7		<u>INFORMATION PIECES</u> Reports: A. GSA President: Aashish Kumar B. Vice-President Academic: Chen Okafor C. Vice-President External: Niloufar Mir Fallah D. Vice-President Indigenous Relations: Tamara Dubé E. Vice-President Student Life: Hazel Kemuma a. GSA Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Report F. Vice-President Student Services: Saad Iqbal G. Associate Vice-President Labour: Nathan Lamarche a. GSA Labour Relations Committee H. GSA Senator: Hussain Alhussainy I. GSA Speaker: Vacant J. Chief and Deputy Returning Officers: Wajid Ali K. GSA Nominating Committee Chair: Arseniy Belosokhov L. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair: Elsie Osei M. GSA Management	*See Legend Currently suspended

30 min	8		<u>ACTION ITEMS:</u> A. GSA GC-Recommended Bylaw Additions, Section A a. Outline of Issue b. Bylaw Additions, Section A	A. Kumar, GSA President
5 min			B. GSA ERC- and GC-Recommended Policy Addition, Section I a. Outline of Issue b. ERC- and GC-Recommended Policy Addition, Section I	
30 min		1-29	C. GSA Council Standing Orders a. Attached separately on the website	Z. Patel, GSA AD
5 min	9		Question Period 1. Written Questions (May be submitted to the GSA Speaker before 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting) 2. Oral Questions	
	10		Adjournment	

***Report Legend**

NRS: No report submitted

NMS: No meeting scheduled

Item 2: GSA Council October 20 2025 Minutes

Monday, October 20, 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:

Laith Khatib

CLOSED SESSION:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council-Elected Officials:

- Chief Returning Officer: Wajid Ali

Departmental Councillors:

1. Shivani Sonkar, AFNS
2. Séamus Rudden, Anthropology

GSA Executives:

1. GSA President: Aashish Kumar
2. VP External: Niloufar Mir Fallah
3. VP Indigenous Relations: Tamara Dubé
4. VP Student Life: Hazel Kemuma
5. VP Student Services: Saad Arslan Iqbal

Councillors-At-Large:

1. Ashif Rahman
2. Mohamadali Tofigh
3. Rishabh Dagur
4. Amirreza Yasami
5. Jovi Krieger
6. Julianna Durham
7. Haroun Elyasir
8. Anagha Devkota
9. Izhan Khan

Standing Committee Chairs & Vice-Chairs:

- Arseniy Belosokhov, NoC Chair
- Elsie Osei, ERC Chair

Guests:

1. Carmen Hamel, Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology Alternate Councillor
2. Andrea DeKeseredy
3. Ping Lam Ip
4. Mahn Hei Yu, Linguistics
5. Shasta Johnsen-Sollos
6. Cathrine Becker

3. Laura Enekegho, Biochemistry
4. Gurparkash Singh, Biomedical Engineering
5. Nissi Djangmah, BGSA
6. Selin Simsek, Business MBA
7. Yufei Ren, Business PhD
8. Sophie Nguemo Medongoum, Campus Saint Jean Councillor
9. Shamsheer Ahmad, Chemistry
10. Ozge Akca Zengin, Chemical & Material Engineering
11. Saniyya Mirza, Civil & Environmental Engineering
12. Vera Fiawornu, Communication Sciences & Disorders
13. Ayesha Khan, Computing Science
14. Rose Rafiei, Dentistry
15. Emilia Hillyer, Drama
16. Eran Driscoll, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
17. Moe Fujiwara, East Asian Studies Councillor
18. Kyle Basarab, Economics
19. Jerry Gan, Education
20. Ajibola Adigun, Educational Policy Studies
21. Bart Romanek, History, Classics & Religion
22. Zoe Wagner, Human Ecology
23. Benjamin Kucher, IGSA
24. Vincent Yu, Library & Information Studies
25. Serena Li, Laboratory Medicine & Pathology Incoming Councillor
26. Jack McKoen, Mathematical & Statistical Sciences
27. Jeff Akhagbosu, MINT
28. Junjun Yao, Modern Language & Cultural Studies

	29. Emma Heidebrecht, Neuroscience 30. Fedrica Williams, Nursing 31. Pooja Praveen Kumar, Obstetrics & Gynecology 32. Crystal Mulik, Paediatrics 33. Thomas Hammond, Pharmacology 34. Ali Shalaby, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences 35. Spencer Ahearn, Philosophy 36. Daniel Carleton, Physics 37. Mohaddeseh Pakzamid, Physiology 38. Savannah Ribeiro, Political Sciences 39. Emily Ward, Psychiatry 40. Abigail Riesen, Psychology 41. Vi Tran, Public Health 42. Varsha Kesavan, Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging Councillor 43. Cassandra Cowan, Rehabilitation Sciences 44. Shea Giesbrecht, Renewable Resources 45. Celine Beaulieu, Sociology 46. Ivan Ma, Surgery Alternate Departmental Councillors: 1. Luke Nelson, Biological Sciences 2. Anne Lois Kouassi-Djan, Campus Saint-Jean 3. Karla Manzanet Freyre, Cell Biology 4. Christa Engel, Education 5. Tamara Semeria Maitret, Laboratory Medicine & Pathology 6. Arash Salemi, Mechanical Engineering 7. Parco Leong, Medical Microbiology & Immunology 8. Micah Sollid, Occupational Therapy 9. Mark Wright, Oncology
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Time	Item #	Title	Presenter(s)
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5:02	-	Land Acknowledgement T. Dubé moved to include an action item regarding the GSA VPIR unpaid stipend from May 1st to July 16th, 2025. S. Giesbrecht moved. S. Ribeiro seconded. Motion PASSED. 26 votes in favour, 2 against. T. Dubé clarified for S. Ribeiro that the newly approved action item was not on the agenda and moved to make the newly approved action item the first on the agenda for Council to discuss. S. Ribeiro moved. E. Hillyer seconded. Motion PASSED. 23 votes in favour, 2 against. M. Fujiwara, East Asian Studies Councillor, asked if the action items could be moved ahead of the information pieces, noting that in the previous three meetings, the Council has run out of time for dealing with action items. Z. Patel, GSA Speaker, explained that it is important for the reports to be given and the Council has had far more meetings where reports were not able to be given in favour of the action items. To approve the agenda in its entirety: D. Carleton moved. M. Wright seconded. Motion PASSED. 40 votes in favour. 1 vote against.	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
1 min	1	Approval of the Agenda for October 20, 2025 GSA Council C. Cowan moved. D. Carleton seconded. Motion PASSED. 29 votes in favour. 2 votes against.	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
1 min	2	Approval of the GSA Council Minutes of September 24, 2025 GSA Council Incoming: • Serena Li, Laboratory Medicine & Pathology • Jack McKoen, Mathematics • Jerry Gan, Education GSA • Parco Leong, Medicinal Microbiology • Ayesha Khan, Computing Science • Abby Riesen, Psychology • Carmen Hamel, Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology Alternate • Fedrica Williams, Nursing • Anne Lois Kouassi-Djan, CSJ Alternate	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker

		- Crystal Mulik, Paediatrics Outgoing: - Tamara Semeria Maitret, Laboratory Medicine & Pathology	
2 min	3	Changes in GSA Council Membership Z. Patel, GSA Speaker, encouraged Councillors to apply for Councillor-specific vacancies, seen below.	Z. Patel, GSA Speaker
2 min	4	Announcements A. Apply for Councillor Vacancies Here: - Governance Committee (2 vacancies) - GSA Board (3 vacancies) - GSA Nominating Committee/Board (sits on both, 1 vacancy) - Appeals & Complaints Board (1 vacancy)	
	5	<u>ELECTIONS</u> - None at this time	A. Belosokhov, NoC Chair
	6	<u>PRESENTATION ITEMS</u> A. SEAP Survey Results Presentation - Sarah Wolgemuth, Associate Vice President, Student Success & Experience (SSE), & Stephanie Dickie, Strategic Initiatives Advisor, Student Experience Action Plan Due to a scheduling conflict, S. Wolgemuth is being rescheduled to the January Council meeting. B. Graduate Student Peer Support Program (GSPS) Presentation - Lorelei Betke, HSE Strategy & Engagement Officer, HRHSE - Health Safety & Environment, & Julia Hu, Grad Research Assistantship, HRHSE - Health Safety & Environment J. Hu and L. Betke introduced themselves and provided a detailed overview of the new Graduate Student Peer Support (GSPS) Program, a pilot initiative developed under the university's Culture of Care Safety Action Plan. J. Hu explained that the program trains graduate students to act as "peer supporters," offering empathetic listening, guidance, and referrals to campus resources rather than professional counselling. L. Betke described the origins of the program, noting that it was created in recognition of challenges such as isolation and the power differential	

		between students and supervisors. They reported that the program received 60 applications over the summer and ultimately selected 11 peer supporters from a broad range of faculties, representing diverse academic and cultural backgrounds. The peer supporters were trained in areas such as mental health foundations, suicide prevention, cultural awareness, and resource navigation. The presenters outlined how the intake and matching process works, the short-term nature of the support offered, and the program's broader goal of serving as a bridge to long-term supports and communities. • GSPS uses a structured and thoughtful intake system designed to ensure that graduate students are paired with peer supporters who best understand their concerns, backgrounds, and needs. J. Hu explained that once the program launched its website, interested students seeking support are directed to an online Google Form that functions as the primary intake form. In this form, students provide information about their presenting concerns and their reasons for seeking peer support, such as academic stress, interpersonal issues, or challenges navigating university systems. The intake also includes a brief mental health screener to identify whether the student may be experiencing moderate to severe mental health distress. This screener does not diagnose conditions, but instead helps the program ensure that students with higher-risk concerns can be guided promptly toward appropriate professional services. • After a form is submitted, J. Hu personally reviews each entry. She considers several factors in order to make the most appropriate match: • The nature of the student's concerns and whether a supporter with specific lived experience would be helpful. • The educational background and faculty of each peer supporter, allowing students to be matched with someone who may share similar academic environments or pressures. • Shared interests or identities, when relevant, to help students feel more comfortable and understood. • Language preferences, as the program's peer supporters collectively speak a variety of languages including Mandarin, Sindhi, Urdu, Malayalam, Persian, and Hindi. • Any relevant skills, training, or prior experience that peer supporters may bring to the relationship. • J. Hu explained that this matching approach is designed not only to address practical concerns, but also to help the student feel a sense of connection with someone who understands their	
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		context. Once matched, peer supporters typically meet with their assigned student for up to three sessions, with a maximum of six total hours of support. The intention is for the program to act as a bridge, offering empathetic listening, guidance, and referrals, before helping the student transition to longer-term supports or communities elsewhere on campus. • They concluded by asking councillors to help promote the initiative and described ongoing evaluation plans, including monthly meetings and future satisfaction surveys. • H. Kemuma, VP Student Life, asked regarding the number of volunteers chosen. L. Betke replied that all submissions were great candidates, but if they picked too many, the volunteers would not get a chance to work with any clients. She believed they wanted to go with 10 candidates, but could not choose, so instead chose 11. J. Hu replied that other universities with a peer support program have 10 volunteers. • She noted that their email is gsps@ualberta.ca • S. Iqbal, VP Student Services, noted that C. Okafor, VP Academic, and himself were involved in the interviews for the candidates and confirmed the competency of the candidates. Many were first-year graduate students and for these positions, they wanted to have second-year+ students for more experience on campus to impart. They also did not want to pick too many monolingual candidates.	
30 min	7	<u>INFORMATION PIECES</u> Reports: A. GSA President: Aashish Kumar a. President A. Kumar began his report by thanking GSA staff and volunteers for their continued efforts, noting that recent GSA events were highly successful and saw very strong attendance. He emphasized that current GSA programming regularly attracts 200–300 participants, and while this reflects significant student engagement, it also exposes the GSA's limited administrative capacity. b. He reported that the GSA is currently facing operational constraints, primarily because there is only one staff member handling a large volume of administrative and event-related work. He explained that although DEOs help where they can, the current workload presents risks, including inadequate support during large events and inconsistent follow-through on administrative processes.	*See Legend

		c. A. Kumar stated that the GSA currently has no Associate Director, and that the organization will be hiring a replacement. He added that the GSA is also exploring hiring one additional staff member within the existing budget to help improve our capacity. He explained that there is financial room to take this step and that increased staffing is necessary to sustainably support events, registrations, approvals, health & dental operations, and other student services. d. He further highlighted that the transition to the new health and dental plan has created a significant increase in administrative complexity. He noted that staff members and the VP Student Services have borne the burden of resolving student issues arising from the transition. He stated that additional staff capacity is essential for delivering timely support. e. Outside his written report, A. Kumar informed the Council that he had been formally notified by the Vice-Provost that the Ministry of Advanced Education has approved the concept of Exceptional Tuition Increases (ETIs) for certain programs. He explained that ETIs may be approved through either a joint proposal from the GSA and the University, or a direct proposal from the University. In either case, ETIs may exceed the standard 2% domestic tuition cap and must be used to improve program quality. f. He reported that the Ministry is currently discussing ETIs for three programs: i. Master of Nursing ii. Nursing PhD iii. Master of School & Clinical Child Psychology g. He noted that the University's Deans are already involved and that graduate student input will be required through the upcoming tuition consultation cycle. h. A. Kumar explained that the Ministry has extended the deadline for submitting additional ETI proposals to December, meaning more programs could potentially be added. However, he also noted that administrative workload may outweigh the revenue in very small programs (e.g., those with only 4–11 students), and that the University may reconsider the value of applying for ETIs in those cases. i. He stated that the GSA has resubmitted its Tuition & Fees Consultation Proposal, reiterating two key recommendations:	
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		i. That the University not increase tuition for thesis-based students; and ii. That the University funds the Course-Based Master's Scholarship by reallocating institutional loan resources into the relevant endowment, which currently holds \$433,000. j. A. Kumar met with the AASUA President, who stated that they have not ratified the agreement currently. We will know by tomorrow. If there is action, we will hold a Town Hall with AASUA to ensure that students have all the necessary information. B. Vice-President Academic: Chen Okafor a. As submitted, as C. Okafor was unable to attend due to class scheduling C. Vice-President External: Niloufar Mir Fallah a. As submitted D. Vice-President Indigenous Relations: Tamara Dubé a. As submitted E. Vice-President Student Life: Hazel Kemuma a. H. Kemuma thanked graduate students for attending our events this semester and month. She reported on the Speedfriending event, which 150+ graduate students attended. The event was for first-year students to make friends and combat isolation. b. She also highlighted the Turkey Trot Run, which occurred on October 5th. We had over 280 participants, despite the cool weather, and over 100 kids joined. This event was suggested out of the Town Hall at the beginning of her term, where students submitted what they wanted to see as part of the GSA Social Hours. She thanked graduate students for making the event such a success. c. We also held a Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, which was held in campus residence. The dinner was particularly for campus residence students and international students, who are unable to return home for the holiday, to be able to gather and share a meal and what they're thankful for. We had 200+ students participate, 100 being graduate students. d. We had the Graduate/Alumni Mixer on Friday, which brought together grad students, alumni and university staff. President Flanagan, the Chancellor and University Senator attended. The event intended to bring graduate students together with	
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		potential mentors or employers, as well as being a social gathering. We had around 180 attendees. e. The executives went to Campus Saint-Jean for a Meet & Grill event by invitation of Sophie Nguemo Medongoum, Campus Saint Jean Councillor, and met with CSJ students and faculty. This is one of the steps the executives are taking to involve our extension campuses. f. We have not had an EDIC meeting as of yet, so the report will be given at the next Council. F. Vice-President Student Services: Saad Iqbal a. Know Your Services tabling is ongoing - the next one is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29th in CAB between 9:30AM-3:30PM. The other executives have been supporting this tabling, which briefs graduate students on available services, such as the health and dental plan, GSA bursaries, awards, childcare grants, childminding services, the GSAP and available study spaces. He encouraged Councillors to attend and spread the word to students for the upcoming tabling sessions, which will be advertised in the GSA newsletter. b. S. Iqbal and staff met with the UofA Calgary campus satellite campus coordinator to discuss how the GSA can support satellite students there and if there are any tailored supports or advocacy efforts needed. We are taking steps to create a Council seat for this and other satellite campuses to ensure their needs are heard. c. Mental Health Action Plan has successfully been launched, with the report on the university website. d. S. Iqbal's email address is in his report for any feedback e. Campus Food Bank general meeting: as the co-Chair, he addressed the AGM and they selected new Board members. f. S. Iqbal and Kevin Frieze, Assistant Dean SSE (Student Success & Experience - formerly the Dean of Students), discussed the influenza flu clinic, which will be running around campus, and the hydroponics farm project. Ravina Sanghera, Vice-Provost SSE, is organizing a location for the pilot project. S. Iqbal is also continuing last year's mental health photo contest, previously in collaboration with the ISA and SSE. g. Meet & Grill event at CSJ: many executives were able to attend, speak with grad students and faculty members, and meet with the Associate Dean of Research Graduate Studies. S. Nguemo	
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		Medongoum, Campus Saint Jean Councillor, is helping us bring CSJ perspectives to Council and see how we can expand our services and reach to their campus. h. The Dose of Support program has begun again and will be running from October 16 to December 18. This program is a great way to connect with a clinician from the SSE; they will be providing drop-in sessions, usually lasting up to 20 minutes, with the option of booking more sessions. i. The Trick or Treat event is on again this year on October 25th between 11:00AM-5:00PM and the CFB is looking for volunteers. We were able to collect a lot of food, donations and monetary donations last year. He encouraged students to dress up and attend, using the RSVP link for more info. j. StudyWell Health & Dental Plan updates: We are monitoring and improving our workflow for consolidating and categorizing student issues with the health and dental plan. We are focusing on the high priority areas, and improving our response time. Some issues pertain to enrollment issues, which must be organized in tandem with the university administration, and others are coverage-related. We will soon be conducting a survey to see what other underlying issues are being experienced and as soon as we have the consolidated data, we can take a better look at how to resolve the issues. G. Associate Vice-President Labour: Nathan Lamarche a. Currently suspended H. GSA Senator: Hussain Alhussainy a. No report submitted I. GSA Speaker: Zain Patel a. No report submitted J. Chief and Deputy Returning Officers: Wajid Ali a. No report submitted K. GSA Nominating Committee Chair: Arseniy Belosokhov a. A. Belosokhov encouraged Councillors to apply for the current vacancies to ensure the continued workings of our standing committees. L. GSA Elections and Referenda Committee Chair: Elsie Osei a. No report submitted M. GSA Management a. As submitted	
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		b. E. Derksen encouraged Councillors to read his report, particularly making reference to the distinctions between the function of Council, its governance function, and its relationship to operational oversight.	
	8	<u>ACTION ITEMS:</u> A. GSA VPIR-Recommended Policy Additions: Motion 1 E. Driscoll moved. S. Ribeiro seconded. • T. Dubé stated that there was confusion around the Occupational Therapy Councillor position and departmental seats, and posited that it should be clearer for students to reach out to. • C. Cowan, Rehabilitation Medicine Councillor, noted that as departmental Councillors are elected by their department and that Councillor names are listed in the public minutes, the responsibility should be on the department rather than the GSA. If you have a full name, you can find their information in the university directory. She has received unsolicited emails in the last few months. She understands the desire for further transparency, but it would be preferable to avoid making this issue easier to run into and better to avoid increasing GSA work. • A. Kumar noted that the GSA staff are already overworked, so we may not be able to maintain the list effectively on the website, as we are dealing with serious complaints and health and dental issues. • H. Kemuma noted that Z. Patel's context, being that the GSA website used to have a list of Councillors before we created our own (it was hosted by the university), would we be in violation of any privacy policies? To help with not knowing who to reach out to, would it be useful to have the admin emails for departmental GSAs on the website instead to shield the personal information of individual students, but allow for contact information. • E. Derksen, GSA Executive Director, confirmed that Councillors would not have their emails be public, but their full names would be. All Councillors would need to sign a consent form saying that they confirm the use of their names on the website. • S. Giesbrecht noted that Councillors can sign the consent form or not.	T. Dubé, GSA VPIR Z. Patel, GSA Speaker

		• S. Iqbal suggested that all emails should be circulated through the Speaker, as there may be confidentiality concerns or more information that can be given by the Speaker. • T. Dubé noted that it would be easier to see vacancies and fill empty seats on Council. Motion PASSED. 28 votes in favour. 11 votes against. 1 abstention. B. GSA VPIR-Recommended Policy Additions: Motion 2 S. Ribeiro moved. D. Carleton seconded. • T. Dubé noted the context to this motion: She is the first executive to be based on a sister campus (Augustana). There are students in Calgary and at Campus Saint-Jean. As we all pay into the GSA, it should be easy for all students to participate, so she suggests putting into policy that all meetings will be held hybrid to accommodate satellite students. • S. Ribeiro, Political Sciences Councillor, noted that it is a physical accessibility accommodation as well, as some buildings are difficult to get to, and students who are under the weather are still able to attend. Motion PASSED. 37 votes in favour. 5 abstentions. C. GSA VPIR-Recommended Policy Addition: Motion 3 (VPIR Unpaid Stipend) S. Ribeiro moved. L. Nelson seconded. • T. Dubé read the motion: that the unpaid VPIR stipend for May 1 to July 16, in the amount of \$7114.28 be immediately allocated to the IGSA (Indigenous Graduate Student Association), in alignment with D.Pol.10.1.f.3.iii, that if no student is found after all of the above [steps to fill the VPIR position], to ensure the GSA is still fulfilling their commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, the salary for the position will go towards funding for FNMI students. • D. Carleton asked for further context - is the motion required to ensure the issue is being dealt with or to fast-track it? Why is this motion necessary? • E. Derksen, GSA ED, explained that T. Dubé has supplied an interpretation of the policy. He commented that the Council should be aware that it created a Board as its highest administrative standing	
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		committee and that it can be risky for Council to set a precedent to intervene and involve itself in operations where its fundamental mandate is policy governance. This is not a governance issue. He emphasized that he is not speaking for or against the motion, but it is the Board's mandate to make responsible, diligent decisions through due process, which would involve, in this case, a reasonable, proper and consistent interpretation of policy. The Board is the administrative body of the Council. The issue is that it involves money and the transfer of money, which involves liability for the GSA. In order for the GSA to make reasonable and proper decisions, Council has historically delegated this to the Board, and the Board has coverage through something called directors and officers liability insurance, so we go through all reasonable means, finding good advice - legal counsel if we need it - when we make financial decisions in order to be compliant with both the Income Tax Act and financial tracking laws because we're responsible for what we do with our funds, and we become liable for dealing with them appropriately. If Council votes, Councillors would take that liability upon themselves, personally. He emphasized that he states this as a matter of knowledge and awareness, as Councillors need to know what they're saying 'yes' or 'no' to when involving themselves in operational decisions. ● C. Cowan noted that this has been brought up in previous reports and that where the funding goes was not brought up as a reason for holdup - if the graduate student funds will be spent, they need to be approved by finance and go through the proper channels, which was creating the delay. We get audited and there are steps that must be taken for diverting nearly \$8,000, which could open Council up to different liabilities. Z. Patel explained that for fund allocation, it goes through the Finance Team (ED, President, Accountant), BFC and Board for approval, which is reflected in policy. ● A. Adigun, Educational Policy Councillor, asserted that it is a governance issue as well as operational matter, as the Council decided on the allocations of the funds in the budget and that it was his understanding that it would be spent to pay an official. He raised that the stipend should not be spent to backpay an official from before they took office.	
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		Z. Patel clarified that the funds are being asked to transfer to the IGSA. A. Adigun acknowledged this, but noted that the policy states the funds are released if the position is not filled, rather than temporarily vacant. • T. Dubé stated that the funds would go toward Truth and Reconciliation efforts, FNMI priorities and initiatives as per the policy, which after consulting with Dr. Glanfield, makes the most sense to go to IGSA for these priorities. • D. Carleton asked if the Board is still discussing this further; he acknowledged that as there is a fund approval procedure, it should go through that. • H. Kemuma noted that the item has been on the Board agenda for the last three weeks, but the item cannot be dealt with if the person who brought the item is not present. T. Dubé has been unable to attend the Board for varying reasons. • Z. Patel noted that D.POL.10.1.f outlines the VPIR vacancy policy and steps to take to fill it. D.POL.10.1.f.iii notes that if no student is found after all the above steps, the funding will be released to FNMI students. D. Carleton proposed a motion to DEFER THIS MOTION BACK TO THE GSA BOARD, to allow them to discuss before Council intervenes. D. Carleton moved. S. Giesbrecht seconded. • Z. Patel checked and confirmed that the deferral of a motion can be debated. • S. Ribeiro asked how we can ensure that the Board will deal with this action item within a reasonable time. H. Kemuma noted that it will be dependent on T. Dubé's availability for the next Board meeting. • S. Giesbrecht asked if the Board meetings were not held hybrid and if that was a reason barring T. Dubé's attendance. Z. Patel clarified that Board meetings are already held hybrid, so that was not a barrier for her. • A. Belosokhov suggested accommodating another time for the meeting. A. Kumar clarified that the action item has been on the agenda for two months and that the Board meeting time slot has already been changed to fit her academic schedule. He stated that we make sure to change meeting time slots to fit the executives' academic schedules.	
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		• J. Akhagbosu, MINT Councillor, stated that if this action item has been lingering for months, then it should be dealt with now as T. Dubé is present. • S. Ribeiro asked E. Derksen if this would be better to refer to BFC rather than Board, as it is regarding diverting funding from one budget line to another and they would not require T. Dubé's presence. E. Derksen replied that we should follow our process. If it's appropriate, it would be referred to BFC, but the Board is the highest body for interpreting the policy. The Board can decide to consult with the BFC. • T. Dubé noted that the money is reserved for Indigenous students, as per policy. • TO REFER TO GSA BOARD: Motion PASSED. 24 votes in favour, 2 votes against. D. GSA Council Standing Orders L. Alkhatib, Deputy Speaker, took the Chair, as it is Z. Patel's motion. A. Kumar moved. D. Carleton seconded. • Z. Patel explained that he sat with Ellen Schoeck, a previous GSA Executive Director, who recommended Standing Orders to provide clear guidelines and processes to help Council run more efficiently and smoothly. He explained some previous context that in 2010, the GSA was brought to the brink of collapse, and Ellen was brought in to remedy the situation, as she was a university secretary and had a lot of experience to rebuild the GSA's structure. She wrote a book on the history of the GSA. She recommended that, as most Councillors will not review the 1000-page Robert's Rules book, to write Standing Orders instead that are far clearer. Standing Orders are used by almost every assembly body as a guideline. Z. Patel has spent the last few months writing this document to build on and clarify our existing bylaw and policy, how to operate, disciplinary actions, administrative processes, clear guidelines on speaking order, how to present motions, how to debate, etc. The Standing Orders take inspiration from Robert's Rules of Order and similar documents from existing associations, like the SU, and other universities. • A. Belosokhov asked if this document applies to Standing Committees or just Council. Z. Patel confirmed that it only concerns Council - it would be	
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		up to each committee if they would like to adopt similar documents or be included in this document. • M. Wright asked regarding the proxy voting form: when the primary signs away the voting rights in their absence, it is valid for the length of the primary councillor's term. • S. Iqbal asked for clarification regarding the presenting procedure; Z. Patel replied that there is a clerical error that will be rectified in the document. • A. Belosokhov recommended including policy and procedure for the Speaker providing onboarding training for Councillors. The point was agreed. S. Ribeiro moved to DEFER THIS MOTION to the next Council meeting for further discussion and review. S. Ribeiro moved. D. Carleton seconded. Motion PASSED. 34 votes in favour. E. GSA GC-Recommended Bylaw & Policy Revisions, Section D a. Outline of Issue b. Bylaw & Policy Revisions, Section D Z. Patel returned to Council Chair. A. Kumar moved. H. Kemuma seconded. • A. Kumar summarized that the policy maximizes neutrality for the CRO position by limiting their term length, avoiding long-standing relationships with Council, staff, etc. • W. Ali, GSA CRO, asked why this policy is not being applied to all Council-Elected Officers and Standing Committee Chairs. A. Kumar agreed that the Governance Committee should look at expanding the policy. • H. Kemuma clarified that they are beginning with the CRO position, as they are involved with all elections processes, so neutrality is of the utmost importance.	
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		E. Derksen noted that the term lengths can be detrimental to institutional memory and ongoing priority projects, so that should be taken into account when deciding all position lengths. Motion PASSED. 24 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 9 abstentions. F. GSA LRC-Recommended Policy Definition Revision a. Outline of Issue b. LRC Policy Definition Revision J. Gan moved. H. Kemuma seconded. A. Kumar gave context that this policy has come from the LRC and has been in discussion since Muneeb Raja was AVPL (2023-2024, 2024-2025). S. Iqbal clarified that this is for short-term STARE appointments (Short Term Academically Related Employment). Motion PASSED. 26 votes in favour, 4 votes against, 2 abstentions. G. GSA Council Chair Line of Succession Policy Addition a. Outline of Issue b. Council Chair Line of Succession Policy Addition A. Kumar moved. N. Mir Fallah seconded. A. Kumar noted that we discussed this policy for two hours in Governance Committee. Z. Patel noted that two years ago, we did not have a Speaker or Deputy Speaker, so the CRO took the Chair. In another instance, a VP took the Chair. To avoid this issue continuing, the policy is suggested. S. Ribeiro asked where the policy would be put in the overall document. Z. Patel agreed that it would go under Speaker responsibilities. Z. Patel proposed an amendment that the policy would become D.POL.14.6.a S. Ribeiro suggested C.POL.5.1.a; it was agreed that it would replace that policy line. In favour of amendment: S. Ribeiro moved. L. Nelson seconded. Motion PASSED. 30 votes in favour.	
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		A. Belosokhov raised a Point of Order: Z. Patel should not amend the motion if he wrote the motion at the beginning of the process. S. Ribeiro raised the amendment motion. Motion PASSED. 34 votes in favour, 1 abstention.	
15 min	9	Question Period - Written Questions (May be submitted to the GSA Speaker before 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting) - Oral Questions	
	10	Adjournment 8:00PM	

Item 5a: GSA Speaker Nominations

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

These positions were advertised in the GSA newsletters of October 17, 24 and 31, with a deadline of November 7 2025. Six (6) nominations were received for the position of Speaker and two (2) were GSA NoC-approved.

There will be an electronic vote held at the November 24 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the November 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 the day of the meeting 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. Daniel Carleton (Physics)**
- 2. Bishoy Zakher (Biomedical Engineering)**

Jurisdiction:

Section D.BYL.3.1.d

"The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, CRO, and DRO will be elected by a simple majority vote of GSA Council."

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 nominees for Speaker are BELOW. Biographies and brief resumes are presented as received (i.e. not edited).

Nominations for SPEAKER

1. Daniel Carleton (Physics)

Statement of Interest
The GSA Speaker presides over council meetings with the goal of maintaining order and ensuring fair, respectful debate. The Speaker acts as an impartial referee, interpreting rules and protecting the rights of all members; responsibilities that are essential for fair and effective council proceedings. In my role as the Physics Department Councillor, I believe I have contributed positively to the GSA Council, and as Speaker, I am confident I can continue to foster a constructive environment while upholding impartiality and fairness
Bio
I am currently serving my second consecutive term as the Physics Department Councillor (2024–present) and previously served as the Space and Plasma Physics Representative on the Graduate Physics Students Association (GPSA) in 2023. During my time with the GPSA, we organized two student-led conferences featuring invited academic and industry speakers from across North America. In addition, we hosted a variety of social events and served as a voice for the well-being of graduate students, particularly teaching assistants, within the Physics Department. This advocacy has included establishing regular meetings between the GPSA and the department’s faculty to collaboratively enhance the quality of life for graduate students. I have served as the Physics Department Councillor for over a year, during which I gained a solid understanding of council procedures that would allow me to effectively fulfill the role of Speaker. My volunteer experience organizing two conferences has further strengthened my organizational and communication skills. In addition to my research, I have served as the primary laboratory instructor for first-year physics courses and have mentored a summer student through their undergraduate research assistantship. These experiences demonstrate my ability to foster a respectful, learning oriented environment in both the classroom and the laboratory

2. Bishoy Zakher (Biomedical Engineering)

Statement of Interest

I would like to serve as GSA Speaker because I am deeply interested in how fair, transparent, and well-structured governance enables graduate students to be heard and represented effectively. I am drawn to this role because it embodies neutrality, respect for process, and a commitment to collegial dialogue, principles that I value both in my academic work and personal conduct. As a medical doctor and current M.Sc. student in Biomedical Engineering, I have spent much of my academic life in settings where complex, interdisciplinary discussions require careful facilitation and evidence-based decision-making. Presiding over Council meetings requires exactly that balance: ensuring all voices are heard while maintaining order, clarity, and procedural integrity.

My previous leadership experiences, including directing national student organizations and facilitating international programs, have taught me the importance of impartial leadership and structured discussion. Whether chairing debates at the Model World Health Organization or mediating cross-cultural collaboration through AIESEC, I have learned how to guide discussions constructively and uphold fairness even when perspectives differ.

Serving as Speaker would allow me to apply these skills in service of the GSA and the University of Alberta at large by supporting effective, transparent, and respectful governance. I see the position not only as a procedural responsibility but as a trust that safeguards the integrity of Council deliberations and strengthens the university's culture of accountability, dialogue, and shared purpose.

Bio

Community service: I volunteered with Hospice Egypt (2023-2024), providing emotional support for individuals receiving end-of-life care as part of a multidisciplinary palliative team, which strengthened my capacity for empathy and clear communication in sensitive situations. I believe such skills are essential when moderating discussions and addressing conflicts with fairness and respect.

Cross-cultural leadership: In 2018, I volunteered with AIESEC at the Dzherelo Children's Rehabilitation Centre in Lviv, Ukraine, supporting children with disabilities and facilitating cultural exchange sessions. This experience taught me to adapt communication styles across cultural contexts and to remain impartial while encouraging inclusive participation. All key competencies for presiding over diverse Council deliberations.

Academic governance and policy:

As Ambassador at the International Student Exchange Office at Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt (2022-2023), I helped medical students navigate international clinical placements and training opportunities, requiring attention to institutional policy and adherence to procedural fairness.

Earlier, as General Director of the Ain Shams Model World Health Organization (2018-2019), I organized national conferences addressing global health policy, chairing structured debates and coordinating delegates' discussions on governance issues. These roles refined my understanding of how policy frameworks function, and how to maintain order, neutrality, and clarity in complex decision-making environments.

Collectively, these experiences have developed my facilitation, governance, and policy interpretation skills, as well as a measured and impartial communication style. I believe these experiences and skills are directly relevant to the GSA Speaker's role in presiding over Council meetings with neutrality, accuracy, and respect for procedure.

I am a medical doctor and current M.Sc. student in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Alberta, where my research integrates medicine, AI, and clinical data science. My academic path through both clinical medicine (Ain Shams University, Egypt) and technical research (NeuroSpring, California) has given me a balanced perspective on evidence-based reasoning, structured decision-making, and interdisciplinary communication, all of which are vital for maintaining fairness and clarity in deliberative settings.

My engagement with professional organizations such as the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, Alberta Neuroscience, and the Society for Neuroscience has strengthened my ability to interpret complex information, synthesize multiple viewpoints, and communicate with precision, skills essential for presiding over Council discussions with neutrality and professionalism.

In previous leadership and volunteer roles, including serving as General Director of the Ain Shams Model World Health Organization and as an Ambassador at the International Student Exchange Office, I learned to facilitate structured debate, ensure equitable participation, and uphold procedural integrity. These experiences developed my ability to manage discussion flow, summarize diverse perspectives accurately, and make impartial procedural judgments.

My cross-cultural experience in Egyptian, Ukrainian, and North American contexts has refined my capacity for inclusive communication and respect for diversity of thought, qualities that are central to the Speaker's responsibility to maintain decorum and fairness across differing viewpoints.

As a current graduate student, I also bring a first-hand understanding of the importance of transparent, respectful, and efficient governance in representing the interests of all graduate

students. I am deeply committed to upholding the GSA's standards of neutrality, accountability, and collegiality in Council proceedings.

This combination of clinical and technical training, leadership experience, and cross-cultural awareness positions me to contribute effectively as GSA Speaker, presiding over Council meetings with impartiality, accuracy, and respect for both policy and people.

Item 5b: GSA Awards Selection Committee Nominations

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

GSA AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE (GSA ASC) (SIX (6) POSITIONS FOR GSA MEMBERS): FIVE (5) NOMINEES

Information regarding the vacancies for GSA members was advertised in the GSA Newsletters of October 17, 24 and 31st, with a deadline of November 7 2025 at 12:00 PM (noon). Six (6) nominations were received and five (5) were NoC-approved.

The GSA ASC is responsible for “selecting the recipients of the GSA Council approved GSA Recognition Awards” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section O.POL.5.1).

There will be an electronic vote held at the November 24 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the November 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 the day of the meeting 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. Sanaz Bohlouli (Dentistry)
2. Frida Feng (East Asian Studies)
3. Victoria Johnston (Cell Biology)
4. Claudia Ostrowski (Public Health)
5. Gihan Wijelath (AFNS)

Current GSA ASC membership can be found [here](#).

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section O: Elections, GSA Recognition Awards, Standing Committees, GSA Awards Selection Committee, Section O.POL.3.3

The GSA ASC is composed of “a minimum of seven (7) and up to eleven (11) GSA members elected by GSA Council as voting members. The GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) Chair, in consultation with

the GSA ASC Vice-Chair and the Chair of the GSA Nominating Committee, can decide to increase the number of GSA members on the GSA ASC.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: 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 nominee are **BELOW**. The biographies and resumes are presented as **received** (i.e. not edited).

NOMINATIONS FOR THE GSA AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE (GSA ASC)

1. Sanaz Bohlouli (Dentistry)

Statement of Interest
I would like to volunteer for the GSA Awards Selection Committee because I value the recognition of excellence, leadership, and service among graduate students. I believe that acknowledging these contributions fosters motivation, community engagement, and academic growth. Serving on this committee would allow me to give back to the graduate community while ensuring a fair and transparent selection process that reflects the GSA’s commitment to equity and excellence.
Bio
I have volunteered with several community organizations, including the University of Alberta Hospital, Hope Mission, Edmonton Cardiology Consultants, and the Canadian Native Friendship Centre. Through these roles, I’ve supported community events, fundraising activities, and culturally inclusive programs that promote well-being and connection. These experiences have strengthened my empathy, teamwork, and commitment to community service. I am a graduate student in Dentistry at the University of Alberta, involved in research, leadership, and community engagement. My academic and volunteer experiences have strengthened my organization, attention to detail, and communication skills.

2. Frida Feng (East Asian Studies)

Statement of Interest
I previously applied for and received a GSA Travel Award, which was of immense help to me, so I would now like to give back by getting involved in the award selection process to support fellow graduate students.

I have always been fascinated by how the awards selection process works. I would love to learn more about what constitutes outstanding research, leadership, and service among graduate students, as I am sure this process of serving and learning will help broaden my knowledge on scholarly and creative accomplishments across disciplines. Thus, I am eager to contribute to recognizing and celebrating the achievements of fellow graduate students.

Bio

I have quite a few volunteer experiences serving within the U of A campus community. I have been volunteering with the Campus Food Bank (CFB) for almost two years and have also been actively involved with other organizations across campus, including International Student and Visitor Services (ISVS), the East Asian Studies Undergraduate Students' Association (KGK), and the Global Learning program.

I am a senior graduate student with strong academic and research experience and am actively involved in both campus and community activities. I deeply value the importance of student recognition and would like to give back by contributing to the fair and thoughtful selection of future award recipients.

My volunteer experience with the organizations mentioned above has strengthened my teamwork and communication skills. In addition to my volunteer experience, I have several years of professional experience and am very familiar with the campus community, where I am an active, collaborative team player. I am detail-oriented, punctual, and a fast learner with a genuine interest in serving the student body and recognizing the achievements and needs of fellow students. I am confident that my skills, experience, and perspective would be an asset to this position.

3. Victoria Johnston (Cell Biology)

Statement of Interest

I am eager to volunteer for the GSA Award Selection Committee because I believe in the importance of recognizing and celebrating the diverse achievements of graduate students at the University of Alberta. As a graduate student myself, I have seen firsthand the dedication and innovation demonstrated by my peers, often behind the scenes. Serving on this committee would give me the opportunity to contribute to a fair and thoughtful selection process that uplifts and acknowledges those contributions.

Additionally, I am deeply interested in contributing to a transparent and equitable award process. I value diversity and inclusivity, and I am committed to ensuring that all applications are evaluated with these principles in mind. Volunteering on this committee also aligns with my personal and professional development goals, offering a chance to engage in collaborative decision-making and learn more about the broader graduate student community.

Ultimately, I view this as a meaningful way to give back to the university community while helping to spotlight individuals whose work and impact deserve recognition.

Bio

Currently serving on:

Dean of Students and Associate Vice Presidents Advisory Committee (DAAC) with Student Excellence and Success

I have volunteered at the University of Alberta hospital and Stollery hospital since 2016. I have been involved in running the gift shop, making deliveries, and assisting the child life team with making a Stollery hospital stay as fun as possible for patients.

I volunteered with the University of Alberta Global Brigades Chapter from its inception in 2022 to 2025, where I had roles from Executive director of events, to Medical Brigade Chapter Leader, and President. I had roles in organizing large fundraising and recruitment events, organizing an international philanthropic brigade where we set up a free medical clinic with 30+ U of A volunteers, and as President I helped lead the entire executive team in executing all fundraising events, recruitment events, and 5 international brigades.

I have volunteered with Hope Mission since 2021 where I gave back to my community and helped prepare meals.

I have newly started volunteering with ElderDog this year, where I help walk and groom dogs for elderly community members.

I am a first generation high school and post secondary graduate who is dedicated to her research and eager to get more involved in her graduate community. I have faced adversity and understand how different social and cultural backgrounds can impact your life and graduate studies. I believe my personal lived experiences make me a strong candidate for the award selection committee as I am able to truly understand what it takes to overcome these backgrounds and succeed. Furthermore, I understand what it is like to be disregarded from award committees due to a lack of understanding and inclusivity of certain award applications. I am passionate about ensuring no one else has to experience this.

I believe my academic experience will be useful in this position as I have an understanding of how much work goes into research and course based credits. This first hand experience will help me understand how much effort and dedication went into the work of nominated students.

Furthermore, my experience as a president and chapter leader of the University of Alberta Global Brigades Chapter, developed my skills of team work and communication in an executive leadership team. It also developed my skills in how to be unbiased and fair, as I had to make executive election decisions, and day-to-day decisions about various club affairs like fund allocation in an unbiased manner.

Additionally, my work at the University of Alberta Hospital as an MLA has solidified my ability to communicate with a diverse group of people as I have a broad and diverse range of patients that I interact with daily.

In conclusion, I believe my personal and professional experiences give me a broad background of experiences and a variety of skills that would make me an asset to the award selection committee.

4. Claudia Ostrowski (Public Health)

Statement of Interest
I am eager to contribute to the GSA Governance Committee to support transparent, equitable, and effective decision-making within the graduate student community. As a Master of Public Health student, I'm deeply interested in how organizational governance and policy shape systems and experiences. This role aligns with my passion for evidence-informed policy development and my desire to strengthen student representation in university governance.
Bio
I have volunteered extensively in university and community settings, including as a Senior Coordinator for the Centre for Adaptive Physical Activity at Brock University. In that role, I mentored volunteers, coordinated inclusive programs, and supported community engagement initiatives. I also contributed to student-led research and service-learning projects that emphasized collaboration and inclusivity. These experiences have given me a strong foundation in leadership, communication, and ethical decision-making. I am a Master of Public Health student with a background in child health and gerontology, combining interests in health systems, policy, and inclusive community programs. My experience managing teams, overseeing program operations, and conducting research has honed my critical thinking and problem-solving skills. I bring a balanced perspective, grounded in both academic rigor and practical experience, along with strong communication, organization, and leadership abilities. I would approach this role with professionalism, collaboration, and a commitment to advancing fair and thoughtful governance at the GSA.

5. Gihan Wijelath (AFNS)

Statement of Interest
I would like to volunteer for the GSA Awards Selection Committee because I am passionate about recognizing and celebrating the diverse achievements of graduate students. As a PhD student in Food Science and Technology, I have seen how much dedication and resilience it takes to balance research, teaching, and community involvement. Serving as a Faculty Steward for AFNS and as a Teaching Assistant has given me experience evaluating student contributions with fairness and respect. I want to bring that same sense of integrity and appreciation for excellence to the ASC. Contributing to this committee would allow me to help highlight outstanding work that strengthens our graduate community and inspires others to strive for impact in research, leadership, and service.
Bio

Currently serving on:
Faculty Steward, AFNS

I have been actively involved in volunteer and leadership roles within the University of Alberta community. Since early 2024, I have volunteered at the Campus Food Bank, supporting food distribution and community outreach. I currently serve as the Faculty Steward for the Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science (AFNS) Department and as a member of the AFNS Student Advisory Committee (2023–2025), representing graduate student voices and contributing to departmental initiatives. In addition, I volunteer with the International Education and Enrolment (IEE) team and as a GSA Events Volunteer, helping foster cross-cultural engagement and student involvement. These experiences have strengthened my teamwork, inclusivity, and leadership skills, which I would bring to the GSA Awards Selection Committee.

I am a PhD student in Food Science and Technology at the University of Alberta, researching sustainable protein. Alongside my studies, I serve as the Faculty Steward for AFNS, a Teaching Assistant, and the laboratory manager in my research group, overseeing safety, training, and coordination. Before my PhD, I worked in the food industry in quality assurance and food safety management, which strengthened my analytical and leadership skills. I also volunteer with the Campus Food Bank, International Education and Enrolment (IEE) team, and GSA events. As a student member of IFT, CIFST, AOCS, ACS, IAFP, CGA, and the Golden Key International Honour Society, I actively engage in professional development and scientific communities. These diverse academic, professional, and volunteer experiences equip me with the integrity, fairness, and evaluative judgment needed to contribute effectively to the GSA Awards Selection Committee.

Item 5c: GSA Elections & Referenda Committee Nominations

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

GSA ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA COMMITTEE (GSA ERC) (ONE (1) POSITION FOR GSA MEMBERS): ONE (1) NOMINEE

Information regarding the position was circulated via the GSA newsletter on October 17 and 24 with a nomination deadline of October 31st 2025. One (1) nomination was received and approved by the GSA Nominating Committee.

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

There will be an electronic vote held at the November 24 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the November 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 the day of the meeting 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. Yuhui Song (Civil & Environmental Engineering)

Current GSA ERC membership can be found [here](#).

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy, Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Standing Committees, GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, Section I.POL.16.1

The GSA ERC is composed of “a total of six (6) GSA members including at least one (1) Councillor elected by GSA Council, as voting members.”

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E: 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 nominee(s) are **BELOW**. The biographies and resumes are presented as **received** (i.e. not edited).

1. Yuhui Song (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Statement of Interest

I am motivated to volunteer on this committee because I value the opportunity to contribute to institutional governance and to strengthen the representation of student voices. I am committed to advancing policies that balance efficiency, inclusiveness, and long-term benefit, and I believe this committee provides an effective platform for such contributions.

Bio

Currently serving on:

Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) Graduate Student Representative

Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (FGPS) Councilor of Civil Engineering

Served as class president in both middle and high school, where I developed an innovative administrative structure connecting principal, class leaders, and students, thereby improving efficiency and transparency.

Acted as a university student union member, successfully initiating a reform in promotional strategies that enhanced recruitment outcomes.

Appointed as Graduate Student Representative for the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE), engaging with industry partners to harmonize student and enterprise interests.

Currently serving as Prolocutor for Civil Engineering at the Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (FGPS) Council, where I collect and synthesize student perspectives to support well-informed decision-making.

I am a graduate student in Civil Engineering with a sustained record of leadership, advocacy, and institutional engagement. My academic background equips me with analytical rigor, while my professional and volunteer experience has refined my skills in negotiation, policy evaluation, and consensus building. Having effectively initiated reforms, facilitated dialogue between diverse stakeholders, and represented student interests at multiple levels, I am confident in my ability to contribute constructively to this committee and to advance its objectives.

Item 5d: GSA Nominating Committee Nominations

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

Information regarding the one (1) vacancy for GSA members was advertised in the GSA Newsletters of October 17 and 24, with a deadline of October 31st at 12:00 PM (noon). One (1) nomination was received and approved by the GSA NoC.

The GSA NoC is charged with selecting graduate student representatives to serve on councils, committees, and other bodies requiring such representation.

There will be an electronic vote held at the November 24 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the November 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 the day of the meeting 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. Karanbir Singh (Mechanical Engineering)

Current GSA NoC membership can be found [here](#).

Jurisdiction:**GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E.POL.4**

"Vacancies on the GSA NoC will be advertised by the ED or delegate and GSA Speaker. The ED or delegate and GSA Speaker will provide GSA Council with the names of nominees for the GSA NoC who meet the criteria set out in Section E.POL.5, below. These vacancies will be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement."

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section E.POL.5.1

The GSA NoC is composed of *"a total of five (5) graduate student members, including at least two (2) voting members of GSA Council (who may be alternates) elected by GSA Council, and three (3) additional graduate student members elected by GSA Council, as voting members."*

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

Nominations for the GSA Nominating Committee (GSA NoC)**1. Karanbir Singh (Mechanical Engineering)****Statement of Interest**

I'm interested in contributing to graduate student governance in a role that requires impartiality and fairness. The NoC is important because it ensures the right people fill committee vacancies, and I want to support that process with neutrality and careful judgment. This role matches my interest in learning how governance works across the university without being tied to one specific faculty or issue.

Bio

I've volunteered in community and student activities during my earlier studies, including organizing group projects and supporting events where decisions had to be made quickly and fairly. These experiences showed me the importance of staying neutral, respecting deadlines, and keeping the bigger picture in mind when making decisions.

I'm a new Master of Engineering student with a background in mechanical engineering and certificates in project management and logistics. Professionally, I've worked in environments that required strong time management, impartial decision-making, and clear communication. I'm comfortable analyzing information, making fair choices, and responding promptly to deadlines. I believe these skills align with the expectations of the NoC, and I'm motivated to serve in a role that ensures student representation remains fair and effective across the GSA.

Item 5e: GSA Appeals & Complaints Board Nominees - General Members

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (GSA ACB)**(THREE (3) POSITIONS FOR GSA MEMBERS): SEVEN (7) NOMINEES**

Information regarding these positions was advertised via GSA newsletters of October 17, 24 and 31 with a nomination deadline of November 7 2025. Seven (7) nominations were received for the three (3) GSA member vacancies and NoC-approved. The nominees were then 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 November 24 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the November 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 the day of the meeting 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. Ayrton Chilibeck (Computing Science)**
- 2. Skye Cummins (Public Health)**
- 3. Ashutosh Kharwar (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)**
- 4. Precious Majekodunmi (Nursing)**
- 5. Nana Kwaku Kusi Ofori-Yeboah (Electrical and Computer Engineering)**
- 6. Devinder Pal Singh (Economics)**
- 7. Emma Pilgrim (Paediatrics)**

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. Ayrton Chilibeck (Computing Science)**Statement of Interest:**

I believe strongly in the independence and impartiality of both elected and unelected officials. Enforcing such independence and adjudicating perceived conflicts of interest, complaints and other issues raised by the community with respect to GSA representatives will give me a concrete way to help ensure impartiality in our community.

Bio:

I previously volunteered with my community association in red deer as well as in various events during my high school years. Unfortunately through my undergrad my volunteer activities waned due to heavy academic involvement, but I would like to contribute to the GSA nonetheless.

I am a firm believer that all rights have attached responsibilities, and the right to run for elected official comes with the responsibility to best represent your constituency. My academic history is highly varied, which gives me the ability to appreciate arguments from many different backgrounds. I have previously worked in government healthcare where independent oversight is especially important and have observed firsthand the damage that conflicts of interest can cause.

My resume is available upon request, which contains detailed responsibilities according to previous positions as well as academic works.

2. Skye Cummins (Public Health)**Statement of Interest:**

I am interested in this opportunity because the GSA feels like a valuable place to be involved on campus. The Appeals and Complaints Board is of interest to me as it would be a way to support other graduate students in feeling heard, while still upholding GSA bylaw and policy. I believe this opportunity would allow me to contribute to maintaining a fair and transparent campus.

Bio:

I have previously volunteered with the local soup kitchen to provide breakfast for clients. This included preparing meals and serving meals, cleaning tasks, and engaging kindly and respectfully with guests.

For the last 2.5 years I've worked as an Addictions Counsellor with Recovery Alberta. I feel that the skills one develops in this role are directly applicable to working with the Appeals and Complaints Board. Through my work I have developed strong active listening skills, critical thinking, and I am able to approach complex situations with neutrality. I have developed an appreciation for the balance of between fairness and accountability which I believe would make me valuable in this role.

3. Ashutosh Kharwar (Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)

Statement of Interest:

I want to serve on the GSA Appeals & Complaints Board to support fair and impartial processes within graduate student governance. I am committed to ensuring procedural fairness and assisting the Board in making unbiased decisions that respect all parties involved.

Bio:

Currently serving on:
Member, Student Advisory Committee (Office of the Registrar, 2025–26)

1. Volunteer mentoring for junior graduate students at my home institution in India.
2. Participation in departmental and academic committees requiring impartial evaluation of information.

I am a sponsored PhD student in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences with research experience in computational chemistry and cheminformatics. My academic and

research training has developed my analytical thinking, attention to detail, and capacity to evaluate complex information objectively. Through my volunteer experiences, I have demonstrated reliability, impartiality, and effective communication. These skills make me well-suited to serve on the GSA Appeals & Complaints Board, ensuring fair, transparent, and unbiased decision-making.

4. Precious Majekodunmi (Nursing)

Statement of Interest:

I would like to serve on the GSA Appeals and Complaint Board because I am committed to contributing meaningfully to the fair and collaborative resolution of appeals related to election outcomes and student complaints. I believe that participating in this committee will allow me to help uphold principles of justice and transparency within our graduate student community. This role offers a valuable opportunity to connect with graduate students from diverse departments and backgrounds, fostering a stronger sense of community and shared purpose. Through this experience, I aim to further develop my leadership skills by practicing fairness, neutrality, and effective decision-making in complex situations.

Serving on the board will also enable me to enhance my capacity to act ethically and impartially, qualities that are essential when addressing sensitive matters that impact fellow students. I am confident that my unique perspective—as a graduate student and as a Black woman—will bring important insights and empathy to the discussions, enriching the decision-making process and promoting equitable outcomes.

I am eager to contribute my voice and experience to the board and to support a respectful, inclusive, and accountable graduate student environment.

Bio:

I am deeply passionate about handling student complaints with care, empathy, and respect. I have firsthand experience serving as a member of the University of Alberta Nursing Undergraduate Student Appeal Board, where I consistently brought a strong student-centered perspective to the table.

In this role, I played an integral part in addressing a range of complaints, including those related to sensitive issues such as racism and discrimination in clinical practice. I actively contributed to discussions and decision-making by highlighting the unique challenges faced by Black students and advocating for their voices to be heard. By sharing insights grounded in lived experiences, I was able to ensure that the board considered the full context of each situation, promoting fairness and understanding.

I possess a strong ability to advocate for equitable outcomes, confidently speak up in group settings, and collaborate effectively with diverse members. Additionally, I am skilled at

conducting thorough research on how similar issues have been addressed historically, which informs evidence-based recommendations and helps guide consistent, just decisions.

My commitment to fairness, coupled with my experience and ability to amplify underrepresented perspectives, equips me to contribute meaningfully to any committee focused on student appeals and complaints.

Last year, I successfully completed an ethics course in which I not only excelled academically but also gained invaluable insights into ethical principles and frameworks that guide decision-making in complex situations. This course deepened my understanding of fairness, integrity, confidentiality, and respect—core values that are essential when handling sensitive student issues.

I am confident that I can bring the knowledge and skills acquired from this ethics training to the GSA Appeals and Complaint Board, ensuring that decisions are grounded in strong ethical reasoning. Coupled with my practical experience serving on the University of Alberta Nursing Undergraduate Student Appeal Board, where I actively contributed to fair and thoughtful resolutions, I have developed a well-rounded approach to advocacy and problem-solving.

Additionally, my involvement with the University of Alberta Student Council as a nursing representative has strengthened my ability to advocate effectively for student needs and navigate diverse perspectives within a collaborative environment. These experiences have equipped me with a unique blend of ethical understanding, practical application, and advocacy skills that I am eager to apply in this role to support just and respectful outcomes for all students.

5. Nana Kwaku Kusi Ofori-Yeboah (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

Statement of Interest:

Procedural fairness plays an important role not just in professional life but also in everyday interactions. It is usually the difference between consensus and conflict, and can easily be taken for granted. Biases exist because we are human, but we must strive for justice in both word and deed. I am always looking for opportunities to contribute to the fair and just administration of rules and processes, to sharpen my judgment, and to deepen my understanding of institutional justice. Serving on the ACB would allow me to do that while upholding the principles that sustain trust in our graduate community.

Bio:

Currently serving on:

GSA Appeals & Complaints Board, Interim Member

I currently serve on the GSA ACB as an interim member. Previously, I have volunteered at the Fred Otto DiscoverE program, the Grid Forward 2024 annual conference, and the IEEE International Humanitarian Technology Conference (IHTC) 2025. I am a registered mentor for the BIPOC & Allies Student's club at the UofA and also the resident organist at my local church, Wesley Methodist Church-Edmonton.

I am currently a graduate student in Electrical and Computer Engineering with a focus on Energy Systems. I have developed an interest in stakeholder engagement in energy planning, aiming to align the interests of energy consumers, governments, and utility companies. In my previous role as an Estate Officer at the Ghana Revenue Authority, I reconciled property owners with the organization by ensuring rental prices reflected fair market value, including adjustments for CPI factors. Through my academic and volunteer experiences, I have built strong analytical and communication skills that allow me to approach issues with clarity and fairness. I have held various roles that required collaboration, discretion, and thoughtful consideration of multiple perspectives. As a result, I have improved my ability to listen, reason objectively, and contribute to balanced decision-making. These qualities, along with my commitment to procedural fairness and community service, would allow me to contribute positively to the Appeals and Complaints Board.

6. Devinder Pal Singh (Economics)

Statement of Interest:

I would like to volunteer for the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board because I'm genuinely committed to supporting a fair, respectful, and accountable graduate student environment. As a Master's student in Economics at the University of Alberta, I bring strong analytical and organizational skills that I believe are well-suited for this role.

This committee plays an important role in ensuring that student concerns—especially those related to elections and officer conduct—are heard and addressed fairly. I'm eager to contribute to that mission by applying my skills in impartial judgment, confidentiality, and policy understanding. Volunteering on this committee will also give me the opportunity to learn more about student governance and procedural fairness, while giving back to the graduate student community.

Bio:

Currently serving on:

GSA Appeals & Complaints Board, Interim Member & Current Chair

I have volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) in Ontario and Khalsa Aid's Alberta chapter, where I supported community outreach and service initiatives. These experiences taught me the value of empathy, accountability, and collective responsibility. I worked with diverse individuals and families, often in sensitive situations, which strengthened my ability to listen actively, remain neutral, and communicate with respect and clarity. These volunteer roles have reinforced my commitment to community engagement and fairness—qualities I believe are essential for serving on the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board.

As perviously stated my volunteer experience with BBBS and Khalsa Aid have strengthened my sense of social justice and remaining impartial even in the case where people face dilemmas. Professionally, I have worked in roles that required confidentiality over the processes and documents involved by supporting cross-department teams, and maintaining composure under pressure. Additionally, academically, studies have sharpened my critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making. I believe these are the skills that form the basis of ACB operations as these experiences have instilled in me a sense of impartiality, professionalism and a strong sense of responsibility.

7. Emma Pilgrim (Paediatrics)

Statement of Interest:

I have always had a drive to provide a voice and a safe space for those in need. I am more of a "behind-the-scenes" type of person as I have found that making people feel heard and safe does not have to rely on large displays of public engagement to be meaningful. So, this position seems like a great fit!

Bio:

Currently I volunteer with the Edmonton Humane Society as a surgical assistant, dog walker, and foster carer. Previously I have volunteered with the Biological Sciences greenhouse at the University of Alberta, as well as with Alberta Health Services--HomeCare as a community visitor.

I have previously worked for Alberta Health Services as administration and volunteered with them as well, therefore I have had extensive training on privacy and confidentiality which I believe would be an asset to this position!

Item 5f: GSA Appeals & Complaints Board Nominees - GSA Councillors

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD (GSA ACB)

(TWO (2) POSITIONS FOR GSA COUNCILLORS): ONE (1) NOMINEE

Information regarding the positions was advertised to GSA Council on October 17, 24 and 31 with a nomination deadline of November 7 2025. One (1) nomination was received for the one (1) GSA Councillor vacancy. The nominee was then 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 nominee was asked a series of questions aimed at assessing their awareness of the basic tenets of procedural fairness and their ability to adjudicate potential cases in accord with those tenets (note as well that all individuals elected to the GSA ACB receive training in procedural fairness).

There will be an electronic vote held at the November 24 2025 GSA Council meeting.

If you and your alternate are unable to attend the November 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 the day of the meeting 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. Shea Giesbrecht (Renewable Resources)**

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).

Nominations for GSA APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS BOARD

1. Shea Giesbrecht (Renewable Resources)

Statement of Interest: As I am aware, there are several ongoing complaints and appeals that have yet to be addressed. In order for the GSA to run smoothly these issues must be resolved with fairness within a reasonable amount of time which can only be done with a committee of sufficient size made up of neutral, objective committee members. I believe that it is my duty as a neutral party, who has a strong sense of justice and fairness, to serve on the ACB so that UofA graduate students are afforded a functional GSA.
Bio: Currently serving on: Renewable Resources Graduate Student Association GSA Councillor representing Renewable Resources In my undergraduate I was an executive member of the University of Saskatchewan Biology Club where I served as vice president for one year (2020-2021) and president for two years (2021-2023). During and after my presidency I represented undergraduate students in the Department of Biology Undergraduate Affairs Committee (2022-2024). In the first year of my current program I served a similar role as the graduate student representative at the Department of Renewable Resources department meetings (2024-2025). Now I currently serve as the Renewable Resources GSA Councillor (2025-2026). This year (2025) I also served as the Code of Conduct Committee Chair and a member of the Local Organizing Committee for the Entomological Society of Canada & Entomological Society of Alberta Joint Annual Meeting, a national conference. I graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2024 with a Bachelor of Science (High Honours) in biology. Now I am a thesis-based Master of Science student in Renewable Resources. My training in science has taught me how to think critically, remain objective, and question my biases when taking in information. My undergraduate is when my interest in student governance and representation began. There I served as the president of the University of Saskatchewan Biology Club and represented my fellow undergraduate students in the Undergraduate Affairs Committee. I learned the inner

workings of the Department of Biology where I listened to and raised the concerns of my constituents. I am able to continue my role as a student representative both at the department level, and now at the GSA level in my current program. My background in student representation makes me suited for the ACB, a critical committee for student governance, because I believe in the importance of representation and fairness.

My role as the Code of Conduct Committee Chair is also directly related to this position. As chair I scheduled and attended training on conflict resolution and safe disclosure procedures. I understand the nuances of interpersonal conflicts, and therefore I understand that one must listen actively to both sides and from witnesses before forming an opinion.

Item 5g: GSA Councillor-At-Large Nominees

GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)
GSA Councillor-At-Large By-Election (1 POSITION):
ONE (1) NOMINEE

One serving Councillor-At-Large has stepped down from their position as of September 2025. As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, GSA Council fills any remaining positions from nominations forwarded by the GSA NoC (Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.16.3). The duties of GSA Councillors-At-Large are to attend all meetings of GSA Council, and “to provide additional voices on GSA Council from those offered by DEOs, Departmental Councillors, and the IGSA Councillor” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section C: GSA Council, GSA Policy, GSA Council, Section C.POL.3.3.b.iii).

These positions were advertised in the GSA newsletters of October 17, 24 and 31 with a nomination deadline of November 7th at 12:00 PM. One (1) nomination was received by the deadline and approved by the NoC.

There will be an electronic ballot vote held at the November 24 2025 GSA Council meeting.

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

Nominees for this position are listed in reverse alphabetical order by last name and will be presented in alphabetical order on the ballot. ‘None of the Candidates’ will also be considered a nominee.

1. Andrea DeKeseredy (Sociology)

Jurisdiction:

Section I: Elections, GSA Policy, Elections, Section I.POL.16.3

“In the event that any CAL positions are not filled by the end of the GSA General Election, or a CAL position is vacated prior to December 1 (or the next working day) GSA Council will be responsible for electing any remaining CALs. When electing any remaining CALs, the GSA Council will aim to elect graduate students from as broad a range of disciplines as possible. The GSA NoC will decide on procedures and then provide one or more names to GSA Council for consideration, except that the GSA NoC may not waive advertising. Note that the legislated GSA NoC process specifies that all vacancies will

be advertised at least twice in advance of the nomination deadline noted in the advertisement. If the matter is urgent, GSA Council can hold this election electronically.”

The names and biographies received for the nominee(s) are **BELOW**. Biographies and resumes are presented as **received** (i.e. not edited).

1. Andrea DeKeseredy (Sociology)

Statement of Interest

I have been a graduate student at the University of Alberta since 2021 and have remained consistently engaged in campus advocacy and community building throughout each of my years. I have attended GSA Council meetings regularly, even without holding an elected position, because I believe that being involved in our governance processes is essential to effective advocacy and meaningful representation.

My research focuses on the experiences of graduate students—particularly graduate student mothers—and has resulted in peer-reviewed publications. Through organizing against tuition hikes and program cuts, I have built strong cross-departmental relationships and a deep understanding of the issues affecting graduate students. However, research and individual advocacy is not enough. I want to put this knowledge into practice by helping shape the policies that directly affect our community. My work examining federal research funding allocation has already supported GSA advocacy efforts, contributing to our success in overturning the proposed Bill 18 requirement for provincial approval of federal research funding. I believe we can do more together.

In addition, my long-standing involvement with the broader Edmonton community, through public scholarship, media work, and partnerships with local organizations, positions me to strengthen the GSA’s external relationships and advance advocacy that reaches beyond campus.

I am committed to representing not only my department, but graduate students across the university. By working collaboratively, we can continue to make meaningful, tangible improvements to the academic and everyday lives of students at the University of Alberta.

Bio

Currently serving on:
Treasurer, Sociology Graduate Student Association

I have demonstrated a sustained commitment to service and community engagement both within and beyond the university. At the University of Alberta, I have served as President and Treasurer of the Sociology Graduate Student Association, where I worked to foster community, support student needs, and strengthen departmental governance. I have also contributed to advancing equity through my role on the Department’s Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

Beyond my department, I have been an active member of Student Parents on Campus and the Students Who Parent Working Group, advocating for improved resources, visibility, and support for student caregivers across the university.

I have also volunteered as an advocate for survivors of sexual assault on university campuses. In this role, I supported survivors in navigating campus and community resources, ensuring that they felt heard, believed, and supported. I continue to be a registered social worker, and the bulk of my master of social work training was in campus sexual assault as well as equity, diversity and inclusion on campus.

I am a PhD student in Sociology at the University of Alberta whose research focuses on labour, caregiving and higher education. I have published peer-reviewed research on graduate students experiences as well as book chapters on how to make space for mothers on campus. I also engage in public scholarship through media commentary and op-eds. I bring strong skills in research, community engagement, and knowledge mobilization to this role. I believe in working together, more formally with the GSA, we can greatly improve the graduate student experience.

Item 8a: GSA GC-Recommended Bylaw Additions, Section A

Outline of Issue

Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy

Suggested Motion:

That the GSA Council **APPROVE** the following GSA Bylaw & Policy Revisions, Section A

Background:

To clarify the priority order of bylaws and policies, the following bylaws are suggested.

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 (Additions in red and deletions are strikethroughs)	Rationale
A.BYL.2 – GSA Policy A.BYL.2.1 GSA Policy contains all policies passed by GSA Council except as contained in any other governing document. 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. A.BYL.2.3 In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between a GSA Bylaw and GSA Policy the Bylaw shall take precedence. A.BYL.2.4 Where a Policy conflicts with a Bylaw, the Policy is unenforceable to the extent of the conflict. The Bylaw remains fully binding. A.BYL.2.5 Policies are intended to supplement and operationalize Bylaws. Policies may not contradict or diminish the authority of Bylaws. A.BYL.2.6 If a conflict <u>or inconsistency</u> is identified <u>between Bylaw and Policy</u>, the GSA Governance Committee shall review the <u>relevant documents</u> and recommend amendments to <u>either the Policy or the Bylaws, as appropriate, to ensure alignment.</u>	

A.BYL.3.3 In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between GSA Bylaw and GSA Board Policy, Bylaw shall take precedence.	
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Item 8b: GSA ERC- and GC-Recommended Policy Addition, Section I

Outline of Issue

Recommended Changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I

Suggested Motion:

That the GSA Council **APPROVE** the ERC- and GC-recommended revision of I.POL.12.6

Background:

The ERC and GC have recommended the clarification of I.POL.12.6 to improve fairness in elections procedure.

Jurisdiction:

GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.18.4

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

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 strike-throughs and changes/additions are noted in red font)	Rationale
I.POL.12.6 I.POL.12.6 Candidates who receive fewer votes than “None of the Candidates” in the GSA General Election and election of the AVPL cannot run for the same position in any related subsequent by-elections, GSA Council elections, or elections of the AVPL (as outlined in GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.15). Candidates who receive fewer votes than “None of the Candidates” in the GSA General Election or in the election of the AVPL are not eligible to run for the same position in any immediate related by-elections, GSA Council elections, or AVPL elections held to fill that vacancy. However, this disqualification only applies to those immediate by-elections — it does not prevent the candidate from running for the same position again in future general elections (e.g., the next annual GSA General Election).	The ERC and GC recommend clarifying this policy, as it could previously be interpreted that an unsuccessful candidate would not be allowed to run again for the same position in any GSA election in perpetuity.